

18681 Lake Drive East Chanhassen, MN 55317 952-607-6512 www.rpbcwd.org

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District Permit Application Review

Permit No: 2023-012

Considered at Board of Managers Meeting: October 4, 2023

Application Received complete: July 27, 2023 (application-review period extend by 60 days on September 19, 2023)

Applicant: Mesenbrink Construction

Consultant: Rehder & Associates, Inc., Nick Adams

 Project:
 Audubon Business Park – The applicant proposes constructing 2 office/warehouse buildings, associated site improvements including the removal of a small portion of McGlynn Road. The stormwater management system includes filtration and infiltration basins to provide water quality treatment, rate control, and volume abstraction.

 Leasting
 Southwart corner of User 5 and Auduban Boad. Chambastan

Location: Southwest corner of Hwy 5 and Audubon Road, Chanhassen

Reviewer: Katherine Tomaska, EIT; Scott Sobiech, PE, Barr Engineering

Potential Board Variance Action

Manager ______ moved and Manager ______ seconded adoption of the following resolution based on the permit report that follows, the presentation of the matter at the October 4, 2023, meeting of the managers and the managers' findings, as well as the factual findings in the permit report that follows:

Resolved that the variance request for Permit 2023-012 from compliance with Rule B, subsection 3.2b is approved, based on the facts and analysis provided by the RPBCWD engineer below and placed in the record at the October 4, 2023 meeting of the managers, and the managers' findings in the record of the October 4 meeting, and subject to the following conditions: 1. [CONDITION(S)],

Proposed Board Action

Manager ______ moved and Manager ______ seconded adoption of the following resolutions based on the permit report that follows and the presentation of the matter at the October 4, 2023 meeting of the managers:

Resolved that the application for Permit 2023-012 is approved, subject to the conditions and stipulations set forth in the Recommendations section of the attached report;

Resolved that on determination by the RPBCWD administrator that the conditions of approval of the permit have been affirmatively resolved, the RPBCWD president or administrator is authorized and directed to sign and deliver Permit 2023-012 to the applicant on behalf of RPBCWD.

Upon vote, the resolutions were adopted, _____ [VOTE TALLY].

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Applicable Rule Conformance Summary

Rule	lssue	Conforms to Rules	RBPCWD ?	Comments
В	Floodplain Management and Drainage Alterations	No		See Rule K Variance discussion for compensatory storage not being provided within the floodplain of the same waterbody.
С	Erosion Control Plan	See Comment		See rule-specific permit condition C1 related to name of individual responsible for on-site erosion control.
D	Wetland and Creek Buffer	See Comment		See rule-specific permit condition D1 related to recordation of buffer maintenance declaration.
J	Stormwater	Rate	Yes	
	Management	Volume	Yes	
		Water Quality	Yes	
		Low Floor Elev.	Yes	
		Maintenance	Yes	See rule-specific permit condition J1 related to recordation of stormwater facilities maintenance declaration.
		Chloride Management	See Comment	See stipulation #4.
		Wetland Protection	NA	
К	Variances and Exceptions	See Comment		Variance from compensatory storage location requirements in subsection 3.2 of the Floodplain Management and Drainage Alteration Rule requested. See Rule Specific Permit Condition K1
L	Permit Fee	Yes		\$3000 received April 4, 2023 with an additional \$2,000 variance fee received on April 13, 2023. The applicant must replenish the permit fee deposit to the original amount due before the permit will be issued. As of September 28 the amount due is \$6,709
М	Financial Assurance	See Comment		The financial assurance is calculated at \$485,576.

Project Description

The proposed work will redevelop a 28-acre site at the southwest corner of Hwy 5 and Audubon Road Chanhassen, Minnesota. The existing site consists of old farmland and a small portion of McGlynn Road. The applicant proposes constructing 2 office/warehouse buildings and associated site improvements (e.g., utilities, parking, hardscape, stormwater management facilities, and landscape). The stormwater management system includes the construction of one wet pond and five infiltration basins to provide water quality treatment, rate control, and volume abstraction.

There are six wetlands onsite under existing conditions, four of which will be filled and replaced under a Wetland Conservation Act replacement plan approved by the City of Chanhassen, acting as the local government unit administering WCA. No disturbance is proposed of the two remaining wetlands. The water resources within the project site or downgradient of the proposed activities are summarized in the following table. The table also provides a brief explanation of how each resource is implicated in the permit application review process.

