

**Shell Rock River Watershed District
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2022**

Managers present: Brad Kramer, Mike Hanson, Al Bakken, Mick Delger, Joe Pacovsky,
Gary Pestorious

Managers absent: Dan DeBoer

Chairman Pestorious called the regular meeting to order August 9, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. at the Freeborn County Government Center, 411 Broadway S., Albert Lea, MN 56007 and turned the meeting over to Freeborn County Interim Administrator, Janice Fransen, to swear in the newly appointed managers.

Interim Administrator Fransen swore in Manager Al Bakken and Manager Mick Delger.

Manager Hanson offered the following motion:

Move to cast votes for the Election of Officers by roll call.

Manager Kramer seconded the motion

After discussion, a vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Interim Administrator Fransen presided over the Election of Officers.

Interim Administrator Fransen asked for nominations for Chairman.

Manager Bakken nominated Manager Delger for Chairman of the Shell Rock River Watershed District Board.

Interim Administrator Fransen called for nominations for Chairman three times and closed nominations. A roll call vote was taken and Interim Administrator Fransen declared Manager Delger Chairman of the Shell Rock River Watershed Board.

Chairman Delger continued the Election of Officers.

Chairman Delger asked for nominations for Vice-Chairman.

Manager Bakken nominated Manager Pectorious for Vice-Chairman of the Shell Rock River Watershed District Board.

Chairman Delger called for nominations for Vice-Chairman three times and closed nominations. A roll call vote was taken and Chairman Delger declared Manager Pectorious Vice-Chairman of the Shell Rock River Watershed Board.

Chairman Delger asked for nominations for Treasurer.

Manager Hanson nominated Manager Bakken for Treasurer of the Shell Rock River Watershed District Board.

Chairman Delger called for nominations for Treasurer three times and closed nominations. A roll call vote was taken and Chairman Delger declared Manager Bakken Treasurer of the Shell Rock River Watershed Board.

Chairman Delger asked for nominations for Secretary.

Manager Bakken nominated Manager Kramer for Secretary of the Shell Rock River Watershed District Board.

Chairman Delger called for nominations for Secretary three times and closed nominations. A roll call vote was taken and Chairman Delger declared Manager Kramer Secretary of the Shell Rock River Watershed Board.

Chairman Delger opened the public hearing for the Orr/IC&E Wetland Restoration. He called three times before closing the public hearing. No one from the public wished to speak.

No one from the public wished to speak during the Public Forum.

Manager Kramer offered the following motion:

Move to approve the agenda with item 9c word change.

Manager Pectorious seconded the motion.

After discussion, a roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Manager Pectorious offered the following motion:

Move to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- a. Minutes of the July 12, 2022 SRRWD Monthly Board Meeting

- b. Minutes of the July 22, 2022 SRRWD Special Board Meeting
- c. July 2022 Treasurer's Report Subject to Audit
- d. July 2022 Project Fund Treasurer's Report Subject to Audit
- e. Authorize Payment of Claims
- f. Authorize Payment of Project Fund Disbursements

Manager Pacovsky seconded the motion.

After discussion, a roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Administrator Henschel stated that the SRRWD Committee List will be emailed to the Board of Managers. Managers are asked to review the list and decide which committees they want to join or be removed from. The final list will go before the board at the next board meeting.

Administrator Henschel provided a status update on the SRRWD office. After recent flooding, the SRRWD staff temporarily relocated to 305 S 1st Ave., Albert Lea, MN 56007. A long-term solution is being discussed.

Administrator Henschel requested out-of-state travel permission to attend the Minnesota Association of Watershed District Summer Tour in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Manager Pacovsky offered the following motion:

Move to approve out-of-state travel request.

Manager Kramer seconded the motion.

After discussion, a roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Project and Program Manager, Courtney Phillips, discussed the Orr Wetland Restoration and IC&E Wetland Enhancement Part 2 Plan. The project is located north of Interstate 90 and east of Alden and is in collaboration with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Plan details include abandoning and rerouting part of County Ditch 54. As part of the restoration, the contractor is hoping to create berms and wetland scrapes this fall.

Manager Hanson offered the following motion:

Move to introduce Resolution 2022-09 as follows:

Resolution 2022-09
Plan Approval Part 2
Orr Wetland Restoration, & IC&E Wetland Enhancement

WHEREAS, The Shell Rock River Watershed District Board of Managers (“Board of Managers”) pursues the mission of implementing reasonable and necessary improvements to the water-related and other natural resources within its boundaries;

WHEREAS, The Shell Rock River Watershed District (the “District”) is charged with implementing the Shell Rock River Watershed District Watershed Management Plan (the “Plan”);

WHEREAS, project goals and objectives set forth in the Plan include:

- Improve water quality and clarity to District lakes
- Improve and enhance waterfowl habitat
- Maintain efficient systems and reduce transport of sediment, nutrients and pesticides into surface waters through the drainage systems
- Minimize flood damage to property and preserve the function of the floodplain
- Restore and retain water upstream throughout the watershed
- Preserve existing rural and urban wetlands and encourage restoration and enhancement

WHEREAS, the District has two projects with parcels located in close proximity to each other and the overall scope encompasses work and engineering over all two projects for a better cumulative result to accomplish wetland management and water flow;

