

MEETING MINUTES

Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District

August 27, 2018, Board of Managers Budget Workshop

PRESENT:

Managers: Jill Crafton, Treasurer

Larry Koch

Dorothy Pedersen, Vice President

Dick Ward, President

David Ziegler, Secretary

Staff: Claire Bleser, District Administrator

Maya Swope, RPBCWD

Louis Smith, Attorney (Smith Partners)

Scott Sobiech, Engineer (Barr Engineering Company)

Other attendees: Laurie Susla, CAC

1. Budget Workshop

President Ward opened the workshop on the RPBCWD's 2019 budget at 5:30 p.m. in the District Office, 18681 Lake Drive East, Chanhassen, MN 55317.

Administrator Bleser introduced the RPBCWD's draft 2019 budget and proposed 2019 levy in the amount of \$3,642,500.00, which is an increase of \$222,500 over the District's 2018 levy. She went line by line through the budget table, which was divided into the columns: budget description, 2018 Levy, 2018 Budget, Plan, and 2019 Levy. Manager Koch commented that going forward he would like the table to include a column that shows the current year's year-end anticipated spend for each line item.

Administrator Bleser described the anticipated 2019 revenues including the levy, \$25,000 in permit fees, and \$400,000 in grants. She highlighted budget changes compared to the District's 2018 budget, including a \$7,000 increase for insurance and bonds, a \$3,000 increase for dues/publications, a \$41,000 increase for office costs, a \$42,000 increase for permit review and inspection, a \$6,000 decrease for recorder services, a \$102,000 increase for staff cost, a new budget item of \$19,000 for chloride initiatives, the removal of the budget line for the Atlas 14/SMM model, and a \$2,000 increase for the plant restoration work via the University of Minnesota,

She noted that the 2019 budget includes \$5,000 for the 10-year Management Plan in case the District undertakes plan amendments. There was discussion about the 2019 proposed budget of \$200,000 for cost-shares.

Administrator Bleser noted that the District does have to provide matching funds for the cost-share projects. Manager Pedersen asked if the Board thought \$200,000 is enough funding. Manager Koch remarked that the Board and staff need to be conscious of what amount of its 2018 cost-share budget is not going to be spent this year. Administrator Bleser asked the Board if it wants to reduce the 2019 cost-share budget line from \$200,000 to \$100,000. Managers Koch and Ward agreed with that change.

Administrator Bleser talked about the funding of the District's multi-year projects including the Wetland Management, Opportunity Projects, Bluff Creek Tributary, Wetland Restoration and Flood Mitigation, Rice Marsh Lake Water Quality Improvement Phase I, Riley Creek Restoration (Reach E and D3), Upper Riley Creek Stabilization and Restoration, Silver Lake Restoration, and the Hyland Lake in-lake phosphorous load control.

The Board talked about its proposed 6.1% increase of the 2019 levy over the 2018 levy and how it would impact the taxpayers. Manager Koch asked staff to provide to the managers the numbers for the net increase in the District's tax base for 2019 over 2018 due to the boundary changes. He remarked that he would like staff and the Board to examine its proposed budget for line 26 - Opportunity Projects and line 15 - Cost-Share so that the Board can have a progressive budget that is not burdensome.

There was discussion about the timeline for publishing notifications and adopting the budget. Attorney Smith said that the Board will need to adopt its budget and levy amount in September, but it will have a public informational meeting in December at which time the District will have an idea of its 2018 carry-over funds and can act to modify its budget and reduce its levy amount. The Board agreed to have further budget discussion at its regular monthly meeting on September 5th and to hold on September 17 at 7 p.m. its public hearing to adopt its 2019 budget and levy.

President Ward asked for staff to provide the managers with more detail on the office costs, staff costs, and permit reviews. Administrator Bleser said she will provide to the managers the information they have requested and will forecast the budget and will submit the public notification pursuant to the Board's direction."

Manager Pedersen moved to close the workshop. Manager Crafton seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 5-0. The workshop adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Ziegler, Secretary