#### **MEETING MINUTES**

### Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District

### October 4, 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, Communications Manager Terry Jeffery, District Administrator

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

Louis Smith, Attorney, Smith Partners

Scott Sobiech, Barr Engineering Company

Other Attendees: Andrew Aller, CAC iPhone 6127436467

Any's iPhone Ted Melby

Jeff Borowiak Dylan Monahan Tina Decker Madhur Patil

Chesney Engquist Alaina Portoghese
Jack Hopkins Michael Pressman
iPhone 358 Kate Rohlfsen

David Knaeble Maya Santamaria

Dean Lotter Dean Suchy

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. Call to Order of Board of Managers Regular Monthly Meeting

- 1 President Ziegler called to order the Wednesday, October 4, 2023, Board of Managers Regular
- 2 Meeting at 7:01 p.m. He stated the Board is conducting this meeting via Zoom out of an
- **3** abundance of caution regarding COVID.
- 4 Louis Smith called attendance for the Board of Managers as follows:

Manager	Action
Crafton	Present
Duevel	Present
Koch	Present
Pedersen	Present
Ziegler	Present

### 2. Approval of Agenda

President Ziegler recommended splitting the Matters of Public Interest into two parts – one for the general matters of public interest and one related to the 7i – Matters of Spring Road item to be handled at the same time as item 7i. Manager Koch moved to adopt the agenda with changes as follows: Removing all items off the Consent Agenda and tabling items 7h, 7i, and 7j because he does not believe the appropriate notice has been provided as required by law. Manager Koch's motion died due to lack of a second.

Manager Pedersen moved to approve the agenda with the revisions to remove all items from the consent agenda and splitting the Matters of Public Interest into two comment periods. Manager Crafton seconded the motion.

Manager Koch said he does not believe proper notice, etcetera has been provided with respect to items 7h, 7i, and 7j. He said he believes dealing with those matters would be a violation of 103D.

Administrator Jeffery said in response to Manager Koch's comment prior to the meeting regarding his opinion that proper notice was not provided, Administrator Jeffery asked Legal Counsel to review the notices. Administrator Jeffery reported Mr. Welch said the notices meets the intent and were properly noticed. Mr. Smith clarified Mr. Welch's review was regarding the budget and tax levy hearing and there are no published notices required for the items on this evening's agenda.

Manager Koch said he does not believe Mr. Smith is correct. Manager Koch moved to amend the motion to move the items 7h, 7i, 7j to the top of the agenda as he believes they will take some time. The motioned died due to lack of a second.

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

Manager	Action
Crafton	Yes
Duevel	Yes

Koch	No
Pedersen	Yes
Ziegler	Yes

### 3. Matters of General Public Interest

President Ziegler explained the procedures for raising matters of public interest.

Manager Koch said in his view items 7h, 7i, and 7j were all listed in a way to hide the ball as to what was really going to happen and are misleading by omission. He said this is not the way to conduct business or provide information to the public. Manager Koch said when he looked at the meeting documentation there was no agreement attached regarding the assignment. He said the Board has not split a public comment period previously and no notice has gone out about a public comment period with respect to Spring Road or the acquisition of property, which is the topic of agenda items 7h, 7i, 7j. He said he believes the Board should reconsider the agenda.

### 4. Reading and Approval of Meeting Minutes

 a. Approve Minutes of the September 13, 2023, Regular Monthly Meeting of the RPBCWD Board of Managers with Continuation on September 21, 2023.

 Manager Crafton moved to accept the minutes of the September 13, 2023, Regular Monthly Meeting. Manager Pedersen seconded the motion.

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 Pedersen moved to accept the minutes of the September 21, 2023, Continuation of the September 13, 2023, Regular Monthly Meeting with a change to line 119 to correct the

spelling of the word "manager." Manager Duevel seconded the motion. Manager Crafton noted an edit to line 62 change "is recommended" to "is recommending."

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

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

### 5. Committee Reports

### a. Acceptance of the Citizens Advisory Committee Report and Minutes

Andrew Aller reported the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) met on September 18, 2023. He said the CAC passed several motions including commending the Board of Managers and the District on its community education and outreach and suggesting the addition of a climate resiliency landscaping workshop to supplement the District's education and information resources. Mr. Aller said the workshop could cover best practices for water quality, soil health, and climate mitigation and adaptation as well as homeowner responsibilities regarding water quality.

Mr. Aller reported the CAC requests the ability to look for information so the CAC can disseminate information and educate the public as to best practices of providing information and notification to the appropriate individuals about bad practices for water quality.

Mr. Aller reported the CAC's second motion was that the Committee gets started with meeting in public and in person. He said it is the CAC's intention is to meet in person starting with its October 16th meeting.

Mr. Aller said the CAC's third motion was to request Administrator Jeffery make a presentation on EHAP at the CAC's October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Manager Pedersen said she thinks it is a good idea for the District to develop a workshop on landscaping for climate resiliency so the workshop would be available in the winter or spring before seasonal landscaping begins.

Manager Crafton moved to accept the Citizens Advisory Committee Minutes and Report. Manager Pedersen seconded the motion.

