

**Shell Rock River Watershed District
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2022**

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

Managers absent: Gary Pestorious

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

Vice-chairman Delger opened the public hearing for the Vandegrift Wetland Restoration Establishment. He called for comments three times. No one from the public wished to speak. Vice-chairman Delger closed the public hearing.

Manager DeBoer offered the following motion:

Move to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- a. Minutes of the January 18, 2021 SRRWD Monthly Board Meeting
- b. January 2022 Treasurer's Report Subject to Audit
- c. January 2022 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 Bakken offered the following motion:

Move to approve the agenda.

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. The bill for Phase 3 of the Fountain Lake Restoration Project was introduced last session but was not included in the Governor's bonding proposal. The 2022 legislative session has begun. The bill will be updated during session to reflect the increased project costs. Administrator Henschel highlighted some important dates: February 15, 2022 – New Legislative District maps will be released. Early March – February Revenue Forecast. March 25, April 1, and April 8, 2022 – 1st, 2nd, and 3rd

policy and bill deadlines in the House and Senate. April 8-18, 2022 – Easter/Passover Break.
April 19-May 23, 2022 – Conference Committees meet; negotiations between the House, Senate,
and Governor; session ends.

Project/Program Manager, Courtney Phillips, discussed the Vandegrift Wetland Restoration Project. The project site is located on SRRWD owned land near Highway 13 and Interstate 90. Project plans were approved at the previous board meeting and include replacing an existing culvert and installing a control structure to hold water. Benefits of the restoration include habitat improvement and flood mitigation. Funding for the project is from the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.

Manager DeBoer offered the following motion:

Move to introduce Resolution 2022-02 as follows:

Resolution 2022-02
Establish Vandegrift Wetland Restoration Project
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, on January 18, 2022, by Resolution 2022-01, the Board of Managers approved the specifications for the Project (the “Final Project 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. DNR comments were received by letter dated January 2, 2020 and BWSR comments were received on January 16, 2020;

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on February 8, 2022 to review the project plan;

THEREFORE, the Board of Managers hereby finds that the proposed Vandegrift Wetland 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 2018-01 Vandegrift Wetland 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 bids; 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 motion was unanimously approved. Vice-chairman Delger declared the resolution passed.

Courtney continued by explaining the Joint Powers Agreement with Freeborn County for the Vandegrift Wetland Restoration. This agreement was necessary because Freeborn County owns the property where the culvert and water control structure will be located.

Manager Hanson offered the following motion:

Move to approve the Joint Powers Agreement with Freeborn County for the Vandegrift Wetland Restoration.

Manager Kramer seconded the motion.

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

Courtney provided some background on the One Watershed, One Plan Shell Rock River-Winnebago draft Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. The draft plan was available for review and comment. Following the deadline, a public hearing was held in January. The plan was revised and is available on the District’s website. Partners in the One Watershed, One Plan must approve the plan before the Policy Committee can submit the plan to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for approval. Upon approval, the plan will open new funding from the state to implement projects.

Courtney provided a Stormwater Credit Trading update. The Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) funding has expired. Numerous outputs resulted from the pilot

program. The District showcased these outputs while presenting at the Minnesota Ag-Urban Partnership and LCCMR Lunch and Learn.

During Manager's Items, Manager Bakken questioned the future of the Country Club Property. Administrator Henschel reported that utilities have been inspected and the data was communicated to the City of Albert Lea. Both entities will review and a recommendation to relist the property will come before the Board of Managers at the next board meeting. Manager Delger questioned the status of the Shell Rock River Restoration Project. Courtney reported that Minnesota Native Landscapes completed the installation of toe wood on the east side of the Panicum Prairie site to protect the streambanks from erosion. Work continues at the AMA site at the outlet of Albert Lea Lake and includes tree revetments and permeable dikes to trap sediment to narrow the river channel. The project also involves installing rock riffle structures to create scouring in the river for habitat. This project is funded by the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.

Administrator Henschel discussed the upcoming meetings. The next board meeting has been scheduled for March 8, 2022 at 5:30PM and the Annual meeting will follow at 6:00PM. Both meetings will be held at the SRRWD office.

Manager Pacovsky offered the following motion:

Move to adjourn the meeting.

Manager Kramer seconded the motion.

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