

**Shell Rock River Watershed District
Workshop Minutes
April 29, 2021**

Managers present via teleconference: Gary Pestorious, Brad Kramer, Al Bakken, Joe Pacovsky, and Mick Delger

Managers joined late: Mike Hanson

Managers absent: Dan DeBoer

Chairman Delger called the workshop meeting to order on April 29, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. via teleconference as provided by Minnesota Statute 13D.021 Sub. 1. All SRRWD staff and board members can hear one another, the meeting is recorded and streamed live via www.shellrock.org and Facebook, and all votes are taken by roll call.

No comments were received during the public forum section of the meeting.

Manager Bakken offered the following motion:

Move to approve the agenda.

Manager Pestorious seconded the motion.

On a roll call vote, the following managers voted in favor of said motion: Pestorious, Kramer, Bakken, Pacovsky, and Delger. Chairman Delger declared the motion passed.

Administrator Andy Henschel provided an update of the Fountain Lake Restoration Project Phase 2. This phase includes hydraulically dredging approximately 670,000 cubic yards from the Main Bay and Dane's Bay. Phase 2 dredging began in the spring of 2020 and the dredging contractor, J.F. Brennan, expects the work to be completed by August 2021. There is potential for additional cubic yards to be removed outside the dredge extents but that will be considered as the season progresses. Dredged material is currently being pumped into Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) Cell 2. The District sent final plans to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to allow Cell 3 to be filled. The plans were recently approved and include filling the cell to 50% and allow for settling. If no issues arise, the DNR will allow access to fill Cell 3.

The District worked with the contractor and engineer to remedy fixes for Cells 2 and 3 after failures were discovered in 2020. This was essential to keep the dredge project on track and the CDF in operation. There were added costs associated with the fixes. The District is doing its due diligence and being fiscally responsible as it does not feel it's responsible for the extra costs. The District engaged outside counsel and engineering for litigation. Administrator Henschel has

been intimately involved and fully transparent to the Dredge Committee and will continue to provide periodic updates to the full board as the process moves forward.

Administrator Henschel discussed Phase 3 of the Fountain Lake Restoration Project. This final phase would complete the project and include Main Bay (East Basin), Bancroft Channel, and parts of Bancroft Bay. The District is working with Representative Peggy Bennett and Senator Gene Dornink as additional funds are needed to complete the project. Earlier in the session, Rep. Bennett presented HF 384, a \$7.5 million request for the project, to the Capital Investment Committee. Administrator Henschel testified and presented details about the project, the funding, the phases completed to-date, and why it was important to secure funding for the project this year including the potential savings if the current contractor, pending the bidding process, did not have to demobilize and remobilize. The District's proposal was not included in the House Capital Investment Omnibus. Further action and progress on a bonding bill may happen in May.

The DNR requested that the District begin the permit process for Phase 3 of the project, not including permitting or engineering of CDF Cell 4. The District will work with engineers and an engineer's estimate may come before the board of managers at the May meeting. At a future meeting, Cell 4 will be discussed further including the reduced cost due to a smaller footprint and an option agreement with the landowner.

Administrator Henschel provided an update on the Headwaters Property. The 257-acre property is located south of the Albert Lea Lake dam and includes a 5.5-acre parcel that was donated by the landowner to the SRRWD. This parcel has a house and two garages on it. Administrator Henschel will bring options for the parcel at a future meeting including selling the house and garages, leasing the property for the gravel rights, or tearing down the house and garages and turning the land over to the DNR who manages the rest of the property.

Administrator Henschel discussed the Country Club Property. The District purchased this property to fulfill wetland permit obligations for the wetlands that were impacted in the construction process of CDF Cells 1 and 3. The property, excluding the wetland bank, is no longer a benefit to the District so it is for sale. The District hired Leland Realty for the sale and the agreement has been extended for an additional 6 months. No written offers have been received.

The Board of Managers did not have any additional items they wanted to discuss.

Administrator Henschel discussed scheduling a Dredge Committee meeting and the Annual meeting. He reminded the Board of Managers that the next board meeting has been scheduled for May 11, 2021.

Manager Pacovsky offered the following motion:

Move to adjourn the meeting.

Manager Pestorious seconded the motion.

On a roll call vote, the following managers voted in favor of said motion: Pestorious, Kramer, Hanson, Bakken, Pacovsky, and Delger. Chairman Delger declared the motion passed.