



Shell Rock River Watershed District  
305 S 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.  
Albert Lea, MN 56007

January 4, 2024

RE: Extension request for ML 2019, 1st Sp. Session, Ch. 2, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd, 5(j) appropriation.

Mark,

I am writing on behalf of the Shell Rock River Watershed District (SRRWD) to request a one-year extension of the SRRWD's ML 2019, 1st Sp. Session, Ch. 2, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd, 5(j) appropriation.

Unforeseen last-minute circumstances are due to construction bids coming in much higher than anticipated. Given the cost of the bids, only a partial completion of the overall habitat improvement plan would be accomplished. In communications with the contractors, the abbreviated timeline to construct the project is a major factor in the costs being so high and for some contractors declining to submit a bid. The project construction cannot begin until after the ice goes out and must be completed by June 15 to complete all project review in time to meet the contract requirements. The abbreviated timeline to construct is due to two factors which extended the permitting timeline: 1) the requirement that an EAW be completed, and 2) lengthy timelines to acquire a MN DNR permit. We could not reasonably go for bid without having the MN DNR permit secured, which resulted in our bid opening taking place on Wednesday, January 3, 2024. Feedback received from the contractors have indicated that allowing for a longer construction time would reduce the cost of construction and provide the best outcomes for the public dollars invested in this project.

We appreciate that the council would like to receive extension request by its November meeting. However, because the bid opening just occurred during the first week of January 2024, we were unable to anticipate this situation. We ask for the Council's understanding given these unique and extraordinary circumstances.

This requesting is for an extension of time for one year. We are not seeking any changes to DSS or personnel.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I would be happy to discuss the details of this project or request further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Courtney Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Courtney Phillips  
Project and Program Manager

Cc: Amanda Schnabel, Commission Assistant