Water Resource	Projected resource impacts
Wetland 1	A Wetland Conservation Act-protected, medium value wetland onsite and downgradient from proposed land-disturbing activities.
Wetland 2	A Wetland Conservation Act-protected, medium value wetland onsite and downgradient from proposed land-disturbing activities.
Wetland 3	A 0.21-acre Wetland Conservation Act-protected wetland, medium value onsite that the city of Chanhassen, the local government unit (LGU) responsible for administering the Wetland Conservation Act, allowed to be filled. Compensatory storage for the floodplain fill will be provided.
Wetland 4	A 0.17-acre Wetland Conservation Act-protected, medium value wetland onsite that the city of Chanhassen, the LGU responsible for administering the Wetland Conservation Act, allowed to be filled. Compensatory storage for the floodplain fill will be provided.
Wetland 5	A 0.12-acre Wetland Conservation Act-protected, medium value wetland onsite that the city of Chanhassen, the LGU responsible for administering the Wetland Conservation Act, allowed to be filled. Compensatory storage for the floodplain fill will be provided.
Wetland 6	A 0.01-acre Wetland Conservation Act-protected, medium value wetland onsite that the city of Chanhassen, the LGU responsible for administering the Wetland Conservation Act, allowed to be filled. Compensatory storage for the floodplain fill will be provided.

Water resource impacted by proposed project

The project site information is summarized below:

	Area (acres)
Total Site Area	28.34
Existing Site Impervious Area	0.48 ¹
Post Construction Site Impervious	18.69
Distributed Impervious Area	0.48
	(100% disturbed)
Increase in Site Impervious Area	18.21
	(>100% increase)
Regulated Impervious area	18.69
Total Disturbed Area	27.8

¹ The existing impervious surface on the site is associated with the McGlynn Road cul-de-sac.

Exhibits:

- Permit Application received March 18, 2023 (The applicant was informed on April 6, 2023 that the application was incomplete because of missing information related to Rule B analysis, Rule D analysis, Rule J analysis, and a variance request. Materials completing the application were received on July 27, 2023. RPBCWD extended the review timeline by 60 days in accordance with Minn. Stat. sec. 15.99)
- Stormwater Management Report dated March 19, 2023 (revised June 6, 2023; June 16, 2023; July 27, 2023; August 30, 2023)
- 3. Project Plan Set dated March 19, 2023 (revised June 2, 2023; July 27, 2023; August 30, 2023)
- 4. Electronic P8 and HydroCAD models received on March 20, 2023 (revised June 2, 2023; July 27, 2023; August 31, 2023)
- 5. Federal Package Wetland Permit, received March 18, 2023
- 6. Geotechnical Report, dated November 3, 2023
- 7. MNRAM Wetland Functional Assessment Summary received April 15, 2023
- 8. Infiltration Basin Cross Section Exhibits received June 2, 2023
- 9. Infiltrometer Testing Results received June 2, 2023
- 10. Landscape Plans dated
- 11. Engineer's Opinion of Probable Cost for Stormwater Management features dated June 1, 2023 (revised July 27, 2023; August 30, 2023)
- 12. Variance Request Memorandum dated June 2, 2023 (revised August 30, 2023)
- 13. Minnesota WCA Notice of Decision dated July 20, 2023
- 14. Response to RPBCWD Comments dated July 27, 2023
- 15. Response to RPBCWD Comments dated August 31, 2023

Rule Specific Permit Conditions

Rule B: Floodplain Management and Drainage Alterations

Because the project involves work or fill placement below the 100-year flood elevation of Wetlands 3, 4, 5, and 6, the project must conform to the requirements in the RPBCWD Floodplain Management and Drainage Alterations rule (Rule B, Subsection 2.1).

Because the project proposes new structures, the project must conform with low floor elevation requirements set forth by Rule B, Subsection 3.1. The following table summarizes the low floor analysis for the proposed lowest structure adjacent to the respective floodplain of interest. The lowest proposed structure elevations meet the freeboard requirement in Rule B, Subsection 3.1 by providing at least two feet of freeboard.

Building	Low Floor Elevation of Building (feet)	100-year Event Flood Elevation of Adjacent Stormwater Facility (feet)	Freeboard (feet)
North Building	977.5	968.9	8.6
South Building	977.5	970.5	7.0

Placement of fill below the 100-year flood elevation is prohibited unless fully compensatory flood storage is provided within the floodplain of the same waterbody (Rule B, Subsection 3.2). Compensatory storage must be provided at or below the same elevation for fill in the floodplain of a water basin (Rule B, Subsection 3.2b).

The following table summarizes the proposed fill and compensatory storage for each waterbody impacted by the project. The supporting materials demonstrate, and the RPBCWD Engineer concurs, that the proposed project will result in a net increase in floodplain storage for site. Because the LGU for WCA approved the elimination of Wetlands 3, 4, 5, and 6, the compensatory storage for filling in the floodplains will not be provided within the floodplain of the same waterbody. The applicant has requested a variance from compliance with this requirement of Rule B, Subsection 3.2b. See the Rule K discussion for additional information on the variance request.

