MEETING MINUTES

Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District

May 3, 2023, RPBCWD Board of Managers Regular Monthly Meeting

PRESENT:

Managers: Jill Crafton, Treasurer

Tom Duevel, Vice President

Larry Koch

Dorothy Pedersen, Secretary

David Ziegler, President

Staff: Amy Bakkum, Office Administrator

Zach Dickhausen, Natural Resources Coordinator

Liz Forbes, Communication Manager

Josh Maxwell, Water Resources Coordinator Mat Nicklay, Natural Resources Technician

Louis Smith, Attorney, Smith Partners

Scott Sobiech, Engineer, Barr Engineering Company

Other Attendees: Jeff Borowiak, CAC Gretchen Schroeder

Chesney Engquist Standal

Ted Melby Teri Willow

Bonnie Nelson, CAC Marilynn Torkelson

Madhura Patil

Note: the Board meeting was held remotely via meeting platform Zoom because it was deemed not prudent to meet in person due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Call to Order of Board of Managers Regular Monthly Meeting

President Ziegler, after resolving technology issues, called to order the Wednesday, May 3, 2023, Board of Managers Regular Meeting at 7:06 p.m. He stated the District is conducting this meeting via Zoom out of an abundance of caution due to the Covid pandemic. Mr. Smith called roll for the

Board of Managers as follows:

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Manager	Action
Crafton	Present
Duevel	Present
Koch	Present

Pedersen	Present
Ziegler	Present

2. Approval of Agenda

Manager Koch requested moving all Consent Agenda items to Action Items. He requested moving from Action Items to the Consent Agenda item d – Adopt Resolution 23-037 Authorizing to Expend Funds to Register and Provide Needed Room and Board for Managers to Attend Regularly Scheduled Minnesota Watersheds Events.

Manager Koch moved to accept the agenda as amended. Manager Pedersen seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0 as follows:

Manager	Action
Crafton	Yes
Duevel	Yes
Koch	Yes
Pedersen	Yes
Ziegler	Yes

3. Matters of General Public Interest

President Ziegler announced the procedure for raising matters of general public interest.

Mr. Ted Melby referenced data from a report from the 2003 report by SRF prepared for the City of Eden Prairie. He recommended the Board read the report, which concluded that the bluff topography, vegetation, and aesthetics of the study's focus area is currently [2003] jeopardized by encroaching development.

Mr. Melby also referenced and displayed a letter he wrote and sent to the RPBCWD Managers December 29, 2021, regarding mitigation funding for the lower reach of Riley Creek. He pointed out the letter includes a quote from a Star Tribune article and the quote is a statement by Wayne Cords, "Water is really a reflection of the land around it." Mr. Melby said the managers have in front of them an i-Tree ecosystem analysis using the data from the 2022 Noble Hills urban forest inventory. He explained the i-Tree Eco model was developed by the U.S. Forest Service, Northern Research Station. Mr. Melby shared his insights from the report produced from the i-Tree eco model populated with the data from the Noble Hills tree inventory, including the number of trees inventoried was 357, for 6.296 acres of tree coverage, which removes 572.6 pounds of

pollution per year, stores 284.2 tons of carbon, sequesters 3.793 tons of carbon per year, produces 10.11 tons of oxygen per year, and avoided 20.28 thousand cubic feet of runoff per year, or 151,705 gallons. He highlighted that trees produce oxygen and help avoids runoff and have intrinsic value as well as an environmental value. He said the environmental value of the trees in the model he ran is \$594,437.50.

Mr. Melby displayed a plat map of the Eagle Crest at Hennepin Village development of 550 units that sits on the east boundary of the Standal's property. He said he does not know what if any surface water from that development drains toward the Noble Hill area. Mr. Melby displayed a copy of his April 12, 2023, letter he sent to the RPBCWD managers and described the findings he and the City of Eden Prairie's certified arborist made regarding the twelve subdivisions upstream of the Noble Hill development and the number of significant and heritage trees removed. He said he and the arborist calculated 25,173 were removed, and he calculated the value of those trees as \$41,610,590.00. Mr. Melby explained his calculations indicate that due to the removal of those trees, the watershed has to handle 10,619,350 gallons of water each year that the trees had been using to survive.

