



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

Regular Meeting Minutes
May 13, 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. Frank Modich was present online.

Staff Present In Person: Anita Provinzino, District Administrator; Corey Denning; Resource Conservationist; and Miranda Frenning, Accounting & Human Resources Specialist.

Staff Present Online: Ben Kielar, Program Technician; Tristan Nelson, Supervisory Regional Farm Bill Forester Phil Norvitch, Conservation Manager; Rachel Poppe, District Forester; and Jon Utecht, AIS Program Coordinator

Others Present: Melanie Bomier, BWSR and Allison Praet, NRCS were present online.

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 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/Frank Modich to accept the financial reports and program summary. Motion carried unanimously. Chuck noted that he is frustrated that Frandsen Bank has not yet added the newest certificates of deposit on the bank statements, despite repeated attempts by District staff.
4. **Accounts Receivable and Payable** – Moved by Jerry Hovi/Chuck Bainter to approve the accounts payable and accounts receivable as updated 5/13/26. Motion carried unanimously.
5. **Guest Introductions and Comments** –
 - a. **4M Fund (Minnesota Municipal Money Market Fund)** – Corey Boyer – See below
Scheduled Presentation at 11:00
 - b. **Other**

NEW BUSINESS:

6. BWSR Funds
 - a. **Amendment to Stormwater Management Plan Cost Share Contract dated 8/14/24 to include stormwater practice using 24 WBIF SLR funds** – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve Amendment 1 to stormwater management plan cost share authorizing the remaining \$44,630.88 to be utilized for stormwater management practices rather than planning. Motion carried unanimously.
 - b. **75% Cost Share Contract #26-05-01 with Landowner for Shoreline Restoration using 24 WBIF SLR funds** – Moved by Jerry Hovi/Mark Peterson to approve 75% Cost Share Contract #26-05-01 for Shoreline Restoration using 24 WBIF SLR funds in an amount not to exceed 75% of the total cost or \$3,337.50 whichever is less. Motion carried unanimously.
 - c. **75% Cost Share Contract #26-05-02 with Landowner for Invasive Species Removal and Native Planting using 26 BWSR Conservation Contracts funds** – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve 75% Cost Share Contract #26-05-02 for Invasive Species Removal and Native Planting using 26 BWSR Conservation Contracts funds in an amount

not to exceed 75% of the total cost or \$668.91 whichever is less. Motion carried unanimously.

- d. **Shoreline Practices Video Production Contract with Bear Witness Media using 24 WBIF RHV funds** – Moved by Mark Peterson/Jerry Hovi to approve a \$7,000.00 contract with Bear Witness Media for a shoreline practices video using 24 WBIF RHV funds. Motion carried unanimously.

7. DNR

- a. **Contract with Prairie Restorations for tree release using 23 CPL Snow Shelter Enhancement funds** – Moved by Jerry Hovi/Mark Peterson to approve a contract with Prairie Restorations for brush saw release on up to 7 priority wildlife management areas in an amount not to exceed \$22,705.00 using 23 CPL Snow Shelter Enhancement funds.

At 10:50 a.m. Frank Modich left the meeting.

4M Fund (Minnesota Municipal Money Market Fund) - The board heard a presentation by Corey Boyer and Matt Heslin on the 4M fund's various investment options and programs. The fund was created specifically for local governments. Anita was asked to get references from other Districts.

8. MPCA Funds

- a. **Amendment to Surface Water Assessment Grant to Include Cloquet and Vermilion River Watersheds & Board Resolution 2026-09** – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approved Board Resolution 2026-09 authorizing retroactive approval of the \$67,000.00 amendment to the existing \$27,759.00 MPCA Surface Water Assessment Grant.
- b. **75% Cost Share Contract #26-05-03 with Landowner for Woodland Stewardship Plan Using 22 MPCA 319 Pelican Lake funds** – Moved by Jerry Hovi/Mark Peterson to approve 75% Cost Share Contract #26-05-03 for a woodland stewardship plan on 39 acres in the Pelican Lake subwatershed at a rate not to exceed \$517.50 utilizing 22 MPCA 319 funding. Motion carried unanimously.

At 11:22 a.m. Frank Modich returned to the meeting.

