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

Managers absent: Gary Pestorious and Bruce Haugsdal

Chairman DeBoer called the special meeting to order March 7, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. at the Albert Lea City Council Chambers, 221 East Clark Street, Albert Lea, MN 56007.

Manager Pacovsky offered the following motion:

Move to approve agenda with the following additions:

- Item 4b Motion to Approve Administrator Behnke to travel out of state to attend the Western Dredging Association (WEDA) conference.

Manager Bakken seconded the motion.

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

Chairman DeBoer opened a public forum:

Laura Cunningham, 1204 Cedar Ave., spoke on behalf of the Albert Lea Lakes Foundation. She thanked the community for their support regarding the local option sales tax. She invited the community to attend the Green Mill fundraiser to benefit the Albert Lea Lakes Foundation. The annual lake clean-up event has been scheduled for May 13, 2017.

Brad Haugen, 18893 800th Ave., Hayward, MN, questioned the details regarding the Freeborn County petition.

Brett Behnke, District Administrator, gave an update on the Fountain Lake Restoration Project:

- History of funding option were discussed
- The support of Freeborn County in the form of this petition is a crucial next step in the SRRWD’s ability to move forward with the Fountain Lake Restoration Project.
- $7.5 million from the State of Minnesota
- $2 million request from Freeborn County for Phase 1
• Under state statute 103D, the SRRWD can levy around $166,000 and that will support a $1.9 million bond
• The SRRWD is limited by market value

Vice Chair Pestorious gave an overview of the SRRWD including levying authority under the State of Minnesota and board appointment under the direction of the Freeborn County Commissioners.

Manager Delger addressed the upstream efforts by the District so that the Fountain Lake Restoration Project could be successful.

Manager Haugsdal offered the following motion:
    Move to Recommend Freeborn County petition to including financing option of a minimum of $2 million.
Manager Hanson seconded the motion.
After discussion, a vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Manager Pacovsky offered the following motion:
    Move to approve out of state travel for Administrator Behnke to attend WEDA conference.
Manager Delger seconded the motion.
After discussion, a vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Manager’s Items: Manager Hanson mentioned a Tribune article he read regarding SRRWD taxing authority. He urged the community that he is not on the SRRWD board for money but rather to give something of himself. Manager Bakken commented on the dredging equipment, storage, lease options, and cash flow stages. Administrator Behnke thanked the DNR and City of Albert Lea for attending the meeting. Matt Benda updated the board on the bid documents with alternatives for the dredging project.

Manager Bakken 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.