Priorities for 2006

- Continue public education programs.
- Continue water monitoring program.
- Continue working with others who want to improve water quality.
- With the City of Albert Lea, seek state funding for water quality projects.
- Finalize design options for replacing the dam on Albert Lea Lake.
- Implement Pickerel Lake and White Lake (Lake Chapeau) management plans.
- Work with Freeborn County to start the process of bringing Individual Sewer Treatment Systems into compliance with state and local laws in order to protect

District Staff

Administrator:
Cathy Rofshus
507-377-5785

Office Support Specialist:
Connie Kaupa
507-377-5785

Technician:
Andy Henschel
Freeborn County
Environmental Services
377-5186

Conservation Technician:
Brett Behnk
Farm Service Agency
402-4806

Shell Rock River Watershed District
Freeborn County Historic Courthouse
411 S. Broadway / P.O. Box 1147
Albert Lea, MN 56007
507-256-4478

District Consultants

Attorney:
Don Savelkoul
Peterson, Savelkoul & Benda, Ltd.
211 Newton Ave S.
Albert Lea, MN 56007

Engineer:
Wenck Associates, Inc.
1800 Pioneer Creek Center
P.O. Box 249
Maple Plain, MN 55359
763-479-4200

Accountant:
Albert Lea Tax Service, LLC
220 W. Clark St.
Albert Lea, MN 56007
507-377-1625

Recording Secretary:
Irene Anderson
22903 79th Ave.
Albert Lea, MN 56007
507-256-4478

The Shell Rock River Watershed District meets at 8:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of each month at Albert Lea City Council Chambers.

Sales tax to fund watershed projects

Keeping its promise to property owners, the Shell Rock River Watershed Board rescinded two tax levies for 2006 after voters overwhelmingly approved a local option sales tax.

Each levy would have raised a maximum of $99,000. One levy would have funded projects in the Pickerel Lake Subwatershed. The other levy would have helped to pay for a new dam on Albert Lea Lake.

“Property owners will see a decrease in the Shell Rock Watershed portion of their property tax in 2006,” said Cathy Rofshus, watershed district administrator.

“Yet we will start to meet state and federal mandates for clean water.”

The half-cent local option sales tax will raise $15 million for watershed projects. The sales tax will be in effect from April 1, 2006, for 10 years, or until $15 million is raised, whichever comes first. All proceeds from the sales tax will go toward watershed projects to achieve cleaner lakes in the Albert Lea area. In 2006, the sales tax will help fund:

- Storm water retention systems to slow down and filter water draining to Pickerel, Fountain and Albert Lea lakes.
- Replacement of the Albert Lea Lake dam.
- Helping the City of Albert Lea meet new storm water mandates.
- Restoration of the floodplain along Main Street and 400 feet of degraded shoreline at the City Beach.
- Purchasing a vacuum truck to remove dirt, grass clippings, leaves and debris from Albert Lea streets.

The District still levied $250,000 for its administrative fund, which pays for personnel, office rent, accounting, attorney fees, insurance, and similar expenses.

Shell Rock River Watershed District
Annual Report for 2005

Annual Meeting at 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 28, at Albert Lea City Council Chambers

Hands-on education part of District’s focus

Take 150 geography students, 1,000 native plants, and mix them with mud for a fun time. Southwest Middle School students, taught by Mr. Gerry Bizjak, will help make a cleaner Fountain Lake through the rain garden they planted at Lakeview Park on May 23, 2005.

A rain garden is a landscaped area that is slightly sunken to help collect and soak up rainwater before it drains to a storm sewer and eventually a lake. The rain garden was one of several projects the District participated in last year.

Learn more about the District inside.
What is a watershed?
A watershed is an area of land that drains to a common point, such as a lake, river or wetland.

In this case, it’s the 246 square miles that drains to the Shell Rock River. All of the Shell Rock River Watershed District is within Freeborn County. The District includes all of Albert Lea, Hayward, Glenville, Twin Lakes, Manchester, and the southern part of Clarks Grove.

What is a watershed district?
Watershed districts are local units of government that work to solve and prevent water-related problems. The boundaries of the districts follow those of a natural watershed.

Because water does not follow political boundaries, it makes sense to manage natural resources on a watershed basis. This type of management allows for an overall approach to resource conservation.

Minnesota’s 46 watershed districts are each governed by a board of managers appointed by the boards of commissioners of the counties that have land in the district.

Watershed Districts are special purpose units of local government whose boundaries follow those of a natural watershed.

Watershed Districts are established when water management becomes greater than one community can handle. Water management on a watershed basis is important for uniform and effective controls, not only to correct problems but to prevent them.

Watershed Districts were authorized by the Legislature in 1955 when it passed the Watershed Act, MSA 103D. This legislation sets out the role and responsibilities for watershed districts in Minnesota.