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

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

### b. Confirm Board Representative for October 16, 2023, CAC Meeting

Manager Crafton volunteered to be the Board representative at the CAC's October 16, 2023, meeting.

Manager Koch recommended no more than two managers attend any one committee meeting. Mr. Smith said it is simpler to have just one or two managers attend but the District can, in an abundance of caution, public notice meetings to notify the public there may be a quorum attending meetings but attending in an observing capacity. Mr. Smith said that function is served well by one or two managers.

Manager Koch asked the CAC to reconsider recording its meetings.

Manager Crafton commented the minutes of the CAC meeting are a good indication of what exactly happens at those meetings. She said she thinks the CAC is doing due diligence to communicate what is going on at the CAC meetings. Manager Koch said he has no idea if the minutes accurately reflect what is happening. He said one picture is worth a thousand words, and if he has the recording it is worth more.

### c. Receive Governance Committee Report (No meeting held)

President Ziegler said no meeting was held and there is no report.

### d. Receive Audit and Finance Committee Report

Manager Duevel moved to receive the Audit and Finance Committee Report. Manager Crafton seconded the motion.

Manager Koch asked for an explanation about the item on page 2 regarding the update on the per diem policy. He said it was not clear to him if the Committee made any recommendations and if so, on what basis the Committee is making recommendations. Mr. Jeffery said at this point the Committee has not put forward any recommendations.

Manager Koch asked about the motion noted in the minutes regarding using 1099s and if the motion was adopted and what the basis is for using a form 1099.

Manager Crafton said the Committee is planning to make a recommendation to the Board but has not made it yet.

Administrator Jeffery said the basis for the motion regarding using 1099s is the statewide survey and the varied approaches watershed districts take between using 1099s and W-2s and the ancillary benefits of using the 1099 approach.

Manager Koch said he has sent references from the IRS website because the apparent position of the IRS set forth on its website is that Board managers are employees for purposes of W-2s and that compensation is to be reported on Form W-2. He said it seems to him the District needs some authority before deviating from that position and to use 1099s. Manager Koch said his mother always told him just because one person jumps off a bridge it does not mean you should too. He said he does not care what percentage of watershed districts use 1099s or does not use W-2s, there is going to be an official position and he suggests the people at Minnesota Watersheds request a revenue ruling from the IRS. He said if wishes were horses beggars would ride.

Manager Crafton said 1099s would allow the District to process per diems quicker and would save the District money. Manager Koch said all too often managers make decisions based on what they think is a good idea and ignoring the law. He said the Board needs to know if there is a law about it.

Manager Koch said with 1099s the recipient is responsible for paying self-employment taxes and with W-2s the employer is responsible for half and the employee is responsible for the other half. He said if the District's managers are W-2s and being treated as 1099s, then basically the District is cheating the government. Manager Koch suggested the District get as definitive an answer as possible from authorities before making a decision.

Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

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

### 6. Consent Agenda

President Ziegler noted all items were removed from the Consent Agenda.

### 7. New Business

### a. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

#### i. **Receive September Staff Report**

Manager Crafton moved to receive the September staff report. Manager Pedersen seconded the motion.

Manager Koch said he thinks the District should review its rules in time for the District's review of the member city local surface water management plans in order to be in a position to comment or require changes to any of the LSWMPs. He said his understanding is there is a 10-year moratorium, meaning if the District adopts rules, the District cannot force cities to make changes to their plans except every 10 years.

Manager Koch commented about the zebra mussel and eDNA found in Lotus Lake. He asked if there were zero veligers found in the District's lakes or streams. Josh Maxwell said the District conducts veliger sampling on all District lakes and Carver County also conducts sampling. He reported the District only found veligers on Lake Riley. Mr. Maxwell said Carvey County found some veligers on Lotus Lake in the east lobe and did not find any on Lake Anne.

Manager Koch asked if any treatment is planned for Lotus Lake. Mr. Jeffery said no.

Manager Koch asked if there is a database for the District's stewardship grant program. Mr. Jeffery said yes, staff plans to present it at a Board workshop.

Manager Koch commented he thinks the District's website needs a lot of work.

Manager Koch asked if items still remain to be recorded regarding the Middle Riley Creek project. Administrator Jeffery said yes. Manager Koch said if in the future the District does projects with private parties, the District should consider including contract provisions to authorize the District to sign easements on behalf of the landowner if the landowner refuses to do so within a certain period of time or include a provision of going to court with them and they pay all the costs.

Manager Crafton said at some point she would like the Board to receive more information about the NPDES general construction stormwater permit regarding water discharge. Administrator Jeffery said he can prepare a memo on that after he studies it further.

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### 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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### ii. Receive September Engineer's Report

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Manager Pedersen moved to accept the September Engineer's Report. Manager Duevel seconded the motion.

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Manager Koch asked how many acres of forest are in the watershed. Mr. Jeffery said he would need to look at the GIS to determine that. Manager Koch said he thinks the Board should know this before investing time in something that may

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be so small as to not be worthy of the District's attention at this time given other

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matters such as the significant erosion on two streams in the watershed.

