MEETING MINUTES

Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District

July 9, 2025 RPBCWD Board of Managers Workshop

Attendees:

Managers	Jill Crafton (Secretary), Tom Duevel (Treasurer), Bonnie Nelson (Vice President), Dorothy Pedersen (President), and David Ziegler
Staff/Advisors	Liz Forbes* (Communications Manager), Terry Jeffery (District Administrator), Josh Maxwell* (Water Resources and Fisheries Manager), Dylan Monahan (Office Administrator), Louis Smith (Smith Partners), and Scott Sobiech (Barr Engineering)
Other Attendees:	Larry Koch*; Marilyn Torkelson* (CAC)

Attended the meeting virtually.

Call to Order

President Dorothy Pedersen opened the Wednesday, July 9, 2025, Board of Managers Workshop at 5:00 p.m. at the District Office, 18681 Lake Drive East, Chanhassen, Hennepin County, Minnesota. Managers Duevel, Nelson, and Ziegler were present [Manager Crafton arrived at 6:00 p.m.].

1. 2026 Budget and Levy

Administrator Jeffery reminded the Board that the District's budget and levy is due to the County auditors on September 15th. He recommended holding the public hearing on the 2026 budget and levy at the Board's August Board meeting and then putting forward the budget and levy at the Board's September meeting.

Administrator Jeffery said staff is projecting a carry-over into 2026 of about $5.3 million. He said he is proposing a 2026 levy of about $5.25 million. He noted he assumes investment income of about $250,000 based on maintaining the current return on investment. Administrator Jeffery said the proposed 2026 budget, which he will review next, amounts to expenses of $6.85 million, leaving the District with just over $3 million in reserves, or 41% of the proposed budget. He said those figures do not include grants, and although the District has been awarded the Lessard-Sams grant, at this time the District is not in a position to utilize the grant, and so it is not included in the proposed budget.

Administrator Jeffery displayed the 2026 budget table that he recommends the District publish with the public notice of the public hearing. The table listed the 2026 total revenue as $9,882,605, Administrative Expenditures as $2,007,466, District-wide Project Expenditures as $1,530,000, the Bluff Creek capital project expenditure as $697,100, the Riley Creek capital project expenditure as $2,058,500, and the Purgatory Creek capital

project expenditure as $360,000, and the District's Reserve as $200,000, leaving $3,315,600, or the approximately 41% of the District's budget.

Administrator Jeffery reviewed the proposed 2026 Administrative Budget line items, pointing out additions that would bring the total number of staff up to 11. He mentioned that starting next year the District needs to provide paid leave insurance, and per calculations the budget includes approximately $1,500 per employee. Manager Nelson asked if there is budget allocated for costs associated with the lawsuits. Administrator Jeffery said no, but if the managers want to allocate funds to it, it can be added.

Administrator Jeffery walked the managers through the proposed budget for the District-wide projects and the Capital projects. He reminded the Board the District receives levy disbursements in December and in July.

Manager Ziegler asked if the real estate line item includes property tax. Administrator Jeffery said yes. He also said there are portions of the Eden Prairie special assessment the District could pay off with reserve funds, if it wants.

Manager Nelson mentioned the Frontier Trail project and mentioned the bar seemed to be set really high in terms of the rain gardens and cut outs and what projects would qualify. Engineer Sobiech said the City discussed the project during the permitting process and views those as above and beyond the requirements being met by the infiltration.

Manager Duevel asked if the Board and staff performs any kind of review as it gets toward the end of the 10-year period of its plan and if such a review influences the new 10-year plan. Administrator Jeffery said he would like to do such a review with the Board in October.

Administrator Jeffery reiterated the proposed 2026 Budget is $6.85 million and the proposed 2026 levy is $4.245 million, which would leave the District with a reserve of about $3 million. He said the proposed levy is almost flat compared to last year's levy, at an increase of 0.001%.

He said on the Consent Agenda at the Board's regular meeting tonight is an item to authorize staff to notice an August 6th public hearing on the proposed 2026 budget and levy. He said he would need any recommended changes to the proposed budget and levy tonight, to meet the timeline for publishing the budget with the public hearing notice for the August meeting.

Manager Ziegler commented about the Purgatory Creek area by the dam that has washed out a number of times. Administrator Jeffery said it would need to be a City project as it is not in the District's Plan. Manager Ziegler said the City says it should be a District project. He asked if the District could rank the project. Administrator Jeffery said there has been a review of the possible water quality benefit of bringing it back up to the eight inches, but it was not a significant change. Manager Ziegler said he is hearing staff say that that area is not creating an environmental problem. He said the District should probably note that as the reason the District is not doing it. Engineer Sobiech said the steel sheet pile sits on both sides of the trail and prevents cutting. He said if the sheet pile was not there, it would be a much bigger issue.

63

2. Community Engagement Plan

64 Administrator Jeffery said staff member Liz Forbes presented this plan to the Board last
65 month and there has been just some fine tuning of it.

66 Manager Crafton said she finds the language in the plan regarding "understanding issues of
67 most concern to the state agencies" disturbing. She said the District will notify the agencies,
68 and the agencies will react to what the District puts forward, and the District will respond to
69 the comments. Manager Crafton said the District will collect stakeholder input but she
70 wants to make sure the managers' and staff's priorities are in the plan. Manager Duevel
71 commented that the language makes it seem like the District is looking to the state agencies
72 to guide what the District is doing as opposed to the District sharing what it plans to do.

73 Manager Crafton commented she is also concerned about how the District is proposing to
74 go about the community engagement piece. She said it seems like a passive approach and
75 does not feel healthy. President Pedersen said it seems like the plan does not identify what
76 communities the District will solicit input from, because just saying the general public is
77 pretty broad. She said she would like more information, either now or later.

78 President Pedersen said she sees the Community Engagement Plan as the framework for
79 how the District will solicit reactions from the community on the types of topics Manager
80 Crafton mentioned, like sustainable groundwater resources and ecologically healthy waters.

81 Manager Duevel said this plan is like a preflight checklist to get the process out of the gate,
82 but not everything can be included in this engagement plan. Administrator Jeffery said to
83 think of plan writing as a dynamic process.

84 Administrator Jeffery said there is a Steering Committee meeting on July 24th, and then staff
85 will come back to the Board with what comes out of that meeting.

86 President Pedersen adjourned the workshop at 6:30 p.m.

87

88

89

90 Respectfully submitted,

91

92

93 Jill Crafton, Secretary

94