

**Shell Rock River Watershed District
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2023**

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

Chairman Delger called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on July 11, 2023 at the Shell Rock River Watershed District, 305 S 1st Ave., Albert Lea, MN 56007.

Chairman Delger announced that Managers Brad Kramer and Mike Lee were sworn in before the meeting due to a schedule conflict with Freeborn County. Chairman Delger thanked Manager Pectorious for his service on the Board.

Manager Lee offered the following motion:

Move to cast votes for the Election of Officers by roll call.

Manager Hanson seconded the motion

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

Administrator Henschel presided over the Election of Officers.

Administrator Henschel asked for nominations for Chairman.

Manager Hanson nominated Manager Delger for Chairman of the Shell Rock River Watershed District Board.

Administrator Henschel called for nominations for Chairman three times and closed nominations. A roll call vote was taken and Administrator Henschel declared Manager Delger Chairman of the Shell Rock River Watershed Board.

Administrator Henschel asked for nominations for Vice-Chairman.

Manager Bakken nominated Manager Kramer for Vice-Chairman of the Shell Rock River Watershed District Board.

Administrator Henschel called for nominations for Vice-Chairman three times and closed nominations. A roll call vote was taken and Administrator Henschel declared Manager Kramer Vice-Chairman of the Shell Rock River Watershed Board.

Administrator Henschel asked for nominations for Secretary.

Manager Delger nominated Manager Hanson for Secretary of the Shell Rock River Watershed District Board.

Administrator Henschel called for nominations for Secretary three times and closed nominations. A roll call vote was taken and Administrator Henschel declared Manager Hanson Secretary of the Shell Rock River Watershed Board.

Administrator Henschel asked for nominations for Treasurer.

Manager Hanson nominated Manager Bakken for Treasurer of the Shell Rock River Watershed District Board.

Administrator Henschel called for nominations for Treasurer three times and closed nominations. A roll call vote was taken and Administrator Henschel declared Manager Bakken Treasurer of the Shell Rock River Watershed Board.

No one from the public wished to speak during the Public Forum.

Manager DeBoer offered the following motion:

Move to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- a. Minutes of the June 13, 2023 SRRWD Monthly Board Meeting
- b. June 2023 Treasurer's Report Subject to Audit
- c. June 2023 Project Fund Treasurer's Report Subject to Audit
- d. Authorize Payment of Claims
- e. Authorize Payment of Project Fund Disbursements

Manager Lee 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 without additions, corrections or deletions.

Manager Lee seconded the motion.

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

Administrator Henschel reported that the SRRWD's request for \$9 million dollars was included in the state's capital investment bill. This appropriation will include funds to remove approximately 600,000 cubic yards of sediment from Fountain Lake plus engineering, oversight, and construction on the Confined Disposal Facility (CDF).

Manager Kramer offered the following motion:

Move to introduce Resolution 2023-03 as follows:

Resolution 2023-03
STATE APPROPRIATIONS FOR
SHELL ROCK RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT, FOUNTAIN LAKE RESTORATION
PROJECT

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota appropriated \$9,000,000.00 (nine million dollars and no cents) to the Department of Natural Resources for a pass-through grant to the Shell Rock River Watershed District, Fountain Lake Restoration Project.

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota requires that the Shell Rock River Watershed District, (SRRWD) provide an official request for appropriations, and that the SRRWD will act as the lead agency for the Fountain Lake Restoration Project (the "Project").

BE IT RESOLVED that the SRRWD, hereinafter referred to as the "Requestor" act as legal sponsor for Fountain Lake Restoration Project and that District Administrator, Andy Henschel, is hereby authorized to apply to the Department of Natural Resources for funding of this Project on behalf of the Requestor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Requestor has the legal authority to apply for financial assistance, and the institutional, administrative, and managerial capability to ensure adequate acquisition, maintenance, and protection of the proposed Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Requestor hereby pledges to complete the Project if it exceeds the total funding provided by the Department of Natural Resources and any required local match.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Requestor 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 its request by the state, the Requestor may enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota for the above-referenced Project, and that the Requestor certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in the contract agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that District Administrator is hereby authorized to execute such agreements as are necessary to implement the Project on behalf of the Requestor.

I CERTIFY THAT the above resolution was adopted by the Board of Managers of Shell Rock River Watershed District on July 11, 2023

Manager Hanson seconded the motion.

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

Administrator Henschel notified the Board of Managers of the upcoming Western Dredging Association (WEDA) Dredging Summit and Expo held on July 17-20, 2023, in Las Vegas, NV. This event is important as the District looks to complete the Fountain Lake Restoration Project.

Manager Pacovsky offered the following motion:

Move to approve out-of-state travel for Administrator Henschel to attend the WEDA Dredging Summit and Expo.

Manager Kramer seconded the motion.

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

The SRRWD Committee List was distributed. Managers were instructed to review the list and decide if they wanted to be added to or removed from committees. The Board will vote on the final Committee List at the next board meeting.

Administrator Henschel provided a MN Watershed monthly update. MN Watershed recently held their Summer Tour in Albert Lea in collaboration with the SRRWD, Cedar River WD, and Turtle Creek WD. The successful event was well attended and included educational opportunities, welcome dinner, and bus tour. Administrator Henschel thanked staff and managers.

Project and Program Manager, Courtney Phillips, explained the Proposal for Engineering Services for the Bryson Wetland Restoration. Located north of the IC&E project site and east of Alden, the proposal includes \$15,500 to prepare a wetland restoration design.

Manager Hanson offered the following motion:

Move to Approve Engineering Services for Bryson Wetland Restoration.

Manager Lee seconded the motion.

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

Courtney Phillips provided information regarding the Option Agreement for the Church Lake Property. A willing landowner approached the SRRWD wanting to sell their property adjacent to SRRWD owned property on Church Lake. Funding is available via the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council - SRRWD Habitat Restoration Program Phase XI. A public hearing will be held if requested by a landowner.

Manager Hanson offered the following motion:

Move to Enter into Option Agreement for Church Lake Property.

Manager DeBoer seconded the motion.

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

Courtney concluded with an update on the Fountain Lake In-Lake Habitat Restoration. The goals of this project are to create in-lake and shoreline habitat structures for improved fisheries habitat. Funding is made possible by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Due to threshold requirements of impacted areas on the bottom of Fountain Lake, an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) is necessary for the Public Waters permit. The SRRWD is Responsible Government Unit (RGU) in this environmental review process. The EAW is available for review via www.shellrock.org. Public comments are due on July 20, 2023. At the next board meeting, the EAW findings will be presented.

Chairman Delger reminded the board of managers of upcoming meetings. The next board meeting and budget workshop has been scheduled for August 8, 2023. Manager Bakken and Manager Lee thanked former Manager Gary Pestorius for his service on the Board.

Manager Hanson 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.