



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

Regular Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2024

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

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

Staff Present: Anita Provinzino, District Administrator; Jon Utecht, AIS Program Coordinator; Miranda Frenning, Accounting & Human Resources Specialist; and Tristan Nelson, District Forester were present in-person. John McCormick, Regional Farm Bill Forester; Phil Norvitch, Resource Conservationist; and Zach Evans, Regional Farm Bill Forester joined virtually.

Others Present: Melanie Bomier, BWSR Board Conservationist, Nick Rainey, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service were present in person.

The meeting was called to order at 10:32 a.m. by Chair, Peggy Pearson.

1. Agenda - Moved by Chuck Bainter/Gary Rantala to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
2. Minutes of Last Meeting – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve the minutes. Motion carried.
3. Financial Reports & Program Summary – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Gary Rantala 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 4/10/24. Motion carried.
5. Guest Introductions and Comments – none.

Frank Modich arrived at 10:37 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS

6. Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Contracts
 - a. Koochiching County purchasing AIS services & Board Resolution 2024-05 – Moved by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve Board Resolution 2024-05 to purchase watercraft inspection services from Koochiching County. Motion Carried.
 - b. Lake County SWCD purchasing and providing AIS services & Board Resolution 2024-06 to purchase and sell watercraft inspection services from/to Lake County SWCD. - Moved by Frank Modich/Mark Peterson to approve Board Resolution 2024-06. Motion Carried.
7. Billable Rate – Approve retroactive to 12/24/23 (previously approved to 1/1/24) – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve the 2024 Billable Rates to start on 12/24/23 instead of 1/1/24 to align with the pay period start date. Motion Carried.
8. Human Resources
 - a. Sick and Safe Leave policy for seasonal workers – Moved by Frank Modich/Chuck Bainter to approve the Sick & Safe Leave policy for seasonal workers. Motion carried.
 - b. Temporary position for No Child Left Inside grant
 - i. Day Camp Leader position description
 - ii. Add temporary position of 330 hours (June-Sept) – Moved by Frank Modich/Gary Rantala to approve the position description and adding the temporary position. Motion carried.
 - c. Job Approval Authority – Tristan Nelson – Moved by Frank Modich/Mark Peterson to approve Tristan Nelson's new job approval authorities as shown. Motion carried.
 - d. Wage Adjustment for Becca Reiss effective 5/07/24 – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve a 4% increase for Becca Reiss. Motion carried. Becca was thanked

for six years of service to the District and board members commented on the large presence the District now has in the community as a result.

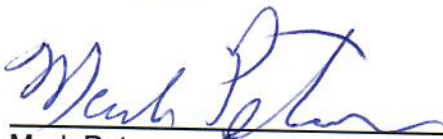
9. Resolution Development, if any – Peggy distributed a resolution proposed by Doug Lande of Lake County SWCD regarding climate change. Anita will include it in the packet next month.
10. Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and/or Trainings
 - a. Policy Committee – Rainy/Vermilion – May 3
 - b. BWSR Board Approval of Rainy Vermilion Plan – April 24 (virtual)
 - c. Set Local Work Group Meeting Date – *Prefer either May 8 or June 12*
 - d. Other – none

REPORTS – See packet for reports

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 – *none in April*
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 – Nick Rainey highlighted the work in the report.
22. Supervisor & Committee Reports
 - a. Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development – April 1 – Peggy attended the meeting. There are now 2 participants in the Enbridge Carbon Credits project: 1 each in Floodwood and Wadena. RC&D is planning a wildfire reduction and biochar program.
 - b. BWSR North Region Committee Rainy/Vermilion Watershed Plan – April 3 – Chuck indicated that Becca, Tara and Ilena gave a wonderful presentation to the committee. The committee recommended to the BWSR Board that the plan be approved. That meeting will be held on April 24.
 - c. SWCD Forestry Association – March 21 – Mark reported on the excellent climate adaption presentation that was given.

CLOSING

22. Next Meeting Date – The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.
23. Adjourn – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to adjourn the meeting at 11:46 p.m. Motion carried.



Mark Peterson, Secretary
May 8, 2024



North St. Louis
Soil and Water Conservation District
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(218) 749-2000

Resolution to Approve an Agreement with Koochiching County Environmental Services

WHEREAS, the North St. Louis SWCD receives Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention funding from St. Louis County; and

WHEREAS, the proximity of Lake Kabetogama and Ash River are closer to International Falls population base, and

WHEREAS, the Koochiching County Environmental Services is willing to provide watercraft inspection services in those locations in St. Louis County, and

WHEREAS, the Koochiching County Environmental Services utilizes Koochiching SWCD for those services, 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 approves said agreement and hereby authorizes the District Administrator or Board Chair to sign all documents related to said agreement.

Motion Made by: *Rantala*

Seconded by: *Peterson*

Affirmative: *Bainter, Modich, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala*

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 10th day of April 2024; and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.



Mark Peterson, Board Secretary



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Soil and Water Conservation District
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**Resolution to Approve Watercraft Inspection Agreements
with Lake County SWCD**

WHEREAS both Lake County SWCD and North St. Louis SWCD receive Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention funding from their respective counties; and

WHEREAS both Districts operate watercraft inspection programs to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, and

WHEREAS the proximity of several lakes in either county are more efficiently served by the other county's SWCD, and

WHEREAS the Lake County SWCD is willing to provide watercraft inspection services at select locations in St. Louis County, and

WHEREAS the North St. Louis SWCD is willing to provide watercraft inspection services at select locations in Lake County, and

WHEREAS the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board desires to approve two working agreements for these services related to its mission.

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

Motion Made by: *Modsch*

Seconded by: *Peterson*

Affirmative: *Bainter, Modsch, Pearson, Peterson, Fatale*

Opposed: *none*

Certification of Recording Officer
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