

RPBCWD Staff Report – July 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 Administrator Jeffery, Staff Bakkum, and Engineer Sobiech have prepared a draft budget to presented at the August regular meeting of the BOM. Administrator Jeffery, Staff Maxwell, Engineer Sobiech, and Ecologist Bischoff began looking at anticipated Alum treatment schedules and lake vegetation management needs in order to set budget. Administrator Jeffery is providing information to NorthRisk Partners and the LMCIT to determine insurance needs and rates for policy period 9/1/2023 through 8/31/2024. Audit and Finance Committee and administrator Jeffery are met with Redpath on 7/11/2023 to discuss a new treasurer's report format and the disclaimer letter. Accountant is preparing an alternate format to be reviewed by the Audit and Finance Committee and administrator Jeffery met with 4M on 7/11/2023 and discussed current placement of funds and to discuss other investment options. Upon completion of the budget, the Audit and Finance Committee will bring a investment recommendation to the BOM.	
Administration	Administrator activities	Staff Dickhausen was notified by the MPCA that the district will again be a host site for a GreenCorps member in 2024. Administrator Jeffery reached out to payroll specialist for Abdo regarding per diem reporting requirements. i.e. W2 or I9 The Duck Lake Rd bridge opening ceremony was held on June 1st. Lelch has ordered the equipment needed, to have the new interactive technology system installed. The vendor said it would be 4 to 6 weeks for install. The tables will be ready and installed September 14th.	
Annual Report & Communication	Compile, finalize and submit an annual report to agencies.	No updates.	
DEI	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	Staff Mahon attended a DEIA Workgroup Retreat with members of other metro WDs hosted by RWMWD. The purpose of the retreat was to engage in DEIA learning activities as a group, discuss each	

		district's work with DEIA, and formalize the workgroup's mission, goals, and metrics.	
Human Resources	General Human Resources	Administrator Jeffery is requesting a meeting of the Personnel Committee to discuss staffing needs per the adopted organization chart.	
Internal Policies	Work with Governance Manual and Personnel Committees to review bylaws and manuals as necessary.	The Governance Committee (GC) met on July 14th. They discussed the delegation of permit authority and continued their review of the Governance Manual and the comments provided to date and, where applicable, added their own comments and/or responses. Upon completion of the review of comments, the GC will compile a recommended revised governance manual, in redline and clean version as well as a compilation of comments received. This will be brought to a board workshop at a date to be determined and then a subsequent regular meeting of the BOM. The Audit and Finance Committee met on July 11th with Bonnie Burns of Redpath and Corey Boyer of PMA to discuss current treasurer's report formatting and 4M investments.	
Advisory	Engage with the Technical Advisory Committee on water conservation, chloride management and emerging topics. Engage with the Citizen Advisory Committee on water conservation, annual budget, and emerging topics.	The CAC held a regular meeting on July 17. Kristine Maurer from Hennepin County gave a presentation about the Habitat Conservation Program; recording is available on the RPBCWD YouTube channel. Minutes will be provided as part of the board packet. The next regular meeting of the CAC will be August 21	
Local SWMP	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 has officially changed their name to MN Watersheds and launched their new website including a members only section. MN Watersheds sent out a packet to managers and administrators requesting resolutions for consideration at the annual meeting. They have set a deadline of September 1, 2023.	

District-Wide	Description		survey so they can better tailor manager of the various organizations. Both items are for discussion. Update	Partners
Regulatory Program	Review regulatory program to maximiz e efficiency. Engage Technical Advisory Committe e and Citizen Advisory Committee on possible rule changes. Implement a regulatory program.		orint signs, Staff Forbes uploaded nic options for the new wetland buffer sign	raitheis
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.	carp populations in the spring removals in the electrofishing surveys seems are surveyed at the rec area, both games been significantly reductate Lucy experienced starting water levels are winter. DO measurement and were low. To ensure recruitment does not compare the surveyed and surveyed	fisheries permit for assessing common Riley and Purgatory Chain of Lakes and for Purgatory Creek Recreational Area. Adult started at the end of July. The barrier and berm site but only had two ag 85 carp. With the winterkill of Staring and the fish and common carp populations have used. Staring Lake, Duck Lake, Silver Lake, and winterkills this past winter due to the low and the amount of snow we received this past ents were taken multiple times this winter the bluegill numbers rebound rapidly so carp occur, staff worked with the DNR and private bluegills in June in the following lakes:	City of Chanhassen City of Eden Prairie University of Minnesota MN DNR Carver County
		1 Rice Marsh Lake	300	
		2 Lucy	300	
		3 Staring	300	
		4 Purg Creek Rec Area		
		Upper Purg	50	
		Lower Purg Total	1000	
			l veliger samples this month which were	

