

### **Declaration Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.021**

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §13D.021, subdivision 1, the President of the Board of Managers previously determined that on the basis of the developments of the COVID-19 health pandemic, it was not practical or prudent for all members of the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District Board of Managers, and any committee thereof, to convene in person and in a public setting in accordance with requirements of the Minnesota Open Meeting Law.

Based on current information and guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Minnesota Department of Health, I have determined that it is now practical and prudent for some members of the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District Board of Managers, and any committee thereof, to convene in person and in a public setting in accordance with requirements of the Minnesota Open Meeting Law. Nevertheless, while COVID-19 transmission rates have declined significantly, COVID-19 infections are still occurring. Members of the Board of Managers may have pandemic-related medical reasons, such as COVID-19 exposure, infection, or a chronic health condition posing increased risks with COVID-19 for not being in a public place based on advice from a health care professional. Section 13D.021, subdivision 1, expressly recognizes that in pandemic conditions some members may be able to be present at the regular meeting location while other members participate remotely by telephone or interactive technology.

Accordingly, until further notice, all meetings of the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District Board of Managers, or any committee thereof, shall be in person and open to the public, while also recognizing that a manager may, based on advice from a health care professional, have a legitimate, pandemic-related reason for not attending a meeting in a public place in person, specifically COVID-19 exposure, infection, or a chronic health condition posing increased risks with COVID-19, and in such circumstances may participate in the meeting remotely by telephone or interactive technology. Further, the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District will continue to provide for the option of remote participation by a member of the public through telephone or other electronic means, which option shall be made available to any member of the public at no cost.

Date: April \_\_\_\_, 2023

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David Ziegler, President

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District Board of Managers