



Regular Meeting Minutes  
July 8, 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, Frank Modich, Peggy Pearson, and Mark Peterson were present in person.

**Staff Present In Person:** Anita Provinzino, District Administrator; Corey Denning; Resource Conservationist; Miranda Frenning, Accounting & Human Resources Specialist, Rachel Poppe, District Forester and Kimberly Yankowiak, Program Technician

**Staff Present Online:** Jake Bendel, RHV Watershed Conservationist; Jon Utecht, AIS Program Coordinator; Tristan Nelson, Supervisory Regional Farm Bill Forester; Phil Norvitch, Conservation Manager; and Kaela Veihman, SLR Watershed Conservationist.

**Others Present:** Allison Praet, NRCS was present online. Dylan McCauley, NRCS was present in person.

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Chair, Peggy Pearson.

1. **Agenda** - Moved by Mark Peterson/Frank Modich to add 13a) Public Comment on OMB Guidance and 13b) Forestry Grant Opportunity with The Nature Conservancy and 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 Chuck Bainter/Frank Modich to approve the accounts payable and accounts receivable as updated 7/8/26. Motion carried unanimously.
5. **Guest Introductions and Comments** -After introductions, the board welcomed Kimberly Yankowiak to her new role as Program Technician.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

6. BWSR Funds
  - a. **2026 WBIF St. Louis River 2<sup>nd</sup> Biennium Disbursal Agreement with South St. Louis SWCD (already authorized via Board Resolution 2026-05 in March)** – Moved by Frank Modich/Mark Peterson to approve the disbursal agreement after clarifying clause on partner liability so that we are only liable for our own acts and omissions. Motion carried unanimously.
  - b. **2027 Lake Superior Capacity Funding & Board Resolution 2026-12** – Moved by Jerry Hovi/Mark Peterson to approve Board Resolution 2026-12 accepting funding and authoring signers. Motion carried unanimously.
  - c. **75% Cost Share Contract #26-07-01 with Landowner for a Native Planting for Stormwater Filtration using 26 Soil Health funds and 24 SLR WBIF funds** – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Jerry Hovi to approve contract #26-07-01 for up to \$8,581.50 utilizing \$7,261.01 from 26 BWSR Soil Health and \$1,320.49 from 24 BWSR WBIF SLR. Motion carried unanimously.

- d. **75% Cost Share Contract #26-07-02 with Landowner for a Woodland Stewardship Plan using 24 WBIF SLR funds** - Moved by Mark Peterson/Frank Modich to approve cost share contract #26-07-02 for up to \$525 using 24 WBIF SLR funds. Motion carried unanimously.
  - e. **Cost Share Contract #26-07-03 with Landowner for Agricultural Practices using 26 WBIF SLR funds** - Moved by Chuck Bainter/Frank Modich to approve cost share contract #26-07-03 in the amount of \$52,000 using 26 WBIF SLR funds. Motion carried unanimously.
  - f. **75% Cost Share Contract #26-07-04 with Landowner for a Riparian Forest Buffer using 26 SLR WBIF funds** – Moved by Mark Peterson/Jerry Hovi to approve cost share contract #26-07-04 for up to \$3,446.25 of 26 WBIF SLR funds. Motion carried unanimously.
7. **DNR Groundwater Level Monitoring Contract & Board Resolution 2026-13** – Moved by Frank Modich/Chuck Bainter to approve Board Resolution 2026-13 authorizing retroactive approval of the DNR groundwater monitoring contract. Motion carried unanimously.
8. **MN North College Contract for Water Sampling Services & Board Resolution 2026-14** – Moved by Jerry Hovi/Chuck Bainter to approve Board Resolution 2026-14 to accept \$5,952.85 and authorize signers, pending confirmation of final contract details. Motion carried unanimously.
9. **Financial**
- a. **\$100,000 RHV Certificate of Deposit matures 7/12/26; deposit to RHV checking** – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to redeposit this certificate of deposit into the RHV checking account. Motion carried unanimously.
  - b. **Options to Increase Cashflow** – After discussing options it was felt that authorizing a line of credit would result in minimal interest charges when accessed and it would allow the district to earn the full interest on the certificates of deposit. Moved by Chuck Bainter/Frank Modich to approve **Board Resolution 2026-15** authorizing a \$100,000 line of credit with Frandsen Bank. Motion carried unanimously.
10. **Policies:**
- a. **Data Practices Policies – Annual Update**
    - i. **For Data About You**
    - ii. **For Members of the Public**Moved by Frank Modich/Jerry Hovi to approve both policies as written. Motion carried unanimously.
  - b. **Policy Updates: Remote Work, Travel, & Vehicle Usage** – Anita reported the attorney has not yet reviewed this policy. Moved by Jerry Hovi/Frank Modich to approve the policy pending no major edits by the county attorney. Motion carried unanimously.
  - c. **SWCD Aid Guidelines for 2026-2027 – Annual Update** - Moved by Frank Modich/Mark Peterson to approve the guidelines as written. Motion carried unanimously.
11. **Strategic Planning Updates**
- a. **District Administrator Job Description Update** – Moved by Frank Modich/Chuck Bainter to approve the updated job description. Motion carried unanimously.
12. **Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and/or Trainings**
- a. **SWCD Forestry Association** – July 16
  - b. **Other** – Peggy indicated that the Laurentian RC&D meeting will be on July 27.
13. **Other**