Cost-Share	Schedule and coordinate site visits. Review applications and recommend implementation. Evaluate program.	The Watershed Stewardship Grant (WSG) program currently has 10 active grant projects. Three projects were recently closed out. Two applications are pending review. Site visit requests continue with Seth Ristow from Carver SWCD scheduling visits; 20 site visits have occurred since the start of the grant season. Staff Forbes continues responding to inquiries from potential grantees, follow up with inprogress projects, and confer with city grant program coordinators. Follow up visits with past grantees have begun.	Carver Soil & Water Conservation District
Data Collection	Continue Data Collection at permanent sites. Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program. Identify monitoring sites to assess future project sites. Water Level Sensors	Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program (WOMP): Samples were collected regular biweekly samples and event samples both twice this month for the Metropolitan Council (METC)METC will no longer be supporting the Riley Creek WOMP station because it did not meet their priority waters list criteria. The City of Eden Prairie and district staff are in discussion with METC for taking over the station. Regular lake and stream water quality and quantity sampling has occurred biweekly through the summer. Many stream sites are dry and have been for most of July. Phytoplankton and Zooplankton samples have been collected once a month on Riley, Staring, Lotus, Susan, and Rice Marsh.Staff received the Hach auto sampling and jobsite boxes This month. The units will be installed shortly, most along the three western drainages of Lotus Lake. The currently deployed auto units have sampled multiple times this month. Sites include Bluff Creek Hwy5, LL3 and LL7 Lotus Lake western tributaries. These units are installed for pre project monitoring to assess flow and nutrient loading. Lake level sensors have been working well. Three River Park District will collect Hyland Lake levels moving forward. Units have been/will be checked, downloaded, and desiccant changed once a month. A McCoy unit was added at the beginning of July.	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	Flood risk assessment mapping for Eden Prairie was completed and the GIS database is being updated accordingly. Updated maps will be placed on the district website.	City of Bloomington City of Minnetonka City of Eden Prairie City of Deephaven

	Bloomington on Flood Evaluation and Water Quality Feasibility.		City of Shorewood
Education & Outreach	Implement Education & Outreach Plan, review at year end. Manage partnership activities with other 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 Forbes continues to upload open sessions of recorded board meetings to the RPBCWD YouTube channel. The District's Summer Newsletter was emailed to subscribers on July 21st. Staff Mahon is collaborating with staff at NMCWD to host a Project WET Workshop for Educators on August 1st. Staff have begun planning the 2023 Cycle the Creek event, which will be hosted on October 7th. Staff Mahon and Greencorp Member Portoghese are planning a Build Your Own Rainbarrel event using retired oak wine barrels, to be held on October 3rd. Administrator Jeffery presented to the Lake Riley Lake Association annual meeting. The items discussed included trends in Lake Riley as well as proposed district activities in the watershed. The message was well received. Staff Maxwell and Lori Haak from the City of Eden Prairie met with members of Friends of Red Rock Lake and discuss their observations, concerns, and the lake in general On July 21, 2023. Staff Forbes is coordinating with the City of Eden Prairie to co-host a Buckthorn Workshop for residents on Sept 14 at Staring Lake Park. More info available at https://rpbcwd.org/buckthorn Staff Mahon is collaborating with NMCWD and the City of Minnetonka to host a workshop series on soil health. The first part of the series will be a Building Healthy Soils workshop on September 28th.	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. Engage with the Technical Advisory Committee to identify potential projects. Develop a water conservation program (look at Woodbury model).	Administrator Jeffery and Engineer Sobiech met with Evan Christensen to discuss development of a groundwater plan. The crux of the conversation surrounded ways to study the groundwater/surface water interaction and the impact on base flows in streams, lake levels, and bounce within wetlands. The district previously maintained a number of wells for observation of water levels. This program could be re-initiated and augmented to observe not only	Metropolitan Council City of Eden Prairie City of Shorewood City of Bloomington City of Minnetonka

		water levels but flow direction of near surface groundwater. This information could help in determining areas where infiltration should be promoted or discouraged, as well as areas of significant importance for protection. This information would also dovetail nicely with the wetland assessment program and the EHAP initiative. There have been no updates to report.	City of Chanhassen
Lake Vegetation Management	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 NaturalResources on potential treatments. Implement herbicide treatment as needed. Secure DNR permits and contracts with herbicide applicators. Schedule regularly scheduled point intercept surveys. Work with Three Rivers Park District for Hyland Lake.	Maija Weaver, Graduate Student, with input from Ray Newman, University of Minnesota – May and June point-intercept surveys of Riley, Susan, and Staring have been completed, results and biomass are being processed. A portion of Lake Susan was treated with flumioxazin in May, and a concentrated point intercept survey was completed in the treatment area as well as a reference area before and after treatment. Preliminary analysis of results shows positive results with reduced curlyleaf pondweed frequency. In the treatment grid, curlyleaf was found at 36% of points pre-treatment and only 7% of points post-treatment. In the reference grid, curlyleaf was found at 34% of points pre-treatment and 27% of points post-treatment. From these results, it appears that the herbicide was effective in reducing curlyleaf abundance in the treatment areas. The final point-intercept surveys for 2023 will be completed in August, and curlyleaf pondweed turion sampling will occur in October.Staff h coordinated the spring pre- and post- flumioxazin treatment survey with a concentrated point grid on Lake Susan (Newman U of MN) and Mitchell Lake (April Londo MNDNR) in May to assess the response of curlyleaf and native plants to this herbicide. Herbicide residual samples were collected on each lake to analyze herbicide dispersal. Samples were sent to the University of Florida and results have been recieved. This data will be helpful for applicators, the DNR, and the District when applying flumioxazin. Early data indicates the herbicide was susccessful in treatment areas. A traditional \$3,000 AlS control grant was awarded by the MNDNR for Lake Riley. All info and invoices have been submitted to the DNR and reimbursement should occur in 30 days.	City of Eden Prairie City of Chanhassen University of Minnesota MN DNR

