

RPBCWD Staff Report – January 2023

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 Report of Outstanding Indebtedness was submitted to Carver County and Hennepin County. RPBCWD has no bonded indebtedness. The Attorney, County, Bank, and Investment confirmation letters were provided to Abdo so they could request information from these entities for the purpose of the 2022 annual audit. The Audit and Finance Committee will meet the week of February 13 th (date TBD) to begin the 2024 budget process and discuss the 2022 audit. Nancy Martinson, who has served as the district accountant for Redpath, will be retiring this spring. The transition to our new Redpath representative has begun. Administrator Jeffery is working with BWSR to coordinate watershed partners for Watershed Based Implementation Funding projects.	
Administration	Administrator activities	Administrator Jeffery notified staff about the open enrollment period for benefits. No changes were made. Administrator Jeffery and Staff Bakkum have been working with Nine Mile Creek to draft job description and announcement for shared office assistant position. Administrator Jeffery is requesting the BOM waive Smith Partners conflict of interest clause so they may draft an agreement for the shared office assistant position. Administrator Jeffery has received two quotes for boardroom furniture and configuration. These will be presented at the February workshop. Administrator Jeffery is working with Imagine IT to migrate IT administration back to the district. Administrator Jeffery is drafting RFQs for professional services. The responses will be brought to the BOM for consideration and selection. Administrator Jeffery met with the Public Works Director for the City of Eden Prairie to discuss the Duck Lake outlet, the Purgatory Creek Recreation Area berm, and the opening ceremony for the Duck Lake Rd bridge. The opening will be held in the first 2 weeks	

		of June and the Board of Managers are invited. The final date and time is yet to be determined. Administrator Jeffery is meeting with the City Manager of Chanhassen on February 9 th to discuss various initiatives including the regional stormwater park in North Lotus Lake Park, downtown redevelopment, Lake Ann Preserve, and other potential partnerships.	
Annual Report & Communication	Compile, finalize and submit an annual report to agencies.	Staff have begun compiling information to draft annual report.	
DEI	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	Staff Mahon attended the January meeting of a Watershed DEIA Workgroup, which discussed ideas generated at the group's session at MAWD last month.	
Human Resources	General Human Resources	Administrator Jeffery and Staff Bakkum have worked with staff from Nine Mile Creek Watershed District to draft job description and announcement for shared office assistant. Upon waiver of COI, Smith Partners will draft an agreement between NMCWD and RPBCWD. Staff Maxwell and administrator Jeffery are advertising for seasonal positions through various platforms that target recruitment at universities and colleges. Staff Dickhausen, Staff Bakkum, and Administrator Jeffery are beginning the process of applying to host a MN GreenCorps member in 2024. A resolution will be brought to the BOM prior to applying.	
Internal Policies	Work with Governance Manual and Personnel Committees to review bylaws and manuals as necessary.	The Governance Committee (GC) met on January 6 th . They discussed the schedule for review of the comments received and the need for a workshop with the full BOM to consider proposed changes and make recommendations to the GC. The Audit and Finance Committee will be meeting the week of February 13 th . Among the items to be discussed will be financial policies, 2022 audit, and the 2024 budget.	
Advisory	Engage with the Technical Advisory Committee on water conservation, chloride management and emerging topics.	The CAC held a regular meeting on Jan 16. Six new members, including one youth, joined the CAC in 2023, bringing total CAC membership to 16. Staff Forbes gave a welcome presentation to help onboard new members. The next regular meeting of the CAC will be on Feb 20.	