- a. **Public Comment on Proposed OMB Guidance.** Anita explained there is a proposed revision to OMB Guidance 2CFR200 that has the potential to have a great impact on any federal funding. If approved, the changes are effective on 10/1/2026. Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to submit the drafted letter as an official public comment. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. **Forestry Grant Opportunity with The Nature Conservancy** – Anita reported a new \$50,000 grant request for proposals came out yesterday and is due on August 6. The funding would be utilized for technical assistance to landowners who could then qualify for project implementation funding. Moved by Chuck Bainter/Jerry Hovi to approve **Board Resolution 2026-16** authorizing the grant application and authorizing signers if awarded. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **REPORTS:**

14. **Tre Sale Results** – Rachel Poppe, District Forester – Rachel gave a presentation on the 2026 tree sale that went along with the printed report. Her presentation compared prior years of sales and species along with results of a brief customer survey.

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

Frank Modich left at 11:43 a.m.

16. **Natural Resources Conservation Service Report** – Dylan McCauley reported that an ASUS administrative staff started in the Duluth office. NRCS is in the process of hiring an Area Conservationist. The Area received some additional funding that has been 83% obligated. They had a booth at Carlton SWCD's pollinator day and some staff attended soil and/or grazing training.

#### **17. Supervisor & Committee Reports**

- a. **Little Fork River Policy Committee – June 25** – Chuck reported the policy committee approved the draft plan, notice has been given to the state agencies, and a public comment period ends on August 14. A public hearing will be held in Cook on September 24 followed by a policy committee meeting. The plan is expected to be approved then and forwarded to each partner for action in October, proceeding to the BWSR North Region Committee in November who would recommend it to the BWSR Board for approval in December. There are remaining planning funds and the steering team is looking at options for those funds.
- b. **Technical Service Area III** – Chuck indicated the TSA has about \$313,000 in the bank, TSA staff got raises between 5-9%, and Matias gave an update on their work area-wide.
- c. **Other** - None

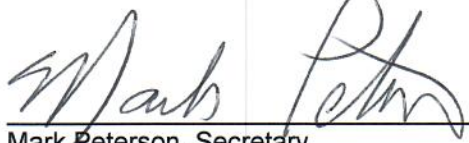
#### **CLOSING:**

18. **Confirm Next Meeting** – August 12, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.

19. **Adjourn** – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Jerry Hovi to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 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  
August 12, 2026