Water Resource	100-Year Elevation (feet)	Proposed Fill (CY)	Proposed Feature Providing Compensatory Storage ¹	Proposed Compensatory Storage (CY)
Wetland 3	969.18	623.8	Infiltration Basin 4 ¹	654.3
Wetland 4	972.84	90.7	Wet detention	7,658
Wetland 5	964.84	30.5	Basin/Infiltration Basin 1	
Wetland 6	970.74	33.7		

¹ Infiltration Basin 4 provides compensatory storage is in the same subwatershed to the next downgradient receiving waterbody as Wetland 3, and the proposed wet detention basin/Infiltration Basin 1 are in the same subwatershed as wetlands 4, 5 and 6.

The engineer concurs with the applicant provided runoff modeling results that demonstrate the proposed project will decrease the flow rates leaving the site relative to existing conditions (see the rate control analysis in Rule J below). Because the proposed flow rates leaving the site will be lower than existing flow rates the project is not reasonably likely to adversely impact off-site flood risk or channel stability. The applicant also provided pre- and post-project water quality modeling to demonstrate no adverse impact to water quality. The modeling results show the total suspended solids and total phosphorus load leaving the site after the project will be less than the existing load leaving the site. This also supports the engineer's determination that the project meets the requirements of Rule B, subsection 3.3. Because no watercourses exist on the site, Rule B, Subsection 3.4 does not impose requirements on the project. See Rule C analysis

of the applicant's submitted erosion control plan to demonstrate conformance with Rule B, Subsection 3.5. A note on the plans indicates that activities must be conducted to minimize the potential transfer of aquatic invasive species conforming to Rule B, Subsection 3.6.

With the exception of compensatory storage within the floodplain of the same waterbody, which is the subject of the applicant's variance request, the proposed project conforms to the floodplain management and drainage alteration requirements of Rule B.

Rule C: Erosion and Sediment Control

Because the project will alter 27.8 acres of land-surface area the project must conform to the requirements in the RPBCWD Erosion and Sediment Control rule (Rule C, Subsection 2.1).

The erosion control plan prepared by Loucks includes installation of silt fence, inlet protection for storm sewer catch basins, daily inspection, placement of a minimum of 6 inches of topsoil, decompaction of areas compacted during construction, and retention of native topsoil onsite. To conform to the RPBCWD Rule C requirements the following revisions are needed:

C1. The Applicant must provide the name and contact information of the individual responsible for erosion control at the site. RPBCWD must be notified if the responsible individual changes during the permit term.

Rule D: Wetland and Creek Buffers

Because the proposed work triggers a permit under RPBCWD Rule B and Rule J and two wetlands (wetland 1 and 2) protected by the state Wetland Conservation Act will remain downgradient from the proposed land-disturbing activities, Rule D, Subsections 2.1a and 3.1 require buffers.

The City of Chanhassen is the LGU administering WCA requirements and in that capacity approved elimination of Wetlands 3, 4, 5, and 6 (totaling 1.05 acres) as part of the proposed construction activities, leaving no wetland to buffer. Because the applicant proposes land-disturbing activities upgradient from wetland 1 and 2, Subsection 3.1b requires wetland buffer along the portion of the wetlands that are downgradient from the land-disturbing activities.



A MnRAM analysis indicates that Wetland 1 and Wetland 2 are a medium value wetlands. Rule D, Subsection 3.1.b.iii requires a wetland buffer with an average of 40 feet from the delineated edge of the wetland, minimum 20 feet. As summarized in the table below, the proposed buffer widths are compliant with Rule D, Subsection 3.1.b.iii.

Wetland ID	RPBCWD Wetland Value	Required Minimum Width (ft)	Required Average Width (ft)	Required Area (sq ft)	Provided Area (sq ft)	Provided Minimum Width (ft)	Provided Average Width (ft)
Wetland 1	Medium	20	40	11,765	13,289	39.5	56.8
Wetland 2	Medium	20	40	12,554	12,630	22	40.2

The plan requires revegetating disturbed areas within the proposed buffer with Board of Water and Soil Resources native vegetation seed mx for wetland fringes to conform with Rule D, Subsection 3.3. The engineer's review of plan sheets shows that buffer markers will be placed per District criteria (Subsection 3.4). A note is included on the plan sheet indicating the project will be constructed so as to minimize the potential transfer of aquatic invasive species (e.g., zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, etc.) to the maximum extent possible conforming to Rule D, Subsection 3.5.

To conform to the RPBCWD Rule D the following revisions are needed:

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D1. Buffer areas and maintenance requirements must be documented in a declaration recorded after review and approval by RPBCWD in accordance with Rule D, Subsection 3.5. Permit applicant must provide a maintenance declaration. A draft declaration must be provided for District review prior to recording.

