



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

Special Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2024

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

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

Staff Present: Anita Provenzino, District Administrator; Kaela Natwora, Watershed Conservationist; Jon Utecht, AIS Program Coordinator; Miranda Frenning, Accounting & Human Resources Specialist; Tristan Nelson, District Forester were present in-person. Becca Reiss, Community Conservationist; John McCormick, Regional Farm Bill Forester and Zach Evans, Regional Farm Bill Forester joined virtually.

Others Present: Melanie Bomier, BWSR Board Conservationist, Alison Praet and Maria Toral Rodriguez, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service were present online.

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. by Chair, Peggy Pearson.

1. Agenda - Moved by Frank Modich/Gary Rantala to add a cost share contract amendment and to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
2. Minutes of Last Meeting – Moved by Frank Modich/Gary Rantala to approve the minutes. Motion carried.
3. Financial Reports & Program Summary – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Frank Modich to accept the financial reports and program summary. Motion carried.
4. Accounts Receivable and Payable – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Frank Modich to approve accounts payable and accounts receivable as updated 3/20/24. Motion carried.
5. Guest Introductions and Comments – none.

NEW BUSINESS

6. Audit Contract for 2023 Audit – Moved by Frank Modich/Gary Rantala to contract with Peterson Companies, Ltd. for the 2023 audit. Motion carried.
7. BWSR –
 - a. WBIF Rainy Headwaters Vermilion - Workplan Summary & 24-25 Budget – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Frank Modich to approve the workplan summary and budget for 24-25 as presented. Motion carried.
 - b. Cost Share Contract Amendment – Moved by Gary Rantala/Frank Modich to approve an amendment to cost share contract FY22-1 for Lloyd McIntire et al, authorizing up to \$19,398 or 75% of the project cost, whichever is less. The request to add \$5,718 came in this morning and the contractor expects to start work prior to next board meeting which would allow expiring FY 20 & 21 Cost Share funds to be utilized if constructed by April 30. If not, other cost share funding is available. Motion carried.
8. DNR CPL Weed Control Contract Award - Moved by Chuck Bainter/Frank Modich to award a contract to MNL, Otsego MN, for Jobs 1-6 and 8 on their quote, in the amount of \$45,591.50 to remain within budget. All four quotes came in overbudget. DNR staff advised Job 7 was lowest priority. Motion carried.
9. Financial Review 2023 Preliminary Results – Anita reviewed the preliminary results from the prior year along with fiscal performance since 2015. Anita was thanked for her leadership of the District.
10. Resolution Development, if any – A suggestion was made to develop a resolution to encourage the DNR to reopen General Andrews Nursery in order to grow more tree stock to meet the demand for planting 1 million acres.

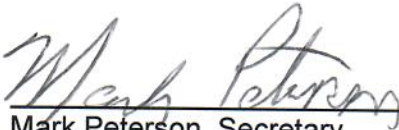
11. Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and/or Trainings
 - a. Policy Committee Rainy/Vermilion – April 5 – This meeting is cancelled.
 - b. SWCD Forestry Association – March 21
 - c. Technical Service Area III – March 27
 - d. Other – Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development – March 25

REPORTS – See packet

12. District Administrator Report – Anita
13. Accounting & Human Resources Specialist – Miranda
14. Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator Report – Jon U.
15. Community Conservationist Report- Becca
16. District Forester Report – Tristan
17. Regional Farm Bill Forester Report – John M.
18. Regional Farm Bill Forester Report – Zach
19. Resource Conservationist Report – Phil
20. St. Louis River Watershed Conservationist Report – Kaela
21. NRCS District Conservationist Report
22. Supervisor & Committee Reports
 - a. Policy Committee – Rainy/Vermilion – March 1- Chuck reported the committee recommended the workplan and budget for approval by each of the six partner boards. They also discussed bylaws for the implementation policy committee.
 - b. Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development Annual Mtg – Chuck indicated he attended the meeting and the speaker had a different focus than was anticipated.
 - c. MASWCD Day at the Capitol – March 12 & 13 – Mark and Anita reported that there were 9 members from Cook, Koochiching, Lake and both St. Louis SWCD's who visited with 5 representatives and 2 senators covering the region.

CLOSING

23. Next Meeting Date – The next meeting was set for Wednesday, April 8, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. followed by poster contest judging.
24. Adjourn – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to adjourn the meeting at 12:19 p.m. Motion carried. Ayes: Bainter, Modich, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala. Nays: None. Motion carried.



Mark Peterson, Secretary
April 10, 2024