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Manager Koch asked if the managers receive a Gannt chart of all the projects. Mr. Sobiech said yes, quarterly. Manager Koch said he would like to see the

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snapshot each month, even if project status does not change much month to month.

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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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### iii. Receive September Regulatory Report

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Manager Crafton moved to receive the September regulatory report. Manager Pedersen seconded the motion.

Manager Koch asked if the category "applications received" includes the first three listed. Administrator Jeffery said the permits received are not included in permits executed category. Administrator Jeffery said staff will separate out those two categories going forward. Manager Koch said he would like to see information on applications and permits closed out. He said he would like noncompliant permit issues to move to resolution.

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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# iv. Approve Final Pay Application #9 for \$7,906.95 to Sunram Construction for Bluff Creek Tributary Restoration Project;

Manager Pedersen moved to approve the final pay application #9 for \$7,906.95 to Sunram Construction for Bluff Creek Tributary Restoration Project . Manager Crafton seconded the motion.

Manager Koch moved to amend the resolution as follows: that the revised pay application provided by Administrator Jeffery to the Board of Managers be inserted into record of this meeting and upon Administrator Jeffery's receipt of the revised recommendation by Barr Engineering and pay application by Sunram, the officers are authorized and directed to cause the sum of \$7,906.95 to be paid to Sunram in full payment of such revised payment application. Manager Pedersen and Manager Crafton consented to Manager Koch's revision to the motion.

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

Manager	Action
Crafton	Yes
Duevel	Yes

Koch	Yes
Pedersen	Yes
Ziegler	Yes

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Manager Koch asked for a 10-minute break. At 8:14 p.m. President Ziegler announced a 10-minute break.

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At 8:24 p.m. President Ziegler reconvened the meeting.

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#### Approve Permit 2023-026 Café Zupas as Presented in the Proposed v. **Board Action Section of the Permit Review Report**

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the conditions and stipulations set forth in the recommendation section of the report attached to the permit item in the meeting packet and resolve the determination by the Administrator that the conditions of approval have been

Manager Crafton moved to approve Permit 2023-026 Café Zupas as Presented in the Proposed Board Action Section of the Permit Review Report subject to

affirmatively resolved and the Watershed District President or Administrator is authorized and directed to sign and deliver permit 2023-026 to the applicant on behalf of the Watershed District. 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

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### Approve Permit 2023-055 Ridgewood Ponds Development as vi. Presented in the Proposed Board Action Section of the Permit **Review Report**

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Manager Crafton moved to adopt the resolutions proposed in the District's permit review application for Permit 2023-055 and resolving that the application for Permit 2023-055 is approved subject to the conditions and

stipulations in the report attached to this permit item in the meeting packet and resolve that on the determination by the Administrator that the conditions of approval have been met and the Watershed District President or Administrator is authorized and directed to sign and deliver permit 2023-055 to the applicant on behalf of the Watershed District.

Manager Koch asked if the project eliminates a number of wetlands and replaces them with infiltration basins.

Mr. Sobiech said for this Permit 2023-055 Ridgewood Ponds, the project is not eliminating a wetland. He said the City of Minnetonka through its WCA authority has allowed the project to excavate out six inches of material from the wetland but the wetland will remain.

Manager Koch said he pulled this item off the agenda to bring up for consideration the question of why the District is not buying this property. He said that by purchasing this property, the District would be saving a wetland and preserving property surrounding the wetland.

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

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

# vii. Approve Permit 2023-056 Kinsley Development as Presented in Proposed Board Action Section of the Permit Review Report

Manager Crafton moved to approve Permit 2023-056 and resolving that the application for Permit 2023-056 is approved subject to the conditions and stipulations in the report attached to this permit item in the meeting packet and resolving that on the determination by the Administrator that the conditions of approval have been met, the Watershed District President or Administrator is authorized and directed to sign and deliver permit 2023-056 to the applicant on behalf of the Watershed District. Manager Pedersen seconded the motion.

Manager Koch pointed out that on page 9 of the report, the information under findings No. 2 is a little different than what is presented in the other permit

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request. He suggested the District have a template having to do with general requirements, findings, and recommendations.

Manager Koch said a lot of units are being squeezed in to this property and if the Board votes to approve this permit, it seems the Board is indicating it thinks the District's rules are sufficient to protect the watershed's waterbodies from runoff and all concerns addressed in the District's rules.

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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**Pervious Paver Patio and Native Plantings** Manager Pedersen moved to approve Resolution 23-060 Approving Watershed Stewardship Grant with Hackamore Brewery in the Amount of \$34,176 for the Installation of a Pervious Paver Patio and Native Plantings. Manager Crafton

seconded the motion.

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Manager Koch said when he looked at the Board packet the only document posted for this item was the resolution. He said he believes the District needs to have all the information in the Board packet the day it is published or otherwise affirmatively notify if any other documents are added to the Board packet after the fact. He said he has issues approving this because he has not reviewed all the information.

