

RPBCWD Staff Report – March 2022

Administration	Description	Update	Partners
Accounting, Audit & Budget	Coordinate with Accountants for the development of financial reports. Coordinate with the Auditor. Continue to work with the Treasurer to maximize on fund investments.	Staff Bakkum compiled the monthly treasurer’s report. The Auditor will begin work reviewing the District finances with a two day visit on April 28 th and 29 th	
Administration	Administrator activities	Staff have been in contact with Imagine IT and continue to work to resolve issues with manager’s district email accounts An “auto attendant” was installed on the general RPBCWD desk phone which will increase efficiency and more easily direct the public to staff Imagine IT will be out to RPBCWD offices on April 11 to begin installation of new SONAS WiFi system. This will provide greater security and will allow access portals to be interfaced with as the current system was installed with a prior tenant and there are no passcodes to access them for reconfiguration, etc. Annual dues to MAWD are to be submitted with this months invoices.	
Annual Report & Communication	Compile, finalize and submit an annual report to agencies.	The final draft of the 2021 Annual Report will be submitted to managers at the April 6 meeting.	
DEI	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	Staff met on March 3 for a discussion on Land Acknowledgements and crafted their own for District use. A DEI Committee was assembled, comprised of Staff Mahon, Staff Dickhausen, Manager Crafton and CAC Member Samuel Griffin. The committee met for their first monthly meeting on March 10 th . Staff Mahon Attended a monthly DEI Workgroup session hosted by CRWD for watershed districts to work together on their DEI goals.	
Human Resources	General Human Resources		
Internal Policies	Work with Governance Manual and Personnel Committees to review bylaws and manuals as necessary.	No changes	
Advisory	Engage with the Technical Advisory Committee on water conservation, chloride management and emerging	The CAC held a regular meeting on March 21. A recording of Dr. Anne Marie Journey’s presentation on soil health is available via	

	<p>topics.</p> <p>Engage with the Citizen Advisory Committee on water conservation, annual budget, and emerging topics.</p>	<p>YouTube. The next regular meeting of the CAC will be on April 18.</p> <p>There is no scheduled TAC meeting at this time though it is anticipated that a TAC meeting will be scheduled in spring.</p>	
Local SWMP		No changes.	
MAWD	Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts	No new updates	
District-Wide	Description	Update	Partners
Regulatory Program	<p>Review regulatory program to maximize efficiency.</p> <p>Engage Technical Advisory Committee and Citizen Advisory Committee on possible rule changes.</p> <p>Implement a regulatory program.</p>	<p>Staff and consultants will present on the current regulatory program purpose as well as possible changes to provide a more efficient process for submittal, review, and administration.</p> <p>Interim Administrator Jeffery has been in contact with Chanhassen as they convert to an on-line permit application system so that the applicant is notified that the RPBCWD needs to be contacted.</p>	
Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)	<p>Review AIS monitoring program.</p> <p>Develop and implement Rapid Response Plan as appropriate.</p> <p>Coordinate with LGUs and keep stakeholders aware of AIS management activities.</p> <p>Manage and maintain the aeration system on Rice Marsh Lake.</p> <p>Riley Chain of Lakes Carp Management.</p> <p>Purgatory Chain of Lakes Carp Management.</p> <p>Review AIS inspection program.</p> <p>Keep abreast of technology and research in AIS.</p> <p>Zebra mussel adult and veliger monitoring.</p>	<p>The Rice Marsh Lake aeration unit was turned on the 1st of the year and has been working well. Thin ice signs were placed, and pressure gauges were replaced. One pump was replaced near the end of the month. Staff have/will check the unit weekly until ice out.</p> <p>The carp barrier was pulled this month due to clogging occurring at the barrier. The barrier will be put back in place on April 15th or when water temperatures are consistently above 10C (trigger for carp movement).</p> <p>Staff are finalizing 2022 AIS vegetation treatments and delineations. The District received approved 2022 MNDNR Scientific Permits. Approval will allow the District to conduct common carp management and monitoring this year.</p>	<p>City of Chanhassen</p> <p>City of Eden Prairie</p> <p>University of Minnesota</p> <p>MN DNR</p> <p>Carver County</p>
Cost-Share	<p>Schedule and coordinate site visits.</p> <p>Review applications and recommend implementation.</p> <p>Evaluate program.</p>	<p>The 2022 Watershed Stewardship Grant (WSG) program is underway. Site visits and review of applications has begun. Staff Forbes updated content on the webpage (rpbcwd.org/WSG) including update of the WSG policies document.</p> <p>With permission, HEI shared a copy of the Capitol Region WD's MS4Front grant module for review by RPBCWD. We would like to proceed with a similar module for our cost-share programs to allow for streamlined management of</p>	<p>Carver County Soil & Water Conservation District</p>