## North St Louis SWCD Accounts Receivable

7/2/2026

| Date      | Receivable From:                 | Amount:             | Notes:                                    |
|-----------|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 7/8/2026  | From Savings to Checking         | \$0.80              | interest                                  |
| 7/15/2026 | South St. Louis SWCD             | \$70,000.00         | 2Q26 quarterly reimbursement              |
| 5/8/2026  | St. Louis County                 | \$9,038.84          | April Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention |
| 5/31/2026 | St. Louis County                 | \$33,008.26         | May Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention   |
| 6/30/2026 | St. Louis County                 | \$62,855.29         | June Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention  |
| 6/30/2026 | State of Minnesota               | \$23,158.10         | DNR CPL Snow Shelter Enhancement          |
| 6/30/2026 | State of Minnesota               | \$1,680.00          | DNR groundwater readings                  |
| 6/30/2026 | State of Minnesota               | \$684.48            | MPCA SWAG for RHV                         |
| 7/31/2026 | State of Minnesota               | \$78,632.77         | SWCD Aid                                  |
| 6/30/2026 | Vermilion Lake Association       | \$3,092.16          | June Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention  |
|           | Checking Account Receivable      | <b>\$282,150.70</b> |                                           |
|           | Flex Account Receivable          | <b>\$427.16</b>     | Employee withholding reimbursements       |
|           | RHV 1W1P Receivable              | <b>\$103,000.00</b> | CD and interest                           |
|           | RHV CD Receivable                | \$0.00              |                                           |
|           | Savings Account Receivable       | \$0.00              |                                           |
|           | <b>Total Accounts Receivable</b> | <b>\$385,577.86</b> |                                           |

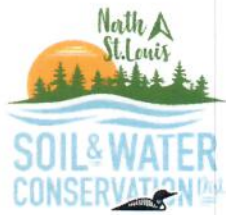
## North St Louis SWCD Accounts Payable

7/2/2026

| Date      | Payable To:                               | Amount      | Notes                                  |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------------|
| 7/2/2026  | Always There Staffing                     | \$36,986.20 | watercraft inspectors                  |
| 7/8/2026  | Always There Staffing                     | \$10,986.04 | watercraft inspectors                  |
| 7/8/2026  | Birch Forest Lodge                        | \$144.00    | surveys @ \$9                          |
| 7/2/2026  | Cardmember Service 1                      | \$2,363.58  | see attached                           |
| 7/2/2026  | Cardmember Service 2                      | \$0.00      | No charges this month                  |
| 7/2/2026  | City of Chisholm                          | \$44,630.88 | cost share payment from SLR WBIF       |
| 7/2/2026  | EO Johnson Business Technologies          | \$114.08    | quarterly copy fees                    |
| 7/8/2026  | Grubens                                   | \$18.00     | surveys @ \$9                          |
| 7/8/2026  | Head-O-Lake Resort                        | \$504.00    | surveys @ \$9                          |
| 7/2/2026  | Innovo Benefits Administration            | \$1,217.94  | employee elected benefit               |
| 7/9/2026  | Internal Revenue Service                  | \$8,503.94  | withholding                            |
| 7/23/2026 | Internal Revenue Service                  | \$9,700.00  | withholding                            |
| 7/8/2026  | Island View Resort                        | \$180.00    | surveys @ \$9                          |
| 7/2/2026  | Jake Bendel                               | \$130.80    | mileage and boat rental                |
| 7/2/2026  | JDAP Holdings LLC                         | \$1,781.74  | rent                                   |
| 7/2/2026  | Jon Utecht                                | \$297.00    | boat rental reimbursement (SWAG & P&S) |
| 7/2/2026  | Koochiching County Environmental Services | \$5,517.21  | watercraft inspections - May           |
| 7/8/2026  | Life of Riley Resort                      | \$459.00    | surveys @ \$9                          |
| 7/9/2026  | MN Dept of Revenue                        | \$1,546.00  | withholding                            |
| 7/15/2026 | MN Dept of Revenue                        | \$517.05    | sales tax                              |
| 7/23/2026 | MN Dept of Revenue                        | \$1,750.00  | withholding                            |
| 7/9/2026  | MN State Retirement System                | \$1,480.00  | Deferred Compensation                  |
| 7/23/2026 | MN State Retirement System                | \$1,480.00  | Deferred Compensation                  |
| 7/2/2026  | Pace Analytical                           | \$2,140.00  | WRAPS & SWAG sampling                  |
| 7/8/2026  | Pace Analytical                           | \$418.00    | SWAG sampling                          |
| 7/9/2026  | PERA                                      | \$3,860.26  | Retirement                             |
| 7/23/2026 | PERA                                      | \$4,250.00  | Retirement                             |
| 7/2/2026  | QuickBooks Payroll Service                | \$34.50     | monthly fee                            |
| 7/9/2026  | QuickBooks Payroll Service                | \$22,724.61 | payroll                                |
| 7/23/2026 | QuickBooks Payroll Service                | \$25,500.00 | payroll                                |
| 7/8/2026  | Retreat Lodge                             | \$288.00    | surveys @ \$9                          |
| 7/8/2026  | Shangri-La Resort                         | \$144.00    | surveys @ \$9                          |

