

**Shell Rock River Watershed District
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2023**

Managers present: Al Bakken, Joe Pacovsky, Mick Delger, Mike Lee, and Mike Hanson

Managers absent: Dan DeBoer and Brad Kramer

Manager Delger called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. on October 10, 2023 at the Shell Rock River Watershed District, 305 S 1st Ave., Albert Lea, MN 56007.

Manager Delger opened the public hearing to review the Fountain Lake In-Lake Habitat Restoration Project. Manager Delger called for comments three times. No one from the public wished to speak. Manager Delger closed the public hearing.

No one from the public wished to speak during the public forum.

Manager Bakken offered the following motion:

Move to approve the agenda without additions, corrections, or deletions.

Manager Hanson seconded the motion.

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

Manager Lee offered the following motion:

Move to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- a. Minutes of the September 5, 2023 SRRWD Regular Board Meeting
- b. Minutes of the September 5, 2023 SRRWD Dredge Committee Meeting
- c. Minutes of the September 25, 2023 SRRWD Executive Committee meeting
- d. September 2023 Treasurer's Report Subject to Audit
- e. September 2023 Project Fund Treasurer's Report Subject to Audit
- f. Authorize Payment of Claims
- g. Authorize Payment of Project Fund Disbursements
- h. Quarterly Transfer

Manager Bakken seconded the motion.

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

Administrator Henschel provided an update on the 2022 audit. The audit was completed by Hill, Benda, Skov. Minutes of the Executive Committee audit review were included in the packet.

Manager Hanson offered the following motion:

Move to accept the 2022 audit as presented by Hill, Benda, Skov, and Bernau.

Manager Bakken seconded the motion.

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

Administrator Henschel discussed the Fountain Lake In-Lake Habitat Restoration Project. The goals of this project are to create in-lake and shoreline habitat structures for improved fisheries habitat. Financing for this project comes from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.

Manager Bakken offered the following motion:

Move to introduce Resolution 2023-08

Resolution 2023-08
Plan Approval
Fountain Lake In-lake Habitat Restoration Project

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:

- Maintain water quality and clarity in Fountain Lake;
- Improve and enhance waterfowl habitat;
- Prevent further erosion on lakeshore habitat;
- Improve and enhance game fish habitat.

WHEREAS, the Fountain Lake In-lake Habitat Restoration, project 2019-01, was initiated on May 14, 2019 by Resolution 2019-12;

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 Fountain Lake In-lake Habitat Restoration Project Plan as presented by ISG; and
- Sec. 2: Authorizes District staff to conduct work as needed to present this project to the Board for final review and public hearing as required by law.

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Manager Lee seconded the motion.

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

Manager Hanson offered the following motion:

Move to introduce Resolution 2023-09

**Resolution 2023-09
Establish Project 2019-01
Fountain Lake In-lake Habitat Restoration Project**

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, the Fountain Lake In-lake Habitat Restoration, project 2019-01, was initiated on May14, 2019 by Resolution 2019-12;

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 Project Plan was forwarded to the Board of Water and Soil Resources and Department of Natural Resources for their review and comment BWSR comments were received by letter dated August 18, 2023;

WHEREAS, On October 10, 2023, by Resolution 2023-08, the Board of Managers approved the specifications for the Project (the “Final Project Plan”);

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on October 10, 2023 to review the project plan;

THEREFORE, the Board of Managers hereby finds that the proposed Fountain Lake In-lake Restoration Project has the ability to promote the public interest and welfare in conformity with the watershed management plan as set forth above.

NOW THEREFORE, be it hereby Resolved that the Shell Rock River Watershed District hereby:

Sec. 1: Establishes Project No.2019-01 Fountain Lake In-lake Habitat Restoration Project;

Sec. 2: Authorizes District Staff to complete the Project as set forth in the Final Project Plan; and

Sec. 3: Authorizes the District Staff to obtain quotes; request for approvals and enter into any other agreements or contracts necessary to complete the project.

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Manager Pacovsky seconded the motion.

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

Administrator Henschel continued by discussing professional services with Geosyntec Consultants for phase 3 of the Fountain Lake Restoration Project.

Manager Hanson offered the following motion:

Move to approve professional services with Geosyntec Consultants.

Manager Lee seconded the motion.

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

The MN Watersheds update included information regarding the upcoming annual conference and trade show on November 28-December 1, 2023.

Project and Program Manager, Courtney Phillips, discussed entering into an option agreement for the 20-acre property on the east side of Goose Lake. Funded by LSOHC, the property that will eventually be donated to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. A board manager questioned whether there will be access to the site but she doesn't expect USFWS to put in a parking spot.

Manager Lee offered the following motion:

Move to enter into option agreement for the Goose Lake property.

Manager Hanson seconded the motion.

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

Courtney continued by discussing the Bryson Wetland Restoration Project. Located east of Alden, this Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) funded project includes taking water off of the ditch system in this area and restoring the wetland. This project will complement the Miller, Orr, and IC&E wetland restoration project across the road.

Manager Bakken offered the following motion:

Move to enter into easement agreement for Bryson Wetland Restoration Project.

Manager Hanson seconded the motion.

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

Manager Lee offered the following motion:

Move to introduce Resolution 202-07

Resolution 2023-07
Establish Project 2023-01
Bryson Restoration Project

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, the Bryson Restoration, project 2023-01, was initiated on September 5, 2023 by Resolution 2023-05;

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 Project Plan was forwarded to the Board of Water and Soil Resources and Department of Natural Resources for their review and comment BWSR comments were received by letter dated August 15, 2023;

WHEREAS, On September 5, 2023, by Resolution 2023-06, the Board of Managers approved the specifications for the Project (the “Final Project Plan”);

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on September 5, 2023 to review the project plan;

THEREFORE, the Board of Managers hereby finds that the proposed Bryson Restoration Project has the ability to promote the public interest and welfare in conformity with the watershed management plan as set forth above.

NOW THEREFORE, be it hereby Resolved that the Shell Rock River Watershed District hereby:

Sec. 1: Establishes Project No.2023-01 Bryson Restoration Project;

Sec. 2: Authorizes District Staff to complete the Project as set forth in the Final Project Plan; and

Sec. 3: Authorizes the District Staff to obtain quotes; request for approvals and enter into any other agreements or contracts necessary to complete the project.

Manager Pacovsky seconded the motion.

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

Courtney provided information on the soil borings necessary for construction at the Panicum Prairie project site near the state line border. Moist soil management strategies will benefit both the volume of water in the County Ditch System as well as provide valuable food and cover for wetland wildlife species. Funding for the project was made possible by the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. These borings are expected to cost around \$38,000.00.

Manager Lee offered the following motion:

Move to approve soil borings for the Panicum Prairie Project.

Manager Pacovsky seconded the motion.

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

Courtney gave an update on Wedge Creek. Located along Highway 13, Conservation Corps recently completed buckthorn management, including cutting down and treating the area. This treatment was funded by Conservation Partners Legacy.

Courtney concluded with the update on the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. The Council recently allocated \$2,072,000.00 for the SRRWD to complete projects in Phase 12 of their Habitat Restoration Program, including some restoration to the channel between Fountain Lake and Albert Lea Lake.

Managers thanked staff, attendees, and supporters. Upcoming meetings were highlighted including the BWSR Academy, SRRWD board meeting, and MN Watersheds Annual Conference and Trade Show.

Manager Hanson offered the following motion:

Move to adjourn the meeting.

Manager Lee seconded the motion.

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