

**Public Notice
(Official Publication)
Notice of Public Hearings
Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District
Spring Road Conservation Project**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Managers of the Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District (RPBCWD) will hold a public hearing to consider adopting the proposed Spring Road Conservation Project plan amendment pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 103B.231 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 8410; and thereafter hold a public hearing on the proposed project for the purpose of receiving comments to determine whether to order the proposed Spring Road Conservation Project pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 103B.251.

The hearings will be held on Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at District Office, 18681 Lake Drive East, Chanhassen, MN. A hybrid option will be available using interactive technology. A link to this option will be available on the district website: rpbcwd.org.

The District has undertaken months of deliberation to consider an unanticipated opportunity to acquire three contiguous parcels on Spring Road in Eden Prairie for conservation purposes. The District's acquisition of the Spring Road properties will complete a contiguous corridor following Riley Creek from Lake Riley to the Minnesota River; the District has identified a series of location, topography, ecological and other benefits for the watershed through conservation of this site.

The District proposes to purchase the Spring Road properties for \$5,775,000. The District estimates that consultant and legal costs will be approximately an additional \$75,000. The District is exploring a potential \$500,000 contribution toward the acquisition from Hennepin County and the Minnesota Land Trust. In coming years, RPBCWD will assess the viability and determine the likely costs of habitat restoration, potential trail connection, and an interpretive center will be studied. The District intends to certify the costs of this project and enter into a cooperative financing agreement with Hennepin County, whereby the costs of the project will be paid over a term of 20 years through the District's ad valorem tax levy authorized by Minnesota Statutes section 103B.241 on all properties in the District in Hennepin County and Carver County. Approximately 77% of this levy will be paid by properties in Hennepin County, and 23% paid by properties in Carver County.

All interested persons are invited to appear at the public hearings to offer comments and ask questions in order to advise the board of managers on whether to adopt the proposed plan amendment and to order the proposed project.

Further information, including a full copy of the proposed plan amendment, is available by contacting the District Administrator, Terry Jeffery, tjeffery@rpbcwd.org, or 952-607-6512 ext.1, or by visiting the District website: www.rpbcwd.org.

Dated: October 4, 2023

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

Dorothy Pedersen, Secretary

RESOLUTION NO. 23-064
RILEY PURGATORY BLUFF CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
BOARD OF MANAGERS

**AUTHORIZING DISTRIBUTION OF PLAN AMENDMENT AND DIRECTING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR
SPRING ROAD CONSERVATION PROJECT**

Manager Pedersen offered the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Manager Crafton:

WHEREAS the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District's (District) 2018 10-Year Watershed Management Plan (Plan) recognizes that unanticipated opportunities may emerge during the life of this Plan; and that while the District cannot predict the future, the District has established a process to allow the District and its partners to take full advantage of these circumstances through the implementation of "Opportunity Projects"; (Plan, Section 9.13, p. 9-49);

WHEREAS the District has undertaken months of deliberation to consider an unanticipated opportunity to acquire three contiguous parcels on Spring Road in Eden Prairie for conservation purposes; the District's acquisition of the Spring Road properties will complete a contiguous corridor following Riley Creek from Lake Riley to the Minnesota River; the District has identified a series of location, topography, ecological and other benefits for the watershed through conservation of this site; the District engineer scored the proposed acquisition using the prioritization scoring method presented in the Plan, and in comparison to proposed development of the site, the conservation acquisition renders a prioritization score of 35-39 points; accordingly it is appropriate under Section 9.13 of the Plan to proceed with a plan amendment for the project;

WHEREAS the Board of Managers has approved a proposed assignment agreement that provides for the District to acquire the subject property following a feasibility period, during which time the Board of Managers will consider comments on a proposed plan amendment and on whether to order the project;

WHEREAS the District has accordingly prepared a draft plan amendment to be distributed to municipalities, counties, state review agencies, and other District stakeholders for consideration;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Managers finds that is appropriate to initiate the plan amendment process pursuant to Section 9.13 and 9.14 of the Plan, and hereby directs the administrator to distribute the proposed Spring Road Conservation Project plan amendment as required by the Plan, Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 8410; and further directs the Administrator to notice a public hearing on this proposed plan amendment to be held on Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the District's office in Chanhassen, Minnesota;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Managers hereby directs the administrator to notice a public hearing on the proposed project pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.251

for the purpose of receiving comments to determine whether to order the proposed project under Section 103B.251.

The question was on the adoption of the resolution and there were 4 yeas and 1 nay as follows:

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Absent</u>
CRAFTON	X			
DUEVEL	X			
KOCH		X		
PEDERSEN	X			
ZIEGLER	X			


Upon vote, the president declared the resolution adopted.

Dated: October 4, 2023

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I, Dorothy Pedersen, secretary of the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District, do hereby certify that I have compared the above resolution with the original thereof as the same appears of record and on file with the District and find the same to be a true and correct transcription thereof.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I set my hand this 10th day of Oct, 2023.


Dorothy Pedersen, Secretary