

MEETING MINUTES

Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District

August 17, 2023, RPBCWD Board of Managers Work Session

PRESENT:

Managers: Jill Crafton, Treasurer
Tom Duevel, Vice President
Larry Koch
Dorothy Pedersen, Secretary
David Ziegler, President

Staff: Amy Bakkum, Administrative Assistant
Terry Jeffery, District Administrator
Louis Smith, Legal Counsel, Smith Partners
Scott Sobiech, Engineer, Barr Engineering
Louis Smith, Attorney, Smith Partners

Other Attendees: Andrew Aller, CAC
Mark Weber

Note: the Board work session was held remotely via meeting platform Zoom because it was deemed not prudent to meet in person due to COVID-19 risk for high-risk managers.

1. Call to Order

1 President Ziegler called the Board work session to order at 7:02 p.m. Mr. Smith called roll as
2 follows:
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| <i>Manager</i> | <i>Action</i> |
|----------------|---------------|
| Crafton | Present |
| Duevel | Present |
| Koch | Present |
| Pedersen | Absent |
| Ziegler | Present |

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2. Approval of Agenda

6 Manager Pedersen moved to adopt the agenda. Manager Crafton seconded the motion.
 7 Manager Koch asked everyone to be recognized before speaking with the exception of
 8 someone making a second to a motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 4-1 as
 9 follows:

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| <i>Manager</i> | <i>Action</i> |
|----------------|---------------|
| Crafton | Yes |
| Duevel | Yes |
| Koch | No |
| Pedersen | Yes |
| Ziegler | Yes |

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3. Update on Ecosystem Health Action Plan

12 Administrator Jeffery displayed a PowerPoint presentation “Ecosystem Health Action Plan –
 13 Board of Managers Workshop – August 17, 2023.” He reported there have been three
 14 meetings held by the Technical Advisory Panel. Administrator Jeffery said the timeline is still
 15 on target for a spring 2024 adoption of the plan. He said the Board’s input will be gathered
 16 during workshops held this October and December.

17 Administrator Jeffery said the topic at the fourth Technical Advisory Panel workshop, not yet
 18 scheduled, is “how will we work together.” He reported the topic of the first workshop was
 19 identifying barriers, such as resource availability, development, and knowledge. He explained
 20 the topic of the second workshop was identifying gaps, such as in policy and regulation and
 21 with education and outreach. He said the topic of the third workshop was “What should we be
 22 doing?” He reported the group identified project-oriented solutions such as conducting
 23 easement compliance checks at time of property sales and early design coordination for better
 24 rules compliance. He explained the group also identified education and outreach-oriented
 25 solutions such as educating policy makers and conducting native landscaping tours.

26 Administrator Jeffery described ideas the panel discussed to achieve less gray cover, for
 27 example impervious surface, and increase green cover, such as woodlands, agricultural areas,
 28 vegetated areas. He said ideas include preserving existing open space, transforming lawns to
 29 prairies, restoring degraded natural areas, implementing conservation design practices,
 30 implementing low-impact development, and encouraging taller not wider buildings, among
 31 other ideas.

32 Administrator Jeffery said most of the RPBCWD watershed has been converted to lawn and
 33 25% of the watershed is impervious surface, He said more than 65% of the watershed has

34 significantly altered hydrology. He reminded the Board the District rules do not direct how
35 land is developed. He said this is why the panel is important because the people who do have
36 the authority to plan and regulate land use and development need to be on board and working
37 toward the same end goals.

38 Administrator Jeffery reiterated that this fall the Board will be discussing and identifying
39 goals and the District's role in this type of work.

40 Manager Duevel asked about the reactions the panel participants have had to the panel
41 workshop discussions. Administrator Jeffery said the comments he has heard have all been
42 positive.

43 Manager Crafton said she saw a lot of synergy and conversations going in positive directions.
44 She said she is concerned that the conversations are not talking about monoculture versus
45 diversity and are not addressing temperature.

46 Manager Koch commented it seems to him the challenge is the District is largely developed.
47 He said he thinks the focus will be on redevelopment and commercial/industrial areas.

48 Manager Pedersen shared an example of a project in which a city in England installed native
49 vegetation in the space between sidewalks and roads and said she can share the information
50 about the project to anyone interested. She said she agrees with the need for synergy between
51 the District and the cities.

52 The managers discussed the amount of lawn Homeowners Associations are responsible for
53 keeping mowed and the possible opportunity to work with HOAs on win-win solutions.
54 Manager Koch said there are the same possible opportunities with the commercial and
55 industrial properties.

56 Administrator Jeffery said staff has been reaching out to HOAs and he agrees about the
57 opportunity with HOAs. He noted the City of Chanhassen is in the process of redeveloping its
58 civic campus and is currently taking online comments. He said he and Mr. Sobiech are
59 meeting next week with the City to talk about the redevelopment.

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4. Capital Project Schedule Update

61 Mr. Sobiech reported he has been working with the City of Eden Prairie over the last couple
62 of months to incorporate the City's comments and proposed revisions into the Upper Riley
63 Creek project. He said the project plans are close to 100% complete and once complete will
64 be sent to the District's Legal Counsel for review. Mr. Sobiech said he anticipates the District
65 will go out for project bids in late 2023 to early 2024 for late summer to early fall 2024
66 construction.

67 Mr. Sobiech said District staff has been working with City staff on the proposed Bluff Creek
68 crossing replacement.

69 Mr. Sobiech said staff plans to bring the scope and design for the Bluff Creek project to the
70 Board this fall.

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5. Adjournment

72 President Ziegler moved to adjourn the work session. Manager Pedersen seconded the
73 motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0 as follows:

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| <i>Manager</i> | <i>Action</i> |
|----------------|---------------|
| Crafton | Yes |
| Duevel | Yes |
| Koch | Yes |
| Pedersen | Yes |
| Ziegler | Yes |

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76 The work session adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Dorothy Pedersen, Secretary