Financial Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shell Rock River Watershed District 2005 Combined Statement of Revenue and Expenditures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) General and Administrative Levy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Survey and Data Acquisition Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) County Loan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) Interest</td>
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<tr>
<td>e) Checking Account</td>
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<td>f) ROCORI</td>
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<tr>
<td>g) Carryover from 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h) Reimbursements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i) Lakeshaping Books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j) Lakeshaping Contributions from City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses:</th>
<th>2005 Budget</th>
<th>2005 Actual</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.0 Personnel</td>
<td>$152,613.00</td>
<td>$114,467.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0 Travel</td>
<td>7,360.00</td>
<td>8,364.26</td>
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<td>3.0 Personnel Training</td>
<td>6,100.00</td>
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<td>4.0 Office Expense</td>
<td>23,200.00</td>
<td>23,423.04</td>
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<td>5.0 Professional Services</td>
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<td>6.0 Capital Expenses</td>
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<td>1,813.05</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.0 Project Expenses</td>
<td>106,500.00</td>
<td>69,997.93</td>
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<td>8.0 Survey and Data Acquisition Fund</td>
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<td>56,370.92</td>
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<td>9.0 Debt Service</td>
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<td>10.0 Matching Grant Fund</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
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<td>11.0 Miscellaneous Fund</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$494,425.00</td>
<td>$338,565.08</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carryover to 2006</td>
<td></td>
<td>172,078.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
1) Per diem paid to SRRWD Board Managers totaled $9,405 or an average of $1,343.57 per manager. The rest of the personnel fund went toward professional staff.
2) Professional services include engineering, legal and accounting services.
3) This capital expense was surveying equipment for conservation technician.
4) This fund paid for the environmental oversight of the watershed and for portions of the feasibility study for replacing the Albert Lea Lake Dam.
5) The District paid off its start-up loan from Freeborn County.

2003-2004 audit report: Finances in order

Hill, Larson, Walh, and Bubbs conducted the 2003-2004 annual audit for the District. The audit was conducted in accordance with standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Hill, Larson, Walh, and Bubbs gave the opinion that the financial statements referred to present fairly, the respective financial position of the governmental activities of each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Shell Rock River Watershed District as of December 31, 2004. The complete 2003-2004 audit is at www.shellrock.org.

The 2005 audit will be completed later this year.

Contact Information

Shell Rock River Watershed District
411 S. Broadway
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Albert Lea, MN 55007
507-377-5785
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www.shellrock.org

Activity Report

2005 activities focus on planning, education

Below are the Watershed District’s 2005 priorities and status of achievement to date.

Conduct a comprehensive public education program

District staff members and managers spoke at township board meetings, service clubs, senior citizen housing, schools, and many more places in 2005. Topics included the local option sales tax, lakeshore restoration, watershed activities, and conservation programs.

The District has a monthly live interview on KATE radio and the Albert Lea Tribune publishes a monthly column by Administrator Cathy Rofshus.

The District partnered with the City of Albert Lea on a campaign called, “Leave It on the Lawn,” which directed people to keep grass clippings out of streets in order to decrease the amount of phosphorus entering lakes.

The District also manned a booth at the Freeborn County Fair and the Party for the Lakes fund-raiser.

With funding from the Lakes Restoration Committee, the District started offering Lake Ecology curriculum kits to local schools.

With funding and in-kind services from the City and Freeborn County, the District held lakescaping workshops and awarded three $500 grants for restoration and rain gardens. The District received grants from the DNR and Lakes Restoration Committee to hold workshops in 2006.

The three governments also worked together with 8th-grade geography students from Southwest Middle School to plant a rain garden in Viewpark Lake. The Albert Lea Medical Center awarded a grant to help pay for the project.

In addition, the District continues to expand its web site, www.shellrock.org.

Complete water plans for Picketer Lake

Lake Subwatershed and White Lake (Lake Chapeau) Lakeshed

The District Board approved the Picketer Lake Subwatershed Plan on Sept. 20, 2005.

The White Lake (Lake Chapeau) plan is scheduled for Board review in April 2006.

Implement reclamation of Picketer Lake Subwatershed

The District is working with the Department of Natural Resources to reclaim Picketer Lake.

Start planning for study of storm water in the City of Albert Lea

The first step was to secure funding for this study, which was accomplished with the local option sales tax passed by Albert Lea voters in November 2005.

Establish a greenbelt around Picketer Lake

Because of legal constraints, the District took no further action on this idea in 2005. It continues to work with landowners on the lake to preserve and restore their shoreline.

Seek engineering proposals for replacement of the Albert Lea Lake-Shell Rock River dam

In June 2005, the District hired Jones, Haugh and Smith of Albert Lea and Wenc Associates of Maple Plain to conduct the feasibility study for replacing the Albert Lea Lake dam. Wenc presented the interim report on hydrology and hydraulics at the March 14, 2006, SRRWD Board meeting. The next step is to identify dam design options.

Establish local option sales tax with the City of Albert Lea for funding lake cleanup

On Nov. 8, 2005, the City held a referendum on the half-percent sales tax, which passed with 80 percent voting “yes.”

Establish technician position with the Freeborn County Farm Service Agency to increase the amount of rural acres in conservation programs in the District

The FSA and District hired Bert Behnke for the technician position. Behnke started Jan. 31, 2005, and has helped sign up land for filter strips and other best management practices (BMPs).

Start planning for Fountain Lake Lakeshed

On March 14, 2006, the District Board appointed the Fountain Lake Lakeshed Committee to develop this plan.

Work with other groups that want to improve and protect waterways

The District works closely with the City, County, DNR and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to make local waters swimable and fishable.