

Definitions

The following definitions and acronyms apply to the District rules and accompanying guidance materials.

100-year flood elevation: The surface elevation of a waterbody or stormwater-management facility that has a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year, as shown on District floodplain maps, where available, or as calculated using a model utilizing the most recent applicable precipitation reference data as published by the National Weather Service (e.g., Atlas 14) or Natural Resource Conservation Service Technical Release 60 (TR-60), whichever is higher

Abstraction: Permanent retention of runoff on a site by structures and practices such as infiltration basins, evapotranspiration and capture and reuse.

Back-to-back storm events: Distinct rainfall events occurring within 24 hours of each other.

Best management practices (BMPs): Various structural and nonstructural measures taken to minimize negative effects on water resources and systems, such as ponding, street sweeping, filtration through a rain garden and infiltration, as documented in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Protecting Water Quality in Urban Areas and the Minnesota Stormwater Manual.

Bioengineering: Various shoreline and streambank stabilization techniques using aquatic vegetation and native upland plants, along with techniques such as willow wattling, brush layering and willow-posts.

District: Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District.

Existing conditions: Site conditions at the time of consideration of a permit application by the District, before any of the work for which a permit is sought has commenced, except that when impervious surfaces have been fully or partially removed from a previously developed site but no intervening use has been legally or practically established, "existing conditions" denotes the previously established developed use and condition of the site.

Fill: Any rock, soil, gravel, sand, debris, plant cuttings or other material placed onto land or into water.

Groundwater: Water in the interstices of rock and soil that is present at pressures greater than one atmosphere.

High-Risk Erosion Areas are specific locations in the watershed that, because of topography and soil conditions, are particularly susceptible to erosion. High-Risk Erosion Areas are specified in a map adopted by the Board of Managers and published and maintained by the District on its website at www.rpbcwd.org.

Impervious surface: Any ground surface that is or has become compacted or covered with a layer of material, or is likely to become compacted from expected use, such that it is or will be highly resistant to infiltration. (A boardwalk is not an impervious surface.)

Landlocked basin: A localized depression that does not have an outlet at or below its 100-year flood elevation.

Land-disturbing activity: Any alteration of the ground surface that could result, through the action of wind and/or water, in soil erosion, substantial compaction, or the movement of sediment into waters, wetlands, storm sewers, or adjacent property. Land-disturbing activity

includes but is not limited to soil stripping, clearing, grubbing, grading, excavating, filling and the storage of soil or earth materials. Typical, routine farming operations (e.g., plowing, harvesting) are not land-disturbing activities for purposes of the rules.

Linear project: Construction or reconstruction of a public transportation improvements, or construction, repair or reconstruction of a utility or utilities in a linear corridor that is not a component of a larger development or redevelopment project.

Low floor: The lowest elevation of a structure.

Nested: A hypothetical precipitation distribution where the precipitation depths for various durations within a storm have the same exceedance probabilities. This distribution maximizes the rainfall intensities by incorporating selected short-duration intensities within those needed for longer durations at the same probability level. As a result, the various storm durations are “nested” within a single hypothetical distribution. Nested-storm distribution (or frequency-based hyetograph) development must be completed utilizing the most recent applicable National Weather Service reference data (e.g., Atlas 14), in accordance with:

1. the alternating block methodology as outlined in Chapter 4 of the HEC-HMS Technical Reference Manual, (USACE, 2000);
2. methods in HydroCAD;
3. methods established by the Natural Resources Conservation Service; or
4. otherwise as approved by the District engineer.

(Reference: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 2000. Hydrologic Modeling System HEC-HMS Technical Reference Manual.)

Outfall: A constructed point source where a storm sewer system discharges to a receiving water. An outfall does not include diffuse runoff or conveyances that connect segments of the same stream or water systems (e.g., when a conveyance temporarily leaves a storm sewer system at a road crossing).

Parcel: A contiguous area of land under common ownership, designated and described in official public records and separated from other lands by its designation.

Pervious: Non-saturated soil with tested soil compaction pressure of less than 1,400 kilopascals/200 pounds per square inch in the upper 12 inches of soil or bulk density of less than 1.4 grams per cubic centimeter/87 pounds per cubic foot in the upper 12 inches of soil.

