377-5785 Shell Rock River Watershed District

Annual Report for the Shell Rock River Watershed District

Annual Meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4, at Albert Lea City Council Chambers

Established:
June 25, 2003
By Citizen Petition

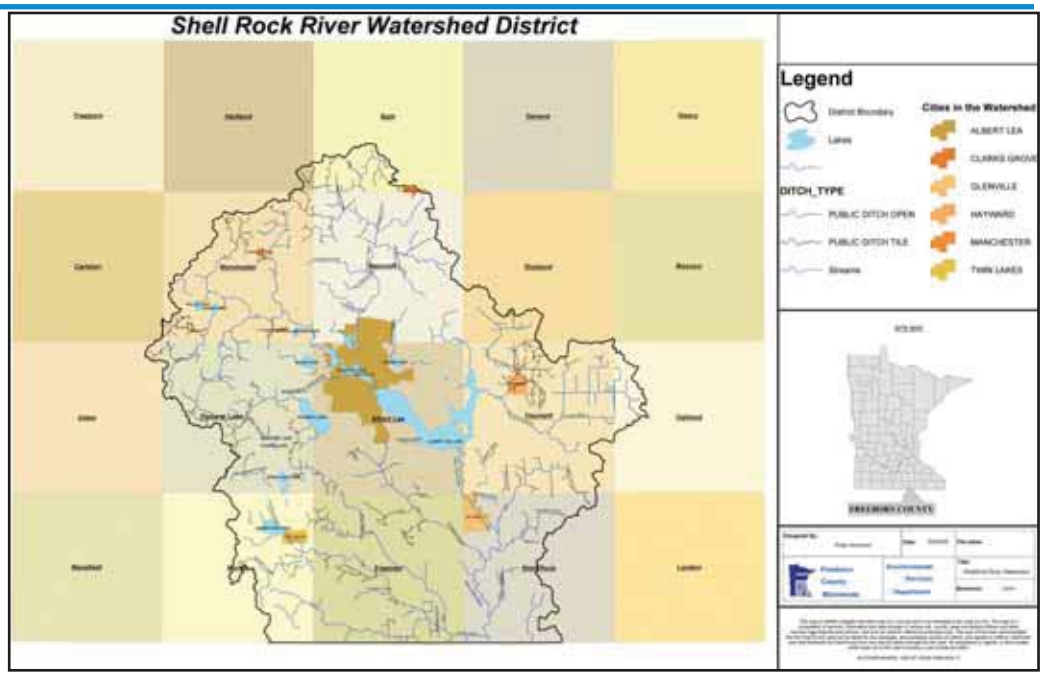
Address:
c/o Freeborn County
Government Center
411 S. Broadway / P.O. Box 1147
Albert Lea, MN 56007

Telephone: 507-377-5785

Fax: 507-377-4494

Email:
shellrockwatershed@co.freeborn.mn.us

Included counties:
Freeborn



Watershed Quick Facts

District Size: 246 Square Miles

Number of Staff: 6

Major Lakes: Pickerel, White (Chapeau), Fountain, Albert Lea, Upper and Lower Twin

Watershed Drains to: Shell Rock River, then to the Cedar River, the Iowa River, and finally the Mississippi River

Impaired Waters: State and federal governments list 9.8 miles of the Shell Rock River as impaired for fecal coliform bacteria and turbidity. Albert Lea, Fountain and Pickerel Lakes are on the draft 2008 impaired waters list for excessive nutrients.

Regular Meeting: 8:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of each month, Albert Lea City Council Chambers (broadcast on ALTV)

Board of Managers

Name	Position	Address	Telephone
Alan Bakken	Chairperson	16691 740th Avenue, Albert Lea, MN 56007	507-373-6686
Gary Pestorious	Vice Chairperson	20770 707th Avenue, Albert Lea, MN 56007	507-373-6758
Clayton Petersen	Treasurer	22108 720th Avenue, Albert Lea, MN 56007	507-373-0061
Art Ludtke	Secretary	1114 Wood Park Ln, Albert Lea, MN 56007	507-377-1522
Bruce Haugsdal	Manager	2117 Kenneth Drive, Albert Lea, MN 56007	507-373-2743
Roger L. Peterson	Manager	25619 750th Avenue, Clarks Grove, MN 56016	507-826-3229
Brett Richards	Manager	662 Meadow Lane, Albert Lea, MN 56007	507-256-7580

Board Appointments:

Under Minnesota Statute 103D, the Freeborn County Board appoints the Board of Managers for the Watershed District. Each manager serves a 3-year term.

Annual Meeting:

7:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 4, at Albert Lea City Council Chambers, 221 E. Clark St. The meeting will air on Charter Communications Channel 16.

