

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District**

**January 25, 2024, RPBCWD Board of Managers Work Session**

**PRESENT:**

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

**Staff:** Amy Bakkum, Office Administrator  
Terry Jeffery, District Administrator  
Joshua Maxwell\*, Water Resources and Fisheries Manager  
Dylan Monahan, Administrative Assistant  
Scott Sobiech, Engineer, Barr Engineering

**Other Attendees:** Andrew Aller\* Bonnie Nelson  
Andrew Hartmann\* Adam Tjaden, Kimley-Horn  
Charlie Howley, City of Joe Seidl, City of Chanhassen  
Chanhassen  
Ron Leaf, Kimley-Horn

*Note: \*Attended virtually.*

**1. Call to Order**

- 1 President Pedersen called the Board work session to order at 7:07 p.m. Administrator Jeffery
- 2 called roll as follows:
- 3

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

4

**2. Approval of Agenda**

5 Manager Crafton moved to approve the agenda as proposed. Manager Ziegler seconded the  
 6 motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 4-0 as follows:

7

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

8

**3. Chanhassen Regional Stormwater Management**

9 Administrator Jeffery introduced Charlie Howley of the City of Chanhassen Public Works,  
 10 Joe Seidl, Water Resources Engineer City of Chanhassen, and Ron Leaf and Adam Tjaden  
 11 with Kimley Horn.

12 [Manager Koch joined the meeting.]

13 Administrator Jeffery explained the District has been working cooperatively with the City of  
 14 Chanhassen on a number of projects in the city. He said the City is looking at updating its  
 15 downtown area, including roads. Administrator Jeffery reported the District has been meeting  
 16 with the City to discuss the possibility of a regional stormwater framework for the downtown  
 17 area. He said the City and its project consultants from Kimley-Horn are here to present the  
 18 idea to the Board. Administrator Jeffery said staff wants to hear if the Board is interested in  
 19 moving in the direction of doing a regional stormwater framework. He said he and Engineer  
 20 Sobiech feel this approach is moving in the right direction and the District will want to use  
 21 this approach more and more with linear projects in order to protect District resources.

22 Mr. Howley shared the PowerPoint presentation “Downtown Chanhassen Regional  
 23 Stormwater Framework – January 25, 2024” and thanked the Board for the opportunity for  
 24 his team to present the project. Mr. Leaf introduced himself and summarized the framework  
 25 comprises planned City projects, planned Best Management Practices (BMPs), and credit  
 26 accounting. Mr. Leaf noted a crediting system needs to be part of the regional approach  
 27 because there needs to be a method of accounting for the credits deposited and withdrawn. He  
 28 said the City is looking for the Board’s feedback on whether it concurs with the City that this  
 29 regional approach is a good direction to go for this Chanhassen project area.

30 Mr. Leaf reminded the Board the District conducted a study in this area of Chanhassen in  
 31 2017 and the City has had the District-identified water reuse concept in its Capital

32 Improvement Plan since that time. He reported City staff recognized the Market Boulevard  
33 project presents the opportunity to initiate the reuse concept as one of the projects and to take  
34 the regional BMP approach. Mr. Leaf stated the overall goal is to meet requirements while  
35 providing greater overall water quality benefits through a regional approach compared to a  
36 project-by-project approach.

37 Mr. Leaf highlighted the District's Rule J, Section 4.1, explaining it is the basis for the  
38 regional approach.

39 Mr. Tjaden introduced himself and summarized the City's planned projects. He said the City  
40 is looking at rebuilding the City Civic Center. He described the 2024 street rehabilitation  
41 project, which will include pavement and utility replacement. Mr. Tjaden pointed out there is  
42 no stormwater treatment now with these roads and the clay soils do not provide infiltration.  
43 He explained the regional BMP opportunities include the water reuse and iron-enhanced  
44 active filtration. Mr. Tjaden said each project will incorporate site-specific BMPs as well,  
45 meaning there will not be reliance on only the regional system to account for all the  
46 stormwater management.

47 Mr. Seidel reviewed the proposed rebuild of the Chanhassen Civic Campus, including in  
48 phase one constructing a new building on the southeast portion of the area. He said phase two  
49 includes the demolition of the old building and the addition of park area.

50 Manager Koch commented he highly recommends solar and geothermal should be explored  
51 for the new building. Mr. Seidl said geothermal was investigated and research showed that  
52 while it was feasible it was not cost effective enough to fit within the budget set for the  
53 project. He said there was not a payback that worked. Mr. Seidl said regarding solar, the City  
54 would like to do it, but it would not fit in the project budget at this time. Manager Koch asked  
55 for someone to reach out to him with the information on the calculations of the payback of  
56 geothermal and solar for the new Chanhassen Civic Center.

57 Manager Koch said regarding the existing stormwater pond at Market Boulevard and  
58 Highway 5, he recalls hearing at a District meeting that the pond may be sized too small to  
59 deal with future rain events and treat that water. Mr. Leaf responded he is not aware of that  
60 pond (RM5) not having capacity for larger events. He said in looking at the capacity of that  
61 pond as a source of irrigation water, initial estimates show the pond may be drawn down a  
62 foot or two in a typical year, based on average irrigation rates. He said the draw down would  
63 happen in the summer and would be a win-win regarding handling larger events and in terms  
64 of bounce. Mr. Leaf said detailed numbers will need to be run at the right time in the design  
65 process.