		<p>applications and project reporting including post-installation follow-up.</p> <p>Staff Forbes and Interim Administrator Jeffery are working with legal counsel to review and amend existing grant agreement templates.</p> <p>Interim Administrator Jeffery will bring an addendum to the existing HEI agreement next month to allow for completion of the Grants Database.</p>	
Data Collection	<p>Continue Data Collection at permanent sites.</p> <p>Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program.</p> <p>Identify monitoring sites to assess future project sites.</p> <p>Water Level Sensors</p>	<p>WOMP stations: samples were collected 3 times this month for the Metropolitan Council. District met with Metropolitan Council staff this month to be refreshed on the station details. This in preparation for staff to take over the station in 2022.</p> <p>Winter sampling occurred on the Riley Chain of Lakes this year per normal 3-year rotation.</p> <p>Staff posted the temporary 2022 Water Quality Assistant /Internship and are reviewing applicants.</p> <p>Yearly maintenance was completed on the Hach DS-5 water quality sonde this month.</p> <p>Staff have begun prepping equipment for the 2022 field season.</p> <p>Staff Dickhausen has been consulting with Frontier Precision concerning the different drones, their capabilities, and their costs.</p>	<p>Metropolitan Council</p> <p>City of Eden Prairie</p> <p>University of MN</p> <p>City of Chanhassen</p> <p>MN DNR</p> <p>City of Minnetonka</p> <p>Three Rivers Park District</p>
District Hydrology & Hydraulics Model	<p>Coordinate maintenance of Hydrology and Hydraulics Model.</p> <p>Coordinate model update with LGUs if additional information is collected.</p> <p>Partner and implement with the City of Bloomington on Flood Evaluation and Water Quality Feasibility.</p>	<p>District Staff, Barr Engineering, and Eden Prairie will be updating the District's stormwater model for both Purgatory Creek and Riley Creek. Staff submitted water elevation data for Upper Purgatory Creek Recreational Area, Bren Pond, Eden Lake, three purgatory creek sites, and three additional ponds and has been working with Barr to complete this task.</p> <p>Barr Engineering has been providing model assumptions and parameters to Eden Prairie engineering for review and confirmation. Task 1 of 3, Modeling and Evaluation, will continue well into 2022.</p>	<p>City of Bloomington</p> <p>City of Minnetonka</p> <p>City of Eden Prairie</p> <p>City of Deephaven</p> <p>City of Shorewood</p>
Education & Outreach	<p>Implement Education & Outreach Plan, review at year end.</p>	<p>Staff Bakkum continues to receive inquiries via the district website "Contact Us" form.</p>	<p>Adopt-a-drain partners: Cities of</p>

	<p>Manage partnership activities with other organizations.</p> <p>Coordinate Public Engagement with District projects.</p>	<p>Staff Mahon is working with staff at NMCWD and the City of Minnetonka to build a stormwater storymap ahead of a raingarden workshop to be hosted in October.</p> <p>Staff Forbes, Bakkum and Mahon are reviewing comments received on the rough draft of the new website.</p> <p>The Minnesota Water Stewards 2022 cohort had its March meeting which covered any questions arising from the 'Engaging with People in your Work' chapter of the course, and have begun brainstorming capstone projects.</p> <p>Staff Mahon tabled at the Eden Prairie Home, Landscape & Garden Show on March 12th.</p> <p>Staff are receiving registrations for the upcoming MPCA Turfgrass Maintenance course.</p>	<p>Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Bloomington, and Eden Prairie; Hamline University; Nine Mile Creek Watershed District; MPCA; Bolton & Menk Freshwater Society City of Chanhassen City of Minnetonka</p>
Groundwater Conservation	<p>Work with other LGUs to monitor, assess, and identify gaps.</p> <p>Engage with the Technical Advisory Committee to identify potential projects.</p> <p>Develop a water conservation program (look at Woodbury model).</p>	<p>The City of Bloomington has concluded their project and submitted a request for reimbursement for their Groundwater Conservation Grant.</p>	<p>Metropolitan Council City of Eden Prairie City of Shorewood City of Bloomington City of Minnetonka City of Chanhassen</p>
Lake Vegetation Management	<p>Work with the University of Minnesota or Aquatic Plant Biologist, Cities of Chanhassen and Eden Prairie, lake associations, and residents as well as the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources on potential treatments.</p> <p>Implement herbicide treatment as needed.</p> <p>Secure DNR permits and contracts with herbicide applicators.</p> <p>Schedule regularly scheduled point intercept surveys.</p> <p>Work with Three Rivers Park District for Hyland Lake.</p>	<p>Ray Newman is ready for a board decision.</p> <p>Wenck/Stantec have been updating the Red Rock and Mitchell Lake Vegetation Management Plan with comments submitted by the City of Eden Prairie and staff.</p> <p>MNDNR aquatic vegetation herbicide applications are waiting to be finalized pending board approval and spring delineations.</p> <p>Herbicide treatment delineations will be completed by staff and Freshwater Scientific Services starting in April.</p> <p>Rotational point intercept surveys (PI) for 2022 include Lotus Lake and Lake Lucy. They will be conducted by Freshwater Scientific Services which is being finalized.</p> <p>Staff received a MNDNR traditional aquatic plant management grant for the proposed Staring Lake Fluridone treatment.</p> <p>A Lake Vegetation Management Plan was submitted for Staring Lake</p>	<p>City of Eden Prairie City of Chanhassen University of Minnesota MN DNR</p>