Updated 07/08/26

| Date             | Payable To:                         | Amount              | Notes                                          |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 7/2/2026         | Shelter Point                       | \$1,449.44          | quarterly PFML premiums                        |
| 7/2/2026         | Tristan Nelson                      | \$146.95            | meal reimbursement                             |
| 7/2/2026         | Tusker Co (formerly Citon Computer) | \$459.21            | M365 on autopay                                |
| 7/2/2026         | Verified First                      | \$90.13             | background check                               |
| 7/8/2026         | Vermilion Houseboats                | \$54.00             | surveys @ \$9                                  |
| 7/2/2026         | Virginia Public Utilities           | \$71.31             | utilities                                      |
| 7/8/2026         | Whispering Winds Resort             | \$486.00            | surveys @ \$9                                  |
|                  |                                     | <b>\$192,423.87</b> |                                                |
| <b>TRANSFERS</b> |                                     |                     |                                                |
| 7/9/2026         | From Checking to Flex Plan Account  | \$213.58            | payroll deduction for employee elected benefit |
| 7/23/2026        | From Checking to Flex Plan Account  | \$213.58            | payroll deduction for employee elected benefit |
|                  |                                     | <b>\$427.16</b>     |                                                |
| 7/8/2026         | From RHV 1W1P to Checking           | \$21,851.39         | Landowner Payments- June                       |
| 7/8/2026         | From RHV 1W1P to Checking           | \$9,000.00          | Last month's expenses                          |
|                  | <b>From RHV 1W1P to Checking</b>    | <b>\$30,851.39</b>  |                                                |
| 7/10/2026        | From RHV CD to RHV Checking         | \$100,000.00        | CD principal amount                            |
|                  |                                     | <b>\$100,000.00</b> |                                                |
|                  | From Checking to Savings            |                     |                                                |
|                  | <b>TOTAL Savings Receivable</b>     | <b>\$0.00</b>       |                                                |
| 7/8/2026         | From Savings to Checking            | \$0.80              | interest                                       |
|                  | <b>TOTAL Checking Receivable</b>    | <b>\$0.80</b>       |                                                |
|                  | <b>Total Accounts Payable</b>       | <b>\$323,703.22</b> |                                                |



## Resolution 2026-12

### 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 Authorize FY27 BWSR Lake Superior Basin Capacity Agreement

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, Carlton County SWCD, Cook County SWCD, Lake County SWCD, North St. Louis SWCD and South St. Louis SWCD worked together to secure funding from the Clean Water Council to build capacity of each SWCD with the intent to take greater advantage of federal funding; and

**WHEREAS**, the Clean Water Council FYs 26-27 Clean Water Fund and Policy recommendations recommended funding to support SWCD capacity in Lake Superior Basin in order to seek out and implement matching Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funds and other federal funds resulted in \$1 million for the five SWCD's, and

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources has responsibility to distribute approximately \$190,000 of funding for capacity building in the Lake Superior Basin in northern St. Louis County; and

**WHEREAS**, this funding may be used broadly for staffing, administration and projects in the St. Louis River Watershed; and

**WHEREAS**, the District has expanded its capacity by securing \$540,000 of federal funding to complete 3 culvert replacements on Berry and Hypo Creeks; and

**WHEREAS**, this work fits within the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District's Strategic Plan and achieves goals in the St. Louis River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors supports Lake Superior Basin Capacity funding and authorizes the District Administrator or Board Chair to sign all documents related to such funding.

