

MEETING MINUTES

Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District

February 4, 2015, Board of Managers Monthly Meeting

PRESENT:

Managers: Mary Bisek, Vice President
Jill Crafton, Treasurer
Perry Forster, President
Ken Wencl, Secretary
Leslie Yetka

Staff: Claire Bleser, RPBCWD Administrator
Michelle Jordan, RPBCWD Water Quality and Outreach Coordinator
Josh Maxwell, RPBCWD District Technician II/Compliance Officer
Louis Smith, Attorney (Smith Partners)
Scott Sobiech, Engineer (Barr Engineering Company)

Recorder: Amy Herbert

Other attendees: Bob Adomaitis, CAC
Tyler Beemer, Burns & McDonnell
Jim Boettcher, CAC
Paul Bulger, CAC
Mark Edlund, St. Croix Watershed Research Station
Laurie Hable, CAC
Pete Iverson, Eden Prairie

Matt Lindon, CAC
Sharon McCotter, CAC
Ed Mathiesen, Wenck Associates
Dan Murphy, Burns & McDonnell
Dorothy Pederson, CAC
Leslie Stovring, City of Eden Prairie
Mark Weber, CAC

1. Call to Order

President Forster called the RPBCWD Board of Managers on Wednesday, February 4, 2015, Board of Managers Monthly Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. at the RPBCWD District Office at 14500 Martin Drive, Suite 1500, Eden Prairie, MN 55344.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Administrator Bleser requested the addition the University of Minnesota Grant Program as item 13d under Managers Discussion and the addition of Plant Management as item 13e under Managers Discussion. Manager Crafton moved to approve the agenda as amended. Manager Bisek seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 5-0.

3. Presentation on Paleolimnological Study of Rice Marsh Lake

Administrator Bleser explained that in 2013 the District approved working with the Science Museum of Minnesota and the St. Croix Watershed Research Station to do a Paleolimnological study of Rice Marsh Lake. She said information would provide the District with a better understanding of what the Rice Marsh Lake system used to be and what has happened to it in the past 200 years. Administrator Bleser introduced Dr. Mark Edlund from the St. Croix Watershed Research Station and the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Edlund stated that a Paleolimnological study is the study of sediments at the bottom of a lake to determine the history of the lake. He said that at the bottom of every lake in Minnesota there's between 20 and 80 feet of sediment that has been accumulating since the glaciers retreated. Using a PowerPoint presentation, Dr. Edlund displayed information and summarized the major changes that affected Rice Marsh Lake. He listed the changes as post-settlement agriculture, suburban development, introduction of carp to the lake, and the wastewater treatment plant established on the lake from 1959-1972.

Dr. Edlund listed the recent management efforts to improve the lake's water quality including the management of carp and the stabilization of sediments upstream in the Lake Susan area. He reported that for the study a two-meter sediment core of Rice Marsh Lake was collected in May 2014. He described the sediment composition and pointed out that since 2000 there has been a decrease in the amount of sediment accumulation in the lake.

He discussed the study's analysis of diatoms and its purpose and talked about the lake's diatom stratigraphy. He noted that in recent years there has been a decrease in plankton and an increase in benthic organisms in the lake. He summarized that Rice Marsh Lake is a shallow, productive lake system and has been for its entire history. Dr. Edlund also described how the lake's algae communities have changed over time, which is understood by studying algal pigments in the sediment.

Dr. Edlund concluded that the study showed Rice Marsh Lake was likely a meso-eutrophic lake with a stable sedimentation rate in the late 1800s and early 1900s. He said the sedimentation rate doubled in the 1940s. Dr. Edlund reported that in the 1960s waste water treatment discharged into the lake and there was an increase in overall algal production. He stated that the most recent samples show that things are improving for the lake, indicated by the decrease in sedimentation and phosphorous in the lake. He said it looks like conditions are changing the lake back to what it used to be like. Dr. Edlund responded to questions.

4. Reading and Approval of Minutes

a. January 6, 2015, RPBCWD Joint Meeting with LMRWD, Board of Managers Monthly Meeting, and Public Hearing

Attorney Smith requested that the minute be revised on page 6 under item 7e so that the second sentence would read, "Smith Partners LLC as the District's official depository for assurances documents and for cash to be held in a separate escrow account." Manager Crafton noted that on page 6 under item 7c the name Steve Seegar should replace Scott Anderson for the TAC appointments. Manager Crafton moved to approve the minutes as amended. Manager Yetka seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 5-0.

5. Hearing and Discussion of Matters of General Public Interest

No matters were raised.

6. Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

Administrator Bleser reported that the District and the CAC held a joint Board of Managers and CAC workshop earlier today. She announced that the first CAC meeting will be on February 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the District office.

7. 2014 Budget Review and 2015 Budget Review

Administrator Bleser reminded the Board that this year the District has moved to having just one fund, the 509 Fund. She gave a brief summary of the balance of the District's 2014 budget. She noted that in 2014 the District expended a little more than budgeted for legal services primarily due to the rules process and for engineering services due to work reviewing potential permit-requiring projects in the period of time prior to the District's adoption of the rules.