		and Lake Riley to the MNDNR and are near finalization.	
Opportunity Projects	Assess potential projects as they are presented to the District	No new updates	City of Chanhassen St Hubert School
Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)	Continue working with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS). Engage the Technical Advisory Committee.	No new updates	MPCA
Repair & Maintenance Grant	Develop and formalize grant program.	No changes	
University of Minnesota	Review and monitor progress on University of Minnesota grant. Support Dr. John Gulliver and Dr. Ray Newman research and coordinate with local partners. Keep the manager abreast to progress in the research. Identify next management steps.	Along with completing an additional year of monitoring on the iron filing ponds (deadline extended), the U of MN has a new project funded by the Local Road Research Board to study wetlands (historic/converted to pond) and have been conducting in situ monitoring and laboratory studies with sediment cores on a pond in Shorewood and Chanhassen. The district submitted a first round of data to the U of MN with regards to a new urban long-term ecological research (LTER) program in the Twin Cities. This study will investigate how urban stressors – climate change, pollutants, invasive species, habitat fragmentation – affect the ecological structure and functioning of urban nature, including pollinators, forests, watersheds, and lakes and streams. It will also address how diverse residents interact with and experience the benefits and burdens of urban nature. The aim is to better understand urban nature and related policies and practices, to improve environmental outcomes for all residents. Historical data will be submitted to the U of MN in February.	Stormwater ponds partners: Cities of Bloomington, Chanhassen, Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Shorewood; U of MN
Watershed Plan	Review and identify needs for amendments.	No changes.	
Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)	Administer WCA within the Cities of Shorewood and Deephaven.	No WCA applications have been received in Deephaven. No WCA applications have been received in Shorewood. Staff Dickhausen has been representing the District on TEP meetings in	City of Shorewood City of Deephaven

	Represent the District on Technical Evaluation Panel throughout the District.	Chanhassen and Chaska. Annual report of WCA activities was sent to BWSR this month	City of Chanhassen City of Eden Prairie MCWD BWSR MN DNR ACOE
Wetland Management	Assess known existing wetlands, identify previously unknown wetlands, identify wetlands for potential restoration/rehabilitation and wetlands requiring additional protection.	Staff Jeffery, Staff Dickhausen and Staff Nicklay continue updating the MNRAM Access database. Staff Dickhausen and Interim Administrator Jeffery are continuing to develop biological assessment metrics of wetlands with Barr Engineering staff to supplement District MNRAM assessments. Interim Administrator Jeffery has been in communication with Jenny Skancke of the MN DNR regarding their joint efforts with BWSR and WI DNR to develop a wetland assessment methodology.	City of Chanhassen City of Eden Prairie Hennepin County Carver County MN DNR BWSR USFWS
Hennepin County Chloride Initiative	Phase 1: Develop a plan to target commercial and association-based sources or chloride pollution - businesses, malls, HOAs, property management companies and the private applicators that they hire. We will hire a consultant to facilitate focus groups with private applicators, as well as those that execute contracts with private applicators. These focus groups will help identify needs and barriers for our target audience. The consultant will compile information into a plan for implementation.	The marketing consultant has completed initial interviews with property managers/HOAs and will present initial findings to the HCCI sub-group in early March.	Eleven watershed districts/WMOs Multiple cities MPCA Hennepin County Environmental Services Board of Water and Soil Resources
Lower Minnesota Chloride Cost-Share Program	The Lower Minnesota River Watersheds are coming together to offer cost-share grants.	Chloride Reduction cost-share grant remains open and is posted on District website and advertised through Fortin Consulting and the MPCA. Members of the Lower MN Collaborative have approved chloride reduction grant requests from City of Edina and Edina Schools.	LMRWD RBWMO NMCWD
Bluff Creek 1W1P	Description	Update	Partners

