

MEETING MINUTES

Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District

March 18, 2026, RPBCWD Board of Managers Regular Monthly Meeting

Attendees:

Managers	Jill Crafton (Secretary); Tom Duevel (Treasurer); Bonnie Nelson (Vice President), Dorothy Pedersen, and Leslie Stovring*
Staff/Advisors	Shauna Capron* (Natural Resources Technician III), Zach Dickhausen* (Natural Resources Manager), Liz Forbes (Deputy District Administrator), Andrew Hartmann* (Regulatory Program Coordinator), Terry Jeffery (District Administrator), Eleanor Mahon* (Community Engagement Coordinator), Dylan Monahan (Watershed Planner), Skye Slater* (GIS Communications Specialist), Shelby Sterner* (Natural Resources Technician III), Louis Smith (Smith Partners), Scott Sobiech* (Barr Engineering), and Rachel Whittington* (Education and Outreach Specialist)
Other Attendees	Brian Evans*; Larry Koch*; Margaret Milligan; Michael*; Hannah Peterson* (CAC); Dan Shaw (BWSR and UMN); Joe Siedl; Joann Syverson; Marilyn Torkelson*

**Attended the meeting virtually.*

Call to Order of Board of Managers Regular Monthly Meeting

President Pedersen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the District Office, 18681 Lake Drive East, Chanhassen, Hennepin County, Minnesota, and she called attendance by roll call as follows:

<i>Manager</i>	<i>Present</i>
Crafton	Yes
Duevel	Yes
Nelson	Yes
Pedersen	Yes
Stovring	Yes

1. Approval of Agenda

Manager Crafton moved to approve the agenda. Manager Duevel seconded the motion.
Manager Nelson removed from the Consent Agenda item 5A – Approve Permit 2025-0787

Brew Coffee as Presented in the Recommended Board Action Section of the Permit Review Report. President Pedersen announced the item will be moved to the New Business agenda as item 6Ai. By roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0 as follows:

<i>Manager</i>	<i>Action</i>
Crafton	Yes
Duevel	Yes
Nelson	Yes
Pedersen	Yes
Stovring	Yes

2. Matters of General Public Interest

Joann Syverson of 489 Pleasantview Road, Chanhassen, said she is here tonight to make a final plea to the District for its support to protect Lotus Lake from wake surfing ecological harms. She said the harms have been proven and there is scientific evidence from around the world regrading concerns about these boats. Ms. Syverson referenced a University of Minnesota two-phase study, in which Phase 1 proved that a width of 1,200 feet was necessary for wake boats to drive by without harming the lakeshore, animals, or vegetation. She explained that Phase 2 proved that the wakes dip into the water 20 feet, meaning lakes need to be at least 20-feet deep in the areas in which wake boat operators want to do their wake surfing activities. Ms. Syverson said the District is not addressing the cause of the Lotus Lake problems, and the cause of the lake's problems is the wake boats in wake surfing mode. She commented that the District has the authority and responsibility to protect the waterbodies in the District. Ms. Syverson referenced Minnesota Statute that authorizes watershed districts to use its powers for purposes including managing and protecting surface waters and groundwaters for any beneficial purpose. She said she cannot protect Lotus Lake and she needs help. Ms. Syverson said the District has the power to help. Ms. Syverson commented she needs an organization with authority to do a petition and turn it in, so a sign gets put up that says no wake surfing on Lotus Lake. She mentioned action taken for a northern Minnesota lake, Caribou Lake, which she believes has an ordinance prohibiting wake surfing.

President Pedersen recommended the Board put this topic on an agenda for discussion and with more detail.

3. Reading and Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Approve Minutes of the February 18, 2026, RPBCWD Board of Managers Workshop and Regular Meeting

Manager Stovring moved to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2026, RPBCWD Board of Managers workshop and regular meeting. Manager Duevel seconded the motion. Manager Crafton had an edit to line 53 to replace the word “Environment” with “Ecosystem.” The managers consented to the edit. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0 as follows:

<i>Manager</i>	<i>Action</i>
Crafton	Yes
Duevel	Yes
Nelson	Yes
Pedersen	Yes
Stovring	Yes

4. Committee and Member Reports

a. Receive February Administrator Report

Administrator Jeffery mentioned the staff departure of Josh Maxwell and the coverage of that role’s responsibilities by other District staff members. President Pedersen said on behalf of the Board and watershed, she is appreciative of all the effort Mr. Maxwell devoted to the District, such as the programs and connections he created.

Administrator Jeffery mentioned the new District treasurer’s report for February, noting the Audit and Finance Committee will review it. Administrator Jeffery and Liz Forbes provided details about the Board and staff’s cybersecurity training.

b. Receive February Staff Report

No comments on the January staff report.

c. Receive February Engineer’s Report

Manager Nelson mentioned some intermittent technical difficulties opening the report and some of the other meeting documents online. Manager Stovring and President Pedersen said they experienced the same thing.

