



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

Regular Meeting Minutes  
March 11, 2026

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

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

**Staff Present In Person:** Anita Provinzino, District Administrator; Miranda Frenning, Accounting & Human Resources Specialist; and Tristan Nelson, Supervisory Regional Farm Bill Forester.

**Staff Present Online:** Corey Denning; Resource Conservationist; Phil Norvitch, Conservation Manager; and Jon Utecht, AIS Program Coordinator

**Others Present Online:** Melanie Bomier, BWSR was present online. Allison Praet, NRCS, joined midway through the meeting.

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

1. **Agenda** - Moved by Chuck Bainter/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/Mark Peterson 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 3/11/26 with additional \$20 to MN Association of Conservation District Employees for training. Motion carried unanimously.
5. **Guest Introductions and Comments** – Melanie Bomier indicate she has been approving eLink reports and staff have gotten her any additional information she has requested.

NEW BUSINESS:

6. **BWSR**
  - a. **50% Cost Share Contract (26-03-1) with Landowner for Woodland Stewardship Plan Renewal using 24 St. Louis River Watershed Based Implementation Funds funding** – Moved by Mark Peterson/Chuck Bainter to approve Cost Share Contract 26-03-01 for 50% of the DNR Plan Rate for a woodland stewardship plan renewal totaling \$340 covering 38-acres in the Sand Creek subwatershed using 24 BWSR St. Louis River WBIF funds. Motion carried unanimously.
  - b. **75% Cost Share Contract (26-03-2) with Landowner for Critical Area Planting using 26 Conservation Contracts funding** - Moved by Jerry Hovi/Mark Peterson to approve Cost Share Contract 26-03-02 for 75% or \$2,244 of the project cost for a critical area planting in the Lower Whiteface River subwatershed from the 26 BWSR Conservation Contracts fund. Motion carried unanimously.
  - c. **St. Louis River Watershed Based Implementation Funds 2<sup>nd</sup> biennium budget & Board Resolution 2026-05** - Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve

Board Resolution 2026-05 approving the second biennium budget for the St. Louis River Watershed Plan Partnership as follows:

Administration/Coordination	\$150,550
Agricultural Practices	79,000
Education/Information	30,500
Forestry Practices	112,000
Groundwater	19,000
Non-Structural Management Practices	10,000
Planning and Assessment	65,000
Project Development	428,540
Streambank or Shoreline Protection	799,552
Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems	210,000
Technical/Engineering Assistance	74,950
Urban Stormwater Mngmt. Practices	260,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,239,092</b>

Motion carried unanimously.

**7. County Funds**

- a. **Agreement to provide AIS inspection services in Lake County** – Moved by Jerry Hovi/Chuck Bainter to approve the \$17,000 contract with Lake County SWCD for our district to provide AIS inspections services in Lake County. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. **Agreement to contract for AIS inspections services in St. Louis County** – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve the \$3,000 contract with Lake County SWCD for them to provide watercraft inspection services in St. Louis County. Motion carried unanimously.

8. **DNR CPL Funds: Contractor Update** – Anita advised the board that she sent a certified letter to the contractor requesting written clarification of his intent. No response was received by the deadline. She will proceed with the next step as recommended by the county attorney. Motion carried unanimously.

**9. Financial**

- a. **Certificate of Deposit #14 matures on 3/12/26** – reinvest \$55,000 and interest – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Jerry Hovi to reinvest this certificate with Frandsen Bank and Trust. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. **Purchase additional \$75,000 Certificate of Deposit** – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to purchase a \$75,000 Certificate of Deposit at the best interest rate and term available from Frandsen Bank and Trust. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. **2025 Preliminary Year End Financial Statements & Dashboard** – Anita reviewed the preliminary year end financial statements and graphs with the board.

10. **MPCA GreenCorps application & Board Resolution 2026-06** – Moved by Jerry Hovi/Mark Peterson to approve Board Resolution 2026-06 authorizing application to the Minnesota GreenCorps for a member to serve 11-months with the District. Motion carried unanimously.

**11. Strategic Planning**

- a. **Mission Statement Draft** – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve he proposed mission statement “The mission of the North St. Louis Soil & Water

Conservation District is to engage people in the stewardship of our natural resources". Motion carried unanimously.

- b. **Summary Document Review** – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Jerry Hovi to approve the Strategic Planning Meeting Summary with minor edits. Motion carried unanimously.