66 Manager Koch said he is interested in having the District's engineers look at the assumptions  
67 with respect to the ponds in connection with rain events to make sure there would be no  
68 unnecessary erosion or water flow downstream. He said he thinks it would be beneficial for  
69 the City of Chanhassen to have more heads involved to end up with the best possible ideas for  
70 what can be done with this project.

71 Mr. Seidel shared the proposed project timeline, with the civic campus and regional BMP  
72 concept design happening summer 2024 to 2026, 2024 street rehabilitation happening in  
73 summer 2024, and the Market Boulevard and reuse system happening in summer 2025.

74 Mr. Seidel said the City requests the District to support the regional framework concept now  
75 and to allow District staff to continue to work with the City to finalize the approach. Mr.  
76 Seidel said the City of Chanhassen is not seeking funding from the District but is looking for  
77 the District's support of moving forward with a regional framework. He said the request for  
78 the Board's formal approval would come to the Board at a future meeting.

79 Manager Crafton said she thinks the concept of taking the stormwater pond and redistributing  
80 its benefits is a plus. She said the concept presented makes sense to her. Manager Crafton  
81 said she has total confidence the District Engineer will keep the District on track. She said she  
82 likes the vision and thinks it is an exciting project and she supports it.

83 Manager Ziegler said he thinks the regional approach is a good approach, especially for  
84 landlocked areas. He said he is concerned because the District's rules can change over time  
85 and the District has rules it wants to change. He said Engineer Sobiech needs to keep an eye  
86 on what the rules are going to be.

87 Engineer Sobiech said there is potential for District rules revisions. He said such changes  
88 could impact future projects but at this time he does not see them impacting 2024 projects  
89 because making and adopting rules changes take time. Engineer Sobiech commented there  
90 are components that could be incorporated into the design with an eye on what those potential  
91 future rules could be. He said typically once a permit is approved and authorized, those are  
92 the rules in place and the District does not go back retroactively and say project updates are  
93 needed. Engineer Sobiech said the District could work with the City with an eye toward those  
94 possible rule changes and this work could be a good sample case for how those potential rules  
95 changes would impact a project.

96 Manager Duevel commented that in general he thinks the concept sounds great. He said it  
97 opens up the opportunity to incorporate BMPs of the current era and potentially looking  
98 forward.

99 Administrator Jeffery said Manager Duevel had asked earlier for an explanation of what a  
100 regional plan is. Administrator Jeffery said a regional plan means looking at a subwatershed  
101 to determine if a better benefit and value can be achieved by moving beyond the site  
102 boundaries.

103 Manager Duevel asked if credit accounting is the mechanism for tracking what we are talking  
104 about with regional planning. Administrator Jeffery responded yes. Manager Duevel asked if  
105 this process would be put into the District's rules. Administrator Jeffery said it would be  
106 documented whether in the District's rules or a guidance document or such.

107 Manager Duevel mentioned snow gardens, which are areas specially designed to store snow.  
108 He asked if snow storage has been designed into the project. Mr. Seidl said raingardens are  
109 being considered and they could provide snow storage and provide treatment of snowmelt for  
110 pollutants. He said he will look into this in more detail. Manager Duevel said this regional  
111 initiative is a perfect example of a holistic view and figuring out how to work together. He

112 asked if this project ties into EHAP. Administrator Jeffery said yes, not directly but he sees it  
113 tying with this regional plan in an ancillary way.

114 Manager Koch commented he thinks the District should look at amending its rules to provide  
115 for a regional program for regional BMPS and for credits on a regional basis to meet  
116 requirements. He said if the District is serious about controlling salt, a good pilot project  
117 would be using geothermal or solar to take care of snow issues and minimize the amount of  
118 salt that will be used in the downtown area. Manager Koch said these methods may have  
119 long-term benefits that cannot be measured now. He reiterated the downtown [Chanhassen]  
120 area would be a good place for a pilot project of using geothermal to heat and cool the  
121 building and heat some of the roads. He said his view is we do not get much bang for buck  
122 with rain gardens and we should get a scientific evaluation about whether rain gardens are the  
123 best way to go. He said the District has its rules and if the project meets the rules, the District  
124 should at least have an addendum regarding having a regional plan. He said the District needs  
125 to hear input from the District engineer after the engineer has a chance to think about all this.  
126 President Pedersen said she is thrilled about working together with the City on this project.

127

#### 4. Draft Annual Report

128 Administrator Jeffery said he circulated to the manager the link to the draft annual report. He  
129 suggested the comments about the budget table be brought to the Audit and Finance  
130 Committee to review and discuss. Administrator Jeffery said the expenditures table shows the  
131 District's 2023 expenditures were greater than the budget, so he will review the numbers to  
132 see if items were entered incorrectly. He said he will add to the report a timeline of the local  
133 cities Local Water Management Plans. Administrator Jeffery said he can work directly with  
134 Manager Koch regarding some of his comments on the draft.