Rule J: Stormwater Management

Because the development project will alter 27.8 acres of land-surface area the project must meet the criteria of RPBCWD's Stormwater Management rule (Rule J, Subsection 2.1). Because the applicant proposes to disturb 100% of the existing site impervious surface on the site, the criteria in section 3 apply to the entire site (Rule J, subsection 2.3).

The project includes installation of storm sewer to route runoff to one wet detention basin and five infiltration basins to provide water quality treatment, rate control, and volume abstraction.

Rate Control

In order to meet the rate control criteria listed in Subsection 3.1.a, the 2-, 10-, and 100-year post development peak runoff rates must be equal to or less than the existing discharge rates at all locations where stormwater leaves the site. The applicant used a HydroCAD hydrologic model to simulate runoff rates for pre- and post-development conditions for the 2-, 10-, and 100-year frequency storm events using a nested rainfall distribution, and a 100-year frequency, 10-day snowmelt event. The existing and proposed 2-, 10-, and 100-year frequency discharges from the site are summarized in the table below. The proposed project is in conformance with RPBCWD Rule J, Subsection 3.1.a.

Discharge Location	2-Year D (c)ischarge fs)	10-Year Discharge (cfs)		100-Year Discharge (cfs)		10-Day Snowmelt Discharge (cfs)	
	Ex	Prop	Ex	Prop	Ex	Prop	Ex	Prop
West	7.8	1.5	16.3	2.6	37.1	5.1	<0.1	<0.1
Wetland 1	15.7	15.2	34.2	20.7	79.3	31.4	0.1	<0.1
Northeast	2.7	0.1	6.1	0.7	15.3	2.9	<0.1	<0.1
Audubon	3.6	3.5	8.6	4.5	22.2	6.6	<0.1	<0.1
McGlynn	8.1	3.1	15.5	5.2	33.3	10.1	<0.1	<0.1
Coulter	2.6	2.4	5.3	2.8	11.9	3.8	<0.1	<0.1

Volume Abstraction

Subsection 3.1.b of Rule J requires the abstraction onsite of 1.1 inches of runoff from the impervious surface of the parcel. An abstraction volume of 74,627 cubic feet is required from the 18.69 acres of regulated impervious area. Forty-nine soil borings completed by Itco Allied Engineering Co. show that soils in the project area are typically sandy clay loam, clay loam, or clay. Itco Allied Engineering Co. also

completed 13 double ring infiltrometer tests on the existing soils and determined the infiltration rates of the existing soils to be 0.06-1.8 inches per hour beneath the proposed stormwater management features. Because some of the test exhibited atypical patterns (i.e., increasing infiltration over time) raising concerns over the validity of the test results, the RPBCWD engineer concurs design infiltration rate of 0.06 inches per hour. Because of the low in-situ infiltration measurements at some locations and the identifications of redoximorphic soils, the site is considered restricted. While groundwater was not observed in any of the borings, several borings identified of redoximorphic soils suggesting evidence of seasonal high groundwater. The subsurface investigation information summarized in the table below supports a determination that groundwater is at least 3 feet below the bottom of the proposed infiltration stormwater facilities (Rule J, Subsection 3.1.b.2.a).

Proposed BMP	Nearest Subsurface Investigation	Boring is within footprint?	Groundwater Elevation (feet)	BMP Bottom Elevation (feet)	Separation (feet)
Wet Basin	B-5 (2022)	Yes	Mottled soils observed at Elevation 963.7 ft	958	No
Infiltration Basin 1	B-2 (2022)	Yes	No groundwater observed at boring bottom (approx. el 944.4 ft)	962	Yes
Infiltration Basin 2	B-1 & B-2 (2023)	Yes	No groundwater observed at boring bottom (approx. el 948.0 ft)	966	Yes
Infiltration Basin 3	B-3 & B-4 (2023)	Yes	No groundwater observed at boring bottom (approx. el 953.0 ft)	968	Yes
Infiltration Basin 4	B-5 (2023)	Yes	No groundwater observed at boring bottom (approx. el 953.0 ft)	966	Yes
Infiltration Basin 5	B-6 (2023)	Yes	No groundwater	968.5	Yes

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Because the engineer concurs that the predominate soil type at the site and the identification of redoximorphic soils supports that the abstraction standard in Subsection 3.1 of Rule J cannot practicably be met, the site is considered a restricted site and stormwater runoff volume must be provided in accordance with Subsection 3.3 of Rule J. For restricted sites, Subsection 3.3 of Rule J requires rate control in accordance with Subsection 3.1a and that abstraction and water quality protection be provided in accordance with the following sequence: (a)Abstraction of 0.55 inches of runoff from site impervious surface determined in accordance with paragraphs 2.3, 3.1 or 3.2, as applicable, and treatment of all runoff to the standard in paragraph 3.1c; or (c) Off-site abstraction and treatment in the watershed to the standards in paragraph 3.1b and 3.1c.

