MEETING MINUTES
Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District
December 11, 2019, RPBCWD Board of Managers Monthly Meeting

PRESENT:
Managers:  Jill Crafton, Treasurer
           Larry Koch
           Dorothy Pedersen, Vice President
           Dick Ward, President
           David Ziegler, Secretary
Staff:  Claire Bleser, RPBCWD Administrator
       Chuck Holtman, Attorney, Smith Partners
       Scott Sobiech, Engineer, Barr Engineering Company
Other attendees:  John Bender, Westwood Professional Services
                 Patrick Sejkora, Eden Prairie Water Resources
                 Dan Blake, West Bay Homes
                 Leslie Stovring, Water Resources Coordinator
                 Rod Rue, Eden Prairie City Engineer
                 Lori Tritz, CAC Chair

1. Call to Order
President Ward called to order the Wednesday, December 11, 2019, Board of Managers Monthly Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the District Office, 18681 Lake Drive East, Chanhassen, MN 55317.

2. Approval of Agenda
President Ward announced that item 7c – Approve land exchange for Carver County Highway 101 right of way – is pulled from the Consent Agenda and will be added to the agenda as item 12 and will be handled in closed session because it pertains to land. Manager Crafton said she has a point of discussion to add to the agenda. Manager Koch requested pulling all items off the Consent Agenda except for item 7d – Approve Bluff Creek Tributary Stabilization Project – Pay Application #1. Manager Koch moved to approve the agenda as amended. Manager Crafton seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 5-0.

3. Budget Informational Meeting
Administrator Bleser stated she is not proposing any changes to the District’s approved 2020 budget and levy that has been submitted to the counties. President Ward called for comments. No comments were presented. Administrator Bleser said she will notify the counties that they can certify the budget and levy provided by the District in September.

4. Matters of General Public Interest
Patrick Sejkora, Eden Prairie Water Resources Engineer, stated the City of Eden Prairie had submitted written comments to the District regarding the proposed rules changes and received a response to comments from the
District. He noted the City will provide a letter to the District regarding points of clarification. Mr. Sejkora thanked the District for its work reviewing its rules and moving forward with updates to streamline the process while maintaining protections for the watershed.

5. Approval of Minutes

a. November 6, 2019, RPBCWD Board of Managers Regular Monthly Meeting and Public Hearing

Manager Pedersen noted that on page 3, line 75, the repetition of “Upon a vote…” should be deleted. Manager Crafton commented that on page 2, line 33, the word “at” should be changed to “as.” Manager Ziegler requested the addition of clarifying language on page 2, line 37 so the sentence reads, “…had been in Lake Minnetonka but had been out of the water for the winter season, from fall of 2018 to April 2019.” Manager Pedersen moved to accept the minutes as amended. Manager Ziegler seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 5-0.

6. CAC

Ms. Lori Tritz, CAC Chair, reported that the Committee will vote on the CAC slate of officers at its December meeting. She stated that at its most recent meeting, the CAC conducted a workshop on the District’s wetland restoration project and discussed how the Committee can help shape that project. Ms. Tritz explained that the Committee took care of Committee logistics at its most recent meeting as well.

7. Consent Agenda

Manager Ziegler moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Manager Pedersen seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 5-0. The Consent Agenda included: 7d – Approve Bluff Creek Tributary Stabilization Project – Pay Application #1.

8. Action Items

a. Pulled Consent Agenda items

i. Accept November Staff Report

Manager Koch asked for more details about the staff report’s information on page 7 about the iron-enhanced sand filings, University of Minnesota. Manager Bleser provided details about the November 15 presentation to staff by the UMN staff and noted the project budget falls under the District’s Stormwater Ponds, UMN line item. Administrator Bleser and Engineer Sobiech responded to further questions from Manager Koch. Manager Pedersen asked if it would be worthwhile for the District to send a letter to BWSR regarding MnRAM. Administrator Bleser responded yes. The Board directed staff to draft a letter for Board review at its January monthly meeting. Manager Koch moved to accept the staff report. Manager Ziegler seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 5-0.

ii. Accept November Engineer’s Report (with attached Inspection Report)

