Shell Rock River Watershed District
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2019

Managers present: Brad Kramer, Al Bakken, Mick Delger, and Joe Pacovsky

Managers absent: Mike Hanson, Dan DeBoer and Gary Pestorious

Vice Chairman Delger called the Regular Meeting to order February 12, 2019 at 8:35 a.m. at the Albert Lea City Council Chambers, 221 East Clark Street, Albert Lea, MN 56007.

Manager Kramer offered the following motion:

Move to approve the consent agenda as follows:

a. Minutes of the December 19, 2018 Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting
b. Minutes of the January 3, 2019 Dredge Committee Meeting
c. Minutes of the January 8, 2019 SRRWD Monthly Board Meeting
d. Minutes of the January 29, 2019 SRRWD Special Board Meeting
e. January 2019 Treasurer’s Report Subject to Audit
f. January 2019 Project Fund Treasurer’s Report Subject to Audit
g. Authorize Payment of Claims
h. Authorize Payment of Project Fund Disbursements

Manager Pacovsky seconded the motion.

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

Public Forum – No comments were received.

Administrator Henschel explained the District’s Incentive and Cost Share Program. The program is funded to develop and implement the goals and objectives of the District’s 10 year plan including rain gardens, rock inlets, rain barrels and industrial, commercial and municipal stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs). The purpose of these BMPs is to maintain and improve the hydrologic, water quality and educational goals of the watershed plan. Each BMP has been prioritized for its impact on the resource and the efficiency of taxpayer contributions. The Shell Rock River Watershed District budgets $35,000 for the Incentive and Cost Share Program.

Manager Pacovsky offered the following motion:

Move to approve 2019 Incentive and Cost Share Documents.

Manager Kramer seconded the motion.

After discussion, a vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.
Administrator Henschel continued with an update on the Fountain Lake Restoration project. Contract two, which includes the Main Bay and Dane’s Bay, was awarded to J.F. Brennan Company, Inc. Dredging will begin in 2020.

Administrator Henschel reported that the District sold three booster pumps. Each pump was sold for $75,000 - $5,000 more each than the price paid at auction in 2012. The District’s dredge, pipe and seaming machine are still for sale via online auction. The District is considering separating the items and reducing the price to make the sale more attractive.

Resource Technician, Courtney Phillips, provided multiple projects updates. The Owen’s Wetland Restoration project was awarded to Minnesota Native Landscapes. Construction is expected to start mid-April. The company is hoping to get one more spray in before they do the structure and pipe work. Substantial completion is June 28, 2019. The Wasmoen Wetland Restoration is roughly at 60% design and engineering. The SRRWD will send out the plans for DNR and BWSR review by the end of the month. The plans will go before the board in April. Regarding the Upper Twin Lake project, the federal government shutdown delayed permitting. A construction start date will be determined once permitting is complete. The 2018 Water Monitoring Report was awarded to Barr Engineering. A rough draft of the report is due for staff review on February 19th and the final draft is due March 4th. This report will be debuted at the SRRWD annual meeting.

Courtney continued with a review of the One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) committee meeting held on February 4, 2019. The committee includes staff from the SRRWD, City of Albert Lea, Freeborn County, and Freeborn Soil & Water Conservation District. The committee invited the Policy members. An alternate Policy member has been requested in the event of an absence. Goals, timeline, work plan, and budget were discussed. The committee will request quotes for a consultant once a grant agreement is executed.

Manager Pacovsky offered the following motion:

Move to approve Manager Alan Bakken as the 1W1P alternate Policy committee member.

Manager Kramer seconded the motion.

After discussion, a vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.
Courtney concluded with an update on the Minnesota Erosion Control Conference she attended in Wilmar, Minnesota. This conference focused on sediment associated with bank erosion versus farm erosion, new products for erosion sites and stormwater permitting.

Minnesota GreenCorps member, Claire Rabine, introduced the board to a new program, Adopt-a-Drain. Nearly all the storm drains in Albert Lea lead to the lakes. Unlike the sewer systems, these drains do not have filtration or a cleaning mechanism. This new program allows you to sign up via the SRRWD website, choose a storm drain to adopt, and then periodically clean the debris out from around the drain. A stencil kit will be available for checkout in spring. It includes all the tools needed to label storm drains with the important message that drains lead to water. Claire informed the board that she has visited 5 schools and educated over 190 students about the environment using the EnviroScape model.

During Manager’s Items, City/County Liaison, Mick Delger, relayed the message that Councilor Baker is excited to be a part of the 1W1P Policy Committee. Andy Henschel briefly reviewed the Dredge Committee held on January 3, 2019. The Committee discussed financial sources for the Fountain Lake Restoration Project (sales tax, state bonding dollars, and County levy), funds spend, and remaining funds. The Committee discussed vision, strategic planning, and timeline moving forward. A workshop will be scheduled in March. Andy reminded the board and public to attend the March monthly board meeting on March 19, 2019 at 6:00pm and the Annual meeting at 6:30pm.

Manager Bakken offered the following motion:

    Move to adjourn the meeting.

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