



North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District
505 3rd St N, Ste A
Virginia MN 55792

Regular Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2025

The meeting was held in person at the District office. A virtual link was available.

Supervisors Present at Roll Call: Chuck Bainter, Jerry Hovi, Frank Modich, Peggy Pearson, and Mark Peterson were present in person.

Staff Present: Anita Provinzino, District Administrator; and Miranda Frenning, Accounting & Human Resources Specialist were present in person. Ben Kielar, Program Technician; Phil Norvitch, Conservation Manager; and Jon Utecht, Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator were present online.

Others Present: Allison Praet, Natural Resources Conservation Service was present online.

The meeting was called to order at 10:33 a.m. by Chair, Peggy Pearson.

1. Agenda - Moved by Frank Modich/Mark Peterson to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Minutes of Last Meeting – Moved by Jerry Hovi/Mark Peterson to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Financial Reports & Program Summary – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Frank Modich to accept the financial reports and program summary. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Accounts Receivable and Payable – Moved by Jerry Hovi/Chuck Bainter to approve the accounts payable and accounts receivable as updated 09/10/25. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Guest Introductions and Comments – None present.

NEW BUSINESS:

6. BWSR
 - a. 2026 & 2027 Conservation Contracts & Delivery Grants & Board Resolution 2025-13 – Moved by Frank Modich/Chuck Bainter to approve Board Resolution 2025-13 accepting BWSR 2026 & 2027 Conservation Contracts and Delivery funding, plus authorize signers. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Certificates of Deposit #2-9 ending on October 7 (\$68,313.68 + interest) – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to not renew the Certificates of Deposit 2-9 and to deposit the proceeds into the District checking account upon their maturity. Motion carried unanimously.
8. Credit Card with for Rachel Poppe (\$1,500 limit) – Moved by Jerry Hovi/Chuck Bainter to authorize a \$1,500 credit card for Rachel Poppe.
9. Minnesota's Paid Leave Program – Moved by Frank Modich/Chuck Bainter to pursue an equivalent plan rather than using the State's system with the caveat that if changes are learned of that would warrant reconsideration, the item would be brought back to the board for action. Motion carried unanimously.
10. Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and/or Trainings
 - a. Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development – September 29 in Duluth
 - b. Little Fork River One Watershed One Plan Policy Committee – September 25

The mission of the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District is to encourage sustainable use of our natural resources by engaging people in soil and water conservation in northern St. Louis County.

- c. SWCD Forestry Association – September 12 - Grand Rapids
 - d. Technical Service Area 3 – September 24
 - e. 75th Anniversary Open House -North St. Louis SWCD – September 22
 - f. Other
11. Other – No other business was conducted.

REPORTS:

- 12. Monthly Progress Report – See Report on File
- 13. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report – In addition to the report on file, Allison indicated that the Arrowhead Forest Partnership was a huge contributor to their accomplishments for the year.
- 14. Supervisor & Committee Reports
 - a. Area 3 Fall Meeting – September 8 – Mora – Mark reported there were 23 supervisors and 14 staff representing all 9 SWCDs at the Area 3 Fall Meeting. Paul Fish was elected treasurer. Jake Janski & Barb Omarzu as co-chairs, and Greg as secretary were all re-elected. Chuck Rau, MASWCD representative, gave a report on federal funding. Kari Hedin gave a report on Envirothon; Minnetonka placed 8th in the national competition. Area 3 dues are going up to \$650. They voted to dispose of records after 7 years. The next meeting will be June 5th at the Cloquet Forestry Center. The tour highlighted conservation practices implemented at a local farm.
 - b. St. Louis River Policy Committee Meeting – September 4 – Chuck's notes were emailed to board members. Chuck and Anita reported that the committee was advised by RC Boheim at the start of the meeting that it was informational only. The current grant is about 36% spent, with partner allocations ranging from 10-95% spent, all partners feel they are on track to spend the funds by the end of 2026. The second biennia budget is increasing slightly to \$2,239,092. Staff will meet to come up with a budget recommendation that will go to the policy committee and then to each partner board. It is anticipated funding will be requested in the spring.

CLOSING:

- 15. Confirm Next Meeting – October 15, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.
- 16. Adjourn – Moved by Frank Modich/Chuck Bainter to adjourn the meeting at 11:38 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Certification of Recording Officer

I, the undersigned, hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the meeting minutes approved by the North St Louis SWCD Board and that I am duly authorized to make this certification.



Mark Peterson, Secretary
October 15, 2025



Resolution 2025-13

North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District

505 3rd St N, Ste A
Virginia MN 55792
(218) 749-2000
www.nslswcd.org

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) authorized grant agreements for the following grants and amounts:

FY26 Conservation Contracts	\$11,339
FY27 Conservation Contracts	\$11,339
FY26 Conservation Delivery	\$18,789
FY27 Conservation Delivery	<u>\$18,789</u>
Total	\$60,256

AND WHEREAS, this funding supports the Districts each of its three goals 1) Provide Services, 2) Spread the Message and 3) Strengthen our Capacity; and

WHEREAS, these grants will provide funding for technical and financial assistance to landowners and support the District's ongoing operations; and

WHEREAS, the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board desires to accept this funding to continue conservation practices and delivery in northern St. Louis County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors authorizes the District Administrator or Board Chair to secure the above grants and sign all documents related to such funding.

Motion Made by: *Modich*
Seconded by: *Baister*

Affirmative: *Baister, Hovi, Modich, Pearson, Peterson*
Opposed: *none*

Certification of Recording Officer

I, the undersigned, hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted by the North St Louis SWCD Board on the 13th day of September 2025, and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.

Mark Peterson
Mark Peterson, Board Secretary