Manager Koch asked Engineer Sobiech if staff is tracking time staff spends on variances. Engineer Sobiech responded yes, the District Engineer and Legal Counsel track the time and said Mr. Jeffery has started tracking his time as well. Manager Koch asked staff for more detail about Task Order 26. Administrator Bleser informed him that the variables under Task Order 26 are
variables to identify priority areas in terms of areas at risk of flooding. Manager Ziegler moved to accept the Engineer’s Report. Manager Koch seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 5-0.

iii. **Approve Scenic Heights Elementary School Forest Restoration Project – Pay Application #7**
Manager Koch asked for an update on the progress of the project. Administrator Bleser and Engineer Sobiech responded. Manager Ziegler moved to approve the Scenic Heights Elementary School Forest Restoration Project Pay Application #7. Manager Koch seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 5-0.

iv. **Authorize Administrator Bleser to enter into an agreement with Houston Engineering after Legal has Drafted an Agreement for the Permit and Grant Database System with Funds Coming from Reserve Funds**
President Ward noted that the information in the Board packet for this proposal is incorrect and the correct total cost is not to exceed $45,000. Manager Koch asked for more details about the costs and annual subscription fee. Administrator Bleser commented that the subsequent annual subscription fee is $6,000 per year. Manager Koch noted a correction to the Cost Estimate page to revise “2019” to “2020.”

Manager Koch moved to authorize the District Administrator and Legal Counsel to review the terms of the contract and return to the Board for approval. The motion died to lack of a second. Manager Pedersen moved to approve the proposal with Houston Engineering for the permit and grant database system as proposed and not to exceed $45,000 and with the date correction noted. Manager Crafton seconded the motion. Manager Koch remarked that he finds the contract documents to be inadequate to protect the District’s interests, and for that reason he will vote against the motion. Administrator Bleser commented that Legal Counsel is currently working on the final agreement. Upon a vote, the motion carried 4-1. [Manager Koch voted against the motion.]

v. **Authorize Purchase of Trimble R7 Receiver and T7 Tablet Controller Survey Grade GPS Equipment**
Administrator Bleser described the equipment and its use for measuring elevations. Manager Koch voiced his concerns that the District would use the equipment in place of using surveys. He asked staff where the data from the equipment would go and how the data would be integrated with the District’s other data. Staff responded.

Manager Ziegler moved to approve authorizing staff to purchase the Trimble R7 Receiver and T7 Tablet Controller Survey Grade GPS equipment. Manager Pedersen seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 5-0.

vi. **Approve Stewardship Grant for $10,334.00 to Ridgewoods Condominium #1 Association for 21st Century Upgrades**
Manager Ziegler moved to approve the stewardship grant in the amount of $10,334. Manager Pedersen seconded the motion. Manager Koch commented he’s not convinced the watershed is receiving bang for the buck in terms of Best Management Practices with this project, which seems like landscaping. Manager Pedersen responded that this project is an educational opportunity to teach the public how to do the right things. Upon a vote, the motion carried 4-1. [Manager Koch
vii. **Authorize the Administrator to Enter into an Agreement with Carver County Soil and Water Conservation District for Technical Services**

Manager Ziegler moved to authorize the Administrator to enter into an agreement with the Carver County Soil and Water Conservation District for technical services. Manager Pedersen seconded the motion. Manager Koch asked where this item falls in the District’s budget. Administrator Bleser responded that it is under the Cost-Share Program budget line item. She noted an adjustment to the agreement on page 3. **Upon a vote, the motion carried 5-0.**

**b. Accept October Treasurer’s Report**

Manager Crafton moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report as submitted. Manager Ziegler seconded the motion. Manager Koch asked if the District could utilize a check supplier less costly than Deluxe. He asked that the District’s Visa charges be tracked per vendor and asked that District staff be allocated Visa purchase cards instead of operating on a reimbursement of costs basis. Manager Koch noted that regarding professional services on the performance analysis table 2 there is a zero, and he proposed the District to take part of the District’s reserves and allocate it to that line item. The motion died due to lack of a second. Manager Koch stated that on the multi-year project performance table 2, page 4 of 6, a column could be added to that table showing the District’s remaining share of the projects’ life time costs. Manager Koch asked for an update on the District’s status of moving forward with 4M investments. Administrator Bleser explained that the District hasn’t moved forward with the 4M investments because it is taking time to review the 4M investment options under the perspective of the District’s existing investments and limits of insuring funds. President Ward called a vote on the motion on the floor. **Upon a vote, the motion to accept the October Treasurer’s Report carried 5-0.**

**c. Approve Paying of Bills**

Manager Crafton moved to pay the bills. Manager Pedersen seconded the motion. **Upon a vote, the motion carried 4-1.** [Manager Koch voted against the motion.]