Protected wetland: A wetland, the draining, filling or excavation of which is regulated.

Remodeling: For non-linear projects, land-disturbing modifications, including addition, expansion or other improvement to a building or buildings on a property, that involve a change to the footprint of the impervious surface on the site.

Redevelopment: Any land-disturbing activity on an already-developed site or any substantial change to existing structures on a site.

Redoximorphic: Soil features characterized by evidence of the reduction and oxidation of iron and manganese compounds in the soil after saturation with water and desaturation.

Regulated feature: A public watercourse, public waters wetland or other protected wetland in the watershed, or any watercourse within a High-Risk Erosion Area. “Regulated feature” is a collective term, used to describe all water resources regulated under Rule D.

Rehabilitation: A maintenance project that disturbs or replaces only the existing impervious surface, does not disturb underlying soils or result in a change in the direction, peak rate,

volume or water quality of runoff flows from the site, and does not include the addition of new impervious surface. Full-depth reconstruction that does not disturb underlying soils and mill and overlay of paved surfaces are rehabilitation.

Retaining wall: Vertical or nearly vertical structures constructed of mortar-rubble masonry, hand-laid rock or stone, vertical timber pilings, horizontal timber planks with piling supports, sheet pilings, poured concrete, concrete blocks, or other durable materials and constructed approximately parallel to the streambank or shoreline.

Right-of-way: Delineated, legally defined property on which a public linear project is located, including adjacent area necessary for safe operation of the road, sidewalk or trail and dedicated to such use by fee ownership or other recorded or registered title interest.

Shoreline: The lateral measurement along the contour of the ordinary high water mark of a water basin and the area waterward therefrom.

Site: One or more contiguous properties that are the location of activities that are the subject of a District permit and are under the control of the applicant.

Stormwater-Management Facility: a device, feature or practice constructed, installed or used to limit rate of flow, retain volume and/or provide water-quality treatment of stormwater. A device designed and used solely to convey stormwater flows (a conveyance) is not a stormwater-management facility.

Stream Power Index: As defined by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Stream Power Index is calculated: $LN ((\text{Drainage Area} + 0.001) * ((\text{Slope}/100) + 0.0001))$. SPI is a function of slope and tributary flow accumulation values, which can be thought of as the volume of water flowing to a particular point on the landscape. SPI represent the ability of intermittent overland flow to create erosion, but the SPI values are not differentiated based on soils type or land cover effects on runoff volume or erosion.

Streambank: The lateral measurement along the top of the bank of the channel of a watercourse and area waterward therefrom,

Structure: Any impervious building or other object that is constructed or placed on the ground and that is, or is intended, to remain in place for longer than a temporary period.

Subwatershed: An area described by a level-nine Minnesota Department of Natural Resources catchment code.¹

Thalweg: The line connecting the points of lowest elevation in a watercourse, channel, valley, ravine or gully.

Topsoil: The topmost soil horizon, consisting of clay, silt and sand in proportions conducive to the promotion of root penetration and plant growth. It must have a minimum of 5 percent organic matter.

Waterbody: A watercourse or water basin.

Water basin: An enclosed natural depression with definable banks, capable of retaining water.

Watercourse: A natural channel with definable beds and banks capable of conducting confined runoff from adjacent land.

¹ See ftp://ftp.gisdata.mn.gov/pub/gdrs/data/pub/us_mn_state_dnr/geos_dnr_watersheds/metadata/dnr_watersheds_auto_catchments.html

Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District Rules

Beyond the definitions above, words in the Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District rules will be interpreted consistently with definitions in Minnesota water law (Minnesota Statutes chapters 103A, 103B, 103C, 103D, 103E, 103F and 103G). The specific definitions above will prevail in the event of a contradiction or deviation.

Acronyms

BMP – best management practice

LGU – Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act local government unit

MnRAM – Minnesota Routine Assessment Methodology for Evaluating Wetland Functions (*see* <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/wetlands/mnram/index.html>)

NGVD - national geodetic vertical datum

OHW – ordinary high water level (*see* Minn. Stat. § 103G.005, subd. 14)