Managers Present: Dan DeBoer, Gary Pestorious, Al Bakken, Bruce Haugsdal, Joe Pacovsky, Mike Hanson and Mick Delger

Board Chair DeBoer called the Special Meeting to order August 30, 2016 at 8:30 a.m., at the Freeborn County Board Room, 411 Broadway S., Albert Lea, Minnesota 56007.

Manager Haugsdal offered the following motion:
Move to approve the agenda.
Manager Bakken seconded the motion.
After discussion, a vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Brett Behnke, District Administrator, gave a legislative update.
- SRRWD staff testified in front of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council last week requesting funding for the Habitat Restoration Program – Phase VI. The request was well received.
- Administrator Behnke explained the need for a resolution authorizing the online payment of bills that are due before the board meets.

Manager Bakken offered the following resolution:
Move to approve Resolution 2016-16 as follows:

**Resolution 2016-16**
**Claims Online Payment Authorization**

WHEREAS, The Shell Rock River Watershed District Board of Managers (“Board of Managers”) pursues the adequate internal accounting and administrative control procedures to ensure the proper disbursement of public funds;

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that Brett Behnke, District Administrator and Carmen Christensen, Financial Clerk hereby be authorized to execute online payment of Utilities bills, Phone bills, and Insurance bills on behalf of the Shell Rock River Watershed District.

Manager Hanson seconded the resolution.
After discussion, a roll call vote was taken.

Manager Delger -Yes
Manager Haugsdal -Yes
Manager Bakken -Yes
Manager Hanson -Yes
Manager Pestorious -Yes
Manager DeBoer -Yes
The resolution was unanimously approved.

- Administrator Behnke updated the board on the Country Club road negotiations. Staging areas are being discussed.
- Administrator Behnke updated the board on the Pickerel Lake Project Plan.

Manager Pacovsky offered the following resolution:

Move to approve Resolution 2016-15 as follows:

Resolution 2016-15
Pickerel Lake Dam Project
PROJECT 2015-01
Approval of Project Plans

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:

- Replacement of Pickerel Lake Dam
- Increase fisheries habitat
- Reduce and manage rough fish populations
- Improve water quality and clarity in Pickerel Lake
- Improve and enhance waterfowl habitat
- Employ lake management techniques to restore and improve aquatic vegetation in Pickerel Lake

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.

WHEREAS, On July 14, 2015, the District initiated the Pickerel Lake Dam Project by Resolution 2015-06;

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;

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 June 7, 2016, as amended on August 23, 2016 presented by WSB & Associates; 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 Haugsdal seconded the resolution.
After discussion, a roll call vote was taken.

Manager Delger -Yes
Manager Haugsdal -Yes
Manager Pacovsky -Yes
Manager Bakken-Yes
Manager Hanson-Yes
Manager Pestorious- Yes
Manager DeBoer-Yes

The resolution was unanimously approved.

- Administrator Behnke reviewed the dredging Basis of Design Report (BODR) changes regarding Fountain Lake Restoration Project.

Manager Haugsdal offered the following motion:
Move to approve the dredging BODR.
Manager Pacovsky seconded the motion.
After discussion, a vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

- Administrator Behnke gave an update of the Fountain Lake Restoration Project. SRRWD staff sent a letter to the City of Albert Lea and Freeborn County officials detailing the project progress and upcoming dates. This letter was read aloud to the board. Waterville Area Fisheries Supervisor, Craig Soupir, commented on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resource’s (MN DNR) 150 ft. recommendation to protect near shore spawning habitat. The aquatic plants in Bancroft Bay were discussed. These plants preserve and protect the water quality of Fountain Lake. Jeanine Vorland, MN DNR Area Wildlife Manager, explained the importance of Bancroft Bay as it relates to Blanding’s Turtles, the species of concern. The lake access concern as it relates to vegetation may be handled better with a lake wide Vegetation Management Plan.

Conservation Technician, Jerad Stricker, gave an update:
- The Vegetation Survey of Fountain Lake was discussed. Duckweed was described. This green plant is not algae.
- The Carp Study was reviewed. The SRRWD received $65,000.00 from Freeborn County through DNR Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) funding. The permit for fish sampling was granted.
- The Goose Lake fish barrier operational issues were discussed. SRRWD is working with Smith-Root to correct the issues.
Manager’s Items: Board Chair DeBoer thanked the staff for increased communication with the community. Manager Haugsdal updated the board on the vegetation on Albert Lea Lake.

Manager Haugsdal 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.