**d. Permit 2019-042 CSAH 101 Chanhassen – Consider Variance Requests from Rule B, subsection 3.2 Compensatory Storage; Rule D, subsection 3.1 – Average and Minimum Wetland Buffers; and Rule J, Subsection 3.1 Rate Control**

Engineer Sobiech displayed PowerPoint slides regarding the proposed highway reconstruction project. He described the proposed work and pointed out on a map that only a small portion of the proposed total project is within the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed. Engineer Sobiech went through the Engineer’s review of the project and requested variances, displaying a PowerPoint table “Rule Compliance Summary”.

Engineer Sobiech provided information on each of the three variance requests in turn and in detail. Regarding the first variance request, compensatory storage requirement, Engineer Sobiech reported that there is adequate technical basis to rely on for managers to grant the requested variance. Engineer Sobiech responded to questions and comments. Regarding the second variance request, average and minimum buffer requirement, Engineer Sobiech stated the engineer finds there is adequate technical basis for the managers to rely on to grant the requested variance. Regarding the third variance request, snowmelt rate control, Engineer Sobiech said the engineer finds that because the increased rates would have an immaterial impact on Bluff Creek, there is adequate technical basis for the managers to establish practical difficulty and grant the requested variance.

Manager Ziegler moved to approve the three variances. Manager Crafton seconded the motion. Manager
Koch moved to amend the motion to state that the managers considered the factors set forth in Rule K 1 through 6 and the managers determined, based on demonstration by the applicant that because of unique conditions inherent to the subject property, which do not apply generally to other land or structures in the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed, strict application of the rule provisions will impose a practical difficulty on the applicant, not a mere inconvenience. Manager Ziegler seconded the motion to amend. The motion to accept the amendment carried 5-0. The motion to accept the amended motion carried 5-0.

e. Permit 2019-042 CSAH 101 Chanhassen – Approve Permit as Presented in the Proposed Board Action of the Permit Review Report
Manager Ziegler moved to approve Permit 2019-042 CSAH 101 Chanhassen, incorporating the general requirements, findings, and recommendations of the District Engineer. Manager Pedersen seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 5-0.

f. Permit 2019-043 Cedarcrest Stables – Consider Variance Requests from Rule J, Subsection 3.1a Rate Control and 3.1b Abstraction
Engineer Sobiech summarized the proposed project, which is a 17-lot single-family development in Eden Prairie. He went through the details of the variance requests and the engineer’s review, and he summarized the engineer’s analysis of the two variance requests. Manager Ziegler moved to approve variances 1 and 2 for permit 2019-043 subject to the conditions listed. Manager Crafton seconded the motion. Manager Koch moved to amend the motion to state that the managers considered the factors set forth in Rule K 1 through 6 and the managers determined, based on demonstration by the applicant that because of unique conditions inherent to the subject property, which do not apply generally to other land or structures in the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed, strict application of the rule provisions will impose a practical difficulty on the applicant, not a mere inconvenience. The motion to accept the amendment carried 5-0. The motion to accept the amended motion carried 5-0.

g. Permit 2019-043 Cedarcrest Stables – Approve Permit as Presented in the Proposed Board Action of the Permit Review Report
Manager Ziegler moved to approve Permit 2019-043. Manager Crafton seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 5-0.

h. Lower Riley Creek Stabilization Project – Request for Additional Engineering Services Budget
President Ward summarized this item, stating it is regarding a request from Barr Engineering Company for $38,000 for additional services for the Lower Riley Creek Stabilization Project. Manager Koch asked staff to clarify if this cost is due to additional planning requirements and when the change was requested. Administrator Bleser responded that when the Board approved this task order in January 2017, there were certain assumptions regarding project timing and coordinating with the City of Eden Prairie. Subsequently, there was change-over in the City’s water resources coordinator position, requiring District staff to plan for additional meetings and time with the new coordinator and to take on a greater leadership role than originally anticipated. Administrator Bleser went through details of changes compared to the assumptions made in January 2017. She responded to questions from Manager Koch.

