APPROVED

RCWD Board of Managers Workshop

Monday, August 7, 2023

**Rice Creek Watershed District Conference Room
4325 Pheasant Ridge Drive NE, Suite 611, Blaine, Minnesota**

**And**

**Meeting also conducted by alternative means
(teleconference or video-teleconference) from remote location**

The Board convened the workshop at 9:00 a.m.

Attendance: Board members Mike Bradley, John Waller, Jess Robertson, Marcie Weinandt, Steve Wagamon

Absent:

Staff: Administrator Nick Tomczik, Communication & Outreach Specialist Kendra Sommerfeld; Public Drainage Inspector Tom Schmidt; Technician/Inspector Terrence Chastan-Davis (video-conference), Office Manager Theresa Stasica

Consultants: District Engineer Chris Otterness-Houston Engineering, Inc., Victoria Holthaus- Abdo (phone-conference)

Visitors: None

**Budget, Property Market Value, & Levy Discussion**

Administrator Tomczik stated the Board directed staff at their last workshop to investigate and provide information for the Board to better understand the district-wide tax rate and estimated taxable market values as a tool in its budget development. The District consulted with Victoria Holthaus from Abdo. Ms. Holthaus confirmed and supported the District’s current practice of obtaining the four counties’ current year’s actual taxable market value and final tax rates. She informed the Board that each counties preliminary data is made available in mid-August. Abdo documented location and process for staff to obtain this information in the future from the four counties. Ms. Holthaus discussed information with the Board on tax capacity and market values and the District’s current practice of using this information in its budgeting process. The Board discussed with staff and Ms. Holthaus the unpredictable and complexity in the estimate of future market values. The Board discussed this process with staff and Ms. Holthaus and what is typical of other watershed districts. The Board by consensus affirmed that their current procedure is acceptable for its needs.

**RCWD 2024 Draft Budget**

Administrator Tomczik reviewed the draft budget with the Board and discussed changes and highlights within each program. The Board by consensus agreed to the draft budget and asked for confirmation of the projected levy increase and staff to draft notice for the budget public hearing.

Administrator Tomczik asked the Board if they would like to only utilize Mn Statute 103B.241 for their levy. The Board discussed the current use of two statutes 103D and 103B versus the use of the one statute 103B as foundation of budget, levy. The Board by majority consensus agreed to levy solely based on 103B metro watershed basis.

**RCWD- Minnesota Watersheds (MnWDs) Draft Resolution**

Staff and the District Engineer Otterness reviewed and discussed with the Board an updated draft MN Watersheds resolution to replace the sunsetting resolution. The Board by consensus directed staff to update the resolution and work with district attorneys to update the draft bill language and bring back to the Board for their consideration.

**MOBI Trac Sale Update**

Staff gave an update to the Board on their progress in selling the equipment and recommended pursuing a consignment or auction sale. The Board agreed by consensus to pursue the consignment or auction sale.

**Administrator Updates**

Administrator Tomczik informed the Board of a request and proposal from the City of Hugo and WSB regarding a water reuse study and request for 100% District funding. He also stated staff will be scheduling a JD3 Phase 2 repair informational landowner meeting the week of September 11th.

The workshop was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.