Administrator Bleser recommended that the District authorize the \$70,000 budgeted to permit reviews to be allocated to the Engineering budget. She explained that the reviews occurred while the rules were in draft form and prior to the District's adoption of the rules so the cost of the reviews was allocated to the engineering budget instead of the permit review budget.

Administrator Bleser recommended that the District utilize the funds remaining in its General Fund and run that General Fund reserve down. She reminded the Board that funds indicated as still remaining in the 2014 Education and Outreach budget were allocated by the Board at its last meeting to pay for the master outreach and design templates.

Administrator Bleser talked about the remaining funds in the District's projects budget. She listed the District projects that are continuing from 2014 into 2015. She reminded the District that it received the 2013 Clean Water Legacy Grant for the District's Community Partners grant program. She talked in more detail about the District's hydrology model. She noted that the District approved \$30,000 in additional funding to complete the Purgatory Creek model, which was in addition to the originally approved \$80,000 budget. Administrator Bleser said that it hadn't been decided where the \$30,000 would come from and she recommends that those funds come from the University of Minnesota funds since there are remaining funds in that budget.

She stated that in the 509 Fund there are a couple of modifications needed. She said that budget needs to be updated to reflect that the District is receiving \$75,000 from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources for the Bluff Creek grant. Administrator Bleser also pointed out that funds were taken out of the survey fund to purchase the District microscope for zooplankton analysis. She summarized that overall for 2014 the District did not exceed expenditures compared to revenues.

Administrator Bleser responded to questions about the 2014 budget.

Administrator Bleser began the review of the District's 2015 budget. She stated that she has determined that the District needs to increase the amount in its 2015 office expenses budget because there will be more public notices to publish in the District's official publications than was anticipated during the budgeting process. She said that the budget for office and staff costs should increase to \$297,500 from the budgeted \$288,500 and that the difference should come from the District's contingency reserve.

She pointed out that the budget has a new line item for the Freshwater Society's Master Water Stewards program. She explained the program and the request for funding from the Freshwater Society for development of an online training program for master water stewards. Administrator Bleser explained that in the District's 2015 budget she adjusted the water quality reports line item down and allocated the difference to the Master Water Stewards line item. She described how the District staff will be able to handle aspects of the preparation and copying of reports

in house in the new District office, reducing those costs.

Administrator Bleser talked about 2015 projects. She reported that the District recently found out it is approved for two of the three grants it submitted to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources. She said that the District will be receiving approximately \$280,000 in grant funds. Administrator Bleser said that those two grant-winning projects were not identified in the District's 2015 projects, so the District will need to make some modifications to its 2015 projects. She proposed decreasing the 2015 budget for the iron-enhanced sand filings project to \$50,000, putting \$50,000 originally allocated to that project in reserve funds, and \$50,000 originally allocated to the project to be utilized for a feasibility study. She explained that implementation of the iron-enhanced sand filings project would be in 2016.

Administrator Bleser also proposed removing the \$300,000 budget for Lower Riley Creek because District staff is doing the creek restoration action strategies, which will help the District prioritize the reaches and the projects the District undertakes in each reach. She said her proposal means that the District would levy the \$300,000 for Lower Riley Creek in 2016 instead of in 2015. Administrator Bleser said that she recommends that the District levy the \$300,000 in 2015 for the Chanhassen Town Center project, which is one of the projects awarded a grant. She provided more details about that proposed project.

Administrator Bleser described the proposed Purgatory Creek Lakes Use Attainability Analysis and the proposed \$200,000 budget for the study of those lakes. Administrator Bleser proposed that the District move forward with a Paleolimnological study of Silver Lake and that the study would again be done through the Science Museum of Minnesota. She said that the remainder of the \$300,000 that the District would levy for these projects would go into a reserve fund.

Administrator Bleser recommended that the District do a major plan amendment now to add the Riley Creek watershed restoration project to the District's plan. She recommended that in 2016 the District look at updating its 10-year plan. Attorney Smith suggested that staff prepare the amendment and bring it to the Board. The Board agreed that staff should prepare the amendment and bring it to the Board next month.

Manager Crafton moved to adopt the revised 2015 budget as distributed this evening with the reallocation of the dollars as discussed and no change to the total dollar amount budgeted. Manager Wencil seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 5-0.

8. Treasurer's Report

Manager Crafton moved to approve payment of the bills. Manager Yetka seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 5-0.

9. Engineer's Report

Manager Yetka asked for an update on the Engineer's conversations with developers about the District's rules. Engineer Sobiech responded that the developers have been very willing to work with the District Engineer. Manager Bisek asked for an update on the elevation of the monitoring station at Purgatory Creek. Engineer Sobiech relayed the information and recommended that the District leave the station in its present location. Manager Wencil asked if there is a picture of what the spent lime treatment project will look like upon completion. Engineer Sobiech said that he will provide that to the Board next month.

Manager Bisek moved to accept the Engineer's Report. Manager Crafton seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 5-0.

10. Administrator's Report

Administrator Bleser described the new format of the Administrator's report and said that it now includes staff reports. She raised the idea of a GIS inspection system and said that the Administrator's report has appended to it a memo from Barr Engineering. Administrator Bleser recommended going forward with this initiative.

