

**Shell Rock River Watershed District
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 5, 2023**

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

Managers absent: Mike Hanson and Dan DeBoer

Manager Delger called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on September 5, 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 2024 Administrative Levy, Debt Service Levy, Liability Insurance Levy, Administrative, and Project Fund Budget. Manager Delger called for comments three times. No one from the public wished to speak. Manager Delger closed the public hearing. Manager Delger opened the public hearing for the Bryson Wetland Restoration. 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 Kramer offered the following motion:

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

Manager Pacovsky 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 August 8, 2023 SRRWD Regular Board Meeting
- b.** August 2023 Treasurer's Report Subject to Audit
- c.** August 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.

The total proposed Administrative budget for 2024 is \$271,000.00 and proposed Project Fund budget is \$18,603,001.00. Proposed Administrative levy is \$250,000.00, Liability Insurance Fund levy \$21,000.00 and the Debt Service levy is \$178,625.00.

Manager Kramer offered the following motion:

Move to approve the 2024 Administrative Levy and Certify the Administrative Levy to the Freeborn County Auditor-Treasurer.

Manager Pacovsky 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 2024 Debt Service Levy and Certify the Debt Service Levy to the Freeborn County Auditor-Treasurer.

Manager Pacovsky seconded the motion.

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

Manager Kramer offered the following motion:

Move to approve the 2024 Liability Insurance Levy and Certify the Liability Insurance Levy to the Freeborn County Auditor-Treasurer.

Manager Lee 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 2024 Administrative Budget.

Manager Kramer 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 2024 Project Budget.

Manager Pacovsky seconded the motion.

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

Administrator Henschel discussed the Bryson Restoration Project. Located east of Alden, this 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 Pacovsky offered the following motion:

Move to introduce Resolution 2023-05

Resolution 2023-05
Bryson Restoration Project

**INITIATE PROJECT
2023-01**

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, project goals and objectives set forth in the Plan include:

- Improve water quality and clarity to District lakes
- Improve and enhance waterfowl habitat
- Maintain efficient system and reduce transport of sediment, nutrients and pesticides into surface waters through the drainage systems
- Minimize flood damage to property and preserve the function of the floodplain
- Restore and retain water upstream throughout the watershed
- Preserve existing rural and urban wetlands and encourage restoration and enhancement

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, be it hereby resolved that the Shell Rock River Watershed District:

Sec. 1: Initiates “Project No. 2023-01 Bryson Restoration Project”

Sec. 2: Authorizes District Staff to negotiate appropriate professional services agreements to promote and complete Bryson Restoration Project efforts.

Sec. 3: Authorizes District Staff to conduct work as needed to present this project to the Board for review and public hearing as required by law.

Manager Lee seconded the motion.

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

Manager Bakken offered the following motion:

Move to introduce Resolution 2023-06

Resolution 2023-06
Plan Approval
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, project goals and objectives set forth in the Plan include:

- Improve water quality and clarity to District lakes
- Improve and enhance waterfowl habitat
- Maintain efficient systems and reduce transport of sediment, nutrients and pesticides into surface waters through the drainage systems
- Minimize flood damage to property and preserve the function of the floodplain
- Restore and retain water upstream throughout the watershed
- Preserve existing rural and urban wetlands and encourage restoration and enhancement

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 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 Bryson Restoration Project Plan as presented by Jones Haugh & Smith; 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.

Manager Kramer seconded the motion.

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

Administrator Henschel continued by discussing the Option Agreement between the SRRWD and Yost Land Company LLLP for 31.11 acres bordering Eberhart Lake. The purchase price is \$205,000.00.

Manager Pacovsky offered the following motion:

Move to Execute the Yost Option Agreement.

Manager Lee seconded the motion.

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

Jason Raimondi, Corry Platt, and Christopher Robb of Geosyntec Consultants provided a brief presentation highlighting their company, experience, and process proposal for the Fountain Lake Restoration Project. Their presentation will be posted via www.shellrock.org.

The SRRWD will host their next board meeting and annual meeting on October 10, 2023. These evening meetings will include a 20-year anniversary celebration.

Manager Kramer 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.