Managers present: Dan DeBoer, Mike Hanson, Gary Pestorious, Brad Kramer, Al Bakken, and Joe Pacovsky

Managers absent: Mick Delger

Vice-chairman Pestorious called the Regular Meeting to order September 10, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. at the Albert Lea City Council Chambers, 221 East Clark Street, Albert Lea, MN 56007.

Vice-chairman Pestorious opened a public hearing for the 2020 Administrative Levy. No comments were received. The public hearing was closed.

Vice-chairman Pestorious opened a public hearing for the 2020 Debt Service Levy. No comments were received. The public hearing was closed.

Vice-chairman Pestorious opened a public hearing for the 2020 Administrative and Project Fund Budgets. No comments were received. The public hearing was closed.

Vice-chairman Pestorious opened a public hearing for the Pioneer Park Restoration. No comments were received. The public hearing was closed.

Public Forum – No comments were received.

Manager Hanson offered the following motion:

Move to approve the consent agenda as follows:

a. Minutes of the August 13, 2019 SRRWD Monthly Board Meeting – with correction.
b. Minutes of the August 26, 2019 Dredge Committee Meeting
c. Minutes of the August 27, 2019 SRRWD Workshop
d. August 2019 Treasurer’s Report Subject to Audit
e. August 2019 Project Fund Treasurer’s Report Subject to Audit
f. Authorize Payment of Claims
g. Authorize Payment of Project Fund Disbursements

Manager Pacovsky seconded the motion.

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

Manager DeBoer offered the following motion:

Move to approve the agenda.

Manager Kramer seconded the motion.

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

Manager Kramer offered the following motion:
Move to approve the 2020 Administrative Levy and Certify the Administrative Levy to the Freeborn County Auditor-Treasurer.
Manager Pacovsky seconded the motion.
After discussion, a vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Manager DeBoer offered the following motion:
Move to approve the 2020 Debt Service Levy and Certify the Debt Service Levy to the Freeborn County Auditor-Treasurer.
Manager Bakken seconded the motion.
After discussion, a vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Manager Hanson offered the following motion:
Move to approve the 2020 Administrative Budget.
Manager Kramer seconded the motion.
After discussion, a vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Manager Hanson offered the following motion:
Move to approve the 2020 Project Budget.
Manager DeBoer seconded the motion.
After discussion, a vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Courtney Phillips gave an update on the Fountain Lake Restoration and Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) construction on behalf of Administrator Andy Henschel. Dredging in Edgewater Bay will be completed this October. Pending weather and permitting, the dredging contractor may mobilize the dredge and pipe to the Main Bay yet this year. Construction on CDF cells 2 & 3 is delayed due to wet weather. The contractor, Veit, did bring in additional equipment to expedite construction.

Courtney Phillips explained the Pioneer Park project. The project was included in Phase 8 of the Habitat Restoration Program and is a partnership between the SRRWD and the city of Albert Lea. The project with maintain water quality and clarity in Fountain Lake, improve and enhance habitat, prevent further erosion on lakeshore, and improve and enhance game fish habitat.

Manager Kramer offered the following motion:
Move to introduce Resolution 2019-16 as follows:

Resolution 2019-16
Pioneer Park Restoration Plan Approval

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:

- Maintain water quality and clarity in Fountain Lake;
- Improve and enhance habitat;
- Prevent further erosion on lakeshore;
• Improve and enhance game fish habitat.

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2019 the District initiated Pioneer Park Restoration;

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 Project Plan dated September 5, 2019 as presented by WSB and Associates;
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.

Date: September 10, 2019

Manager Hanson seconded the motion.
On a roll call vote, the following managers voted in favor of said resolution: Pacovsky, Kramer, Bakken, DeBoer, Hanson, and Pestorious. Vice-chairman Pestorious decaled the resolution passed.

Manager Pacovsky offered the following motion:

Move to introduce Resolution 2019-17 as follows:

Resolution 2019-17
Pioneer Park Restoration
Establishment

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:

• Maintain water quality and clarity in Fountain Lake;
• Improve and enhance habitat;
• Prevent further erosion on lakeshore;
• Improve and enhance game fish habitat.

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2019 the District initiated Pioneer Park Restoration;
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 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 July 12, 2019 and BWSR comments were received June 20, 2019;

WHEREAS, On September 10, 2019, by Resolution 2019-16, the Board of Managers approved the specifications for the Project (the “Final Project Plan”);

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on September 10, 2019 to review the project plan;

THEREFORE, the Board of Managers hereby finds that the proposed Fountain Lake Pioneer Park Restoration 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. 2019-02 – Fountain Lake Pioneer Park Restoration”

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 agreements or contracts necessary to complete the project.

Date: September 10, 2019

Manager Hanson seconded the motion.
On a roll call vote, the following managers voted in favor of said resolution: Pacovsky, Kramer, Bakken, DeBoer, Hanson, and Pestorious. Vice-chairman Pestorious decleared the resolution passed.

Courtney Phillips introduced the next agenda item, an amended option agreement for the Church Lake property, and provided some information about the potential project:

- In the spring of 2018, the District was notified by the DNR that a landowner was interested in selling their property on Church Lake and have it open to the public.
- Due to the properties existing resources, proximity to open water, and having an interested land owner, a wetland restoration/native restoration was applicable and fit within the scope of District plans for a potential project.
- District included it in their Phase 8 Habitat Restoration Program that was presented for approval for application at the May 2018 Board Meeting (Resolution 2018-18)
- District communicated directly with landowner to sell and District entered into option agreement to purchase the 80 acre property at July 2018 Board Meeting
- District continued perusing grant funds and received the grant out of the 2019 Legislative Session, entered into grant agreement July of 2019.
- The District has been following all applicable laws and the grant process while perusing this project.
• This amendment in option is just to increase the area of ground that would be bordering 710th Ave. This would further the distance of where public access could be to remaining current landowner’s driveways. – initiated by current landowners

• The District has received some comments regarding this property including the intended use, availability to the public, as well as safety concerns and garbage dumping concerns.

Manager Kramer offered the following motion:
Move to approve amended option agreement for the Church Lake property.
Manager Pacovsky seconded the motion.
After discussion about comments received from concerned citizens, a vote was taken and the motion did not pass.

Manager Hanson offered the following motion:
Move to table the amended option agreement for the Church Lake Property.
Manager DeBoer seconded the motion.
After discussion, a vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Courtney Phillips reported that she and Administrator Henschel presented the Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat Restoration Program - Phase IX funding request to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council last week. Phase IX includes multiple streambank and wetland restorations for habitat protection in our area. The Council will make their recommendations and allocate funding at the end of September.

Courtney Phillips concluded her reports with an update on the Owen’s Wetland Restoration. Located at the corner of US Highway 69 and Country Road 17, this BWSR Targeted Watershed and LSOHC project will improve water quality and storage in the Pickerel Lake area. All tile breaks and reroutes are complete and the property has been seeded. MN Native Landscapes will be on vegetation retainer for another growing season to manage the vegetation.

A list of upcoming meetings was presented.

Manager DeBoer offered the following motion:
Move to adjourn the meeting.
Manager Pacovsky seconded the motion.
After discussion, a vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.