Motion Made by: Hovi

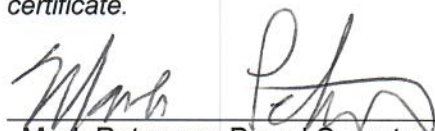
Seconded by: Peterson

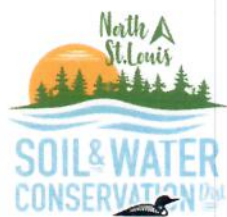
Affirmative: Bainter, Hovi, Modich, Pearson, Peterson

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 held on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of July 2026, and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.*

  
Mark Peterson, Board Secretary



## Resolution 2026-13

### 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 Approve FY26 DNR Groundwater Contract

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has four observation wells they desire to be monitored within the District boundaries; and

**WHEREAS**, the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District supports the data that is gathered from taking water level measurements at the wells; and

**WHEREAS**, Chuck Bainter, Frank Modich, and Mark Peterson volunteer to take the measurements and may use district vehicles to do so; and

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota DNR has authorized these members of the Board of Supervisors to take the readings eight times per year at \$60 per reading at four wells for a maximum of \$1,920; and

**WHEREAS**, if additional wells are to be read, the maximum additional payment would be \$720.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors supports taking groundwater measurements and retroactively authorizes the District Administrator or Board Chair to sign all documents related to such funding.

Motion Made by: *Modich*

Seconded by: *Bainter*

Affirmative: *Bainter, 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 held on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of July 2026 and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Peterson". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Mark Peterson, Board Secretary



**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 Approve Professional and Technical Services Contract with Minnesota North College – Vermilion Campus to Conduct Water Sampling**

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota North College – Vermilion Campus requests assistance as part of their contract with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (Swift Contract 246601) to monitor and collect data across watershed as part of the MPCA's intensive watershed monitoring process to determine the health of lakes and streams, and

**WHEREAS**, the contract is for collecting water samples for intensive load monitoring in the Rainy Headwaters and Vermilion River Watersheds; and

**WHEREAS**, the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District staff could assist with select lake and stream monitoring by collecting water samples before September 30, 2026, and

**WHEREAS**, the contract is for a maximum of \$5,952.85 for staff time, mileage and expenses, and

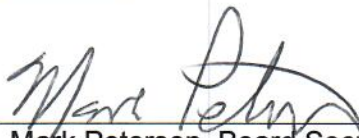
**WHEREAS**, the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board desires to provide these services related to its mission.

**NOW THERE BE IT RESOLVED**, the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors approves the Professional and Technical Services Contract with Minnesota North College – Vermilion Campus and authorizes the District Administrator or Board Chair to sign all documents related to said funding.

Motion made by: Hovi  
Seconded by: Bainter  
Affirmative: Bainter, Hovi, Madich, Pearson, Peterson  
Opposed: none

**Certification of Recording Officer**

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



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## Resolution to Approve Line of Credit

**WHEREAS**, the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District is the fiscal agent for two grants each over \$1 million, and

**WHEREAS**, quarterly expenditures can vary greatly based on work that partners complete, projects that landowners complete, along with our routine staff expenditures; and

**WHEREAS**, the large expenditures can result in a low balance in the checking accounts, and

**WHEREAS**, if a line of credit were secured, the District would be able to access those funds temporarily, and

**WHEREAS**, the District has received a proposal from its bank, Frandsen Bank, and

**WHEREAS**, the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board desires to authorize a line of credit.

**NOW THERE BE IT RESOLVED**, the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors approves establishing a line of credit with Frandsen Bank & Trust.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board of Supervisors authorizes any two of the following people, Charles Bainter, Frank Modich and Anita Provinzino, to sign all documents related to said funding.

Motion made by: *Bainter*

Seconded by: *Modich*

Affirmative: *Bainter, Hovi, Modich, Pearson & Peterson*

Opposed: *none*

*Certification of Recording Officer*

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Peterson".

Mark Peterson, Board Secretary



## Resolution 2026-16

### 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)

**WHEREAS**, Strengthening Forest Economies Through Forestry Services, Wood Products, and Seedling Markets ("SFE") is a program led by The Nature Conservancy ("TNC") and the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources ("BWSR") funded by the USDA's Advancing Markets for Producers ("AMP") program, and

**WHEREAS**, the goal of SFE is to create more closed canopy forest for carbon sequestration, water quality, and wildlife habitat. Healthy resilient forests will create stronger markets for new tree seedlings, forestry contractors, and timber products, and

**WHEREAS**, the Nature Conservancy announced a Request for Proposals for SWCDs to recruit and provide technical assistance to landowners who implement forest health conservation practices, and

**WHEREAS**, the District staff plan to develop and submit a grant application for up to the \$50,000 maximum that would meet those requirements a; and

**WHEREAS**, if awarded, District staff would recruit landowners, provide technical assistance to them, connect them to financial incentives of AMP/SFE, and verify that the forest practices were implemented; and

**WHEREAS**, North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board desires to accept this funding, if awarded.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors authorizes the staff to apply for and the District Administrator or Board Chair to secure and sign all documents related to any such award.