Based on the presence of predominately clay soils at the site and some of the infiltration tests exhibiting atypical patterns, the RPBCWD engineer concurs design infiltration rates of 0.06 inches per hour beneath three proposed infiltration basins and 0.165 inches per hour beneath two proposed infiltration basins. The engineer finds that under the design infiltration rate, the infiltration basins will draw down within 48 hours (Rule J, subsection 3.1biii). Plans indicate pretreatment for runoff entering the infiltration basins is provided by sump manholes and rain guardian turrets thus the proposed project conforms with RPBCWD Rule J, Subsection 3.1b.1.

The designed abstraction performance for the project site is summarized in the table below and demonstrates that the proposed infiltration on the site will conform with the volume abstraction requirement in subsection 3.3a.

	Abstraction Depth (inches)	Abstraction Volume (cubic feet)
Required	0.55	37,314
Provided	0.57	38,348

Water Quality Management

Subsection 3.1.c of Rule J requires the Applicant to provide for at least 60 percent annual removal efficiency for total phosphorus (TP), and at least 90 percent annual removal efficiency for total suspended solids (TSS) from site runoff, and no net increase in TSS or TP loading leaving the site from existing conditions. The Applicant is proposing to use a wet detention pond and five infiltration basins to achieve the required TP and TSS removals.

The P8 modeling results of runoff from the site summarized in tables below show the annual TSS and TP removal requirement is achieved and that there is no net increase in TSS and TP leaving the site. The

engineer concurs with the modeling and finds that the proposed project is in conformance with Rule J, Subsection 3.1.c.

Pollutant of Interest	Regulated Site Loading (lbs/yr)	Required Load Removal (lbs/yr)	Provided Load Reduction (lbs/yr)	
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	14,788	13,309 (90%)	13,368 (90.4%)	
Total Phosphorus (TP)	48.2	28.9 (60%)	38.0 (78.8%)	

Annual TSS and TP removal summary

Summary of net change in 155 and 17 leaving the site							
Pollutant of Interest	Existing Site Loading (lbs/yr)	Proposed Site Load after Treatment (lbs/yr)	Change (lbs/yr)				
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	3,412	1,419	-1,993				
Total Phosphorus (TP)	11.7	10.2	-1.5				

Summary of net change in TSS and TP leaving the site

Low floor Elevation

All new buildings must be constructed such that the lowest floor is at least two feet above the 100-year high water elevation or one foot above the emergency overflow of a stormwater-management facility according to Rule J, Subsection 3.6a. In addition, a stormwater-management facility must be constructed at an elevation that ensures that no adjacent habitable building will be brought into noncompliance with this requirement according to Rule J, Subsection 3.6b. The low floor elevation of the proposed buildings and the adjacent stormwater management feature or waterbody are summarized below.

Stormwater Facility	Low Floor Elevation of Building (feet)	100-year Event Flood Elevation of Adjacent Stormwater Facility (feet)	Freeboard (feet)
North Building	977.5	968.9	8.6
South Building	977.5	970.5	7.0

Because the provided separation is greater than the minimum required, the elevation and location of the proposed stormwater facilities meet the requirements in Rule J, Subsection 3.6.

Maintenance

Subsection 3.7 of Rule J requires the submission of a maintenance declaration. All stormwater management structures and facilities must be designed for maintenance access and properly maintained in perpetuity to assure that they continue to function as designed.

J1. Permit applicant must provide a maintenance and inspection declaration as required by Rule J, Subsection 3.7. A maintenance declaration template is available on the permits page of the RPBCWD website (http://www.rpbcwd.org/permits/). A draft declaration must be provided for District approval prior to recordation and documentation of recordation must be provided to RPBCWD as a condition of issuance of the permit

Chloride Management

Subsection 3.8 of Rule J requires the submission of chloride management plan that designates the individual authorized to implement the chloride management plan and the MPCA-certified salt applicator engaged in implementing the plan. To close out the permit and release the \$5,000 in financial assurance held for the purpose, Permit applicant must provide a chloride management plan that designates the individual authorized to implement the chloride management plan.

Wetland Protection

Because runoff from this site is directly tributary to on-site medium value wetlands, the project must comply with the wetland protection criteria in Rule J, Subsection 3.10

The following table summarizes the allowable change in bounce and inundation duration from Table J1 of RPBCWD Rule J. The information summarized in the following table also summarizes the applicant's analysis for wetland protection and the potential impacts on the wetlands. The hydrologic models demonstrate that the duration of inundation has not been increased from existing conditions. The submitted materials demonstrate, and the RPBCWD engineer concurs, that project is in conformance with Rule J, Subsection 3.10a for the medium value wetland at the site.