Manager Nelson commented on the North Lotus Lake project, saying even if the project design does not include a bench, perhaps area where a bench could be installed could be part of the design. She said perhaps a Scout project or other community project could install a bench in the future. Manager Nelson said regarding Task Order 48, the report

62 states “healthy lake” and she thinks it should be defined so people can understand what
63 that term means when the District uses it and what does it mean for individuals in the
64 District. She said watershed residents need to hear how they will experience a “healthy
65 lake.” Manager Crafton said she agrees that healthy is a subjective word and she has made
66 this same comment repeatedly. She said she prefers terminology such as “functioning.”

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68 **d. Receive February Regulatory Report**

69 Administrator Jeffery commented that the City of Chanhassen has been really good about
70 sharing information with the District.

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72 **e. Receive Legal Report**

73 No legal report.
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75 **f. Receive Manager Reports**

76 Manager Nelson suggested the Board and Administrator Jeffery go through a debrief of
77 the Administrator review process, focused on the actual process. President Pedersen
78 suggested adding the topic into the follow up already being planned to be scheduled for
79 later in the spring.
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81 **5. Consent Agenda**

82 **a. Approve Permit 2025-078 Brew Coffee as Presented in the Recommended Board
Action Section of the Permit Review Report.**

83 Manager Nelson said she pulled this item off the Consent Agenda because it is the first
84 time she has seen a permit application submitted on behalf of the owner and in lieu of the
85 owner and she did not see the District Engineer’s recommendation that a condition of
86 permit approval is that the maintenance declaration be recorded on the deed. Mr. Sobiech
87 said if that recommended condition is not clear to the managers, that the language be
88 updated to make it clear, and the managers can propose the language as part of the
89 Board’s motion to approve the permit.

90 Manager Nelson recommended adding the language, “...receipt showing recordation of
91 the maintenance declaration for the stormwater management facilities. Drafts of any and
92 all documents recorded must be reviewed and approved by the District prior to
93 recordation, and applicant must provide proof of recordation as a condition of the permit.”

94 Manager Nelson moved to approve Permit 2025-078 Brew Coffee as Presented in the
95 Recommended Board Action Section of the Permit Review Report with the language
96 updates stated by Manager Nelson. Manager Crafton seconded the motion. Upon a roll
97 call vote, the motion carried 5-0 as follows:
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<i>Manager</i>	<i>Action</i>
Crafton	Yes
Duevel	Yes
Nelson	Yes
Pedersen	Yes
Stovring	Yes

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6. New Business

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a. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

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i. Approve Permit 2025-078 Brew Coffee as Presented in the Recommended Board Action Section of the Permit Review Report

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Manager Nelson moved to approve Permit 2025-078 with changes. Manager Crafton seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0 as follows:

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<i>Manager</i>	<i>Action</i>
Crafton	Yes
Duevel	Yes
Nelson	Yes
Pedersen	Yes
Stovring	Yes

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b. Discussion of 2025 Fund Balance and Treasurer's Report Format and Adopt Resolution 26-013 Accepting the February Treasurer's Report and Approving Payment of the Bills.

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Administrator Jeffery said he would like the Audit and Finance Committee to look at the report and come back to the Board with recommendations. Mr. Smith brought to the Board's attention that the resolution needed to be modified to only include action on payment of the bills Manager Duevel moved to adopt Resolution 26-013 modified to Approve Payment of the Bills in the total amount of \$84,855.18. Manager Crafton

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seconded the motion. Manager Duevel modified his motion to simply approve payment of the bills in the total amount of \$84,855.15. Manager Crafton accepted the modification. By roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0 as follows:

<i>Manager</i>	<i>Action</i>
Crafton	Yes
Duevel	Yes
Nelson	Yes
Pedersen	Yes
Stovring	Yes

c. Approve Variances from Rule J for Permit 2025-079 Fox Hollow Street Reconstruction as Presented in the Potential Board Variance Action Section of the Permit Review Report.

Mr. Sobiech described the street reconstruction and rehabilitation project, noting that most of the project is reconstruction. He reviewed his analysis of the variance requests, including the variance for water quality treatment, explaining the applicant demonstrated that the pollutant loadings leaving the site under proposed conditions is less than existing conditions and is directing runoff from 4.51 acres away from the flood-prone area into stormwater facilities in North Lotus Lake Park to reduce flood risk. He said regarding the water quality variance, the proposed alterations will not have significant adverse effects to governmental services, water resources, flood levels, or neighboring properties.