135 Manager Ziegler said regarding the appendix with the lake reports, he assumes they will be  
136 updated from 2016. Administrator Jeffery said yes. Manager Ziegler said it would not be hard  
137 to add to the graphs already in the lake reports a notation about the locations where the alum  
138 treatments have been and other major BMPs or capital projects have taken place.  
139 Administrator Jeffery agreed.

140 Administrator Jeffery asked managers to submit comments to him by March 21.

141 Manager Koch said he thinks the Board should discuss the report at a Board of Managers  
142 Workshop or set up a special meeting to discuss the report at least one week before it is due.  
143 He said he does not want the report finalized and sent out without the Board seeing the final  
144 report and directing staff to release it. He said the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil  
145 Resources (BWSR) is one audience but the District's constituents is another audience. He  
146 said he thinks this piece should be crafted as an education piece in addition to meeting  
147 BWSR's requirements. Manager Koch listed some of his suggested changes to the report and  
148 asked Administrator Jeffery to circulate all his comments to all of the managers for their  
149 consideration. Manager Koch said he does not think the District should include the land  
150 acknowledgement in the report. He said if the District includes a message in its report, the

151 District should include a message about climate change and the District's position on it.  
152 Manager Crafton said she thinks the land acknowledgement is important and should be  
153 included in the annual report.

154

## 5. Shallow Groundwater Monitoring Well Initiative

155 Administrator Jeffery said staff will bring a task order on the shallow groundwater  
156 monitoring well initiative to the Board at its next meeting. He summarized that the initiative  
157 meets District goals and strategies as identified in Chapter 3 of the District's 10-Year  
158 Management Plan.

159 Administrator Jeffery said the proposed shallow groundwater monitoring will monitor the  
160 unconsolidated drift wells, so the District will be gathering data on where our land use today  
161 will impact near term. He said this data that could help identify areas suitable for infiltration,  
162 maintain stream baseflows, mitigate flashy flows in stream channels, maintain lake levels,  
163 protect wetlands, and identify emerging pollutants in private wells among other purposes.

164 Administrator Jeffery said the project is to reestablish the well monitoring program in the  
165 District. He said the District had \$100,000 left over from its 2023 groundwater program  
166 budget. He explained those funds were moved into District reserve funds and it would take  
167 Board action to move that money out of reserves back into the groundwater program line  
168 item.

169 Manager Ziegler asked how the number of wells will be determined. Administrator Jeffery  
170 said staff will put together a comprehensive list and also will identify a recommended subset.

171 Manager Koch commented he thinks drilling wells is premature. He said if anything is to be  
172 done he thinks it should be a task order to collect and evaluate all applicable data and  
173 literature on groundwater in the area. He suggested the District do an inventory of existing  
174 wells to see if they could be used to collect data. Manager Koch suggested staff talk with  
175 people at the University to see if there are graduate students that could do a literature review  
176 about existing wells. He said the District should get recommendations about information to  
177 collect and identify what to do with that information. Manager Koch said he is not in favor of  
178 this task order as written. He said he would be in favor of a project that has the goal of  
179 developing a recommendation to address groundwater issues and identify what we could do  
180 with groundwater.

181 Manager Duevel commented Minnesota Watersheds has done a lot of work for well water for  
182 outstate. He asked if there are data and or research projects from outstate that could give the  
183 District a viewpoint. Administrator Jeffery said he is not familiar with outstate projects, but  
184 there is a county index on all wells that have been drilled. He said as far as he knows there are  
185 not any more drifts in the District.

186 Mr. Sobiech said he thinks there is value in understanding how the surface waters in the  
187 District are connected to the surficial, unconfined aquifer. He said there is value in collecting  
188 data to start understanding the static groundwater level and how is it changes over time and

189 what the change is tied to, such as climate or land use. Mr. Sobiech said the monitoring wells  
 190 could be used to collect samples for pollutants like chloride.

191 Manager Pedersen said she thinks the District needs more data and does not think the District  
 192 can put this research off. She said she is in favor of this initiative.

193 Manager Koch said before we spend money punching holes in the ground let us get a handle  
 194 on the data we do have. He said we need to get a handle on our goal. Manager Koch said we  
 195 need a unified approach and a good orderly plan to evaluate our groundwater issues and  
 196 identify which ones we want to address.

197 Manager Crafton said she thinks it is a good idea because this is how we get the information.  
 198 She said she is in favor of pursuing it.

199 Manager Duevel said he thinks this fits in the broader scheme of the District doing a holistic  
 200 view when looking at water. He said he is in favor of reviewing this further.

201 Manager Crafton said she has heard Joe Magner of the University of Minnesota mention  
 202 there are organisms in soil that clean up a lot of the problems. She said it would be nice if the  
 203 District could tie in research on this topic.

204

**6. Adjournment**

205 Manager Duevel moved to adjourn the work session. Manager Crafton seconded the motion.  
 206 Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0 as follows:

207

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

208

209 The work session adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

210

211

Respectfully submitted,

212

213

\_\_\_\_\_

214

Tom Duevel, Secretary