

MEETING MINUTES

Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District

September 27, 2023, Continuation of the September 13, 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 Terry Jeffery, District Administrator
Louis Smith, Attorney, Smith Partners
Scott Sobiech, Barr Engineering Company

Other Attendees: Mark Weber

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

1. Continuation of the Board of Managers Regular Monthly Meeting

1 President Ziegler opened the continuation of the Board of Managers Regular Meeting at 7:01 p.m.
2 He stated the Board is conducting this meeting via Zoom out of an abundance of caution
3 regarding COVID.

4 Mr. Smith called attendance for the Board of Managers as follows:

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<i>Manager</i>	<i>Action</i>
Crafton	Present
Duevel	Present
Koch	Present
Pedersen	Present
Ziegler	Present

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10. Discussion Items

a. Minnesota Watersheds Resolutions

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Manager Crafton said she submitted language to add to the soil health resolution but in her discussion about it with Mr. Jeffery, she came to the conclusion that the soil health resolution could remain as it is this year and the District could wait until next year to modify it or propose changes.

Administrator Jeffery said if the Board does not want to modify the resolution, it will stay active as it is in the Minnesota Watersheds' pool of resolutions.

Manager Koch said he created a Word document and marked his recommended revisions for the proposed resolution having to do with funding and acquisition of Noble Hills. He said his revisions provide background on why the property is of interest and broadens the request for proposed adoption by Minnesota Watersheds that they would support the funding of the acquisition of the property using funds provided either directly or indirectly by Minnesota Legislature, The Legacy Fund or other appropriate fund, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and other financial resources.

Manager Pedersen moved to adopt the 2023 resolution "Minnesota Watersheds Support for Board of Water and Soil Resources Conservation Grant to Hennepin County for Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District Pilot" as revised by Manager Koch. President Ziegler seconded the motion.

Manager Crafton said she is not sure the support will be there for this resolution from the rest of the watershed organizations.

President Ziegler asked if the Board is interested in the District hiring at least a temporary lobbyist for this topic.

Manager Koch said he thinks the Board should either pass or not pass this resolution and the Board could consider separately the idea of a lobbyist.

Upon a roll call vote the motion carried 3-0 as follows:

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

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36 Manager Koch moved to authorize staff along with legal counsel to look into the
37 possibility of engaging a lobbyist to represent the District in trying to obtain funds,
38 particularly legislative funding. Manager Koch suggested staff look into whether Mr.
39 Pressman could assist the District further. Manager Pedersen seconded the motion.

40 President Ziegler remarked Minnesota Watersheds is seeking a lobbyist and has a list
41 of candidates.

42 Manager Koch clarified his motion includes that staff also would look into the cost
43 of engaging a lobbyist.

44 Administrator Jeffery asked if the Board wants staff to draw up an RFP or draw up a
45 cost estimate or what work tasks the Board is directing staff to undertake. President
46 Ziegler suggested staff contact Minnesota Watersheds for information about its
47 process for engaging a lobbyist. Manager Koch said his motion is for staff to
48 undertake the preliminary step to see who is out there, contact Shell Rock and Red
49 River, and get a ballpark cost for the Board to consider and discuss if the Board
50 wants to move forward to the next step.

51 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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14. Adjournment

54 Manager Koch moved to adjourn the meeting. Manager Pedersen seconded the motion. Upon a
55 roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0:

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<i>Manager</i>	<i>Action</i>
Crafton	Yes
Duevel	Yes
Koch	Yes
Pedersen	Yes

Ziegler	Yes
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The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Dorothy Pedersen, Secretary