

**Shell Rock River Watershed District  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
September 8, 2020**

Managers present via teleconference: Brad Kramer, Gary Pestorious, Mick Delger, Al Bakken, Dan DeBoer, and Joe Pacovsky.

Managers absent: Mike Hanson

Chairman Delger called the regular meeting to order on September 8, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. via teleconference as provided by Minnesota Statute 13D.021 Sub. 1. All SRRWD staff and board members can hear one another, the meeting is recorded and streamed live via [www.shellrock.org](http://www.shellrock.org) and Facebook, and all votes are taken by roll call.

Chairman Delger reminded the attendees that as the SRRWD is closed to the public, anyone wishing to address the SRRWD Board of Managers during the public hearing section of the meeting was to submit their comments in writing no later than 4 p.m. the day prior to the scheduled meeting. Written comments were to be directed to Administrator Andy Henschel.

Chairman Delger opened the public hearing for the 2021 Administrative Levy. No comments were received. The public hearing was closed.

Chairman Delger opened a public hearing for the 2021 Debt Service Levy. No comments were received. The public hearing was closed.

Chairman Delger opened a public hearing for the 2021 Administrative and Project Fund Budgets. No comments were received. The public hearing was closed.

Manager Kramer offered the following motion:

Move to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- a. Minutes of the August 11, 2020 SRRWD Monthly Board Meeting
- b. Minutes of the August 17, 2020 SRRWD Dredge Committee Meeting
- c. August 2020 Treasurer's Report Subject to Audit
- d. August 2020 Project Fund Treasurer's Report Subject to Audit
- e. Authorize Payment of Claims
- f. Authorize Payment of Project Fund Disbursements

Manager DeBoer seconded the motion.

On a roll call vote, the following managers voted in favor of said motion: Pestorious, Kramer, Bakken, DeBoer, Pacovsky, and Delger. Chairman Delger declared the motion passed.

Manager DeBoer offered the following motion:

Move to approve the agenda with the addition of a Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) update.

Manager Pacovsky seconded the motion.

On a roll call vote, the following managers voted in favor of said motion: Pestorious, Kramer, Bakken, DeBoer, Pacovsky, and Delger. Chairman Delger declared the motion passed.

Administrator Henschel provided an overview on the budgets including \$250,000.00 for the Administrative Levy, \$168,000.00 for the Debt Service Levy, \$250,000.00 for the Administrative Budget, and \$6,645,185.00 for the Project Fund Budget.

Manager Bakken offered the following motion:

Move to approve the 2021 Administrative Levy and Certify the Administrative Levy to the Freeborn County Auditor-Treasurer.

Manager DeBoer seconded the motion.

On a roll call vote, the following managers voted in favor of said motion: Pestorious, Kramer, Bakken, DeBoer, Pacovsky, and Delger. Chairman Delger declared the motion passed.

Manager Bakken offered the following motion:

Move to approve the 2021 Debt Service Levy and Certify the Debt Service Levy to the Freeborn County Auditor-Treasurer.

Manager Kramer seconded the motion.

On a roll call vote, the following managers voted in favor of said motion: Pestorious, Kramer, Bakken, DeBoer, Pacovsky, and Delger. Chairman Delger declared the motion passed.

Manager DeBoer offered the following motion:

Move to approve the 2021 Administrative Budget.

Manager Bakken seconded the motion.

On a roll call vote, the following managers voted in favor of said motion: Pestorious, Kramer, Bakken, DeBoer, Pacovsky, and Delger. Chairman Delger declared the motion passed.

Manager Kramer offered the following motion:

Move to approve the 2021 Project Budget.

Manager Bakken seconded the motion.

On a roll call vote, the following managers voted in favor of said motion: Pestorious, Kramer, Bakken, DeBoer, Pacovsky, and Delger. Chairman Delger declared the motion passed.

Administrator Henschel continued by discussing the Fountain Lake Restoration Project. Two dredges are running in conjunction with one another and are pumping the dredged material into the Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) Cell 2. The dredging contractor has found a few natural clay areas and that material is slowing the dredging process down. Due to the natural clay, some locations will not be able to meet design depth but that volume will be made up in another area of the lake.

Administrator Henschel discussed CDF Cells 2 & 3. The contractor, Veit & Company, Inc. has repaired the slope failure on Cell 2 and the Cell is receiving dredged material and discharging water back to Fountain Lake. The contractor continues to work on the slope failure on the north berm of Cell 3.

Administrator Henschel gave a legislative update on behalf of Lobbyist, Judy Erickson. An additional special session will go into effect in September and no information is available regarding the bonding bill.

Administrator Henschel provided an update on the joint meeting between the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), City of Albert Lea, and the SRRWD. At this meeting, the MPCA presented and answered questions regarding the Shell Rock Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and Watershed Restoration Protection Strategies (WRAPS) reports. The first report, TMDL, determines the levels of pollutants that water bodies can accept and still meet standards designed to protect aquatic life and recreation. The second report, WRAPS, outlines the steps to improve water quality in local lakes and streams. Based on the MPCA's modeling, assumptions, and the potential impacts to the City of Albert Lea, more discussions will need to be had.

Project/Program Manager, Courtney Phillips, provided a Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) update. Courtney presented to the LCCMR Council for the grant project titled Precision Acquisition for Restoration, Groundwater Recharge and Habitat. The grant is requesting \$549,000 for acquisition and restoration of 36 acres that will be used for flood mitigation relief, groundwater recharge and native pollinator planting located south of Albert Lea. The LCCMR Council met on August 13, 2020 to determine the allocations. At that meeting, the council decided to fund a majority of all proposals that received a hearing. Each proposal that was under \$750,000 was cut by 15% and proposals over \$750,000 were cut 25%. Because of this, the SRRWD was awarded \$467,000 in funding out of our \$549,000 request. Work plans are due on Sept 18, 2020.

Courtney continued with an update on the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) grant proposal. The District submitted a grant application and request for \$3.5 million for Phase 10 of the Habitat Restoration Proposal. The District was selected for a hearing and presented to the Council on September 2, 2020. One comment was received during the presentation regarding leveraging the local option sales tax. At the follow-up meeting, the SRRWD and other entities were questioned by the Chair for not completing previous phases of funding. The District has 5 years to complete restoration and enhance projects and 3 years for acquisition funding. The District has never had to return any funds. The Council will determine the allocations at the next meeting scheduled on October 1, 2020.

Administrator Henschel discussed upcoming meetings. The next monthly board meeting is scheduled on October 13, 2020. A potential workshop will be scheduled in the near future regarding the MPCA reports as presented.

Manager DeBoer offered the following motion:

Move to adjourn the meeting.

Manager Pacovsky seconded the motion.

On a roll call vote, the following managers voted in favor of said motion: Pestorious, Kramer, Bakken, DeBoer, Pacovsky, and Delger. Chairman Delger declared the motion passed.