Regarding the District's variance criteria 4 on practical difficulty alleviation, Mr. Sobiech described how the pretreatment forebay and a temporary dry detention cell in North Lotus Lake Park are excluded from the removal computations because of the resuspension potential in the dry detention cell. He explained the reasons behind the proposed temporary BMPs, noting that the City of Chanhassen and the District are working collaboratively to maximize the stormwater management potential prior to runoff entering Lotus Lake, but because the District's North Lotus Lake Park water quality improvement project will not be implemented until after the street reconstruction project, the proposed temporary biofiltration basin and temporary dry detention basin are intended to maintain existing stormwater flows and water quality treatment.

Mr. Sobiech said the practical difficulty occurred due to the planned implementation of the Fox Hollow street reconstruction project in advance of the construction of the full stormwater management facility in North Lotus Lake Park. He summarized that presuming implementation of the North Lotus Lake water quality improvement project, he finds there is adequate technical basis for the managers to rely on to grant the requested variance.

Manager Duevel moved to approve the variances from Rule J for Permit 2025-079 Fox Hollow Street Reconstruction as Presented in the Potential Board Variance Action Section of the Permit Review Report. Manager Crafton seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0 as follows:

<i>Manager</i>	<i>Action</i>
Crafton	Yes
Duevel	Yes
Nelson	Yes
Pedersen	Yes
Stovring	Yes

d. Approve Permit 2025-079 Fox Hollow Street Reconstruction as Presented in the Recommended Board Action Section of the Permit Review Report.

Manager Crafton moved to approve Permit 2025-079 Fox Hollow Street Reconstruction as Presented in the Recommended Board Action Section of the Permit Review Report. Manager Duevel seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0 as follows:

<i>Manager</i>	<i>Action</i>
Crafton	Yes
Duevel	Yes
Nelson	Yes
Pedersen	Yes
Stovring	Yes

e. Adopt Resolution 26-014 Authorizing Task Order No. 55 for Statistical Analysis of Soils Data Collected to Date

Administrator Jeffery asked to pull this item from the agenda to give staff more time to work on the task order. The Board consented to pulling the item from the agenda.

7. Discussion Items

a. Steering Committee

Dylan Monahan presented the slides “Plan Update Steering Committee Summary.” He summarized that the Committee has met five times, discussing topics such as mapping assets and choosing priority resources, identifying issues and threats, capital improvement planning, and project prioritization. He said the consultant helped identify key themes, including regulatory reform, geographic risks, CIP planning, public engagement, and partnership dynamics. Mr. Monahan reviewed feedback received in the Committee meetings, such as on the topic of regulatory reform the city partners emphasized redundancy, revealing a possible need for a process to identify overlaps. Mr. Monahan said the city partners also described issues with timelines, mentioning they would like to see more administrative approval by the District to streamline the process. He noted that regulatory reform is the official meeting topic for the next steering committee meeting.

Mr. Monahan mentioned an idea that surfaced around Capital Improvement Project planning, which is to create a restricted-access interactive map that stakeholders can use to identify opportunities for partnership. Regarding the topic of public engagement, one of the topics discussed is the maintenance of private stormwater infrastructure, such as how to engage HOAs and other entities that may own such infrastructure. Mr. Monahan said there are three more scheduled meetings, including on March 24th to discuss regulatory framework, April 16th to discuss an envisioned future, and the final meeting on May 21st will focus on discussing partnership dynamics. He added that he believes it has been really helpful to have a third-party facilitating the Committee meetings as the neutrality seems to open the door for the discussions.

b. Update on Lawsuits: Larry Koch v. RPBCWD and Terrance Jeffery (the Board may go into closed session) and Larry Koch v. Hennepin County, Carver County, RPBCWD, et al (the Board may go into closed session)

Mr. Smith said there is no update at this time.

8. Upcoming Board Topics

- a. 2025 End of Year Fund Balance Report - April**
- b. Whole Lake Management Plan Update – April**
- c. Review Proposals and Interview Candidate Firms for Conceptual Architectural Work for Spring Road Conservation Project – TBD**
- d. April 13th 230**

9. Upcoming Events

- a. District Creek Week – June 7 – June 13, 2026
- b. Audit and Finance Committee – TBD (April)

10. Adjourn

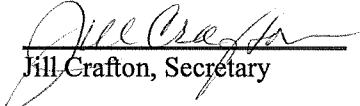
The Board and Administrator Jeffery identified April 13th at 2:30 p.m. for a special meeting of the Board at the District Office to discuss the coordination of the District Administrator annual workplan and review of the Administrator review process.

Manager Duevel moved to adjourn the meeting. Manager Stovring seconded the motion.
Upon a roll call vote the motion carried 5-0 as follows:

<i>Manager</i>	<i>Action</i>
Crafton	Yes
Duevel	Yes
Nelson	Yes
Pedersen	Yes
Stovring	Yes

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Jill Crafton, Secretary