Mr. Melby stated the Standal's property is 27.52 acres, not 32 acres or 31.98 acres as referenced in documents the District received during its review of the permit application, and he noted the error impacts the impervious surface and abstract value calculations. He said his understanding of the District's review of the permit application is that it considered impervious surface and surface water runoff but did not consider the 20.28 thousand cubic feet of water consumed by the trees. Mr. Melby said development as-built drawings and the engineer have to comply with protecting public health, welfare, and safety. He said he will let the managers go through the documents he submitted to them to get familiar with how important trees are to the landscape. He said over the last 20 years we have not done a good job protecting our urban forests, and he the managers will reconsider granting that permit.

4. Reading and Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. Approve Minutes of the April 12, 2023, Regular Monthly Meeting of the RPBCWD Board of Managers

Manager Pedersen moved to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2023, Regular Monthly Meeting as written without the comments. Manager Crafton seconded the motion.

Manager Koch said the District adopted a process for reviewing minutes and the process requires everybody to provide comments to be condensed into one version, so everyone could see those comments and they would be in the meeting packet so the Board does not waste time going through comments. He said he thinks the Board should be following that process, and therefore there should not be any debate, and if managers did not provide comments then their time to comment has passed. Manager Koch stated his comments are part of the record and he expects them to be included in the packet for this meeting. Manager Koch said the bylaws say the secretary is supposed to be reviewing the minutes and he is going to take it that it has not been happening and he thinks it should be

happening. Manager Koch said at a minimum someone needs to proofread the minutes before they go out to the managers because we should not be dealing with typos and this has been a recurring issue. Manager Koch said the other issue he has is that he has made a motion before that we should find a different recorder because the recorder is interjecting the recorder's commentary that is not part of the actual verbiage that was spoken during the meeting, so he thinks we should be going to look for someone else to be our recorder or get the recorder to agree they are to transcribe what is there and not to insert their comments as to their feelings about what happened at the meeting.

President Ziegler said he does not disagree with that [President Ziegler's comments became inaudible due to his audio-technical issues].

Manager Koch said many of his comments and notes are questions and follow up he has requested and he expects a response from the Administrator with respect to his notes, and he will have further comments on the process later.

Manager Koch said he assumes his comments on line 716 and line 717 are being accepted as part of the motion, which inserts the specific property that the Board discussed in the closed session and he believes is a requirement under the Open Meeting Law. Mr. Smith clarified the Open Meeting Law requires the agenda and the motion for going into closed session to identify what will be discussed in closed session, and he believes earlier in the minutes that information is there. Mr. Smith noted a correction to add one more zero to the PID number, so it correctly reads 2811622320005. Manager Pedersen and Manager Crafton accepted Mr. Smith's edit as a friendly amendment.

Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0 as follows:

Manager	Action
Crafton	Yes
Duevel	Yes
Koch	Yes
Pedersen	Yes
Ziegler	Yes

b. Approve Minutes of the April 20, 2023, Continuation of the April 12, 2023, Regular Meeting the RPBCWD Board of Managers

Manager Pedersen moved to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2023, continuation of the April 12, 2023, Regular Meeting of the RPBCWD Board of Managers as written. Manager Koch seconded the motion with the amendment to edit page 6, line 86 to insert "and" before "with PID." President Ziegler noted the PID number should be updated to insert the third zero. Manager Koch noted the time the Board reconvened the public

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meeting needs to be inserted. Manager Crafton noted an edit on page 3, line 76, to correct the vote to 4-1. President Ziegler noted a correction on line 1 to replace "adjourned" with "called to order." Manager Pedersen and Manager Koch accepted the friendly amendments. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0 as follows:

Manager	Action
Crafton	Yes
Duevel	Yes
Koch	Yes
Pedersen	Yes
Ziegler	Yes

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c. Approve Minutes of the April 20, 2023, Work Session of the RPBCWD Board of Managers

Manager Pedersen moved to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2023, work session of the RPBCWD Board of Managers. Manager Crafton seconded the motion.

