

MEETING MINUTES

Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District

July 15, 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 Liz Forbes (Deputy District Administrator), Michelle Gardner (Operations Manager); Andrew Hartmann (Regulatory Program Coordinator), Terry Jeffery (District Administrator), Eleanor Mahon* (Community Engagement Coordinator), Dylan Monahan (Watershed Planner), Louis Smith (Smith Partners), Scott Sobiech* (Barr Engineering), and Rachel Whittington* (Education & Outreach Specialist)

Other Attendees Lois Anderson; Chesney*; Tina Decker; Amanda Heveron; Morgan Jacobs; Sofia Jensen; Kumar; Michael Miller; Linda Renner

**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. Manager Nelson was in attendance in person, and Managers Crafton, Duevel, and Stovring were in attendance virtually. President Pedersen called attendance as follows:

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

1. Approval of Agenda

Manager Duevel moved to approve the agenda. Manager Crafton seconded the motion. Administrator Jeffery noted Agenda item 3 should include approval of the minutes for both

the workshop and the regular meeting. He said Agenda item 4 was addressed at the June 17th RPBCWD meeting and can be removed from tonight's agenda. Manager Crafton requested the removal of 5b – Approve Permit 2026-024 6910 Lake Harrison Road – from the Consent Agenda. President Pedersen said that item will be moved to New Business item 6ai. The managers consented to the adjustments to the agenda as mentioned. 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

2. Matters of General Public Interest

Sophia Jensen of 8800 Tretbaugh Drive, Bloomington shared a slide presentation titled, "Protecting Frederick Miller Spring – A Community-based Approach to Buckthorn Management," to accompany her comments. She commented that this approach prioritizes clean water, public health, wildlife, and effective stewardship through safer management practices. Ms. Jensen spoke in support of protecting Frederick Miller Spring, a unique drinking water source, by choosing lowest-risk management methods. She pointed out that the state recommends minimizing herbicide exposure near water. Ms. Jensen referenced the Minnesota DNR environmental risk assessment of Triclopyr. She said the assessment documents developmental and reproductive effects in mammals in toxicity studies, notes negative impacts of Triclopyr on non-target species, and finds that it can persist in soil and surface water. Ms. Jensen reported that the DNR recommends reducing Triclopyr contact with water resources, using the minimum effective application rates, and reducing the number of applications. She said that since this area provides drinking water to the public, she thinks it makes sense to choose safer methods of buckthorn removal when possible rather than introduce a chemical. Ms. Jensen stated that mechanical buckthorn removal works, and she noted the benefits of manual and high-cut removal. She listed examples of Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board natural areas in which invasive species removal and management have been successfully implemented, such as Roberts Bird Sanctuary and William Berry Woods, among others. Ms. Jensen stated that community voices matter, and she summarized community support for chemical-free management. She displayed a slide about the community petition she spearheaded and which included 168 signatures of residents, including 40 from Eden Prairie and the rest from neighboring communities, to

urge the Board to prioritize chemical-free invasive species management like manual and high-cut buckthorn removal methods instead of herbicides wherever practical.

Morgan Jacobs of Carver near 4th and Broadway said he represents Spring Valley Friends and thanked the Board and District on the acquisition of the Spring Road property. He offered the District the support of the Spring Valley Friends as needed.

Administrator Jeffery commented that on the District's website, under the District Projects section, the Spring Road project has the site management plan posted. Administrator Jeffery said page 4 of the management plan specifically states "non-chemical control of plant species."

3. Reading and Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. Approve Minutes of the June 17, 2026, RPBCWD Board of Managers Workshop and Regular Meeting

Manager Crafton moved to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2026, RPBCWD Board of Managers workshop and regular meeting. Manager Stovring seconded the motion.

Manager Crafton noted an edit to be made on line 22 of the workshop minutes to correct the spelling of "berm." Manager Stovring pointed out an edit to line 3 of the workshop minutes to insert "Manager" in front of Duevel. The managers consented to the edits.