Wetland	RPBCWD Wetland Value	Change in Bounce for, 10-Year Event (feet)	1-year change in Inundation Period (days)	2-year change in Inundation Period (days)	10-year change in Inundation Period (days)	Runout Control Elevation1
Rule J, Table J1 Criteria	Medium	Existing +/- 1.0 feet	Existing+2 days	Existing+2 days	Existing +14 days	0 to 1.0 ft above existing runout
Wetland 1	Medium	0.06	0	0	0	No change
Wetland 2	Medium	0.01	0	0	0	No change

Rule J, Subsection 3.10b requires that treatment of runoff to medium value wetlands archive 90 percent total suspended solids removal and 60 percent total phosphorus removal. P8 modeling results summarized in the below table show the proposed project is in conformance with Rule J, Subsection 3.10b.

Wetland	RPBCWD Wetland Value	TSS Removal (%)	TP Removal (%)
Criteria	Medium	90	60
Wetland 1	Medium	92.9	80.7
Wetland 2	Medium	95.8	88.9

Rule K: Variances and Exceptions

Rule B subsection 3.2 requires compensatory flood storage within the floodplain of the same waterbody. The Applicant requested a variance from this provision of RPBCWD's Rule B – Floodplain Management and Drainage Alterations.

Rule K requires the Board of Managers to find that because of unique conditions inherent to the subject property the application of rule provisions will impose a practical difficulty on the Applicant. Assessment of practical difficulty is conducted against the following criteria:

- 1. how substantial the variation is from the rule provision;
- 2. the effect of the variance on government services;
- 3. whether the variance will substantially change the character of or cause material adverse effect to water resources, flood levels, drainage or the general welfare in the District, or be a substantial detriment to neighboring properties;
- 4. whether the practical difficulty can be alleviated by a technically and economically feasible method other than a variance. Economic hardship alone may not serve as grounds for issuing a variance if any reasonable use of the property exists under the terms of the District rules;
- 5. how the practical difficulty occurred, including whether the landowner, the landowner's agent or representative, or a contractor, created the need for the variance; and
- 6. in light of all of the above factors, whether allowing the variance will serve the interests of justice.

The local government unit (LGU) administering the WCA, City of Chanhassen, approved the elimination of Wetland 3, 4, 5, and 6. Rule B subsection 3.2 requires compensatory flood storage within the floodplain of the same waterbody. The Applicant requested variances from this provision of RPBCWD's Rule B – Floodplain Management and Drainage Alterations. The applicant asserts that the need for the variance results from the unique condition of the LGU's having approved complete elimination of the wetlands. Following is the RPBCWD engineer's assessment of information received relevant to the applicant's request for a variance from the requirement that the applicant provide compensatory flood storage within the floodplain of the same waterbody:

Related to variance criterion 1 – The project will involve 778.8 cubic yards of fill and 8,312.3 cubic yards of compensatory storage below the respective 100-year flood elevations (see below table) but outside floodplain of the wetlands, thus providing a net increase of 7,533.6 cubic yards of floodplain storage. This flood storage is also used for stormwater management on the site.

Water Resource	100-Year Elevation (feet)	Proposed Fill (CY)	Proposed Feature Providing Compensatory Storage	Proposed Compensatory Storage (CY)
Wetland 3	969.18	623.8	Infiltration Basin 4	654.3
Wetland 4	972.84	90.7	NURP	7,658
Wetland 5	964.84	30.5	Basin/Infiltration Basin 1	
Wetland 6	970.74	33.7		

- With regard to variance criteria 2 and 3 Because the proposed project will reduce the site discharge volume and rate leaving the site relative to existing conditions, as discussed in the Rule J analysis, the proposed project is not reasonably likely to cause off-site adverse impacts. Because the project involves a net increase of storage below the 100-year flood elevation of the wetlands being filled, the proposed alterations are not likely to adversely affect offsite governmental services, water resources, flood levels, or neighboring properties. The proposed variance only impacts the applicant's property.
- Technical measures incorporated into the project plan to alleviate the practical difficulty (variance criterion 4) include creation of compensatory flood storage volume in the wet detention basin and five infiltration basins to comply with RPBCWD regulatory requirements, but not within the same floodplains. Routing the developed site runoff to the proposed stormwater management facilities will allow the runoff to be stored in the facilities resulting in reduced site discharge as summarized in the rate control analysis of Rule J above. Because the Wetlands 3, 4, 5, and 6 will no longer exist the compensatory storage cannot be provided within the floodplain of the same wetland.
- With regard to variance criterion 5, the applicant has created the circumstances leading to the variances, though it did so with the approval of another relevant regulatory body, the LGU administering WCA.