Approve Resolution 23-060 Approving Watershed Stewardship Grant with Hackamore Brewery in the Amount of \$34,176 for the Installation of a

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

Manager	Action
Crafton	Yes
Duevel	Yes

Koch	No
Pedersen	Yes
Ziegler	Yes

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# ix. Adopt Resolution 23-065 Authorizing the Expenditure of District Funds to Send up to Five Managers to the Minnesota Water Resources Conference

Administrator Jeffery said there is funding available in the District's budget for all five managers to attend, including covering the costs of the per diems and parking. Manager Pedersen moved to Adopt Resolution 23-065 Authorizing the Expenditure of District Funds to Send up to Five Managers to the Minnesota Water Resources Conference. Manager Crafton seconded the motion. Manager Pedersen and President Ziegler noted they are not available to attend the conference.

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 September Treasurer's Report

Manager Crafton moved to table the September Treasurer's report. Manager Duevel seconded the motion. Manager Crafton said she noted two discrepancies in the report in the new format. She said all the invoices and payables tied out.

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

Manager	Action
Crafton	Yes

Duevel	Yes
Koch	No
Pedersen	Yes
Ziegler	Yes

### c. Resolution 23-061 Approving Payment of the Bills

Manager Crafton moved to adopt Resolution 23-061 Approving Payment of the Bills. Manager Pedersen seconded the motion.

Manager Koch said there is no provision for paying the interest and/or penalties for failure to pay his per diem in the time prescribed by law. He said he is hereby demanding payment of that interest and penalties in accordance with applicable law as well as failure to pay the other payments set forth on his claims forms.

Manager Koch said he sent the request asking for information regarding the payment or nonpayment on the amount put forth on his claims forms and he has not received that and certainly not in a timely manner.

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

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

# d. Consider Permit 2023-012 Audubon Business Park Variance Request from Rule B – Floodplain for Placement of Fill Within Floodplain

President Ziegler moved to consider Permit 2023-012 Audubon Business Park Variance Request from Rule B – Floodplain for Placement of Fill Within the Floodplain. Manager Pedersen seconded the motion.

Mr. Sobiech explained the project is located on a 28-acre site and the applicant is looking to construct two commercial buildings with associated streets and utilities. He said six wetlands are currently on the site. He said two wetlands, #1 and #2, will be

preserved, and wetlands #3, #4, #5, and #6 will be filled and replaced under a WCA replacement plan approved by the City of Chanhassen.

Mr. Sobiech remined the Board of the District's Rule K variance criteria, which requires the Board of Managers to find that because of unique conditions inherent to the subject property the application of rule provisions will impose a practical difficulty on the applicant. Mr. Sobiech reviewed the specific criteria against which assessment of practical difficulty is conducted.

Mr. Sobiech summarized the engineer's analysis of the variance request against Rule K. He said the project will provide a net increase of floodplain storage, which will be used for stormwater management on the site. Mr. Sobiech said that because the proposed project will reduce the site discharge volume and rate leaving the site relative to existing conditions, the proposed project is not reasonably likely to cause offsite adverse impacts. He pointed out the proposed project is not likely to adversely affect offsite governmental services, water resources, flood levels, or neighboring properties because the project provides a net increase of storage below the 100-year flood elevation and the proposed variance only impacts the applicant's property.

Mr. Sobiech explained that the technical measures incorporated into the project plan to alleviate the practical difficulty include the creation of compensatory flood storage volume in the wet detention basin and five infiltration basins to comply with the District's requirements, although not within the same floodplains. He said that routing the developed site runoff to the proposed stormwater management facilities will allow the runoff to be stored in the facilities, resulting in reduced site discharge as summarized in the rate control analysis. Mr. Sobiech stated that because the wetlands will no longer exist, the compensatory storage cannot be provided within the floodplain of the same waterbody.

Mr. Sobiech explained that the applicant has created the circumstances leading to the variances though it did so with the approval of another relevant regulatory body, the LGU (Local Governmental Unit) administering WCA. He summarized that the District Engineer finds there is adequate technical basis for the managers to rely on to grant the requested variance. Mr. Sobiech highlighted the District Engineer recommends the applicant revise the design of the wet detention basin to promote and establish wetland characteristics to offset the loss of some of the wetland and floodplain functions.

Manager Crafton said she cannot in good conscience approve this variance. She said compensatory storage is supposed to be done within the same floodplain. Manager Crafton said there is a great issue of climate impacts in terms of the interest of justice. She said projects need to allow more infiltration and have working hydrology to help recharge aquafers if nothing else.

Manager Koch said based on the engineer's analysis, the project plans to provide the same infiltration as the District requires, and if those are the District's rules, then those are the District's rules. He said the infiltration not taking place within the same floodplain is a minor issue, given that the LGU gets to decide if the wetlands get taken out.