Bluff Creek Tributary Restoration	Implement and finalize restoration. Monitor Project.	No new updates.	City of Chanhassen
Wetland Restoration at Pioneer Trl/Hwy 101	Remove 3 properties from flood zone, restore a minimum 7 acres and as many as 16 acres of wetlands, connect public with resources, reduction of volume, rate, pollution loads to Bluff Creek.	Sunram and Davey Resource Group submitted their proposed schedule for plant establishment. They will begin late April/early May with soil preparation occurring early to mid May with seeding to follow shortly after. Bare root and live stake planting will occur in the fall as early spring summer plantings have less success in establishing. Sunram will be making some modification on the outlet structure for the wetland.	City of Chanhassen MN DNR Carver County
Riley Creek 1W1P	Description	Update	Partners
Lake Riley Alum Treatment	Continue monitoring of Lake.	Sediment coring occurred in October and final results are pending.	
Lake Susan Improvement Phase 2	Complete final site stabilization and spring start up. Finalize and implement E & O for project. Monitor project.	No new updates.	City of Chanhassen Clean Water Legacy Amendment
Lake Susan Spent Lime	2021 startup and monitoring	The spent lime treatment system ran from May to November and was working with removals over 41% across the summer. Staff took the system offline this month. More information will be available in the water resources report. Staff and Barr will be coring the wetland within the Lake Susan Preserve, which drains into the facility to determine phosphorous loading from this wetland. The 2021 water diversion volume was reported this month to the DNR as part of the permit requirements.	City of Chanhassen
Lower Riley Creek Stabilization	Coordinate agreement and acquire easements if needed for the restoration of Lower Riley Creek reach D3 and E. Implement Project. Continue Public Engagement for project and develop signage for restoration.	Maintenance of the site has been turned over to the City of Eden Prairie although District staff will assist with inspections.	City of Eden Prairie Lower MN River Watershed District
Rice Marsh Lake Alum Treatment	Continue monitoring of Lake.	Staff conducted sediment core sampling this past month to assess treatment effectiveness and prepare for/direct the second dose application.	City of Eden Prairie City of Chanhassen

Rice Marsh Lake Watershed Load Project 1	Install proprietary BMPs. Install soil corrections and plant areas in native vegetation for long-term study of impact on soil health and runoff parameters. Install curb-cut rain garden.	No new updates.	City of Chanhassen
Upper Riley Creek	Work with city to develop scope of work (in addition to stabilizing the creek can we mitigate climate change). Conduct feasibility. Develop cooperative agreement with the City of Chanhassen. Order project and begin design.	Interim Administrator Jeffery is working with Counselor Welch to develop the term sheet and subsequent cooperative agreement with Chanhassen.	City of Chanhassen
Middle Riley Creek	Work with Bearpath HOA/Golf Course to develop scope of work (in addition to stabilizing the creek, can we mitigate climate change and provide for an improved recreational experience). Draft feasibility report. Develop cooperative agreement with Bearpath.	We are awaiting Sunram's schedule.	Bearpath Neighborhood Association City of Eden Prairie MN DNR
St Hubert Water Quality Project	Repair eroded ravine tributary to RML. Install BMPs to provide water quality and quantity benefits for site. Develop curriculum to be used with teachers and students at St. Hubert. Establish native vegetation and monitor soil development, water quality/quantity benefits, and ecological changes.	The project is substantially complete. Staff Mahon is developing curriculum to go along with project sites. Staff will be working closely with the middle school science teacher to ensure curriculum standards are met. Interim Administrator Jeffery and Staff Dickhausen met with graduate students from the University of MN to discuss research they would like to perform at St Hubert's.	CCSWCD Metropolitan Council City of Chanhassen
Purgatory Creek 1W1P	Description	Update	Partners
PCRA Berm		Interim Administrator Jeffery is working with Eden Prairie to define roles and responsibilities.	City of Eden Prairie MN DNR
Duck Lake Water Quality Project	Work with the City to implement neighborhood BMP. Identify neighborhood BMP to help	No changes	City of Eden Prairie

	improve water resources to DuckLake. Implement neighborhood BMPs.		
Lotus Lake Internal Load Control	Continue monitoring the Lake. Plan second alum application.	Application areas may shift to 15-foot contours to account for high release rates at those shallower depths in the central and northern portion of the lake.	
Silver Lake Restoration	Order project. Design Project. Work with the City of Chanhasen for design, cooperative agreement, and implementation.	Per Board direction a letter was sent indicating contract termination.	City of Chanhasen

Professional Development

Interim Administrator Jeffery has registered to take a course on Management
 Staff Dickhausen and Interim Administrator Jeffery have registered for a course in wetland hydrology through BWSR. This will also meet their requirements for continuing education.