Because the project increase flood storage below the existing 100-year flood elevations of Wetlands 3, 4, 5, and 6, which the LGU is allowing to be filled, the engineer finds there is an adequate technical basis for the managers to rely on to grant the requested variance. To offset the loss of some of the wetland and floodplain functions, the engineer recommends the applicant revise the design of the wet detention basin to promote and establish wetland characteristics.

Rule L: Permit Fee Deposit:

The RPBCWD permit fee schedule adopted in February 2020 requires permit applicants to deposit \$3,000 to be held in escrow and applied to cover the \$10 permit-processing fee and reimburse RPBCWD for permit review and inspection-related costs and when a permit application is approved, the deposit must be replenished to the applicable deposit amount by the applicant before the permit will be issued to cover actual costs incurred to monitor compliance with permit conditions and the RPBCWD Rules. A permit fee deposit of \$3,000 was received on April 4, 2023. The applicant also provided an additional \$2,000 fee related to the variance request on April 13, 2023. The applicant must replenish the permit fee deposit to the original amount due before the permit will be issued. Subsequently, if the costs of review, administration, inspections and closeout-related or other regulatory activities exceed the fee deposit amount, the applicant will be required to replenish the deposit to the original amount or such lesser amount as the RPBCWD administrator deems sufficient within 30 days of receiving notice that such deposit is due. The administrator will close out the relevant application or permit and revoke prior approvals, if any, if the permit-fee deposit is not timely replenished.

L1. The applicant must replenish the permit fee deposit to the original amount due before the permit will be issued. As of September 28, 2023 the amount due is \$6,709.

Rule M: Financial Assurance:

	Unit	Unit Cost	# of Units	Total
Rule C: Erosion Control				
Silt Fence	LF	\$2.50	10,400	\$26,000
Inlet Protection	EA	\$100	36	\$3,600
Rock Entrance	EA	\$250	1	\$250
Restoration	Ac	\$2,500	27.8	\$69,500
Rule D: Wetland and Creek Buffers		\$5,000	1	\$5,000
Rule J: Chloride Management	LS	\$5,000	1	\$5,000
Rule J: Stormwater Management		125% OPC	1	\$332,083
One detention basin and five infiltration basins:				
125% of engineer's opinion of cost (\$265,666)				
Contingency (10%)		10%		\$44,143
Total Financial Assurance				\$485,576

Applicable General Requirements:

- 1. The RPBCWD Administrator and Engineer shall be notified at least three days prior to commencement of work.
- 2. Construction must be consistent with the plans, specifications, and models that were submitted by the applicant that were the basis of permit approval. The date(s) of the approved plans, specifications, and modeling are listed on the permit. The grant of the permit does not in any way relieve the permittee, its engineer, or other professional consultants of responsibility for the permitted work.
- 3. The grant of the permit does not relieve the permittee of any responsibility to obtain approval of any other regulatory body with authority.
- 4. The issuance of this permit does not convey any rights to either real or personal property, or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights, nor any infringement of federal, state, or local laws or regulations.
- 5. In all cases where the doing by the permittee of anything authorized by this permit involves the taking, using or damaging of any property, rights or interests of any other person or persons, or of any publicly owned lands or improvements or interests, the permittee, before proceeding therewith, must acquire all necessary property rights and interest.
- 6. RPBCWD's determination to issue this permit was made in reliance on the information provided by the applicant. Any substantive change in the work affecting the nature and extent of applicability of RPBCWD regulatory requirements or substantive changes in the methods or means of compliance with RPBCWD regulatory requirements must be the subject of an application for a permit modification to the RPBCWD.
- If the conditions herein are met and the permit is issued by RPBCWD, the applicant, by accepting the permit, grants access to the site of the work at all reasonable times during and after construction to authorized representatives of the RPBCWD for inspection of the work.

Findings

- 1. The proposed project includes the information necessary, plan sheets and erosion control plan for review.
- 2. The proposed project conforms to Rule B except the applicant has requested a variance from compliance with the Rule B criteria related to compensatory storage within the same floodplain.
- 3. The proposed project will conform to Rules C, D, and J if the Rule Specific Permit Conditions listed above are met.

Recommendation:

Approval of the permit contingent upon:

- 1. Financial Assurance in the amount of \$485,576.
- 2. Applicant providing the name and contact information of the individual responsible for erosion and sediment control at the site.
- Receipt in recordation a maintenance declaration for maintenance of the wetland buffer and associated maintenance requirements as well as all stormwater management facilities. Drafts of all documents to be recorded must be provided to the District for review and approval prior to recordation.
- 4. Receipt of revised plans revising the design of the wet detention basin to promote and establish wetland characteristics and function.
- 5. The applicant must replenish the permit fee deposit to the original amount due before the permit will be issued. As of September 28, 2023 the amount due is \$6,709.

