

**Shell Rock River Watershed District
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2020**

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

Managers absent: Mick Delger and Gary Pestorious

Secretary DeBoer called the Regular Meeting to order January 14, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. at the Albert Lea City Council Chambers, 221 East Clark Street, Albert Lea, MN 56007.

During the public forum, Virgil Schewe, 15243 700th Ave. Albert Lea, MN 56007, discussed the Lower Twin Lake outlet and questioned the public's involvement in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) plan.

Manager Pacovsky offered the following motion:

Move to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- a. Minutes of the December 10, 2019 SRRWD Monthly Board Meeting
- b. December 2019 Treasurer's Report Subject to Audit
- c. December 2019 Project Fund Treasurer's Report Subject to Audit
- d. Authorize Payment of Claims
- e. Authorize Payment of Project Fund Disbursements
- f. Quarterly Transfer

Manager Kramer seconded the motion.

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

Manager Hanson offered the following motion:

Move to approve the agenda with no addition, corrections or deletions.

Manager Pacovsky seconded the motion.

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

Administrator Andy Henschel explained the following statutory items.

Manager Hanson offered the following motion:

Move to approve audit services with Hill, Larson, Walth & Benda, P.A.

Manager Pacovsky seconded the motion.

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

Manager Hanson offered the following motion:

Move to approve continued services with Briggs and Morgan Professional Association

Manager Pacovsky seconded the motion.

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

Manager Pacovsky offered the following motion:

Move to approve continued services with Peterson, Kolker, Haedt, & Benda, LTD.

Manager Kramer seconded the motion.

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

Manager Hanson offered the following motion:

Move to approve designate Albert Lea Tribune as official legal newspaper.

Manager Pacovsky seconded the motion.

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

Manager Pacovsky offered the following motion:

Move to designate US Bank as the depository for District funds.

Manager Kramer seconded the motion.

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

Manager Hanson offered the following motion:

Move to schedule the April monthly board meeting and the 2019 Annual meeting on April 16, 2020 beginning at 6PM in the City Council Chambers.

Manager Bakken seconded the motion.

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

Administrator Henschel discussed the District's 2020 bonding request for \$7.5 million to complete the project including Main Bay (East Basin), Bancroft Creek, and parts of Bancroft Bay.

Project/Program Manager, Courtney Phillips, provided an update on the Vandegrift Wetland Restoration. Located near Highway 13 and Interstate 90, construction on the 19-acre restoration will begin this spring.

Courtney Phillips announced that the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) increased the SRRWD's funding request by \$435,000 – making the allocation amount \$2.2 million. In addition, she provided an update on an LSOHC amendment project with the USFWS Waterfowl Production Area restoration. This wetland restoration will be constructed by 2021 and saves the District \$100,000 in local fund dollars by capturing Federal Match dollars.

Courtney Phillips explained the Headwaters Streambank Restoration (AMA) project and the Shell Rock River Streambank Restoration (WPA) project. While the AMA is already initiated via Resolution 2018-20, the District recommends rescinding that resolution and initiating the projects together instead due to project proximity and funding.

Manager Hanson offered the following motion:

Move to rescind Resolution 2018-20 – Headwaters Streambank Restoration (AMA) project.

Manager Pacovsky seconded the motion.

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

Manager Kramer offered the following motion:

Move to introduce Resolution 2020-01 as follows:

Resolution 2020-01
Headwaters Streambank Restoration (AMA) and Shell Rock River Restoration (WPA)
INITIATE PROJECTS
2020-01

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 in Shell Rock River
- Improve and enhance waterfowl habitat
- Increases fisheries habitat
- Conserve the topsoil and hold the soil on the land
 - Reduce soil loss due to concentrated flow during storm events
 - Reduce sediment delivery to surface waters
- Control and prevent erosions along lake shore and restore severely damaged shoreline areas
- Minimize flood damage to property and preserve the function of the floodplain

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 be it hereby resolved that the Shell Rock River Watershed District:

Sec. 1: Initiates “Project No. 2020-01 Headwaters Streambank Restoration (AMA) and Shell Rock River Restoration (WPA) Projects”

Sec. 2: Authorizes District Staff to negotiate appropriate professional services agreements to promote and complete Headwaters Streambank Restoration (AMA) and Shell Rock River Restoration (WPA) Projects efforts.

Sec. 3: Authorizes District Staff and the District’s attorney to negotiate with area landowners for any necessary easement or fee title acquisition, subject to approval by the Board.

Sec. 4: Authorizes District Staff to conduct work as needed to present this project to the Board for review and public hearing as required by law.

Date: January 14, 2020

Manager Pacovsky seconded the motion.

On a roll call vote, the following managers voted in favor of said resolution: Kramer, Pacovsky, Bakken, Hanson, and DeBoer. Secretary DeBoer declared the resolution passed.

Technical Specialist, Scott Christenson, explained the Lower Twin Lake Fish Barrier – Part 2 - Stream Enhancement project downstream of the Lower Twin Lake outlet. Construction is expected to begin in a few weeks.

Manager Pacovsky offered the following motion:

Move to introduce Resolution 2020-02 as follows:

Resolution 2020-02
Twin Lake Fish Barrier Part 2
Bid Award

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, following bid advertising for Twin Lakes Fish Barrier Part 2, the bid opening was held on January 3, 2020;

WHEREAS, several bids were submitted in the amounts of \$152,272.50 and \$ 472,343.50 for the completion of the Project pursuant to the bid specifications;

WHEREAS, in a letter dated January 6, 2020, WSB and Associates recommended Barth Construction Inc. as the lowest qualified bidder;

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.

NOW THEREFORE, be it hereby resolved by the Shell Rock River Watershed District:

Section 1: The Contract is awarded to Barth Construction Inc. as the lowest bidder and in the best interests of the District pursuant to the terms of the Contract; and

Section 2: The staff, the Chairman of the Board of Managers, and the Secretary are authorized to sign all contracts and documents necessary to proceed with the Project.

Date: January 14, 2020

Manager Kramer seconded the motion.

On a roll call vote, the following managers voted in favor of said resolution: Kramer, Pacovsky, Bakken, Hanson, and DeBoer. Secretary DeBoer declared the resolution passed.

Scott Christenson explained that easements from landowners are needed to access the property for the Lower Twin Lake Fish Barrier – Part 2 – Stream Enhancement project.

Manager Hanson offered the following motion:

Move to approve Lower Twin Lake Fish Barrier Stream Enhancement Easements – Part 2 – and Authorize District staff to make non-material changes to easements.

Manager Bakken seconded the motion.

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

During Manager's Reports, Administrator Henschel reminded the Board of Managers and the public that the Pioneer Park Restoration project will begin this week. The walking paths will be closed during daytime construction but a detour will be posted.

Upcoming meetings were discussed.

Manager Hanson offered the following motion:

Move to adjourn the meeting.

Manager Bakken seconded the motion.

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