District Administrator:

Brett Behnke
507-402-4806
Office located in the historic Freeborn County Courthouse

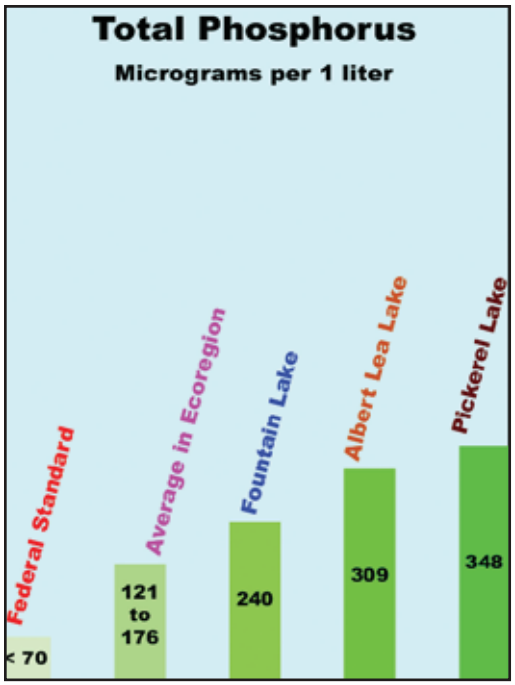
www.shellrock.org Shell Rock River Watershed District

Focus is on Reducing Phosphorus Levels

Water monitoring by District volunteers and consultants shows that local lakes exceed the federal standard for Total Phosphorus. Sources of Total Phosphorus include soil erosion, failing sewer systems, farm and lawn fertilizer, grass clippings, leaves and bottom sediment.

Because of excessive nutrient levels, the state of Minnesota has placed Fountain, Albert Lea and Pickerel Lakes on the draft 2008 list of impaired waters, opening sources of funding for restoring the lakes.

The Shell Rock River Watershed District will take part in the Total Maximum Daily Load study for the Cedar River Basin, which will specify sources of pollutants and ways to correct them.



Statistics Show Success of Watershed District

Since its inception in 2003, the Shell Rock River Watershed District has accomplished the following:

10,000 . . . pounds of phosphorus a year prevented from entering the lakes from leaves via the City of Albert Lea's new leaf vacuum unit which was funded by the local option sales tax.

600 . . . students in Albert Lea schools saw a watershed pollution demonstration in 2007.

500 . . . tons of soil a year prevented from washing into the lakes via the City of Albert Lea's increased street sweeping program.

131 . . . sewer systems identified for repair or replacement, which will ultimately reduce bacteria, nutrients and other pollutants in local waters.

100 . . . rock inlets installed, preventing 50,000 pounds of soil per year from eroding from farmland to water ways.

50 . . . tons of soil a year prevented from washing into streams via the City of Clarks Grove's new street sweeper.

26 . . . construction sites inspected in 2007 for sediment controls, preventing 78 tons of soil from washing off the construction sites and into local lakes.

25 . . . grade control structures installed on shoreland or ditch banks, preventing 12 tons of soil per site per year from eroding.

20 . . . volunteers taking water samples and measuring the health of 6 local lakes.

10 . . . percent increase in filter strips on ag land, with 80 percent of ditch and stream banks filtered, each preventing 50 tons of soil a year from washing into water ways.

5 . . . streambank restoration sites identified, with each site currently contributing 5 tons of soil to local waters every year.

3 . . . rain gardens planted by Southwest Middle School students in 2 city parks, filtering soil and other pollutants from rain water draining to Fountain Lake.

2 . . . miles of ditch bank stabilized and water flow reduction with Ditch 77 stabilization in the northwest part of the watershed.

2007 Administrative Fund

Administrative Fund Revenue

Administrative Levy (property taxes)	$244,704
Interest income	141
Reimbursements	196,856
Educational video grants	8,000
Total	**$449,701**

Administrative Fund Expenses

Personnel	$292,416
Travel and Training	29,682
Office	21,160
Professional Services	61,569
Projects	16,265
Subtotal	
$421,092	
Carryover to 2008	28,609
Total	**$449,701**

2007 Non-Property Tax Fund

Non-Property Tax Revenue

Local option sales tax	$1,058,318
Grant reimbursements	78,727
Investment income	13, 772
Total	**$1,150,817**

Non-Property Tax Expenses (Projects)

Erosion and Water Control	$ 66,316
Albert Lea Lake Dam	6,662
City Stormwater Management	42,617
Subwatershed Projects	124,425
Dredging Elements	5,360
Water Monitoring	71,966
Rural Sewage Management	90,371
Subtotal	**$ 407,717**
Carryover to 2008 Projects	$ 743,100
Total	**$1,150,816**

Future Projects

1. Assisting the City of Manchester with providing wastewater treatment for its residents and businesses.

2. Ensuring compliance of on-site sewer systems in Bancroft Township in 2008.

3. Joint effort with Mower County on implementing Best Management Practices on feedlots to reduce fecal coliform bacteria levels in local waters.

4. Applying for a state dredging permit for Fountain Lake.

5. Construction of sediment and water retention ponds throughout the Watershed District.