



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

Regular Meeting Minutes
September 11, 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. Frank Modich was excused.

Staff Present: Anita Provinzino, District Administrator; Miranda Frenning, Accounting & Human Resources Specialist, Joe Murphy, Community Conservationist were present in-person; Jon Utecht, AIS Program Coordinator, Tristan Nelson, Forester, and Erin McMichael, Conservation Corps member were present in person.

Others Present: Allison Praet, Natural Resources Conservation Service joined virtually in time to give the NRCS report.

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 Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve the minutes changing the month in Item 23 to October. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Financial Reports & Program Summary – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to accept the financial reports and program summary. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Accounts Receivable and Payable – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve the accounts payable and accounts receivable as updated 9/11/24. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Guest Introductions and Comments – None present.

NEW BUSINESS

6. BWSR
 - a. 25 Lake Superior Basin Capacity Funds & Board Resolution 2024-13 – Moved by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve Board Resolution 2024-13. Motion carried unanimously.
7. CD Renewal - \$100,000 – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to authorize the District Administrator to reinvest the CD and interest at the highest rate and term desirable. Motion carried unanimously.
8. Human Resources
 - a. Credit Card for Corey Denning - \$1,500 limit – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to authorize a \$1,500 business credit card for Corey Denning. Motion carried unanimously.
 - b. Human Resources Policies – Update 2 – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve the human resources policies as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
 - c. Meal Allowance Rates – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Gary Rantala to approve the federal rates for employees. Motion carried unanimously.

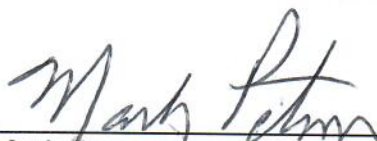
- d. Organizational Chart - delay October start, pending NRCS grant amendment – Moved by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve delaying the start of the organization chart until after the NRCS grant amendment. Motion carried unanimously.
 - e. Rainy Headwaters Vermilion Watershed Conservationist - job description, wage range and approval to hire – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Gary Rantala to approve the job description, wage range between \$28.85-\$33.50 per hour depending on qualifications, and give approval to hire. Motion carried unanimously.
9. Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and/or Trainings
- a. Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development – September 16
 - b. MN SWCD Forestry Association – September 19
 - c. Rainy Headwaters Vermilion Policy Committee – October 4
 - d. Technical Service Area 3 – September 25
 - e. Other

REPORTS: See packet for reports on file

11. District Administrator Report – Anita
12. Conservation Manager Report – Phil
13. Accounting & Human Resources Specialist – Miranda
14. Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator Report – Jon U.
 - a. Conservation Corps Member Update – Erin (if available) – Erin McMichael reported on the projects she has been working on: The Resource Ranger Bug Camp had 14 youth attendees. The last day was spent at Bear Head Lake State Park, exploring and listening to a naturalist. She has also been promoting the Lake Steward Program on Pelican Lake, working on social media posts and doing maintenance at the food forest in Olcott Park. Her term is more than half complete.
15. Community Conservationist Report- Joe
16. District Forester Report – Tristan
17. Regional Farm Bill Forester Report – John M.
18. Regional Farm Bill Forester Report – Zach
19. St. Louis River Watershed Conservationist Report – Kaela
20. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report – Allison Praet indicated they have processed about 90 more contracts. They will have conservation plans to sign at the October meeting. They have 3 tentative job offers for staff in Virginia and Duluth. NRCS staff, Zach and John are all assisting the tribe in Grand Portage with verifying a forest inventory this week.
21. Supervisor & Committee Reports
 - a. MN Area 3 Tour – September 9, 2024 – Mark indicated the tour included a variety of stormwater diversions, settling ponds and rain gardens. Gary attended the business meeting virtually and reported that changes to the bylaws passed.
 - b. Other - None

CLOSING:

22. Confirm Next Meeting – October 16 – The meeting was set for October 16.
23. Adjourn – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Gary Rantala to adjourn the meeting at 11:56 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.



Mark Peterson, Secretary

October 16, 2024



Resolution 2024-13

**North St. Louis
Soil and Water Conservation District**
505 3rd St N, Ste A
Virginia MN 55792
(218) 749-2000
www.nslswcd.org

Resolution to Authorize FY25 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 have worked together since 2019 to secure funding from the Clean Water Council to build capacity of each SWCD with the intent to take greater advantage of federal funding.

WHEREAS, the Clean Water Council recommended and the 2024 Legislative Session resulted in \$1 million for the five SWCD's, and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources has \$190,000 of funding available 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 project in the St. Louis River Watershed; and

WHEREAS, this work fits within the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District's 2023-2025 Strategic Plan and 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 obtaining Lake Superior Basin Capacity funding and authorizes the District Administrator or Board Chair to sign all documents related to such funding.

Motion Made by: *Rantala*

Seconded by: *Peterson*

Affirmative: *Bainter, 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 held on the 11th day of September 2024 and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.

Mark Peterson, Board Secretary