

**Shell Rock River Watershed District  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
February 14, 2023**

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

Managers absent: Gary Pestorious

Chairman Delger called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on February 14, 2023 at the Shell Rock River Watershed District, 305 S 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., Albert Lea, MN 56007.

Manager Pacovsky offered the following motion:

Move to approve the consent agenda except item d: Authorize Payment of Claims. This item will move to item 5d.

- a. Minutes of the January 10, 2023 SRRWD Monthly Board Meeting
- b. January 2023 Treasurer's Report Subject to Audit
- c. January 2023 Project Fund Treasurer's Report Subject to Audit
- d. Authorize Payment of Claims
- e. Authorize Payment of Project Fund Disbursements

Manager Kramer seconded the motion.

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

Manager Hanson offered the following motion:

Move to approve the agenda with changes: Remove 5b: Motion to Approve Century 21 as Listing Agent for the Country Club Property and add Conflict of Interest Waiver to item 6a. Manager Kramer seconded the motion.

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

Administrator Andy Henschel provided a legislative update. Recently SF 172 (Senator Gene Dornink) and HF 277 (Representative Peggy Bennett) introduced bills to provide funding for Phase 3 of the Fountain Lake Restoration Project. Due to inflation, the bonding request has increased to \$9 million. The Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) Legislative Breakfast will be held in St. Paul later this week. Administrator Henschel will attend and meet with key legislators. The MAWD Summer Tour will be held in Albert Lea June 20-22, 2023 and co-hosted by the Shell Rock River Watershed District, Cedar River Watershed District, and Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Administrator Henschel explained the error on claims.

Manager Hanson offered the following motion:

Move to Authorize the Payment of Claims.

Manager DeBoer seconded the motion.

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

Project and Program Manager, Courtney Phillips, discussed the Belshan Property. Funded by the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, the restoration will take place near Lincoln Avenue and Country Road 17 east of Pickerel Lake. Goals of the project include native planting and wetland creation. Five quotes were received to construct the work ranging from \$48,716.50 to \$116,252.65. The engineers estimate was \$56,120.00. The lowest quote is a reputable contractor and therefore will be award to Jensen Excavating & Trucking LLC. A Conflict of Interest Waiver was added to the following motion due to the relationship between Manager Bakken and the owner of Jensen Excavating & Trucking LLC.

Manager Hanson offered the following motion:

Move to Award Jensen Excavating & Trucking LLC for the Belshan Property.

Manager Kramer seconded the motion.

After discussion, a roll call vote was taken. Manager Bakken abstained from voting. The motion was unanimously approved.

Courtney continued by discussing the Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Albert Lea for reimbursement of street sweeping services as directed by the funding source, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) or Watershed Based Implementation Funding. The terms of the agreement include the SRRWD expending \$250,000.00 to the City of Albert Lea over a 10-year time period. Street sweeping is vital for keeping streets clean and avoiding salt, sand, and grass getting into the drainage system and into our local lakes.

Courtney discussed entering into a grant agreement for BWSR Watershed Based Implementation Funding. The total grant amount, \$322,128.00, will be used to implement projects within the Planning Area. The four entities involved, Freeborn County, Freeborn County Soil and Water Conservation District, the City of Albert Lea, and the SRRWD, must agree on how the funds are used. The SRRWD is the fiscal agent of the funds. The budget and projects were highlighted.

Manager Kramer offered the following motion:

Move to Enter into Watershed Based Implementation Funding and Associated Workplan.

Manager Pacovsky seconded the motion.

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

Courtney furthered the grant discussion by explaining the sub-agreements between the SRRWD, the fiscal holder, and local entities, for deliverables and activities. The budget amounts are described in the workplan. Since the packet was printed, there was a language change involving amending the workplan/making a budget shift. This modification allows the sub-agreements to stay in place without having to bring the amendment back to each entities' board.

Manager Kramer offered the following motion:

Move to Approve Sub-Agreements for Watershed Based Implementation Funding.

Manager Bakken seconded the motion.

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

Courtney provided an update on the Miller Tract Wetland Restoration, IC&E Wetland Enhancement, and Orr Wetland Restoration Project. Located north of Interstate 90 and east of Alden, the project involves abandoning and rerouting tile and the construction of wetlands. Funding for this project was made possible through the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Leland Drainage and Excavation and Krueger Excavation paused construction for the winter and resume the project in the spring. Package 4 with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was put out for bid. This portion of the project focuses on the public drainage system. The grant deadline for the project is at the end of June, 2023.

Manager Bakken requested a workshop after the next board meeting. He would like to discuss stormwater ponds, cover crops, and septic systems.

Administrator Henschel discussed conflicts with the date of the next SRRWD board meeting.

Manager Hanson offered the following motion.

Move to reschedule the next SRRWD board meeting to March 7, 2023.

Manager DeBoer 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 adjourn the meeting.

Manager Hanson seconded the motion.

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