Local SWMP	Engage with the Citizen Advisory Committee on water conservation, annual budget, and emerging topics. Review of member cities local surface water management plan.	Bloomington 2018-2027 Chanhassen 2016-2025 Chaska 2015-2024 Deephaven 2015-2024 Eden Prairie 2021-2030 Minnetonka 2020-2029 Shorewood 2019-2028	
MN Watersheds (formerly MAWD)	Business and happenings of MN Watersheds	MAWD is planing to officially changed their name to MN Watersheds to be more indicative of the desire to include more organizations involved in the management of water resources at the February 15 th meeting. The Ag-Urban Partnership Forum is scheduled for March 1, 2023 at the College of St. Benedict. MAWD is a partner along with 13 other partners. The topic is Extreme Weather Resiliency. MN Court of Appeals heard oral arguments on January 19 th regarding when watershed districts have jurisdiction to regulate public ditches. Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol will be held February 15 th and 16 th at Capital Ridge in St. Paul. Administrator Jeffery and President Ziegler will be in attendance. Shell Rock River and Cedar River Watershed Districts will be hosting the Summer Tour in the Albert Lea area June 20-22. BWSR met on January 25 th and items considered included the PRAP legislative report, the BWSR DEI Plan, and grant programs. The next BWSR meeting will be March 22, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.	
District-Wide	Description	Update	Partners
Regulatory Program	Review regulatory program to maximize efficiency. Engage Technical Advisory Committee and Citizen Advisory Committee on possible rule changes. Implement a regulatory program.	Administrator Jeffery and Engineer Sobiech continue working with the City of Chanhassen to develop a regional stormwater management plan for northern and western Lotus Lake watershed areas. This will be brought to the BOM for informational purposes at the March or April workshop. GreenCorps Member Portoghese and Staff Dickhausen are developing a GIS database to catalogue soils data collected.	

		Administrator Jeffery, Engineer Sobiech, and Counsel Welch met to discuss timing of and the need for regulatory changes. It was decided that any changes would be best if timed with the completion of the EHAP. Staff Nicklay is continuing inspections on the reduced winter schedule.	
Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)	Review AIS monitoring program. Develop and implement Rapid Response Plan as appropriate. Coordinate with LGUs and keep stakeholders aware of AIS management activities. Manage and maintain the aeration system on Rice Marsh Lake. Riley Chain of Lakes Carp Management. Purgatory Chain of Lakes Carp Management. Review AIS inspection program. Keep abreast of technology and research in AIS. Zebra mussel adult and veliger monitoring.	The Rice Marsh Aeration Unit is working well. A final fisheries report was submitted to the MN DNR per permit requirement and will be included in the water resources report. Staring and Duck Lakes will likely experience a complete winterkill this winter and both have shown signs already. DO measurements were taken and were low. Bluegills will be stocked in Staring and the Rec Area by the District and the DNR will likely stock Duck.	City of Chanhassen City of Eden Prairie University of Minnesota MN DNR Carver County
Cost-Share	Schedule and coordinate site visits. Review applications and recommend implementation. Evaluate program.	The 2022 Watershed Stewardship Grant (WSG) program currently has 9 active grant projects with an additional project in review. Updates for the 2023 season are underway and program will begin accepting applications in mid-February.	Carver County Soil & Water Conservation District
Data Collection	Continue Data Collection at permanent sites. Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program. Identify monitoring sites to assessfuture project sites. Water Level Sensors	WOMP stations: samples were collected 3 times this month for the Metropolitan Council. District expenses were submitted for this quarter for grant reimbursement. Regular bi-weekly lake and stream sampling is being processed and analyzed. The monthly winter collection of lake water quality began on the Riley Chain of Lakes last week (3-year rotation between Riley and Purgatory Lakes). Zooplankton and Phytoplankton were collected monthly on Riley, Lotus, Susan, Staring, and Rice Marsh in 2022. Phytoplankton samples have been submitted to Green Water Labs to be processed while staff have processed the zooplankton samples.	Metropolitan Council City of Eden Prairie University of MN City of Chanhassen MN DNR City of Minnetonka Three Rivers Park District