Manager Koch remarked he has a hard time approving after-the-fact work and said the sooner he knows about a change the better. He said he doesn’t want to get in the habit of approving after the fact because then everyone loses focus on being efficient. Manager Koch stated that going forward, he wants to see this type of request in advance. Manager Koch moved to approve the additional budget as set forth in the
memo in the meeting packet. President Ward suggested the Board should receive draw requests from Barr
Engineering as Barr spends this requested money because the District isn’t just going to write a check for
$38,000. Engineer Sobiech explained that the contract between the District and Barr Engineering is
structured based on time and materials, not to exceed. He added that Barr Engineering bills on a monthly
basis for the work completed the prior month. President Ward clarified that this request is anticipatory
and is for work that has not been completed. Engineer Sobiech responded correct. President Ward
seconded Manager Koch’s motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 5-0.

i. **Adopt Resolution 2019-021 – Rules**

Manager Ziegler commented on the definition listed for “land-locked basin.” He requested the definition
be revised by deleting the word, “natural” and changing “a” to “an.” Manager Koch remarked that the
sooner the District can add the guidances to the rules, the better. Engineer Sobiech clarified that staff
plans to develop a separate guidance document to accompany the rules. Manager Koch had a comment
about page 65 and the topic of permit fees. He noted that he would like more narrative and guidance
regarding what happens when there is a permit violation, and he will raise this comment at the January
regular meeting when the Board discusses permit fees. Manager Ziegler moved to adopt rules with his
modification regarding the land-locked basin definition and the guidance document to follow. Manager
Koch seconded the motion. Attorney Holtman stated that the Board has a resolution in front of it
regarding adopting the rules. Manager Ziegler moved to adopt Resolution 2019-021. Manager Crafton
seconded the motion. By call of roll, the motion carried 5-0.

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j. **Approve Purchase of iPads for Board of Managers for Official District Business**

Manager Koch moved to approve the District hiring an IT consultant to advise the District on going
digital and eliminating paper. The motion died due to lack of a second. There was a discussion about
moving from paper Board packets to digital packets and using tablets or various other devices. The Board
reached consensus to direct Administrator Bleser to investigate digital device options and report back at
the Board’s January monthly meeting.

9. **Discussion Items**

a. **Manager Report**
Manager Crafton reported on the resolutions that passed at the MAWD annual meeting, noting the two resolutions the District brought forward failed. President Ward said the managers were encouraged by the close vote on the resolution this District put forth regarding wake boarding, and the District should consider bringing it forward again next year. Administrator Bleser commented that several watershed representatives talked to her at the meeting about co-authoring the resolution for next year.

Manager Ziegler talked about attending a MAWD break out session about building ownership. He noted that the six representatives presenting on the topic communicated their watersheds were saving money by owning the building housing the watershed office, and the payback to the initial investment was in the seven- to ten-year range. Manager Ziegler noted that the District should keep its eyes open for opportunities.

b. Governance Manual
President Ward reported that the draft Governance Manual has been distributed to the managers and will be discussed at the next Governance Committee meeting, being held December 19.

c. Other
Manager Crafton said she attended the Soil and Water Conservation annual meeting and heard from three separate people who said soil structure may be the issue in this watershed in places where a high-water table is being pinpointed as an issue for storing water. She raised the idea of the District doing a pilot project to do research on soils and soil structure in the watershed.

10. Upcoming Board Topics

President Ward noted that upcoming Board topics are listed on the agenda and include Water Quality Report, Approve Task Order Wetland Restoration at Pioneer Trail, and Order Silver Lake Water Quality at Pleasant View Drive (on hold). He pointed out that upcoming events are listed on tonight’s meeting agenda.

11. Upcoming Events

- Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting, December 16, 2019, 6:00 p.m., District Office, 18681 Lake Drive East, Chanhassen
- Board of Managers Meeting, January 8, 2020, 7:00 p.m., District Office, 18681 Lake Drive East, Chanhassen
- Personnel Committee, January 17, 2020, 3:00 p.m., 18681 Lake Drive East, Chanhassen

12. Closed Session

Manager Ziegler made a motion to move into closed session to discuss a potential offer relating to real property PID 352360010. Manager Pedersen seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 5-0. The meeting moved into closed session at 9:35 p.m.
13. Adjournment

The closed session adjourned at 9:50 p.m. and the RPBCWD Board of Managers December meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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David Ziegler, Secretary