

**Shell Rock River Watershed District
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2022**

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

Managers absent: Dan DeBoer, Gary Pectorious and Mike Hanson

Vice-chairman Delger called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on January 18, 2022 at the Shell Rock River Watershed District, 214 W. Main St., Albert Lea, MN 56007.

Manager Kramer offered the following motion:

Move to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- a. Minutes of the December 14, 2021 SRRWD Monthly Board Meeting
- b. December 2021 Treasurer's Report Subject to Audit
- c. December 2021 Project Fund Treasurer's Report Subject to Audit
- d. Authorize Payment of Claims
- e. 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.

Manager Kramer offered the following motion:

Move to approve the agenda with deletion: Motion to award engineering services for the Fountain Lake In-Lake Habitat Restoration Project.

Manager Pacovsky seconded the motion.

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

Administrator Andy Henschel introduced the following statutory items:

Manager Pacovsky offered the following motion:

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

Manager Kramer seconded the motion.

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

Manager Pacovsky offered the following motion:

Move to approve continued services with Briggs and Morgan P.A.

Manager Kramer seconded the motion.

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

Manager Bakken offered the following motion:

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

Manager Kramer seconded the motion.

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

Manager Pacovsky offered the following motion:

Move to approve continued services with Fabyanske, Westra, Hart & Thomson.

Manager Kramer seconded the motion.

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

Manager Pacovsky offered the following motion:

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

Manager Kramer seconded the motion.

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

Manager Kramer offered the following motion:

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

Manager Pacovsky seconded the motion.

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

Administrator Henschel reminded the Board of Managers to fill out and return the annual Statement of Economic Interest and Conflict of Interest forms.

Administrator Henschel explained the Headwaters Streambank Restoration change order. Barr Engineering had a bid tabulation error resulting in a shortage of 1,700 tons of rip rap for construction. This shortfall totaled \$307,800.00. The project is time sensitive and the District has Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council grant funds available. The District was able to work with the contractor to reduce the cost to \$252,240.00.

Administrator Henschel provided an update on the Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) cells 2 and 3. The SRRWD is waiting for the expert's disclosures and reports as they prepare for mediation this spring.

Administrator Henschel provided an update on the Country Club property. The utilities are being inspected and the data will be communicated to the City of Albert Lea. The property will be relisted in the future.

Project/Program Manager, Courtney Phillips, discussed the plans for the Vandegrift Wetland Restoration Project including installing a control structure to hold back water. Funding for the project is from the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.

Manager Kramer offered the following motion:

Move to introduce Resolution 2022-01 as follows:

Resolution 2022-01
Vandegrift Wetland Restoration Project
Approve Project Plan
Project # 2018-01

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, on February 13, 2018, the District initiated the Vandegrift Wetland Restoration Project by Resolution 2018-06;

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 Plans as presented by Barr Engineering;

Sec. 2: Authorizes District Staff to conduct work as needed to present this project to the Board for review and public hearing as required by law.

Manager Pacovsky seconded the motion.

After discussion, a roll call vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved. Vice-chairman Delger declared the resolution passed.

Courtney continued by explaining the SRRWD Incentive and Cost Share Program. The program has been funded to develop and implement the goals and objectives of the District's 10 year plan. The 2022 cost share is only for rain barrels and will not exceed \$10 per rain barrel and 3 barrels per customer. The District's projected yearly goal is 100 rain barrels totaling a \$1,000.00 incentive.

Manager Bakken offered the following motion:

Move to approve 2022 SRRWD Incentive and Cost Share Program.

Manager Pacovsky seconded the motion.

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

Administrator Henschel continued. Agenda item 6a was deleted. An update was provided on the Goose Lake Fish Barrier. The barrier did not function correctly including low flow and fish kills. A new physical barrier and cat walk will be installed at the engineer's expense.

The spring train derailment at Goose Lake was discussed. The City of Albert Lea and the SRRWD are concerned about the possible change in hydraulics, potential flooding, and increase flow downstream resulting from the design and installation of culverts versus the original bridge. The Department of Natural Resources rejected the culverts and informed the railroad company. The railroad company has taken further action. No more information is available at this time.

During Manager's Items, Administrator Henschel answered questions pertaining to the In-Lake Habitat Restoration Project. The multi-phased project would begin next winter or spring and include the installation of habitat features in Fountain Lake. These features would incorporate more spawning areas. Administrator Henschel provided a brief legislative update. With session beginning soon, the Governor should hopefully provide his bonding list by the next board meeting.

Manager Kramer 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.