371 Manager Pedersen commented that the fact the District does not have WCA authority 372 takes that decision out of the District's hands. She said the project fills in 785 cubic yards on that site and she is wondering how many more of these projects will the 373 374 District see. 375 Manager Koch said the applicant is meeting the District's rules. He said he does not 376 think the floodplain element is sufficient basis to deny a variance and in his view the floodplain goes away because effectively the LGU approved the floodplain going away. 377 Manager Koch said he thinks a good solution is for the applicant to add wetland 378 characteristics to the pond. He said he thinks to not grant a variance would be arbitrary 379 380 and capricious. 381 Manager Pedersen said she is concerned that the applicant is only putting down a seed 382 mix and not any other plantings. She said the project proposes a lot of impervious 383 surface. 384 Manager Koch said the Board just approved a permit for a project that constructs almost 385 wall-to-wall impervious surface. He said he does not think the Board can toss this 386 project and approve others. Manager Koch said if the Board does not like the District's rules, the Board needs to change the rules. He said permit applicants are entitled to the 387 benefits of the District's rules. Manager Koch said the Board has some latitude with 388 variances but cannot be arbitrary and capricious. He said the Board has to be consistent. 389 390 Manager Crafton said on page 14 the engineer recommends the applicant revise the 391 design of the wet detention basin to promote and establish wetland characteristics, but 392 right now the applicant is not required to redesign it. 393 Mr. Smith reminded the Board there is a motion in front of the Board. 394 President Ziegler made a new motion to approve the variance for Permit 2023-012 and 395 requesting the permit applicant includes more vegetation and more detail on how they will make the infiltration basins mimic wetland characteristics. Manager Koch seconded 396 the motion. 397 398 Manager Crafton said based on the variance exceptions she will vote against this motion based on the District's Rule K criteria 5 and 6. 399 400 Manager Koch said he believes the applicant has demonstrated the request for the 401 variance meets a substantial majority of the criteria established in the District's rules for 402 approving a variance and it would be consistent with the Board's past variance 403 approvals. 404 Administrator Jeffery asked if the applicant provided the District with any other site 405 layouts for this property. Mr. Sobiech said he recalls that alternative layouts were submitted as part of the wetland submittal to the TEP. He said that submission was for 406 407 the WCA process and once the project plan was submitted to the District as part of the District regulatory program there were not alternative layouts considered to avoid the 408

wetlands because the TEP had already decided the wetlands could be filled.

Administrator Jeffery said something the District could consider moving forward as it discusses its rules is putting language into the floodplain rule similar to the District's Rule J that the applicant must consider other layouts if the constraint is of the applicant's own making.

Manage Koch moved to call the question.

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

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

# e. Approve Permit 2023-012 Audubon Business Park as Presented in the Proposed Board Action Section of the Permit Review Report

Manager Koch moved to adopt the Resolution set forth on page 1 of the engineer's report pertaining to Permit 2023-012 and upon approval the resolutions be set forth in the minutes. President Ziegler seconded the motion with the amendment of the addition of the recommended improvements to mimic the wetland. Manager Koch consented to President Ziegler's amendment.

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

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

429 The resolutions set forth on page 1 of the engineer's report pertaining to for Permit 430 2023-012 comprise: 431 Resolved that the application for Permit 2023-012 is approved, subject to the 432 conditions and stipulations set forth in the Recommendations section of the 433 attached report; 434 Resolved that on determination by the RPBCWD administrator that the conditions of approval of the permit have been affirmatively resolved, the 435 RPBCWD president or administrator is authorized and directed to sign and 436 deliver Permit 2023-012 to the applicant on behalf of RPBCWD.] 437 438 439 Manager Koch requested a 10-minute break. At 9:36 President Ziegler called for an 440 eight-minute break. 441 At 9:44p.m. President Ziegler reconvened the meeting. 442 f. Consider Permit 2023-022 CorTrust Bank Parking Lot Improvements 443 Variance Request from Rule D Minimum Buffer Width Requirement 444 445 President Ziegler moved to approve the variance for Permit 23-022 CorTrust Bank 446 Parking Lot Improvements Variance Request from Rule D Minimum Buffer Width 447 Requirement with the recommendations from the engineer per the engineer's report. 448 Manager Pedersen seconded the motion. 449 Manager Pedersen thanked the applicant for coming back with this revised variance 450 request. 451 Engineer Sobiech shared a PowerPoint slide "Permit 2023-022: CorTrust Bank Parking 452 Lot" and photographs of the site. He explained the applicant proposes to add a small 453 amount of fill in some areas and to provide compensatory storage in other areas such 454 that there is no floodplain variance needed. He said the applicant proposes to construct a 455 small stormwater pumping station to collect the stormwater and pump it up and 456 discharge it into an existing catch basin, which discharges into the existing stormwater facility to provide for a stormwater treatment and rate control. He said the applicant 457 does not need a floodplain variance but the variance is related to the floodplain buffer 458 459 requirements. 460 Mr. Sobiech reported the proposed wetland buffer will have a minimum width of 0.1 feet, which is less than 1% of the required minimum from the entrance road. Mr. 461 Sobiech described the proposed buffer design for the areas in which the curb will be 462 463 disturbed and the runoff can get to the wetland. He said the variance also requests the District grant the applicant the ability to reconstruct some of the imperviousness within 464 the minimum buffer width such that the facilities can function as intended. 465 466 President Ziegler asked if the amount of imperviousness will remain the same. Mr.

Sobiech responded there will be a slight reduction.