WHEREAS, the two parcels are 1. Orr Wetland Restoration initiated on November 10, 2020 by Resolution 2020-19, and 2. IC&E Wetland Enhancement initiated on November 10, 2020 by Resolution 2020-20;

WHEREAS, the Project Plan encompasses integrated design plan and water flow and wetland management for both projects Orr Wetland Restoration, & IC&E Wetland Enhancement;

WHEREAS, the Board of Managers having reviewed the Project Plan, and has determined that approval of the Project Plan will further the objectives of the Plan;

WHEREAS, the District has pursued a comprehensive watershed approach to reduce sedimentation and improve water quality including filter strips, rock inlets, nutrient management systems, water and sediment basin installations, rough fish management practices, installation of fish barriers, septic system inspections, stream bank and ditch restoration projects and the installation of rain gardens.

THEREFORE, the Board of Managers hereby finds that the Project has the potential to promote the public interest and welfare, is practicable, and conforms to the watershed management plan as set forth above.

NOW THEREFORE, be it hereby Resolved that the Shell Rock River Watershed District:

- Sec. 1: Approves the Project Plan Part 2 as presented by ISG; and
- Sec. 2: Authorizes District staff to conduct work as needed to present this project to the Board for final review and public hearing as required by law.

Manager Pacovsky seconded the motion.

After discussion, a roll call vote was taken and the resolution passed.

Manager Hanson offered the following motion:

Move to introduce Resolution 2022-10 as follows:

Resolution 2022-10

Establish Projects

Project 2020-04 Orr Wetland Restoration, & Project 2020-05 IC&E Wetland Enhancement Part

2

WHEREAS, The Shell Rock River Watershed District Board of Managers (“Board of Managers”) pursues the mission of implementing reasonable and necessary improvements to the water-related and other natural resources within its boundaries;

WHEREAS, The Shell Rock River Watershed District (the “District”) is charged with implementing the Shell Rock River Watershed District Watershed Management Plan (the “Plan”);

WHEREAS, the District has two projects with parcels located in close proximity to each other and the overall scope of work encompasses work and engineering over the two projects for a better cumulative result to accomplish wetland management and water flow;

WHEREAS, the two parcels are 1. Orr Wetland Restoration initiated on November 10, 2020 by Resolution 2020-19, and 2. IC&E Wetland Enhancement initiated on November 10, 2020 by Resolution 2020-20;

WHEREAS, the Project Plan encompasses integrated design plan and water flow and wetland management for both projects Orr Wetland Restoration, & IC&E Wetland Enhancement;

WHEREAS, the Board of Managers having reviewed the Project Plan, and has determined that approval of the Project Plan will further the objectives of the plan;

WHEREAS, The Project Plan was forwarded to the Board of Water and Soil Resources and Department of Natural Resources for their review and comment BWSR comments were received by letter dated May 27, 2022 and DNR comments were received on July 5, 2022;

WHEREAS, On August 9, 2022, by Resolution 2022-09, the Board of Managers approved the specifications for the Project (the “Final Project Plan”);

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on August 9, 2022 to review the project plan;

THEREFORE, the Board of Managers hereby finds that the proposed Orr Wetland Restoration and IC&E Wetland Enhancement has the ability to promote the public interest and welfare in conformity with the watershed management plan as set forth above.

NOW THEREFORE, be it hereby Resolved that the Shell Rock River Watershed District hereby:

Sec. 1: Establishes Project No.2020-04 Orr Wetland Restoration and Project No 2020-05 IC&E Wetland Enhancement”

Sec. 2: Authorizes District Staff to complete the Project as set forth in the Final Project Plan; and

Sec. 3: Authorizes the District Staff to obtain quotes; request for approvals and enter into any other agreements or contracts necessary to complete the project.

Manager Kramer seconded the motion.

After discussion, a roll call vote was taken and the resolution passed.

Courtney continued by sharing details about the living snow fence on the Orr property that the SRRWD acquired last year using Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council funds. In collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, trees will be planted next to the highway to prevent snow, ice, and wind from reaching the roadway. The SRRWD will donate the parcel to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service after the restoration is complete.

Manager Pacovsky offered the following motion:

Move to enter into option agreement with Minnesota Department of Transportation for snow fence.

Manager Kramer seconded the motion.

After discussion, a roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Courtney concluded with a street sweeper update. The SRRWD is assisting the City of Albert Lea with applying for the Board of Water and Soil Resources Project and Practices grant through the Clean Water Fund Program. The request is for over \$600,000 dollars and includes three pieces of street sweeping equipment. The SRRWD supports this effort as street sweeping reduces the amount of pollutants, including phosphorus, that get washed into the storm drain and ultimately discharge to lakes, rivers and wetlands. If the grant is not funded, the SRRWD and City of Albert Lea will move forward with the Clean Water Partnership Loan.

Manager's Reports: Manager Bakken questioned the maintenance plan at area rain gardens.

The next board meeting has been scheduled for September 13, 2022.

Manager Hanson offered the following motion:

Move to adjourn the meeting.

Manager Pacovsky seconded the motion.

After discussion, a roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.