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

Regular Meeting Minutes
September 9, 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; and Miranda Frenning, Accounting & Human Resources Specialist.
Staff Present Online: Jake Bendel, RHV Watershed Conservationist; Tristan Nelson, Supervisory Regional Farm Bill Forester; Rachel Poppe, District Forester; Jon Utecht, AIS Program Coordinator; Kaela Veihman, SLR Watershed Conservationist and Kimberly Yankowiak, Program Technician.
Others Present: Dylan McCauley, NRCS, was present in person.

The meeting was called to order at 10:31 a.m. by Chair, Peggy Pearson.

1. **Agenda** - Moved by Chuck Bainter/Frank Modich to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
2. **Minutes of Last Meeting** – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **Financial Reports & Program Summary** – Moved by Jerry Hovi/Chuck Bainter 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 9/9/26. Motion carried unanimously.
5. **Guest Introductions and Comments** – none present

NEW BUSINESS:

6. BWSR Funding Options – Discussion of Funds – Anita explained that we are coming to the end of the available funds in the first allocation of Watershed Based Implementation Funding for the Rainy Headwaters/Vermilion River. There are more requests than available funding. She also explained the St. Louis River watershed contribution for agricultural practices by Carlton SWCD, and the priorities for the Conservation Contracts funds.
    a. Rainy Headwaters Vermilion WBIF
        i. Amendment to Landowner Contract 26-01-1 for Shoreline Restoration – Moved by Frank Modich/Chuck Bainter to add an additional $8,707.50 to cost share contract 26-01-01 due to higher than anticipated costs. Motion carried unanimously.
        ii. 75% Cost Share Contract #26-09-x with Landowner for Shoreline Restoration – Moved by Frank Modich/Chuck Bainter to begin a new cost share contract (26-09-1) with a landowner for $6,359.86 with the understanding that additional funds can be requested once they are available to the District. Motion carried unanimously.

b. St. Louis River WBIF
    i. Cancel Landowner Contract SLR 25 WBIF SL 03 in the amount of $5,664.90 at Landowner's Request – Moved by Frank Modich/Mark Peterson to cancel contract #SLR 25 WBIF SL 03 at the request of the landowner. Motion carried unanimously.
    ii. Amendment to Landowner Contract 26-07-03 for Agricultural Practices – Moved by Frank Modich/Mark Peterson to add $10,000 to the existing contract by approving Amendment 1. Motion carried unanimously. It was noted that the Board expressed their thanks to Carlton SWCD for the $10,000 allocation and that the landowner should be informed of Carlton's contribution.
c. 27 Conservation Contracts
    i. 75% Cost Share Contract #26-09-xx for Shoreline Protection – Moved by Frank Modich/Chuck Bainter to approve cost share contract 26-09-2 in an amount up to $1,783.50 not to exceed 75% of the project cost. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Financial
    a. $75,000 Certificate of Deposit Matures 9/10/26. Redeposit to Checking – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Jerry Hovi to redeposit the maturing CD into checking. Motion carried unanimously.
8. Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and/or Trainings
    a. Area 3 Fall Meeting – September 30 in Two Harbors
    a. Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development – September 28 – Peggy indicated that this meeting was moved to September 21.
    b. Little Fork River Watershed Draft Plan Public Hearing & Policy Committee Meeting– September 24 in Cook
    c. SWCD Forestry Association – Friday, September 18 in Grand Rapids
    d. Technical Service Area III – September 23
    e. Other
9. Other – None

(No item numbers 10-13 were on the agenda)

REPORTS:

14. **Monthly Progress Report** – See report on file.
15. **Natural Resources Conservation Service Report** – Dylan indicated that Kim now has full access to all NRCS programs; Josh Hanson was promoted to the Assistant State Conservationist; the upcoming EQIP deadline has 230 applications so far; there is 1 conservation plan to sign, and there are two outreach events coming up.
16. **Supervisor & Committee Reports**
    a. Other
        16.a.i. There were no meetings this month
        16.a.ii. Jerry Hovi indicated he received a phone call from a landowner in Duluth who had a new septic installed on her property in Lake County. The contractor used plastic mesh as an erosion control measure, without her prior knowledge. She was very against this practice and wants the law changed.

        Anita indicated the landowner had also contacted her, as well as the Lake SWCD manager. The landowner has been advised this is a lo-

cal planning decision, not statewide, and was referred to county planning and zoning departments.

CLOSING:

17. **Confirm Next Meeting** of Tuesday, October 13
18. **Adjourn** – Moved by Jerry Hovi/Frank Modich to adjourn the meeting at 11:28 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 13, 2026