Manager Koch commented the Board packet needs to be complete on Friday night before a meeting in compliance with the bylaws.

Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 4-1 with one abstention as follows:

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Manager	Action
Crafton	Yes
Duevel	Yes
Koch	Abstain
Pedersen	Yes
Ziegler	Yes

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5. Committee Report

113 a. Acceptance of the Citizens Advisory Committee Report and Minutes and 114 Resolution to Create a Subcommittee

Manager Crafton moved to accept the CAC report and minutes. Manager Pedersen

seconded the motion. Manager Koch asked if the motion includes adopting the proposed resolution and moved to delay accepting the minutes and report until after the Board receives the CAC's report. Manager Pedersen seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote the motion carried 5-0.

Manager	Action
Crafton	Yes
Duevel	Yes
Koch	Yes
Pedersen	Yes
Ziegler	Yes

Ms. Bonnie Nelson reported the CAC would like to create a subcommittee to focus on hands-on work and outreach and helping connect the District with opportunities with different cities within the watershed that already has more formal groups. She explained at this point the focus will be on outreach to provide better communication within the watershed about the different activities going on in the watershed's communities to help connect people who would be interested in the opportunities.

Manager Koch said the proposed resolution is much broader than Ms. Nelson summarized. He reminded the CAC it is governed by Minnesota Statute 103D.331 and the committee has a specific purpose and specific duties and going outside that box of duties is not appropriate for the advisory committee. He said there could be a separate ad hoc committee. Manager Koch raised concerns about liability and insurance coverage and with people getting free and loose with what they think they can do in an organization without appropriate safeguards.

Mr. Smith said there is a statute that provides for the status of the Citizens Advisory Committee and it provides the committee is to advise and assist the managers on all matters of the interests of the District and make recommendations to the managers on all projects and improvements in the watershed district. He said it is a broad charge and it is valuable for dialog between the Board and the CAC to determine where the CAC's advice is the most helpful and effective and focuses on rendering advice to the managers. He said he thinks the spirit of sharing information about volunteer opportunities to carry out stewardship in the watershed's communities can be a valuable thing, and the distinction about whether or not this is a sponsored activity and whether or not there is an entity being created called Friends of the Watershed deserve some more review. He said there is an insurance issue if the District is soliciting volunteers to undertake activities on behalf of the District. Mr. Smith said he does not understand that is what is being undertaken as presented by Ms. Nelson but the resolution is a bit ambiguous.

Manager Koch moved to authorize Mr. Smith and the District Administrator to confer with the CAC as to what the CAC proposes to do, if anything, whether under the guise of the CAC or Friends of the Watershed, to make sure the District is protected as appropriate from liability and including insurance, and report back to the Board with findings. President Ziegler seconded the motion with the friendly amendment that Mr. Smith report back to the CAC to work through and try to come up with something that works. Manager Koch accepted the friendly amendment. <u>Upon a roll call vote the motion carried 5-0</u>.

Manager	Action
Crafton	Yes
Duevel	Yes
Koch	Yes
Pedersen	Yes
Ziegler	Yes

b. Confirm Board Representative for May 15, 2023, CAC Meeting

Manager Crafton volunteered to be the Board representative at the CAC's May 15th meeting.

c. Receive Personnel Committee Report and Minutes

Manager Pedersen said the Personnel Committee did not meet this month and has no report.

d. Receive Governance Committee Report and Minutes

Manager Pedersen moved to accept the Governance Committee minutes and report. Manager Crafton seconded the motion. Manager Koch said he has issues with some of the items the Committee discussed and he will forward his comments to the Committee Chair. Manager Koch said the Governance Committee meetings are not compliant with the Open Meeting Law because a copy of the documents discussed and to be covered are not posted and available to the public during the meeting. He said he thinks the Committee should heed the Open Meeting Law and that a copy of documents being discussed should be posted for the public to review during the deliberations.

Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0 as follows:

Manager	Action
Crafton	Yes
Duevel	Yes
Koch	Yes
Pedersen	Yes
Ziegler	Yes

e. Receive Audit and Finance Committee Report

Manager Crafton said the Committee did not meet and is waiting for an opportunity to meet in person. Manager Koch asked if the audit has been finished and if not, when will a draft audit be presented to the Board for review. Manager Crafton and Manager Duevel said they have not received an update on the audit status.

6. Consent Agenda

President Ziegler listed the one item on the Consent Agenda: Adopt Resolution 23-037 Authorizing to Expend Funds to Register and Provide Needed Room and Board for Managers to Attend Regularly Scheduled MN Association of Watersheds Events. The managers and Mr. Smith noted that two versions of Resolution 23-037 were circulated. The Board agreed by consensus to pull this item from the Consent Agenda and move it to Action Items as item d.

7. Action Items

a. Items Pulled from Consent Agenda

i. Adopt Resolution 23-035 to Approve Consent Agenda

[No action taken.]

ii. Accept April Staff Report

Manager Crafton moved to accept the staff report. Manager Pedersen seconded the motion. Manager Koch moved to lay over the discussion of the staff report until after the discussion of the Engineer's report. The motion died due to lack

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of a second. Manager Pedersen called the question and moved to close debate. Manager Crafton seconded the motion. <u>The motion to close debate carried 4-1.</u>

Manager	Action
Crafton	Yes
Duevel	Yes
Koch	No
Pedersen	Yes
Ziegler	Yes

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The motion to accept the staff report carried 4-1.

Manager	Action
Crafton	Yes
Duevel	Yes
Koch	No
Pedersen	Yes
Ziegler	Yes

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iii. Accept April Engineer's Report

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Manager Pedersen moved to accept the April Engineer's Report. Manager Crafton seconded the motion. Manager Koch noted a correction is needed on page 2 of 5, item F to correctly identify that the former Burger King was located on the southeast corner not the southwest corner. Mr. Sobiech agreed with that correction.

Manager Koch asked the engineer to provide more detail or description about the task orders when they are referenced or to link to the task orders when referenced.

Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0 as follows:

Manager	Action
Crafton	Yes
Duevel	Yes
Koch	Yes
Pedersen	Yes
Ziegler	Yes

iv. Accept April Regulatory Program Report

Manager Pedersen moved to accept the April Regulatory Program Report. Manager Crafton seconded the motion.

Manager Koch asked to be updated on the status of four items on Lotus Lake, including first the property on Frontier Trail that had installed rip rap and then landscaping without a permit. Manager Koch said regarding the second item on Lotus Lake, he sent Administrator Jeffery photos in February of rip rap being installed on a property about three houses west of the boat ramp on Lotus Lake. He said he does not remember a permit application for that project and he would like an update about the permit status. Manager Koch said his third item is he asked for information about the rip rapping done on southeast side of Lotus Lake about two years ago and said he does not understand how that project was allegedly approved and he has not received that information yet. Manager Koch said the fourth item is on Dakota Avenue where there was significant excavation happening on a lot and he sent that information to Administrator Jeffery and has not received a response and he would like a response. He said he would like a response on those four items.

Mr. Sobiech said regarding the southeast corner of Lotus Lake, the referenced property is the Eliason property. Mr. Sobiech said the after-the-fact permit was resubmitted and approved by the Board and Mr. Sobiech will look into getting a copy of that permit to Manager Koch. Mr. Sobiech said regarding the excavation at 710 Dakota Avenue, Mr. Niklay has been in contact and is working with District legal counsel regarding issuing a notice of probable violation for work without a permit. Mr. Sobiech said regarding the property for which Manager Koch sent staff photographs of the rip rap maintenance, the District sent a notice of probable violation and the contractor has submitted an application for an after-the-fact permit. Mr. Sobiech reported the application was deemed incomplete and Mr. Niklay is working with the applicant so the application can be completed for the District's review. Mr. Sobiech said he is not familiar with the fourth project.