District Hydrology & Hydraulics Model	Coordinate maintenance of Hydrology and Hydraulics Model. Coordinate model update with LGUs if additional information is collected. Partner and implement with the City of Bloomington on Flood Evaluation and Water Quality Feasibility.	Staring Lake, Red Rock, Mitchell, Round, Ann, and Hyland Lake level sensors were affected by the drought in 2022 and were either resurveyed or ran dry at at some point. This data has been analyzed and was submitted to the MN DNR. Sensors were sent in for yearly maintenance/check. One sensor was bad and will need to be replaced. Stream walks for lower Riley, lower Bluff and the proposed/finished creek restoration sites were completed up to the first snowfall. This data was used to update the Creek Restoration Action Strategy. Eden Prairie has provided final comments to Barr regarding the flood riks assessment mapping. Staff intends to bring the results of the modeling and mapping to the BOM at the March or April workshop for discussion.	City of Bloomington City of Minnetonka City of Eden Prairie City of Deephaven City of Shorewood
Education & Outreach	Implement Education & Outreach Plan, review at year end. Manage partnership activities withother organizations. Coordinate Public Engagement with District projects.	Staff continue to update the district website as needed. Staff Bakkum continues to receive inquiries via the district website "Contact Us" form. Staff Mahon is lining up workshops to be hosted throughout 2023, including a Soil Health workshop with NMCWD and the City of Minnetonka, a Resilient Shoreline Workshop with the City of Eden Prairie, and a Turfgrass Maintenance and 2 Smart Salting workshops with NMCWD and the MPCA. RPBCWD will sponsor one new Minnesota Water Steward for the 2023 season, coordinating with Staff Mahon. Staff Forbes and Staff Mahon drafted the 2023 E&O Work Plan. Planning is underway for 2023 events. A lake association summit is scheduled for Feb 21. Staff Forbes, Mahon, and Nicklay plan to host a booth at the City of Minnetonka's Contractor Expo on February 2.	Adopt-a-drain partners: Cities of 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
Groundwater Conservation	Work with other LGUs to monitor, assess, and identify gaps.	RPBCWD and Barr staff held a groundwater brainstorming session on December 8 to begin planning 2023 efforts.	Metropolitan Council

Lake Vegetation Management	Engage with the Technical Advisory Committee to identify potential projects. Develop a water conservation program (look at Woodbury model). 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. Implement herbicide treatment as needed. Secure DNR permits and contracts with	University of Minnesota Report (Ray Newman and Maija Weaver): After receiving additional data from the district on 2021 plant surveys and water quality, a draft of the 2022 annual plant progress report has been completed and is in the process of being edited. From analysis of data, Lake Riley appears to have exhibited increased water clarity and native plant frequency since the alum treatment in 2020. In 2022, native plant frequency was	City of Eden Prairie City of Shorewood City of Bloomington City of Minnetonka City of Chanhassen City of Eden Prairie City of Chanhassen University of Minnesota MN DNR
	Secure DNR permits and contracts with herbicide applicators. Schedule regularly scheduled point intercept surveys. Work with Three Rivers Park District for Hyland Lake.	>95% in both June and August plant surveys. Staring Lake also showed positive results after the whole lake herbicide treatment with fluridone in May of 2022. Both Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed were controlled and treatment for these invasives may not be needed in 2023. With increasing occurrence and abundance of curlyleaf pondweed in Lake Susan, delineation is likely needed for early spring of this year to inform treatment decisions. The 2022 report will be submitted soon and we are also anticipating the Riley Summit for this winter to update our progress and get results from others. Planning for the 2023 field season has started, as plant surveys will be conducted on Riley, Staring, and Susan in May, June, and August of this year. A traditional AIS control grant was submitted for lake vegetation management on Riley, Lotus, Mitchell, Red Rock, and Susan. Grant results will be known in January. The district received a \$3,000 grant for Lake Riley. Staff Maxwell began the process of applying for herbicide permits for 2023.	
Opportunity Projects	Assess potential projects as they are presented to the District	Administrator Jeffery and Engineer Sobiech are awaiting information from the consulting engineer for Eden Prairie Public Schools to	City of Chanhassen St Hubert School

		continue investigating the feasibility of a regional storm water treatment system. No Change Administrator Jeffery, Engineer Sobiech, and Staff Forbes met with the owner of Hackamore Brewery on Dec. 8 to discuss potential partnering opportunities that incorporate water quality considerations in the new brewery's patio design. Design is ongoing. Administrator Jeffery and Engineer Sobiech met with Chanhassen Parks and Recreation to discuss stabilization of the shoreline at Carver Beach Park. Barr will be providing a technical memorandum to evaluate various stabilization techniques to guide design. Administrator Jeffery and Staff Forbes met with Lori Haak of Eden Prairie to discuss a partnership on a wetland restoration project. Administrator Jeffery is evaluating grant availability.	Eden Prairie Public Schools City of Eden Prairie
Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)	Continue working with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS).	No changes.	MPCA
Repair & Maintenance Fund	Develop and formalize grant program. Maintenance of RPBCWD BMPs	Administrator Jeffery met with Eden Prairie and let them know that the district is willing to partner but does not have the capacity to take on project management responsibilities at this time.	City of Eden Prairie
University of Minnesota	Review and monitor progress onUniversity 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.	Administrator Jeffery has asked Dr. Gulliver and his PhD candidate to present the findings of the storm water pond study at the February 2022 work session. Staff Maxwell and Administrator Jeffery met with Limnotech about a submittal of a proposal to the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council. The study would be led by Limnotech, with potential district staff data collection in 2023, with the use of the districts historic stormwater pond data being used. The study proposes to develop defensible recommendations for the design, retrofit and management of constructed stormwater ponds and their catchments to optimize phosphorus retention. The project passed the first round and was moved forward for a full proposal submission.	Stormwater ponds partners: Cities of Bloomington, Chanhassen, Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Shorewood; U of MN
Watershed Plan	Review and identify needs for amendments.	As a result of a meeting with Barr, staff, and Manager Crafton, a scope of services to develop an Ecological Health Action Plan (EHAP)	