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

b. Receive June Administrator Report

Terry Jeffery reported the District acquired a new vehicle. He mentioned the District's office HVAC is not working, which is why he encouraged virtual attendance of tonight's

meeting. Administrator Jeffery mentioned that staff member Zach Dickhuasen and family plan to relocate at the end of the month, so Mr. Dickhausen will no longer be a District staff member. Administrator Jeffery said Mr. Dickhausen is willing to contract with the District to help with the transition. Administrator Jeffery announced that this is President Pedersen's last meeting, because the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners has appointed a new member, who will start in August.

c. Receive June Staff Report

No questions or comments were raised.

d. Receive June Engineer's Report

No questions or comments were raised.

e. Receive June Regulatory Report

Manager Crafton commented she likes that the report lists the corrective actions and dates. Manager Stovring commented she likes the report format.

f. Receive Legal Report

Louis Smith reminded the Board that he previously reported that the Plumbing Board was considering adopting rules that would essentially prohibit stormwater reuse. He said a great number of people gave testimony in front of the Board, including Minnesota Watersheds and a coalition led by the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association. Mr. Smith said that as a result, the Minnesota Plumbing Board decided it would pause its rulemaking and have its ad hoc rulemaking group reconvene on July 21st from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. He added that the Plumbing Board set a deadline for today for any proposed actions for them to consider. Mr. Smith reported that Minnesota Watersheds said the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association submitted, on behalf of the coalition, a proposal that the Plumbing Board completely drop all their Chapter 15 rulemaking on the use of water sources for non-potable purposes. Mr. Smith said he will monitor the July 21st meeting.

g. Receive Manager Reports

Manager Nelson mentioned the dates of the early bird registration for the Minnesota Water Resources conference in October. She said she would like to attend. Manager Crafton said she would like to attend. Manager Stovring said she would like to go for one day, and she will touch base with Administrator Jeffery.

President Pedersen said it has been a privilege and honor working on the Board and with the managers and District staff, and she looks forward to the work the District will accomplish going forward. The managers thanked her for her work on the Board.

h. Receive June 25, 2026, Governance Committee Meeting Report and Minutes

Manager Stovring said the Committee looked at how to modify the District's Governance Manual language based on the District's new accounting system. She said the Committee discussed the idea of having two tiers of per diems, such as one for meetings of less than an hour.

5. Consent Agenda

a. Approve Permit 2023-06 Chestnut Townhomes as Presented in the Recommended Board Action Section of the Permit Review Report

c. Approve Permit 2026-047 Chapel Hill Playground as Presented in the Recommended Board Action Section of the Permit Review Report

d. Adopt Resolution 26-030 to Enter into Cost Share Agreement with the Preserve Association for Additional Shoreline Restoration on Neill Lake

Manager Stovring moved to approve the Consent Agenda with item b removed. 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

6. New Business

a. Items Removed from Consent Agenda

i. Approve Permit 2026-024 6910 Lake Harrison Road as Presented in the Recommended Board Action Section of the Permit Review Report

Manager Crafton said it seems like this project sends water downstream. She asked if the District has any responsibility over it. Scott Sobiech said the water will go to the same locations as it currently flows to and rates will not increase. Mr. Sobiech said the District Engineer's analysis looked at downstream impacts

in terms of the downstream wetland offsite to the north and the onsite wetland to the south, and the applicant shows they will be able to comply with the District's criteria.

Manager Nelson moved to approve Permit 2026-024 6910 Lake Harrison Road as Presented in the Recommended Board Action Section of the Permit Review Report. 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

b. Adopt Resolution 26-027 Accepting the June Treasurer's Report and Approving Payment of the Bills

Manager Duevel moved to adopt Resolution 26-027 Accepting the June Treasurer's Report and Approving Payment of the Bills. 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

c. **Adopt Resolution 26-028 Ordering Notice of a Public Hearing to Take Comment on the RPBCWD 2027 Budget and Levy at the August 19, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Board of Managers.**