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

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

# g. Approve Permit 2023-022 CorTrust Bank Parking Lot Improvements as Presented in the Proposed Board Action Section of the Permit Review Report

Manager Koch moved to adopt the Resolution set forth on page 1 of the permit application review for Permit 23-022 CorTrust Bank Parking Lot Improvements as Presented in the Proposed Board Action Section of the Permit Review Report. Manager Pedersen seconded the motion.

Mr. Sobiech said the applicant and engineer attended tonight's meeting. Mr. Sobiech thanked the applicant for getting get creative and coming back with a good solution.

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

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

# h. <u>Adopt Resolution 23-062 Affirming Trek Development Inc. Documents as Trade Secret Information</u>

Mr. Smith said as one of the preconditions to proceeding to consider the assignment agreement or the means by which the District is considering acquiring the Spring Road properties, one of those conditions in the agreement is the District classify the underlying transaction between Trek Development Inc. and the Standals as trade secret information. He said Resolution 23-062 had been prepared to consider that condition. He said he previously provided advice about this matter and if there is a desire for the Board to discuss this matter in detail then he recommends the Board go into closed session as the topic relates to one of the agreements to acquire real estate and under the Open Meeting Law would be the basis to hold a closed meeting discussion.

Manager Koch said he is not sure closed session is appropriate but he has questions. He said he believes he has authority to discuss this topic in open session but he is trying to understand what is considered to be trade secret.

Manager Koch moved to go into closed session to have a discussion to find out at least what the Board is talking about to determine the subject matter and how it might apply to this case. President Ziegler seconded the motion.

President Ziegler said the Board will still have a public comment session after the Board returns from closed session.

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

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

At 10:01 p.m. the Board moved into closed session.

At 10:20 the Board reconvened the public meeting.

President Ziegler moved to adopt Resolution 23-062 Affirming Trek Development Inc. Documents as Trade Secret Information. Manager Pedersen seconded the motion.

Manager Koch said this motion is asking the District to deem documents supposedly provided to the District although no list has been provided to the Board to identify what is identified as being trade secret, and the managers are proposing the Board approve

essentially a blank slate of documents provided to the District that are supposedly trade secrets and the District allegedly would not be able to disclose to anyone. Manager Koch said the next agenda item is regarding providing an assignment agreement, which exactly relates to the documents that he assumes are going to be on this invisible list of trade secret documents. He asked how the managers can do their jobs when the managers do not have access to the documents and the public does not have access to the documents.

Manager Koch said there has been no demonstration of what the documents are and no demonstration that there have been reasonable efforts to maintain the confidentiality of these documents. He said the managers have not been given any history or information about to whom the documents have been disclosed about their nature. Manager Koch said the Board has no idea if in fact one can derive independent economic value by it not being known by someone else. He said from the information he has seen it will not make any difference because Trek has pretty much sewed up this property indefinitely.

Manager Koch said he fails to see why these documents are trade secrets. He said the District cannot deem something a trade secret because it either meets the qualifications of a trade secret or it does not. Manager Koch said the Board's adopting the proposed resolution is a waste of time because the Board is not in a position to make that determination.

Manager Koch said a much simpler agreement could be put in place and that totally avoids the issue of documents and instead would be a straightforward document saying Trek will pay \$5,700,000 if you deliver clear title. Manager Koch said this resolution is too nebulous, does not cover the requirements of something being a trade secret, there is no factual support for something being considered a trade secret, and he does not even know what documents are being discussed and whether he has been given all the documents.

Manager Crafton called the 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

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# i. Adopting Resolution 23-063 Approving Assignment Agreement and Authorizing Execution of the Assignment Agreement (Board May go into Closed Session)

# i. Public Comment on Adopting Resolution 23-063 Approving Assignment Agreement and Authorizing Execution of the Assignment Agreement (Board May go into Closed Session)

Mr. Smith recommended a brief presentation of the action the District is considering with Resolution 23-063 whereby the District is acquiring rights to acquire the three parcels known as the Spring Road properties.

Mr. Smith reported the District has gone through a series of discussions over five to six months and the Board discussions have been in closed session. He said the District is now ready to present for the Board's public action this proposed agreement with Trek Development whereby the District enters into an agreement with Trek for Trek to assign it rights to the three parcels of property to the District.

Mr. Smith said there are conditions before closing. He said conditions include the District going through a process to assure it has financing with Hennepin County to finance this acquisition and going through an orderly process to amend this as a project in the District's plan and providing for detailed public hearings to take place some 60 days for now for the public to again comment if this kind of project belongs in the District's Plan as an opportunity project and whether it should be ordered as a project of the District. Mr. Smith asked Mr. Pressman, the conservation consultant the District has retained, to, in general terms, describe the property being acquired and the process he has gone through.

Mr. Pressman described the process including being contacted by the District, reaching out to Trek Development who was seeking a buyer for the property, securing a property appraisal from Nicollet Partners, entering into negotiations with Trek Development, and coming up with the best transaction that both sides would agree to, which is the assignment agreement in front of the Board tonight. He said it is in the form of an assignment agreement because Trek Development has a contractual right to acquire the property and there is ease of administration and transaction cost savings by assigning the transaction to the District at closing and then having the District close directly with the Standals.