		was developed and will be present to the BOM for authorization	
Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)	Administer WCA within the Cities of Shorewood and Deephaven. Represent the District on Technical Evaluation Panel throughout the District.	at the February 1, 2023 meeting of the BOM. Staff Dickhausen attended al TEP meeting hosted by the City of Chanhassen on January 12. This meeting was a pre application meeting with the applicants to discuss their proposed plans to develop a site off Arboretum Blvd, as well as TEP member concerns and questions about potential impacts, lack of information, and replacement/sequencing plans if alternative plans to reduce wetland impact are not viable. The TEP had previously reviewed the wetland delineation in fall of 2022 when the applicant submitted a boundary type application. The applicant will be submitting a new WCA application at this point in their project timeline as the previous application was approved specifically as a boundary/type decision. Administrator Jeffery and Staff Dickhausen are working with Chanhassen, DNR, Carver SWCD, and BWSR to address a wetland violation on Lake Lucy Lane in Chanhassen. A restoration order has been issued by the DNR and the landowner has retained the services of a professional wetland delineator. The TEP has met several times to discuss and will be meeting with the applicant's representative in the near future at a date yet to be determined. Staff Dickhausen prepared and submitted the Annual Report of WCA Activities.	City of Shorewood City of Deephaven 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 Dickhausen has wrapped up this season's wetland assessments in Minnetonka/Deephaven/Shorewood area of the district. The majority of wetlands within this area were assessed. Administrator Jeffery and Staff Dickhausen continue updating the MNRAM Access database. Numerous requests for MNRAM scores have been made by municipalities and private developers.	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	The HCCI team continues to develop the Low Salt, No Salt Minnesota (LSNS) toolbox targeted at city and watershed partners to use in their chloride reduction efforts. Piloting of the program materials continues to inform adjustments to draft materials. RPBCWD is hosting content for the "Low Salt, No Salt Minnesota" initiative	Eleven watershed districts/WMOs Multiple cities MPCA

	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.	on its website along with three video shorts on our YouTube channel (currently unpublished pending full launch of program). On January 31, a "train the trainer" LSNS workshop will officially launch the program. RPBCWD will host the workshop with invitations offered to districts, municipalities, and other LGUs in Hennepin County. A press release will coincide with program launch.	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.	The Chloride Reduction cost-share grant program closed out in December. All grant projects were concluded by November 30 to meet the end-of-year fiscal deadline for BWSR Watershed Based	LMRWD RBWMO NMCWD
		Funding . Seven projects were implemented through the program.	
Bluff Creek Watershed	Description	Update	Partners
Bluff Creek Tributary Restoration	Implement and finalize restoration. Monitor Project.	Annual maintenance of vegetation establish continues. CRAS scores significantly improved from pre to post restoration.	City of Chanhassen
Bluff Creek Reaches B5 and B6	Develop Feasibility Study regarding potential creek and wetland restoration.	Barr continues to develop plans for the project. With the revised budget, this project is programmed to go out for bids at the end of 2023 for 2024 construction. Barr has begun modeling for the design of the crossing under Galpin Boulevard in Chanhassen.	
Wetland Restoration at Pioneer Tr and MN TH 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.	Davey has finished vegetation management for the 2022 season. Management of the area will resume next spring.	City of Chanhassen MN DNR Carver County
Riley Creek Watershed	Description	Update	Partners
Lake Riley Alum Treatment	Continue monitoring of Lake.	Staff will plan to core again in 2023/2024 to assess the second alum dose. Lake Riley water quality remains excellent following the completed alum treatment. A study will be published about the project after the results of the final coring event are received.	