Manager Nelson moved to adopt resolution 26-028 Ordering Notice of a Public Hearing to Take Comment on the RPBCWD 2027 Budget and Levy at the August 19, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Board of Managers. Manager Crafton seconded the motion. Administrator Jeffery said based upon the Board discussion at this evening's workshop, the Board wants to move forward with scenario 3 to set the District's 2027 budget at \$8,770,220.00 and the levy at \$4,475,000, which represents a 5% levy increase from 2026 to 2027. The managers consented to the update to the resolution to include the budget and levy numbers as stated by Administrator Jeffery. 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. **Adopt Resolution 26-029 Noticing Proposed Revisions to the Financial Policies Section of the RPBCWD Governance Manual**

Manager Crafton moved to adopt Resolution 26-029 Noticing Proposed Revisions to the Financial Policies Section of the RPBCWD Governance Manual. Manager Duevel seconded the motion. He noted that the Committee name should be listed as the Audit and Finance Committee in any references to it. Administrator Jeffery acknowledged that clarification. 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. Approve Barr Engineering Task Order #055: Meadowcroft Culvert Replacement and Riley Creek Stabilization Feasibility Study

Administrator Jeffery said this task order is regarding the private culvert the Board and staff have previously discussed. He explained the District would take dedication of the land from the property owner, work on a cross-access agreement with them or an easement, and repair the culvert, which can be repaired in-kind. Administrator Jeffery said the District will need to do a plan amendment to add this project. He explained that this Task Order is to approve Barr Engineering to do the Feasibility study that will better identify the project and will help determine how the District wants to amend its Watershed Management Plan.

Manager Stovring moved to approve Barr Engineering Task Order #055 Meadowcroft Culvert Replacement and Riley Creek Stabilization Feasibility Study. 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

f. Adopt Resolution 26-031 Accepting the 2025 Annual Report and Authorizing the Distribution to the Review Agencies

Administrator Jeffery said the annual report is due at the end of May each year, but this year during that time the District was switching its accounting services and requested an extension from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resource (BWSR) for submitting its annual report. He reported that BWSR granted the extension.

Liz Forbes displayed the draft 2025 annual report, noting the format is the same as last year's, and that the data and content are updated to reflect 2025. She highlighted that three of the District's lakes were delisted in 2025: Lake Riley, Rice Marsh Lake, and Hyland Lake. She reviewed the annual report with the managers.

Manager Stovring commented that she thinks the report is great overall. She said she thinks the opening two pages of the report could have a more engaging introduction and include a few call outs that point out the interesting data included in the appendices. She said the report needs more in the front section to interest people in reading the report.

Manager Nelson commented that she thinks that what the District has spent in a year is different than the amount of the liability the District has taken on. Manager Nelson said she finds the 2025 final budget section hard to understand. There was discussion about what “spent” means, between meaning actual spending or spending and incurring liability. President Pedersen pointed out that the section does include an asterisked note stating that the actual amount spent was greater than budget because the Board of Managers amended the Plan to include the Spring Road Conservation Project.

Manager Duevel said he would like more time to review the numbers and asked for time until Friday to provide his comments to staff.

Administrator Jeffery said the District could include its audit in the report in place of the financial portion of the annual report. Manager Duevel said he agrees to that suggestion, as did Managers Nelson, Crafton Stovring and Pedersen. Ms. Forbes noted an edit to replace the report section title “Grant Program” with the title “Cost-Share Program Summary.”

Manager Crafton moved to Adopt Resolution 26-031 Accepting the 2025 Annual Report and Authorizing the Distribution to the Review Agencies with the edit to change Grant Program to Cost Share Program Summary and inserting the District’s audit in place of the financial report section currently in the draft 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

7. Discussion Items

No discussion items.

8. Upcoming Board Topics

- a. **Ten-Year Plan Update – ongoing (future workshops and October 6th all-day retreat)**

9. Upcoming Events

a. MN Watershed Summer Tour – August 25 and 26, 2026

10. Adjourn

Manager Stovring moved to adjourn the meeting. Manager Nelson 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 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Jill Crafton, Secretary