**12. Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and/or Trainings**

- a. Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development – March 23 or 30
- b. MASWCD Legislative Days – March 17-18
- c. Policy Committee – Rainy Headwaters/Vermilion - TBD
- d. SWCD Forestry Association – March 19
- e. Other
  - i. Little Fork River 1W1P Policy Committee – March 26
  - ii. Technical Service Area 3 – March 25

**13. Other – None**

REPORTS:

**14. Arrowhead Forest Partnership** – Tristan Nelson, Supervisory Regional Farm Bill Forester, gave a presentation on the progress of the 4 county, 5 SWCD partnership that begin in 2018. He presented this to BWSR staff in January.

**15. Monthly Progress Report** – See report on file

**16. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report** – Allison Praet advised funding has been "set aside" for the next Arrowhead Forest Partnership grant expected to begin in 2027 pending formal approvals; NRCS has a zero dollar agreement with Fond du Lac for 2 interns focused on community gatherings and gardens; staff are assessing and ranking existing EQIP applications; NRCS is down staff in our region and across the state. There might be an contract forester starting in mid-April.

**17. Supervisor & Committee Reports –**

- a. Policy Committee – St. Louis River - February 19 – Chuck indicated the budget was approved and updates on each SWCDs progress were given.
- b. Strategic Planning Retreat – February 24 – Staff and board met in a facilitated session that was well received and allowed all to provide input.

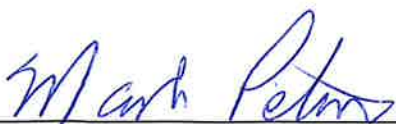
CLOSING:

**17. Confirm Next Meeting** – March 11, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.

**18. Adjourn** – Moved by Jerry Hovi/Chuck Bainter to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 p.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

April 8, 2026



**North St. Louis  
Soil and Water Conservation District**  
505 3<sup>rd</sup> St N, Ste A  
Virginia MN 55792  
(218) 749-2000  
[www.nslswcd.org](http://www.nslswcd.org)

**Resolution to Approve Application for Minnesota GreenCorps Member**

**WHEREAS**, the District has interest in developing a native tree seed collection training program that would assist the DNR to grow trees from seed sourced in Minnesota, those that are already adapted to our climate and help promote resilient forests; and

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota GreenCorps is requesting applications to become a host site for a full-time member, working 1700 hours from September 2026-August 2027; and

**WHEREAS**, the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District's 2023-2025 Strategic Plan identified the goal of "Identify the people and systems needed to manage new projects" and one of the action steps is to expand the intern program; and

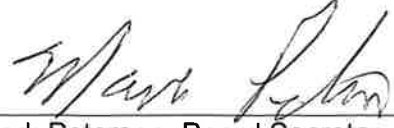
**WHEREAS**, a Minnesota GreenCorps member, although not an intern, would convey the intent of the action step to provide work experience and training; and

**WHEREAS**, a Minnesota GreenCorps member would develop and offer a native tree seed collection training program across the District.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors supports an application for a Minnesota GreenCorps, would enter into an agreement with the MPCA if selected, and authorizes the District Administrator or Board Chair to sign all documents related to such award.

Motion Made by: Hovi  
Seconded by: Peterson  
Affirmative: Brouder, Hovi, 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 held on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026, and that I am duly authorized to execute this certification.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Peterson, Board Secretary

3/11/26  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**North St. Louis  
Soil and Water Conservation District**  
505 3<sup>rd</sup> St N, Ste A  
Virginia MN 55792  
(218) 288-6144  
[www.nslswcd.org](http://www.nslswcd.org)

## **Resolution to Accept Second Biennium Funding to Implement the St. Louis River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan**

**Whereas**, the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District is a member of the St. Louis River Watershed Plan Partnership; and

**Whereas**, the second biennium of watershed based implementation funding is available to implement the St. Louis River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan; and

**Whereas**, the South St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District is expected to be the fiscal agent for the implementation funding; and

**Whereas**, the Policy Committee of the St. Louis River Watershed Plan Partnership approved the budget for FY26-27 on February 19, 2026, and

**Whereas**, the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District desires to accept this funding to complete the work identified in the Plan, estimated at \$482,550.

**Now; Therefore, Be it Resolved**, the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors approves the Partnership budget for the second biennium.

**Be it Further Resolved**, the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors authorizes the District Administrator or Board Chair to sign all documents related to this funding

Motion Made by: *Bainter*  
Seconded by: *Peterson*  
Affirmative: *Bainter, Pearson, Peterson, Hovi*  
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 held on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026 and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.*

Mark Peterson, Board Secretary