

**Shell Rock River Watershed District  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
October 12, 2021**

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

Managers absent: Mick Delger and Dan DeBoer

Chairman Pestorious called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. on October 12, 2021 at the Shell Rock River Watershed District, 214 W. Main St., Albert Lea, MN 56007.

Manager Kramer offered the following motion:

Move to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- a. Minutes of the September 14, 2021 SRRWD Regular Board Meeting
- b. September 2021 Treasurer's Report Subject to Audit
- c. September 2021 Project Fund Treasurer's Report Subject to Audit
- d. Authorize Payment of Claims
- e. Authorize Payment of Project Fund Disbursements

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 the agenda.

Manager Bakken seconded the motion.

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

During the public forum, Norman Bangert, 70678 154<sup>th</sup> St. Albert Lea, MN 56007, voiced his concern with the beavers and plugged culvert at Lower Twin Lake. Administrator Henschel reported that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recently cleaned out the culvert. Additional options were discussed including removing the culvert and installing riprap for easier maintenance.

Administrator Henschel provided an update on the Fountain Lake Restoration Project. Phase 2 is complete and the dredging contractor, J.F. Brennan Company, Inc., demobilized the dredge and equipment last week. The staging area parking pad, electrical, and some piping will remain. The Fountain Lake Restoration Project Post-Dredge Bathymetry map was displayed and Administrator Henschel reported that 1,266,658 cubic yards of sediment was removed from

Fountain Lake including Edgewater Bay, Dane's Bay, and the Main Bay. Dredging in Area 10 was discussed, specifically the channel, dock spaces and sandy areas. As the SRRWD looks to secure funding for Phase 3, the east basin of Fountain Lake and parts of Bancroft Bay, the engineer, Ramboll Engineering Company, continues to work on design and permitting. In addition, all three Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) cells will be resurveyed to determine available volume. The SRRWD will present the importance of Phase 3 to the House of Representative Bonding Committee on November 9, 2021 at 5:05PM at the Edgewater Bay Pavilion.

Administrator Henschel provided an update on the 2020 audit. The audit was completed by Hill, Benda, Skov & Bernau and oversight was noted due to the number of employees at the SRRWD and the payment of invoices before board approval. The Executive Committee will meet with Bernau to discuss.

Manager Pacovsky offered the following motion:

Move to accept the 2020 audit as presented by Hill, Benda, Skov & Bernau.

Manager Kramer seconded the motion.

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

Project/Program Manager, Courtney Phillips, provided an update on the Owens Waterway Project. Funded through the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Targeted Watershed Program, the project includes installing waterways where gullies have formed. DeCook Drainage was awarded the contract and work must be completed by December 31, 2021.

Courtney continued with a Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) update. She and Administrator Henschel testified before the Council to request \$3,640,600 for Phase XI to complete future habitat restoration projects that will restore, protect, and enhance the watershed. Allocation amounts were announced on October 7, 2021. The SRRWD was allocated \$1,242,000. The Accomplishment Plan is due later this week and funds will be available after the next legislative session.

Courtney provided a grant closeout update. Final reports for Phase 4 and 5 of the Habitat Restoration Program were approved by Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council staff totaling \$3,562,400 dollars to protect, restore and enhance habitat. Phase 5 included \$461,000 of federal match dollars, saving the District general fund dollars. Also, Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources staff approved the final report for the Pilot Credit-Trading grant totaling \$299,073. Minimal funds were returned and multiple projects were completed.

Administrator Henschel reminded the Board of Managers of upcoming virtual meetings including the Minnesota Water Resource Conference, the BWSR Academy, and the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) Annual Conference & Trade Show. The SRRWD Annual Meeting has been tentatively scheduled for after the Bonding Tour on November 9, 2021.

Manager Hanson offered the following motion:

Move to adjourn the meeting.

Manager Kramer seconded the motion.

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