

**Shell Rock River Watershed District
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2023**

Managers present: Mick Delger, Al Bakken, Joe Pacovsky, Gary Pestorious, Mike Hanson and Brad Kramer

Managers absent: Dan DeBoer

Chairman Delger called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on May 9, 2023 at the Shell Rock River Watershed District, 305 S 1st Ave., Albert Lea, MN 56007.

Manager Pacovsky offered the following motion:

Move to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- a. Minutes of the April 11, 2023 SRRWD Monthly Board Meeting
- b. April 2023 Treasurer's Report Subject to Audit
- c. April 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 additions: 5f Motion to Purchase Water Monitoring Equipment and 5g Resolution 2023-02 LSOHC Grant Application

Manager Pacovsky seconded the motion.

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

Administrator Henschel discussed replacing the District's John Deere tractor with a Bobcat Toolcat. He explained the government contact including trade-in and price, mentioned the user-friendly features, and discussed the separate mower. User training was discussed.

Manager Kramer offered the following motion:

Move to approve equipment purchase for tractor replacement.

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 that at the previous board meeting an offer was accepted. That offer has since been retracted. Negotiations are underway.

Manager Bakken offered the following motion:

Move to approve Century 21 as the listing agent for the Country Club Property.

Manager Pestorious seconded the motion.

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

Administrator Henschel provided an update on the District's five fish barriers. He signed a contract with Smith Root to inspect and maintain four of the barriers. He also hired a company to service the back-up generators at these locations. The fifth fish barrier at Goose Lake was discussed including the lack of flow.

Referencing the MN Watersheds monthly newsletter, Administrator Henschel highlighted news and events. The Outdoor Heritage Fund Recommendation within the Legacy Omnibus Bill, drainage issues around the state, and the 2023 Agricultural Drainage + Future of Water Quality Spring Field Tour were discussed.

Administrator Henschel reported that the SRRWD hired Connor Ehlert for the Seasonal Water Monitoring and Natural Resource Technician position. He starts May 22, 2023.

Administrator Henschel explained the water monitoring equipment for purchase. The new equipment would collect data in real time and provide better readings than previously recorded. Staff training and equipment life cycle were discussed.

Manager Pacovsky offered the following motion:

Move to approve \$38,133.00 to purchase water monitoring equipment.

Manager Kramer seconded the motion.

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

Program and Project Manager, Courtney Phillips, discussed the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council grant application. The application is due at the end of May. Projects in the Phase 13 application include additional channel restoration work, the Panicum Prairie restoration, and land acquisitions.

Manager Hanson offered the following motion:

Move to introduce Resolution 2023-02

Resolution 2023-02
Shell Rock River Watershed District
L-SOHC Grant Application

BE IT RESOLVED that the Shell Rock River Watershed District, hereinafter referred to as “Applicant” acts as legal sponsor for the Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat Restoration Program - Phase XIII contained in the **Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (L-SOHC) Application** to be submitted on May 26, 2023, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Applicant is hereby authorized to apply to the LSOHC, hereinafter referred to as “State,” for funding of intended projects on behalf of the Applicant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Applicant has the legal authority to apply for financial assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability to ensure adequate acquisition, maintenance and protection of the intended projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Applicant has not incurred any construction costs or has not entered into any written agreements to purchase property for intended projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Applicant has not violated any Federal, State, or local laws pertaining to fraud bribery, graft, kickbacks, collusion, conflict of interest or other unlawful or corrupt practice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of the application by the State, the Applicant may enter into an agreement with the State for the above-referenced projects, and that the Applicant certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in the contract agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Andy Henschel, District Administrator for the Shell Rock River Watershed District, is hereby authorized to execute such Agreements as are necessary to implement the intended projects on behalf of the Applicant.

Manager Pacovsky seconded the motion.

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

Manager Pectorious questioned the status of the bonding bill. Administrator Henschel explained that he spoke to two lobbyists but has no new information. The House of Representatives passed a bonding package that included the District’s bonding request but the Senate has not. The session ends May 22, 2023. Manager Pectorious questioned the status of the Country Club property. Administrator Henschel further explained that the SRRWD had accepted an offer but

it was withdrawn. The SRRWD is discussing negotiations or moving forward without any action.

Administrator Henschel reminded the Board of Managers to attend the MN Watershed Summer Tour on June 20-22, 2023.

Manager Pacovsky 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.