Mr. Pressman said the agreement includes a due diligence period that will allow the District to do additional due diligence work on title and environmental assessment and there is time for the District to line up financing and get regulatory approvals as well as time should the District wish to explore further the possible sale of a conservation easement to Hennepin County to help with the funding of the project. Mr. Pressman said if the District approves entering the agreement and signs it, the District will pay some is earnest money, which is in most cases refundable. He said if the District signs the agreement it will then have a 60-day feasibility period that the District has to determine that its due diligence is satisfied and the District wants to proceed. Mr. Pressman said closing is 30 days after the expiration of the due diligence period. He said the District has a one-time right to extend the time to closing by 60 days in order to finalize financing and/or regulatory approvals by paying an extra deposit as identified in the agreement. Mr. Pressman said the agreement includes conditions and default provisions.

Mr. Pressman said his recommendation is to approve the agreement and enter

Mr. Pressman said his recommendation is to approve the agreement and enter into it and then work to finish the feasibility period, double check the District does not have any concerns, and proceed to closing once the regulatory approvals and financing are in place.

Alex Selke, real estate attorney with Ballard Spahr, introduced himself, noting he works in all aspects of commercial real estate transactions. He said because the property is currently under contract and there is an existing purchase contract out there between TI holdings/Trek and the Standals, the District's best opportunity to acquire the property and ensure that it has contractual rights to obtain it is to work with TDI to take assignment of the existing contract. Mr. Selke said the assignment agreement provides the District with the most protections. He said the assignment will not happen until closing, so most of the contractual rights and obligations are directly with Trek.

Mr. Selke explained if the District needs to enact a 30-day extension to closing, beyond the 90 days, to finalize financing or its plan amendment, the District will need to pay an additional \$50,000 nonrefundable deposit.

Mr. Smith said the action in front of the Board is whether or not to enter into this agreement with Trek, which would launch a process and later there will be public hearings on amending the District's Plan and ordering the projects.

Madhura Patil asked what the process will be about how public comments will be addressed and how the public will know what comments were received. She asked how the public will know the progress of the feasibility report and what determination has been made. Ms. Patil asked where the public can get more information about that. Ms. Patil asked about what will be included in the Hennepin County conservation and preservation. President Ziegler said the Board might not have all the answers to questions this evening but will try to provide answers at a general time. Administrator Jeffery said to feel free to send him questions as well and he will try to respond.

Morgan Jacob of Carver said he recently volunteered to be president of Spring Valley Friends. He said he speaks for Spring Valley Friends in saying the group supports the District purchasing this property.

Manager Koch said as a member of the public it is his position that it is probably a great piece of property to preserve but purchasing the property is outside the scope of the powers of a watershed. He recommended people read state statute 103D.

Manager Koch said furthermore the financing that is being proposed is also outside the powers granted by 103D. He said this is not a necessary acquisition. He said it is too expensive. Manager Koch said the managers were told this acquisition will delay by several years a number of projects. He said before the Board decides about this agreement and before the public comment period, there should be a complete presentation as to the impact of this acquisition on projects already in the District's 10-Year Plan.

Manager Koch said doing this acquisition would further violate 103D and 103B because the cost would exceed the District's levy authorizations. He said there are multiple reasons why this is not an authorized transaction.

Manager Koch said this acquisition is too expensive per acre and other conservation partners will do other projects in which they get more bang for buck. He said there is no reason under the District's rules why this property needs to be acquired. Manager Koch said taxes will be raised by a minimum of 9% and proposed budget increases, which the District is not even able to do, would lead to something like a 300% increase in taxes for something the District is not authorized to do.

Manager Koch said the Board should not be voting on this item now. He said the District should hold a hearing so everyone can get all the information to properly weigh in and ask questions. He said it is too late to go all the way down the path, pay money, perhaps additional deposits to the seller and not be able to close for many of the reasons he has set forth.

# ii. Adopting Resolution 23-063 Approving Assignment Agreement and Authorizing Execution of the Assignment Agreement (Board May go into Closed Session)

Manager Pedersen moved to adopt Resolution 23-063 Approving the Assignment Agreement and Authorizing Execution of the Assignment Agreement. Manager Crafton seconded the motion.

Manager Koch said in addition to what he has already stated, he wants the people of Carver County to know they will be paying 40% of some \$6,000,000 for acquisition of property for which they will receive no benefit and that will provide no benefit to the watershed and the waters in the district.

