



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

Regular Meeting Minutes  
**November 13, 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 Provinzino, District Administrator; Erin McMichael, Conservation Corps member; Miranda Frenning, Accounting & Human Resources Specialist; and Phil Norvitch, Conservation Manager; were present in-person. Corey Denning, Resource Conservationist; Joe Murphy, Community Conservationist; John McCormick, Regional Farm Bill Forester; Kaela Viehman, Watershed Conservationist; and Tristan Nelson, Forester were online.

**Others Present:** Melanie Bomier, Board of Water & Soil Resources, Bob Foxx, Carlton SWCD, Jerry and Tonya Hovi; and Maria Toral Rodriguez, Natural Resources Conservation Service were present in person. Mark Zabel was present online.

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 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 Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Financial Reports & Program Summary – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Gary Rantala to accept the financial reports and program summary. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Accounts Receivable and Payable – Moved by Frank Modich/Chuck Bainter to approve the accounts payable and accounts receivable as updated 11/13/24. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Guest Introductions and Comments – Bob Foxx, Carlton SWCD Supervisor; Jerry Hovi, District 2 Supervisor-Elect; Tonya Hovi, Maria Toral Rodriguez, NRCS Forester; and Mark Zabel were introduced. Bob Foxx indicated he is observing other SWCDs board meeting to get ideas for their own as they have a new manager. Melanie thanked the District for sending six staff to BWSR Academy.

#### NEW BUSINESS

6. Aquatic Invasive Species Grant Application & Board Resolution 2024-16 – Moved by Gary Rantala/Frank Modich to approve Board Resolution 2024-16 authorizing application to St. Louis County for Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Funds. Motion carried unanimously.
7. BWSR Funds
  - a. Cost Share Contracts
    - 7.a.i. Contractor Contract (Cooperative Weed Management Area) – Moved by Frank Modich/Gary Rantala to approve a contract amendment with MNL for weed control in the Fermoy Wildlife Management Area for up to \$3852.50. Motion carried unanimously.




- 7.a.ii. Landowner Contract (Cooperative Weed Management Area) - Moved by Gary Rantala/Frank Modich to approve a cost share contract with Lindsay Smith for \$34. Motion carried unanimously.
- 7.a.iii. Well Sealing (WBIF-RHV) – Moved by Frank Modich/Gary Rantala to approve a cost share contract with Mark Zabel for up to \$1687.50 or 50% of the total cost, whichever is less. Motion carried unanimously.
- 8. Financial – Quarterly Update – Anita reviewed the following items:
  - a. Dashboard with 2023 Audited Numbers
  - b. 2023 vs 2024 - Jan-Sept Financials
  - c. 2024 Budget to Actual
- 9. Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and/or Trainings
  - a. Appoint ad-hoc Budget Committee – Chuck and Frank were appointed.
  - b. Elected Official Open House – December 11, 1-4 p.m. – Invites will be mailed and emailed to all elected officials. Supervisors are encouraged to stay after the meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup>. This is the third open house the SWCD has hosted.
  - c. Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development – November 25
  - d. MASWCD Annual Convention – December 3-4 – Mark would attend if someone else is going to assist with driving.
  - e. SWCD Forestry Association – November 21
  - f. Other

REPORTS: See packet for reports on file

- 10. District Administrator Report – Anita
- 11. Conservation Manager Report – Phil
- 12. Accounting & Human Resources Specialist – Miranda
- 13. Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator Report – Jon U.
  - a. Conservation Corps Member Update – Erin (if available) – Erin McMichael indicated she learned a lot and met many people at BWSR Academy. She reported the Resource Ranger program and their upcoming tour of the International Wolf Center as a wrap-up to wildlife programming. She is completing her work on the Lake Steward Program on Pelican Lake. Erin stated she really enjoyed her experience with the District and may look into youth programming as a result. Her last day with the District will be November 22.
- 14. Community Conservationist Report- Joe
- 15. District Forester Report – Tristan
- 16. Regional Farm Bill Forester Report – John M.
- 17. Regional Farm Bill Forester Report – Zach
- 18. Resource Conservationist Report – Corey
- 19. St. Louis River Watershed Conservationist Report – Kaela
- 20. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report – Maria Toral Rodriguez
- 21. Supervisor & Committee Reports - None

**CLOSING:**

- 22. Confirm Next Meeting – December 11 – The meeting was confirmed for December 11.
- 23. Adjourn – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Frank Modich to adjourn the meeting at 12:09 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

  
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 Mark Peterson, Secretary  
 December 11, 2024





## Resolution 2024-16

**North St. Louis  
Soil and Water Conservation District**  
505 3<sup>rd</sup> St N, Ste A  
Virginia MN 55792  
(218) 749-2000  
[www.nslswcd.org](http://www.nslswcd.org)

### Resolution to Approve Aquatic Invasive Species Funding Application

**WHEREAS**, the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners has approved an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Plan and authorized St. Louis County Planning and Zoning to seek proposals to prevent or limit AIS; and

**WHEREAS**, beginning in 2016, the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District has operated watercraft inspection and decontamination services in conjunction with the Burntside Lake Association, Fayal Township, Koochiching County Environmental Services, Lake County SWCD, Pelican Lakeshore Owners Association, Sturgeon Chain Lake Association, Vermilion Lake Association, Voyageurs National Park and White Iron Chain of Lakes Association and at various resorts, and

**WHEREAS**, the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District's Board of Supervisors supports these partnerships and the efforts to prevent aquatic invasive species; and

**WHEREAS**, the AIS prevention program is consistent with the District's Strategic Planning Goal to "strengthen existing and grow new partnerships with local governmental units, tribal bands and other organizations".

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors supports this funding request and authorizes its staff to submit an application for watercraft inspection and decontamination program to the St. Louis County Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program.

Motion on November 13, 2024 by: *Rantala/Modica*  
Affirmative: *Bainter, Modica, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala*  
Opposed: *none*  
Motion Carried

*Anita Provinzino*  
Anita Provinzino, District Administrator

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 13<sup>th</sup> day of November 2024 and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.

*Mark Peterson*  
Mark Peterson, Secretary

The mission of the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District is to encourage sustainable use of our natural resources by engaging people in soil and water conservation in northern St. Louis County.