

**Shell Rock River Watershed District
Board Workshop Minutes
July 11, 2023**

Managers present: Mike Lee, Al Bakken, Mick Delger, Brad Kramer, Dan DeBoer, Mike Hanson and Joe Pacovsky

Chairman Delger called the workshop to order July 11, 2023 at 9:15 a.m. at the Shell Rock River Watershed District, 305 S 1st Ave., Albert Lea, MN 56007.

A copy of the 2024 Administrative Budget was presented to the board. Administrator Henschel reviewed the budget line by line, providing explanations for each increase or decrease. Since the District was established in 2003, the District has levied \$250,000 a year in property taxes to fund administrative costs. Recent legislation does allow for rural watershed districts to increase their administrative budget from \$250,000.00 to \$500,000.00 but the SRRWD will not increase the administrative budget at this time.

A copy of the 2024 Project Fund Budget was presented to the board. Administrator Henschel reviewed the budget line by line, providing explanations for each increase or decrease. The local option sales tax, grants, and expenses were discussed. Bonding for dredging was also discussed.

A 3-year cash flow projection was presented to the board. This is Administrator Henschel's "best guess" due to numerous variables including grants, dredging, bonding, sales tax income, and the potential sale of property.

The final budgets and levies will be voted on and adopted at the September 12, 2023 SRRWD monthly board meeting and according to Minnesota statute 103D.911, the budgets and levies will be certified to the Freeborn County Auditor-Treasurer on or before September 15, 2023. The board was asked to review and direct any questions to Administrator Henschel.

Administrator Henschel continued with a discussion on drainage. The SRRWD receives petitions for new or upgraded drainage and approves and forwards to the Freeborn County Drainage Authority. MN Watersheds drainage workgroup continues to review drainage issues including outlet adequacy, early coordination, and drainage registry. Administrator Henschel addressed Manager Bakken's concern with Department of Transportation (DOT) projects and stormwater ponds. Currently water storage is only considered with new road construction, not existing.

Administrator Henschel concluded with an Individual Sewage Treatment Systems (ISTS) update. The SRRWD worked with Freeborn County in 2007 on residential compliance inspections to determine if the sewer system was compliant, an imminent health threat, or failed separation. If the system was compliant, the residents were could keep the compliance inspection for their

records. If the inspection proved to be imminent health threat or failed separation, a new system would have to be installed. The District focused on one township per year and completed the program in 2014. The results of the program: 374 compliant, 312 imminent health threats and 430 failed separations.

Manager Kramer offered the following motion:

Move to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 a.m.

Manager Lee seconded the meeting.

After discussion, a vote was taken and the meeting was adjourned.