Motion Made by: *Bainter*

Seconded by: *Hovi*

Affirmative: *Bainter, 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 8<sup>th</sup> day of July 2026 and that I am duly authorized to execute this resolution.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Peterson".

Mark Peterson

**NORTH ST LOUIS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SWCD)**  
**GUIDELINES ON USE OF SWCD AID PAYMENTS**

**Minn. Stat. § 477A.23, subd. 4(b)**

*(effective July 20, 2026-July 19, 2027)*

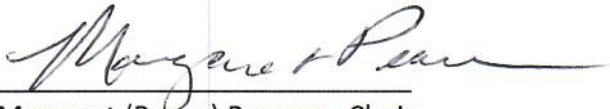
**State SWCD Aid payments will be used by the district board and staff to carry out the following duties as outlined in Minn. Stat. § 103C.332, subd. 1:**

- (1) respond to and provide technical and financial assistance to landowners to maintain and improve the quality, quantity, distribution, and sustainability of natural resources, including surface water, groundwater, soil, and ecological resources;
- (2) provide technical assistance in implementing the soil erosion law under sections [103F.401](#) to [103F.48](#);
- (3) arrange for employees to serve on technical evaluation panels to implement the wetland laws as required under section [103G.2242](#);
- (4) locally administer the reinvest in Minnesota reserve program under section [103F.515](#) and rules adopted thereunder, using knowledge of local resources to manage each easement to maximize environmental benefits;
- (5) participate in administering the Wetland Conservation Act as provided under sections [103G.221](#) to [103G.2375](#), in an advisory capacity;
- (6) participate, as appropriate, in the comprehensive watershed management planning program under section [103B.801](#);
- (7) participate in disaster response efforts as provided in chapter 12A;
- (8) provide technical recommendations to the Department of Natural Resources on general permit applications under section [103G.301](#);
- (9) maintain compliance with section [15.99](#) for deadlines for agency action;
- (10) coordinate with appropriate county officials on matters related to electing soil and water conservation district supervisors; and
- (11) cooperate to the extent possible with federal, state, and local agencies and with private organizations to avoid duplicating and to enhance implementing public and private conservation initiatives within the jurisdiction of the district.

**In carrying out the above duties, the district board and staff will use state aid payments to deliver the following services as outlined in Minn. Stat. § 103C.332, subd. 2:**

- (1) performing administrative services, including comprehensive and annual work planning, administering grants, leveraging outside funding, establishing fiscal accountability measures, reporting accomplishments, human resources management, and staff and supervisor development;
- (2) entering into cooperative agreements with the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other United States Department of Agriculture agencies to leverage federal technical and financial assistance;

- (3) providing technical expertise, including knowledge of local resources, performing technical evaluations and certifications, assessing concerns, and providing oversight in surveying, designing, and constructing conservation practices;
- (4) providing information and education outreach, including increasing landowner awareness and knowledge of soil and water conservation program opportunities to protect soil and water resources and publicizing the benefits of soil and water conservation to the general public;
- (5) facilitating regulatory processes for impacted landowners and providing technical review and comment on regulatory permits and development plans for regulations relating to soil and water conservation;
- (6) administering projects and programs, including but not limited to the nonpoint source pollution abatement program; reinvest in Minnesota reserve conservation easements program; disaster response; comprehensive watershed management planning programs; and projects related to floodplains, lakes, streams and ditches, wetlands, upland resources, and groundwater resources, to maintain and improve the quality, quantity, distribution, and sustainability of natural resources, including surface water, groundwater, soil, and ecological resources;
- (7) monitoring and inventorying to collect data that provide a baseline understanding of resource conditions and changes to the resources over time and analyzing and interpreting the data to support program implementation; and
- (8) maintaining a modern technology infrastructure that facilitates planning and projects, including geographic information systems, modeling software, mobile workstations, survey and design equipment and software, and/or other technology for linking landowners with conservation plans.



Margaret (Peggy) Pearson, Chair  
North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District

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