

MEETING MINUTES

Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District

April 20, 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, Attorney, Smith Partners
Scott Sobiech, Engineer, Barr Engineering Company

Other Attendees: Aspira
Andrew Aller
Brandon Barnes, Barr Engineering
Ted Melby

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

1 President David Ziegler called the Board work session to order at 7:09 p.m. Mr. Smith called
2 roll as follows:

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

3
4

5 Manager Koch said the Board is conducting this work session via Zoom out of an abundance
 6 of caution regarding the pandemic.

2. Approval of Agenda

7 Administrator Terry Jeffery recommended including as part of Agenda Item 4 – Boardroom
 8 Layout Options - a discussion about District office hybrid meeting technology. President
 9 Ziegler moved to approve the agenda as amended. Manager Pedersen seconded the motion.
 10 Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 4-0 as follows:

11

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

12

13 [Manager Crafton joined the work session].

3. Presentation: Flood Risk Mapping Results

14 Mr. Brandon Barnes shared a PowerPoint presentation “TO35: Eden Prairie Stormwater Model
 15 Update and Flood-Risk Area Identification & Prioritization for Eden Prairie Portion of Riley and
 16 Purgatory Creeks.”

17 Mr. Barnes explained that a stormwater model is a tool to help inform management decisions. He
 18 said the model changes as changes in the watersheds occur. He reviewed the 2023 Eden Prairie
 19 model update, undertaken in Task Order 35. He described the increase to the resolution level,
 20 which added 1,120 subwatersheds to the model. Mr. Barnes said the model was validated and
 21 reviewed with City of Eden Prairie staff. He said after receiving the City’s concurrence, design
 22 events were simulated and inundation mapping was developed to identify potentially flood-prone
 23 structures and areas. Mr. Barnes reported the mapping identified 400 structures within the 100-
 24 year floodplain. He talked about the prioritization framework developed in 2020 with input from
 25 the District’s Technical Advisory Committee to provide a systematic approach to addressing
 26 flood risk. Mr. Barnes displayed a map showing the flood risk areas identified by their initial
 27 flood risk prioritization score, explaining the map is a tool that provides city staff and District
 28 staff a way to identify which areas to study next.

29 Mr. Barnes reiterated the map and prioritization framework provide a place to begin. He said next
 30 steps include looking at the list of flood-prone structures and areas and determining which to

31 move forward into feasibility studies and conducting field survey verification of structures and
32 identifying project partners and funding sources for project implementation.

33 Manager Crafton asked if the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) or the City of Eden
34 Prairie have given any indication about the potential they see for using this map and framework
35 and fulfilling some of their own priorities and challenges they are seeing with climate change.
36 Mr. Barnes said the feedback from the MPCA has been focused on technical feedback on the
37 report and what is needed to fulfill reporting tied to grant funding for the study and that
38 conversations have not been forward-looking regarding the MPCA's support.

39 Manager Koch said given two significant water bodies lay outside the City's boundaries, do the
40 software algorithms takes that into account and what was done to consider the impacts of those
41 waterbodies on the conclusions. Mr. Barnes noted those two waterbodies are located within the
42 Riley Creek watershed and the Purgatory Creek watershed and the study included the entire
43 watershed. He explained the model is not cut off at the Eden Prairie municipal boundary and
44 instead uses a system approach. Manager Koch suggested a refinement to the presentation to
45 clarify that point. Manager Koch said he thinks it would be helpful if the PowerPoint slides had
46 footnotes or explanations noting why a 100-year event is ranked higher than a project with a 2-
47 year cycle or basically footnotes to explain any points that at first blush does not make sense.

48 Administrator Jeffery stated now the model includes most of the watershed except for
49 Chanhassen, Shorewood, and Deephaven. He noted the District will apply for funding for the
50 project's next phase from the same grant source that awarded funds for the first phase of the
51 study.

52 Manager Duevel commented that many areas of the country are using the 500-year event high-
53 water elevation and asked if the fact that the map and model use the 100-year elevation impacts
54 the usability of this work. Mr. Barnes said the 100-year event is the event referenced in regulatory
55 programs, which is what the District set out to address with this work. He said other work
56 conducted by the District looks at vulnerability to events larger than the 100-year event. Mr.
57 Barnes said the question about larger events is one the District wants to ask as it does projects. He
58 said the District can talk about how the projects can be designed to be robust to help build
59 resiliency into the system. Mr. Barnes said simulations run from the District's dataset can provide
60 information on the incremental cost to provide risk mitigation for that next level.

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4. Boardroom Layout Options

62 Administrator Jeffery reported the District received two quotes for updating the District
63 Office boardroom layout design. He shared slides showing two proposed parabolic layout
64 designs.

65 Manager Koch commented he does not think the furniture for the managers needs to be
66 attached but could be five separate tables so there can be distance between the managers and
67 he thinks the managers should each have their own personal computer with a big screen and
68 that the District's big presentation screen should be situated for the managers to see it. He

69 said in sum he would like the room layout to facilitate the managers to be able to see each
 70 other, see everyone participating in the meeting, and see the presentations in as large a format
 71 as possible.

72 Manager Pedersen said she would like the design to allow for flexibility so it can
 73 accommodate each of the ways the District uses the space.

74 Administrator Jeffery collected the managers’ feedback about the proposed designs.
 75

5. Project Status Update

76 Administrator Jeffery reported Engineer Sobiech developed a spreadsheet summarizing the
 77 status of District projects. Administrator Jeffery said the spreadsheet will be available starting
 78 with the District’s next regular meeting. He said staff is working with District Legal Counsel
 79 on developing a project GANTT chart as well.

80 Administrator Jeffrey reported staff is preparing to survey the remaining stretches of Riley
 81 Creek. He reported on the schedule for spring maintenance for the St. Hubert project.
 82 Administrator Jeffery said the District’s CAC plans to present to the Board at its next meeting
 83 a proposal to establish a “Friends of” group, functioning like a CAC subcommittee and
 84 focused on doing hands-on field work in the watershed. He reported the Watershed-Based
 85 Funding (WBF) meeting was held last week and the group reviewed a number of projects.

86 Mr. Sobiech reported Barr is working to develop a task order for the Upper Bluff Creek
 87 project and plans to present it to the Board at its June meeting for the Board to determine if it
 88 wants to move forward with the project into project design.
 89

6. Adjournment

90 Manager Koch moved to adjourn the workshop. Manager Pedersen seconded the motion. Upon a
 91 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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94 The workshop adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Dorothy Pedersen, Secretary