Manager Koch said he would like detail about the 14 corrective actions mentioned in the inspections section of the regulatory program report.

Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0 as follows:

Manager	Action
Crafton	Yes
Duevel	Yes
Koch	Yes
Pedersen	Yes
Ziegler	Yes

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v. Approve Permit #2023-007 Southwest Village Retail as Presented in the Proposed Board Action Section of the Permit Review Report

Manager Crafton moved to approve Permit #2023-007 as presented. Manager Pederson seconded the motion.

Manager Koch moved to amend the motion to state the Board adopts the proposed resolution set forth in the staff report regarding Permit 2023-007. Manager Crafton and Manager Pedersen accepted the friendly amendment.

Manager Koch said it is his understanding that a government entity is building out a shopping location but is not paying any fees and it strikes him as a concern that the entity is not paying any permit fees. He said he thinks the District should consider changing its rule going forward, for example to require that the applicant has to be the owner of the fee simple.

Mr. Smith noted the exemption of the fees is to the nature of the applicant and if the applicant is a municipal entity, the statute provides the applicant is exempt from watershed district fees. He said the exemption from fees goes to the nature of the applicant not the nature of the project.

Manager Duevel asked if this scenario happens often. Mr. Sobiech said to his knowledge it has happened one other time since the District's regulatory program was reinstated in 2015.

Manger Koch asked if his understanding is correct that the District does not have basis to deny the permit. Mr. Sobiech said that is his understanding.

Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0 as follows:

Manager	Action
Crafton	Yes
Duevel	Yes
Koch	Yes
Pedersen	Yes
Ziegler	Yes

b. Accept March Treasurer's Report

Manager Crafton moved to accept the March Treasurer's Report as submitted. She said it has been reviewed in accordance with internal controls and procedures. Manager Pedersen seconded the motion.

Manager Koch asked if the receivable from St. Hubert is reflected in the balance sheet. Manager Crafton said it is probably rolled up in something, and Manager Koch said he would like an answer to his question when she has the opportunity. Manager Koch asked if the District has assurances that its \$6,400,000.00 in 4M funds is secure and not at any additional risk due to the current banking environment. Mr. Sobiech said that would be a question for Administrator Jeffery. Manager Duevel said he reviewed some information and thinks the District is at risk. Manager Koch said he would like the Audit and Finance Committee to look into this and bring recommendations to the Board about ways to minimize the District's risk.

Manager Koch asked if there is detail about what is due to the District from governments and said he would like that info.

Manager Koch asked about current liabilities and asked if the report shows the obligation the District has incurred to pay Eden Prairie with respect to the Duck Lake bridge. He said he thinks it should be reflected on the balance sheet as a long-term liability.

Manager Koch commented he believes the District should be recording in the books the actual supplier and not the credit card company because without doing so it is very difficult to track where the money is going. Manager Koch asked for more details about the \$4,600 spent to date on professional services. There was no response to his question.

Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 4-1 as follows:

Manager	Action
Crafton	Yes
Duevel	Yes

Koch	No
Pedersen	Yes
Ziegler	Yes

Manager Crafton moved to Adopt Resolution 23-036 to Approve Paying of the Bills.

Manager Pedersen seconded the motion. <u>Upon a roll call vote</u>, the motion carried 5-0 as

c. Adopt Resolution 23-036 to Approve Paying of the Bills

<u>follows:</u>

Manager	Action
Crafton	Yes
Duevel	Yes
Koch	Yes
Pedersen	Yes
Ziegler	Yes

d. Adopt Resolution 23-037 Authorizing to Expend Funds to Register and Provide Needed Room and Board for Managers to Attend Regularly Scheduled MN Association of Watersheds Events

Manager Koch moved to adopt Resolution 23-037. Manager Crafton seconded the motion. President Ziegler voiced his concern about authorizing this through a resolution and not including it in the bylaws because it would be easy to lose track of it. President Ziegler moved to amend the resolution to limit the time period of authorization to 2023. Manager Duevel seconded the motion. <u>Upon a roll call vote</u>, the motion the amend the

motion failed 2-3 as follows:

Manager	Action
Crafton	No
Duevel	Yes
Koch	No

Pedersen	No
Ziegler	Yes

<u>Upon a roll call vote, the motion to adopt the resolution as presented carried 4-1 as</u> follows:

Manager	Action
Crafton	Yes
Duevel	Yes
Koch	Yes
Pedersen	Yes
Ziegler	No

8. Discussion Items

a. Rule A and Resolution 2019-005: Permit Renewal and Transfer

Manager Koch said he does not see in Rule A the ability for the District to delegate responsibility for making decisions to staff. He said Administrator Jeffery provided a copy of Resolution 2019-005, which does include authorization to the Administrator to approve certain permits including permit extensions. He said he would like to have legal counsel review this to see if Mr. Jeffery actually had the legal authority to extend applications especially if there has been a transfer and he would like the Board to discuss changing Rule A or at least changing the resolution to provide that managers be given a certain number of days of advance notice of any proposed extension of a permit application so the Board is able to have the extension brought in front of the Board to make a determination. He said he thinks the Board needs Legal Counsel to advise the Board about the legal authority delegated to the Administrator because it might not be delegable under the terms of the rules or to let the Board know if the District has provisions in its rules to delegate authority. Manager Koch said he thinks the Board should have an ability to weigh in before an extension is granted.

Mr. Smith said Rule A provides for actions to be taken in issuing permits or renewing permits by the District. He said it is not explicitly referring to the Board of Managers having that authority. He said Legal Counsel carefully looked at Rule A while crafting Resolution 2019-005 for the Board's review. He said in Legal Counsel's view, that resolution delegated the renewal authority to the Administrator. Mr. Smith said it is appropriate for the Board to reconsider or modify the resolution such as to require advance notice when renewals are coming forward.

President Ziegler recommended adding this topic to an upcoming Board workshop. Mr. Sobiech said he will work with Administrator Jeffery to get this topic on a Board workshop agenda.

Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0 as follows:

Manager	Action
Crafton	Yes
Duevel	Yes
Koch	Yes
Pedersen	Yes
Ziegler	Yes

Manager Koch asked to amend the agenda to go into closed session to discuss property acquisition. Manager Crafton asked Mr. Smith if there are any updates. Mr. Smith said none that he is aware of.

Manager Koch moved to recess this meeting until 6:00 p.m. next Wednesday, May 10. Mr. Smith noted that in his discussion with Administrator Jeffery yesterday, Administrator Jeffery noted it was his intention to discuss this topic at the Board's May 18th workshop. Manager Crafton said she would prefer to wait until the May 18th workshop.

Manager Koch amended his motion to recess this meeting until 6:00 p.m. on May 18. President Ziegler seconded the motion. <u>Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0 as follows:</u>

Manager	Action
Crafton	Yes
Duevel	Yes
Koch	Yes
Pedersen	Yes
Ziegler	Yes

At 9:37 p.m. the Board moved to continue the meeting at 6:00 p.m. on May 18, 2023.

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	9. Manager Reports
365	[Item continued to the May 18th Board meeting continuation.]
	10. Administrator Reports
366 367	[Item continued to the May 18th Board meeting continuation.]
	11. Legal Counsel Reports
368	[Item continued to the May 18th Board meeting continuation.]
	12. Upcoming Board Topics
369 370	[Item continued to the May 18th Board meeting continuation.]
	13. Upcoming Events
371 372	[Item continued to the May 18th Board meeting continuation.]
373 374	 Continuation of the May 3, 2023, RPBCWD Regular Board Meeting – May 18, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
375	 RPBCWD Board Work Session – May 18, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
376 377	• RPBCWD Regular Board Meeting, June 7, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.
	14. Adjournment
378 379	[Item continued to the May 18th Board meeting continuation.]
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382	Respectfully submitted,
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885	Dorothy Rolling
886	Dorothy Pedersen, Secretary