Manager Koch said the Board approved a permit to build some 20 or 30 houses on this property, and this shows acquiring this property is not necessary to

665 protect this property under the District's rules. He said therefore purchasing this property is not necessary and not authorized under state statute 103D. 666 667 Manager Koch said the proposed funding mechanism violates Chapter 103D of the Minnesota Statutes. He said no funding mechanism has been proposed that 668 669 meets that requirement and no one has come forward to put in money for 670 funding the acquisition. 671 Manager Koch said he is against giving Hennepin County a conservation easement for \$500,000 and that would essentially lock up the property forever. 672 673 He said at a minimum Hennepin County needs to pay the full market value if it 674 wants an easement on the entire property or needs to get an easement on a 675 portion of the property that is worth \$500,000. 676 Manager Koch said the acquisition blows the District's levy and budget and is 677 not authorized under state statutes. 678 Manager Koch said there are other properties that have issues and the District 679 has not considered buying them. Manager Koch said there is no reason to buy 680 this property. He said under the District's rules the District can adequately protect water resources, which is what the District is tasked to do under state 681 682 statute. He said the statutes specifically say the District can only acquire property that is necessary and the purchase of this property is not necessary. 683 684 Manager Koch said this agreement is way too complicated. He said it can be simpler by Trek Development agreeing to give the District fee simple title. 685 686 Manager Koch said there has not been a presentation on the District's projects that would be delayed and by how long. He said voting on this agreement today 687 688 is premature. He said there is no reason to be in a hurry. Manager Koch said the 689 District should get the public's opinion before making a decision. He said he 690 believes it would not be consistent with the District's duty to the public to ram 691 forward with this project when in fact this project's agreement was not even 692 posted with the Board meeting packet at the time the original resolution was 693 posted. 694 Manager Koch said the property acquisition project does not score as high as projects the District already has in its Watershed Plan. He said the scoring of 695 696 the project was a self-fulfilling prophecy and his own scoring came in way below the threshold of the District moving forward with the project. 697 698 Manager Koch said the public deserves an explanation and more information 699 before the District agrees to sign a document that will at minimum cost the District \$25,000 plus an untold amount of money for services by Mr. Pressman, 700 Mr. Selke, and Mr. Smith. 701 702 Manager Crafton called the question. 703 Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 4-1 as follows: 704

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

# j. Adopt Resolution 23-064 Authorizing Notification of Public Hearing on Plan Amendment and a Public Haring on Ordering the Project

Manager Pedersen moved to Adopt Resolution 23-064. Manager Crafton seconded the motion.

Manager Koch moved to table this item. Manager Koch's motion died due to lack of a second.

Manager Koch said the proposal for a plan amendment is incomplete. He said it only covers a change to the plan for an acquisition, and the change in the table refers to another amount that is not addressed in the plan amendment. Manager Koch said the inclusion of the purchase goes beyond the District's levy amount and if the District spends that amount the District will violate the law by spending more money than the District is allowed to.

Manager Koch said the levy would be \$9,000,000, which would be three times the District's normal levy amount. Manager Koch said the public can only imagine what this would do to their taxes. Manager Koch said moving the cost to 2024 would not matter because it would still violate the budget and levy the Board approved.

Manager Pedersen called the question.

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

Manager	Action
Crafton	Yes
Duevel	Yes
Koch	No
Pedersen	Yes

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#### 8. Discussion Items

#### a. Board Room

Administrator Jeffery said there are delays with the delivery of the tables due to a delay on the electronic components. He said he will see if the tables can be delivered without the electronics, which could perhaps be installed after the fact. Manager Koch recommended the Board wait until everything is set up to go back to in person meetings.

Manager Pedersen concurred with Manager Koch.

Manger Crafton said some committees really want to meet in person, so if the Board's delay does not delay the committees meeting in person, she is ok with the idea of waiting until everything is set up.

Mr. Smith clarified the resolution the Board adopted earlier in regard to the Covid situation was a finding that it was not prudent and feasible for all managers to meet in person as health wise it was not comfortable for all managers to meet in person. He said if there are committees in which this does not apply, meeting in person can be accommodated.

Administrator Jeffery said the interactive meeting technology is up and running and fully functioning.

President Ziegler said the Board is not proposing at this time to hold the Board meetings in person and Administrator Jeffery will keep the Board informed about how the testing of the technology is going.

### b. Workshop Schedule

Administrator Jeffery said the December workshop falls on December 21. The managers indicated their availability to attend the December 21<sup>st</sup> workshop. He said upcoming workshop topics include EHAP and the Governance Manual. Manager Koch asked staff to provide the managers with a 2024 workshop schedule at the December workshop. Administrator Jeffery said staff can provide at least a good outline of a workshop schedule at the December workshop.

### 9. Member Reports

### a. Manager Reports

 Manager Koch said he thinks the Board did not fulfill its fiduciary obligation with respect to the three resolutions regarding Noble Hills. He said he does not believe the District provided proper information in advance. He said whether required or not the

District should have provided a full opportunity for people to see all the documentation and should have been given a presentation on the schedule. Manager Koch said the District should have made clear what was going to be discussed. He said all of the information was not timely provided. Manager Koch repeated his statement regarding his manager report from last month and said he has seen no improvement in any of the items he raised.

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### **b.** Administrator Reports

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No administrator report.

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### c. Legal Counsel Reports

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No legal counsel report.

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### 10. Upcoming Board Topics

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### 11. Upcoming Events

- Gravel Bed Tree Giveaway, 10/5/23
- Soil Health Walk-shop, 10/7/23
- Cycle the Creek, 10/7/23

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### 12. Adjournment

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

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

783	The meeting adjourned at 11:20 p.m.	
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787		Respectfully submitted,
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790		Dorothy Pedersen, Secretary