MEETING MINUTES

Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District

September 23, 2026 RPBCWD Board of Managers Workshop

Attendees:

Managers	Jill Crafton (Secretary), Tom Duevel (President), Jessica Loftus (Treasurer); Bonnie Nelson (Vice President), (President), and Leslie Stovring
Staff/Advisors	Liz Forbes (Deputy District Administrator), Michelle Gardener (Operations Manager), Terry Jeffery (District Administrator), Dylan Monahan (Watershed Planner), Louis Smith (Smith Partners), and Scott Sobiech (Barr Engineering)
Other Attendees:	Fred Rozumalski, Barr Engineering
	***Attended the meeting virtually.**

Call to Order

President Duevel opened the Wednesday, September 23, 2026, Board of Managers Workshop at 5:12 p.m. at the District Office, 18681 Lake Drive East, Chanhassen, Minnesota. Managers Crafton, Loftus, Nelson, and Stovring were also in attendance at the District Office.

1. Review and Discuss Ecosystems Health Action Plan (EHAP)

Administrator Terry Jeffery displayed the presentation, "Ecosystem Health Action Plan for Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District – Board of Managers Presentation, September 23, 2026."

Administrator Jeffery introduced Fred Rozumalski, Landscape Architect and Ecologist with Barr Engineering. Mr. Rozumalski summarized main points of ecosystem health, including that healthy land equals healthy waters.

Administrator Jeffery reminded the Board that the District's efforts and projects need to tie back to its statutory charge to protect water resources.

Mr. Rozumalski summarized the discussion outcomes from the District's EHAP Workshop #3 on the topic of what the District should be doing. He listed possible solutions the group identified, such as projects, programs, or initiatives to incentivize or require developers to do ecological improvements, establish long-term maintenance fundings as part of project approvals, and develop detailed maintenance plans. Mr. Rozumalski described the potential District education and outreach tactics and programs the group identified, including educate policymakers, organize native landscaping tours and maintenance workshops, and develop education about bluffs and steep slopes, among other initiatives.

Mr. Rozumalski talked to the Board about general malfunctions of ecosystems and strategies for managing recovery. He explained ecosystem malfunctions like soil

degradation and the sealing of land surface through soil compaction. Mr. Rozumalski identified strategic approaches for recovery from the malfunctions. For example, he noted the approaches of enforcing District soil regeneration rules and requiring low impact development and preservation of green space, among other strategies.

Mr. Rozumalski identified surface water / ground water interaction and climate change as two other ecosystem malfunctions. He described possible District partnership strategies, including working with cities to review their codes in relation to parking requirements, street design, and other types of projects that would result in impervious surface reduction and incentivizing impervious surfacte reduction. He also called out the strategy of low-salt street deisgn. Mr. Rozumalski noted the partnership strategy of participating in cities' comprehensive planning processes. He mentioned the possble option of the Distrct working with its cities to develop a process for staff to work with developers to explore alternatives for ecosystem-oriented development.

Manager Nelson asked if it is worth the time and resources for the District to finalize an EHAP or instead use it to inform the District's 10-year Plan. Manager Duevel clarified that the EHAP document is a guiding document. Administrator Jeffery agreed.

Louis Smith said the Board needs to be clear on the District's legal purpose of its EHAP document and how it fits with the District's authority. Mr. Smith said he understands the District's understanding that this EHAP documents the intellectual basis for the District's approach to its Watershed Management Plan, and the EHAP serves as guidance to the District and not as legal commitments. The managers indicated agreement

The workshop concluded at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Crafton, Secretary