By accepting the permit, when issued, the applicant agrees to the following stipulations:

- 1. Continued compliance with General Requirements.
- Per Rule J Subsection 4.5, upon completion of the site work, the permittee must submit as-built drawings demonstrating that at the time of final stabilization, all stormwater management facilities conform to design specifications and function as intended and approved by the District. Asbuilt/record drawings must be signed by a professional engineer licensed in Minnesota and include, but not limited to:
 - a. the surveyed bottom elevations, water levels, and general topography of all facilities;
 - b. the size, type, and surveyed invert elevations of all stormwater facility inlets and outlets;
 - c. the surveyed elevations of all emergency overflows including stormwater facility, street, and other;
- 3. Providing the following additional close-out materials:
 - a. Documentation that constructed infiltration facilities perform as designed. This may include infiltration testing, flood testing, or other with prior approval from RPBCWD

- b. Documentation that disturbed pervious areas remaining pervious have been decompacted per Rule C.2c criteria
- 4. The work on the Audubon Business Park development under the terms of permit 2023-012, if issued, must have an impervious surface area and configuration materially consistent with the approved plans. Design that differs materially from the approved plans (e.g., in terms of total impervious area) will need to be the subject of a request for a permit modification or new permit, which will be subject to review for compliance with all applicable regulatory requirements.
- 5. To close out the permit and release the \$5,000 in financial assurance held for the purpose of the chloride management, the permit applicant must provide a chloride management plan that designates the individual authorized to implement the chloride management plan and the MPCA-certified salt applicator engaged in implementing the plan at the site.
- 6. Replenish the permit fee deposit to the original amount or such lesser amount as the RPBCWD administrator deems sufficient within 45 days of receiving notice that such deposit is due in order to cover continued actual costs incurred to monitor compliance with permit conditions and the RPBCWD Rules.







Technical Memorandum

Date: 8-30-23

To: Scott Sobiech – Barr Engineering

From: Nicholas Adam, P.E. – Rehder & Associates, Inc.

Re: RPBCWD Permit 2023-012: Audubon Business Park – Variance Request

As part of our application for a District permit, we are requesting a variance from RPBCWD Rule B.

We are requesting a variance from the requirement that compensatory storage be provided within the floodplain of the basin. The requirement cannot be met for the wetlands 4, 5 & 6 due to fill occurring in these areas. Compensatory storage will be provided within a separate basin (Infiltration Basin 1) that will exceed the floodplain storage lost due to filling.

Refer to the table in the Floodplain Management and Drainage Alterations section of the narrative for compensatory storage. The unique factors that support the requested variance are as follows:

The existing project site consists of green space, 6 wetlands, and a section of McGlynn Road that will be vacated and become part of the proposed development. The proposed site consists of 2 large office/warehouse buildings, associated parking, and stormwater management. The proposed site will remove wetlands 4, 5 & 6 and thus also the floodplain storage provided by the wetlands. Wetland 3 will also be removed and compensatory flood storage provided in Infiltration Basin 4. The basin is within the same floodplain and at the same elevation +/- 1 foot. Due to the location of the wetlands and site building parameters there is no feasible alternative to provide floodplain mitigation within the same floodplains.

1.1 How substantial the variation is from the rule provision:

The variance request is not substantial and adequate mitigation is provided in the proposed basins.

1.2 The effect of the variance on government services:

There is no adverse effect on government services. The filling of the floodplain volume of the existing wetlands will be mitigated by the proposed Infiltration Basin 1. Maintenance of the proposed basins will be the responsibility of the Owner.

1.3 Whether the variance will substantially change the character of or cause material adverse effect to water resources, flood elevations, drainage or the general welfare in the District or be a substantial detriment to neighboring properties:

There will be no material adverse effect to water resources, flood elevations, drainage or general welfare in the District. The proposed basins provide the required mitigation to offset the fill within the floodplain. In addition, volume control, water quality and rate control is being provided. The project will meet or exceed District rules and will not impact neighboring properties.

1.4 Whether the practical difficulty can be alleviated by a technically and economically feasible method other than a variance. An economic hardship alone may not serve as grounds for issuing a variance if any reasonable use of the property exists under the terms of the District rules:

The wetlands are located near the center of the property and although options were explored to save the wetlands, the size of the proposed buildings needed for the development require the wetlands to be removed/filled. Thus there are no technical or economically feasible alternatives to the variance.

1.5 How the practical difficulty occurred, including whether the landowner, the landowner's agent or representative, or a contractor, created the need for the variance:

The practical difficulty was not created by the landowner or landowner's representatives. The practical difficulty stems from compliance with the City and Watershed rules/requirements.

1.6 In light of all factors, whether allowing the variance will serve the interests of justice: Allowing the variance will serve the interests of justice by allowing the proposed development to proceed as approved by the City and complying with the intent of the District rules by providing the required floodplain mitigation.