Administrator Bleser also talked about the letter from the City of Eden Prairie about a slope failure. She noted that a copy of the letter was in the meeting packet. She said that she and the other District staff members went out to the site and site photos are included in the Administrator's report. Administrator Bleser reported that the City of Eden Prairie is asking if the District would partner in the restoration of that area. She explained that the District is currently doing the CRAS to prioritize the sites for potential creek projects. Administrator Bleser talked in more detail about the slope failure site. Leslie Stovring of the City of Eden Prairie spoke about the site and the prioritization plan completed by the City at the request of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. She said that the site of this slope failure rose to the top of the list of critical areas and it was determined that the failure is not storm water-related but is creek-related.

Administrator Bleser said that the District hasn't yet had a conversation with the City and doesn't yet know the City's timeframe and what type of partnership it is seeking. She said she would prefer to have a dialog with the City of Eden Prairie and find out this information. Ms. Stovring noted that the City plans to start with the project this fall and there are two temporary measures being implemented now. Ed Mathiesen of Wenck Associates talked about the site and projected that the cost would be \$80,000 - \$100,000 for the repair. There was discussion. Ms. Stovring stated that her intent tonight was to let the Board know about the project.

Manager Yetka asked Administrator Bleser for more information about the Chanhassen Town Center Best Management Practices retrofit project. Administrator Bleser said that the District received a grant for this project, which is to analyze what can be done in that system to reduce storm water flow from going into the water bodies. She provided more information, and there was a brief discussion. Manager Bisek mentioned that this is an area in which the District would like to include signage as part of the project.

Manager Crafton moved to accept the Administrator's report. Manager Bisek seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 5-0.

11. Board Action

a. Lake Riley Alum Treatment

Administrator Bleser provided background on the Lake Riley Use Attainability Analysis and the Lake Riley Alum Treatment project. She said that the DNR, Wenck Associates, Dr. Sorensen's lab, Dr. Newman's lab, and the District met to discuss plant management and also the possible alum treatment on Lake Riley. She reported that the DNR is receptive of the District moving forward with the alum treatment. Administrator Bleser explained that the District is looking at targeting Curlyleaf pondweed and at tackling Eurasian watermilfoil followed by a first dosage of alum through a treatment this fall.

Administrator Bleser said that this proposal in front of the Board is action to move forward to do the feasibility for the project and the work involved in preparing the bid, figuring out the dosage, and managing the project. There was discussion.

Administrator Bleser recommended that the District hold a public hearing on this project. She said that Wenck Associates communicated that the public hearing would cost an additional \$600 to the amount in the original process. The managers indicated support for holding a public hearing. Administrator Bleser

stated that the cost including the public hearing would be a not-to-exceed amount of \$47,200.

Manager Bisek moved to accept the proposal including the \$600 for the cost of holding the public hearing and the cost identified in Table 2 of the proposal. There was no second to the motion.

Manager Wencl moved that this item be deferred to the Board's next monthly meeting.

There was discussion. Attorney Smith summarized that the Board members' discussion centered on:

- Where does this project fit in terms of the District's plan
- The benefits of alum
- The opportunity for the public to hear about this project

Attorney Smith noted that the District is not legally required to hold a public hearing for this type of expenditure.

Manager Crafton seconded the motion to defer this item to the Board's next monthly meeting.

Attorney Smith explained that the District doesn't need to notice the discussion of the project as a public hearing but the District needs to make it clear to its constituents that the item will be on the meeting agenda. There was more discussion. President Forster said that the CAC may want to take up this topic at its upcoming meeting. Upon a vote, the motion carried 5-0.

b. Olympic Hills Golf Course (permit)

Manager Crafton moved to approve the permit. Manager Yetka seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 5-0.

c. Bylaws and Governance Manual

Administrator Bleser reported that these documents have been updated with new dates and the District's new address. Manager Yetka moved to approve the Bylaws and Governance Manual. Manager Bisek seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 5-0.

12. Manager's Discussion

a. 2015-2016 Education and Outreach Plan

Michelle Jordan handed out the draft 2015-2016 Education and Outreach Plan. She presented the plan to the Board.

b. AIS Strategies and Goals

Administrator Bleser recommended deferring this item to the Board's next monthly meeting. The Board consented.

c. Newman Proposal

Administrator Bleser said that the District received the proposal from Dr. Ray Newman for work to start in April. She said that this would be a separate grant with Dr. Newman, and she would like to add this as an action item for the Board's March meeting. The Board consented to adding the item to the March agenda.

d. Plant Management

Administrator Bleser said that to-date the discussion with the City of Eden Prairie hasn't happened, but the City will see the Plant Management Plan presentation in the next couple of weeks. She recommended that this item be added as an action item to the Board's March agenda. The Board consented to adding the

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item to the March agenda.

13. Upcoming Events

- **CAC Meeting**, Monday, February 16, 2015, 6:30 p.m., RPBCWD Office

14. Adjourn

Manager Yetka moved to adjourn the meeting. Manager Crafton seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Wencil, Secretary