Lake Susan	Complete final site stabilization and spring	No updates.	City of Chanhassen
Improvement Phase 2	start up. Finalize and implement E & O for project. Monitor project.		Clean Water Legacy Amendment
Lake Susan Spent Lime	2022 startup and monitoring	Staff are planning on taking sediment cores in the wetland south of Lake Susan within the Lake Susan Park Preserve. The sediment cores will be used to determine if the wetland is a significant loader to Lake Susan and if there is an opportunity for an alum treatment to decrease the nutrient loading to Lake Susan. It was originally scheduled for this fall butdue to the low water levels, it has been postponed until the water levels increase. It is tentatively scheduled for next spring contingent upon the snow pack this winter.	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.	No changes. This will be removed from the February staff report. CRAS scores significantly improved from pre to post restoration.	City of Eden Prairie Lower MN River Watershed District
Rice Marsh Lake Alum Treatment	Continue monitoring of Lake.	Water quality continues to be excellent following the first dose of alum.	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.	Notice of substantial completion was issued. A maintenance schedule is to be provided to the district from the contractor. The GreenCorps member (Alaina Portoghese) collected data on infiltration results and soil development in the restoration areas as well as comparative samples in the unchanged ball field area of the park.	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 withthe City of Chanhassen. Order project and begin design.	The cooperative agreement is currently being drafted by Smith Partners. Administrator Jeffery is reaching out to the private property owners in the corridor to obtain permissions. Administrator Jeffery and Engineer Sobiech met with staff from the City of Chanhassen to discuss the 60% plans as well as location and funding of the decant facility being proposed.	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.	Legal counsel for RPBCWD and Bear Path have been working through the specifics of what needs to be recorded and on what parcels.	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. Staff Mahon and Administrator Jeffery are working with the Science Committee to have students plant areas in the prairie restoration that pond water to provide treatment, rate control, and infiltration. Staff Mahon and Administrator Jeffery will work with the science department to plant the two wetland areas in the spring. Administrator Jeffery submitted the final report to the Metropolitan Council for grant reimbursement. Administrator Jeffery will be bringing forward pay application #2 for the project. The only remaining tasks are maintenance of the vegetation establishment.	CCSWCD Metropolitan Council City of Chanhassen
Purgatory Creek Watershed	Description	Update	Partners
PCRA Berm		Administrator Jeffery met with the Public Works Director to inform them that we will partner but do not have the capacity to manage the project. The Public Works Director was going to discuss with Parks and Recreation to see if they had capacity.	City of Eden Prairie MN DNR
Duck Lake Water Quality Project	Work with the City to implement neighborhood BMP. Identify neighborhood BMP to help improve water resources to DuckLake. Implement neighborhood BMPs.	No changes	City of Eden Prairie
Lotus Lake Internal Load Control	Continue monitoring the Lake. Plan second alum application.	Barr will begin looking at release rates and dosing recommendations.	

Silver Lake	Order project.	Prairie Restoration has mobilized onto the site and completed most of	City of Chanhassen
Restoration	Design Project.	the plantings. A sub is installing vertical PVC and clear rock to	
	Work with the City of Chanhassen for	improve infiltration within the channel.	
	design, cooperative agreement, and implementation.		
Lotus Lake	Feasibility Study/Preliminary Engineering	A feasibility plan and conceptual drawings were presented to	City of Chanhassen
Watershed Water	Report	Administrator Jeffery for review and comment.	
Quality			
Improvement	Issue Identification		
Project			
	Partnership Opportunities and CIP		
	Alignment		

Professional Development

Staff Nicklay completed a course on floodplain management basics through the MNDNR.

The district had an article published in Lake Line, a quarterly publication by the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) as a medium for exchange and communication among all those interested in lake management. Stormwater Ponds for Phosphorus Control – Challenges and Limitations was the title.

Administrator Jeffery is taking a course through EdEx on Public Financial Management

Administrator Jeffery is in the process of applying to the Nonprofit Administration graduate certificate program at Bemidji State University. The program has a rolling application deadline. He will start at the earliest available registration date.