9. Strategic Planning Updates

- a. **Strategic Plan 2026-2028** – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve the 2026-2028 strategic plan. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. **Employee Survey Responses on Leadership Transition** – The board reviewed the survey results and thanked the employees for their participation.
- c. **Determine Next Steps for Goal 1** – The board indicated their preference is to meet the day of the board meeting, to work on their action steps, when needed.

10. Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and/or Trainings

- a. Area 3 Spring Meeting – June 5 – Peggy and Anita will attend.
- b. Filing Period for SWCD Supervisors 1 & 3 – May 19-June 2
- c. Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development – May TBD
- d. Local Work Group Meeting – May 13
- e. MN SWCD Forestry Association – May 21
- f. Policy Committee – Rainy Headwaters Vermilion – May 14 – The May 14th date was not needed. The committee will meet on June 1.
- g. Other - none

11. Other - none

REPORTS:

12. **Rainy Lake Basin video by Houston Engineering** – This ~15-minute video on the Minnesota portion of the Rainy Lake Basin was played for the board. It was originally made for the International Rainy Lake of the Woods watershed conference.

13. **Supervisor Election Process video by MASWCD** – This 2-minute video was the result of the idea of former supervisor, Gary Rantala and subsequent resolution posed in 2023 by this District. The video was released in time for use in the 2026 election season. It was viewed at the meeting.

14. **Monthly Progress Report** – See report on file – Also Anita indicated 1) the SWCD was not selected as a host organization for a MPCA GreenCorps member. 2) We were also notified we did not receive the MDA AGRI grant for weekly agricultural day at Rock Ridge's summer youth program. 3) A letter from Peterson Company Ltd outlining the audit scope and their responsibilities was included in the printed board packet and 4) The two grants Kaela wrote for funding to replace 2 culverts on Berry Creek in the Cloquet watershed were BOTH funded. We are working with the funding sources to determine next steps.

15. **Natural Resources Conservation Service Report** – Allison indicated the NRCS ASUS for-ester did not start as planned. They are interviewing for ASUS administrative positions now. There is \$800,000 in funding available over 4 counties. She anticipates St. Louis County land-owners will get 5 CSP and 3 EQIP contracts. The Local Work Group meeting is today, May 13 at 1:00. Allison will give a presentation at the Area 3 Summer Meeting.

At 12:14 p.m. Frank Modich left the meeting. He returned at 12:16. This was during the NRCS report.

16. **Supervisor & Committee Reports**

- a. Tree Sale pickup – May 7 & 8 – Rachel indicated the tree sale went well. A full report that accounts for all expenses will be given at the July board meeting. All unsold trees were donated to Bois Forte's forestry division. Frank asked that pictures and a press release be sent out.
- b. Other

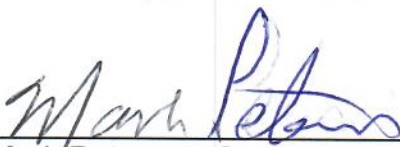
CLOSING:

17. **Confirm Next Meeting** – June 8, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.

18. **Adjourn** – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to adjourn the meeting at 12:21 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
June 8, 2026



North St. Louis
Soil and Water Conservation District
505 3rd St N, Ste A
Virginia MN 55792
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Resolution to Approve Amendment 1 Adding the Cloquet and Vermilion River Watersheds to Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG) #265728

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is requesting assistance to monitor and collect data for two years across the watershed as part of its intensive watershed monitoring process to determine the health of lakes and streams, and

WHEREAS, the Cloquet and Vermilion River Watersheds partially or fully lie within the North St. Louis SWCD; and

WHEREAS, the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District could assist the MPCA with lake and stream monitoring by collecting surface water quality data, and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District have an existing Joint Powers Agreement (SWIFT Contract #265728) for the Rainy River-Headwaters Watershed totaling \$27,759, and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District have negotiated a workplan and budget for the additional services in the Cloquet and Vermilion River Watersheds totaling \$67,000, and

WHEREAS, this amendment will bring North St. Louis SWCDs total reimbursement for services provided to \$94,759, and


WHEREAS, the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board desires to approve this working agreement to provide these services related to its mission.

NOW THERE BE IT RESOLVED, the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors retroactively approves said contract and authorizes the District Administrator or Board Chair to sign all documents related to said funding.

Motion Made by: *Bainter*
Seconded by: *Peterson*
Affirmative: *Bainter, 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 13th day of May 2026, and that I am duly authorized to execute this certification.



Mark Peterson, Board Secretary