		Administrator Jeffery is participating as a TAP member for a MnDOT Research project, being done jointly with the U of M to evaluate wet pond modeling for contaminant retention and maintenance.	
Opportunity Projects	Assess potential projects as they are presented to the District	Administrator Jeffery is working with Minnetonka on a project to stabilize a section of Purgatory Creek within Purgatory Park. Funding from the project will come from the WBIF, the City of Minnetonka, and RPBCWD. This project has been delayed to 2024. Staff Portoghese collected MPD infiltrometer data at several locations within North Lotus Lake Park and off Frontier Trail in Chanhassen for the purpose of identifying locations and types of BMPs to be used in these areas. This information has been provided to Barr for design of the Lotus Lake Water Quality Improvement project.	City of Chanhassen St Hubert School 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	No updates.	City of Eden Prairie
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.	Administrator Jeffery and Staff Maxwell are participating in a round table discussion about society and lake management with researchers from the University of Minnesota.	Stormwater ponds partners: Cities of Bloomington, Chanhassen, Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Shorewood; U of MN
Watershed Plan	Review and identify needs for amendments.	Administrator Jeffery, Engineer Sobiech, Staff Forbes, and Fred Rozumalski (Barr) are meeting bi-weekly to develop the Ecological Health Action Plan (EHAP). The second meeting of the Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) for the EHAP was held on the July 20. Discussion focused on brainstorming ideas to address gaps that exist to establish and	

		maintain a healthy urban ecosystem. The next TAP is scheduled for an undetermined date in September.	
Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)	Administer WCA within the Cities of Shorewood and Deephaven. Represent the District on Technical Evaluation Panel throughout the District.	Staff Dickhausen attended a TEP meeting hosted by the city of Chanhassen on July 20. Prior to the meeting, a site visit took place to review a boundary/type wetland delineation off Lake Ludy Road. Staff Dickhausen was unable to attend this part of the meeting due to a priorly scheduled meeting. At the meeting the TEP discussed the delineation. The TEP felt that the delineated boundaries were accurate and the report looked good. The rest of the meeting was used to discuss the ongoing review of the project off of Arboretum Blvd and the boundary/type application from the City related to a future walking trail/path project off Galpin Blvd. The TEP had received an updated application from the Arboretum Blvd applicant's new wetland consultant earlier in July. This application included materials and information the TEP requested previously which were no included in earlier iterations of the application. A representative from the applicant's new consultant met with the TEP to go over changes and information included in the new application. Upon review, the TEP concluded that they could accept this version of the application and a notice of decision was sent out by the City. When reviewing aspects of the Galpin Blvd. Application, the TEP reviewed some wetlands present across Galpin Blvd from the trail. They were wondering if these wetland were incidental. After reviewing historical aerial photos of the site, the TEP were able to conclude that these wetlands were indeed incidental. This was noted in the notice of decision sent out for this particular application. 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 and an environmental services company to design a restoration plan . The TEP has been in communication with the environmental service contractors to review and comment on rest	City of Shorewood City of Deephaven City of Chanhassen City of Eden Prairie MCWD BWSR MN DNR A COE
Wetland Management	Assess known existing wetlands, identify previously unknown wetlands,	Staff Dickhausen has started assessing wetlands. He is carrying out QA/QC assessments in the southeast part of Eden Prairie and Bloomington.	City of Chanhassen City of Eden Prairie

	identify wetlands for potential restoration/ rehabilitation and wetlands requiring additional protection.	He will also be completing Floristic Quality Assessments (FOA) in areas of Chanhassen later this season. This area was assessed using only MnRAM assessments, prior to the District adopting the use of FQA for assessing plant communities. Administrator Jeffery and Staff Dickhausen continue updating the MNRAM Access database. Numerous requests for MNRAM scores continue to be made by municipalities and private developers.	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 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 on its website (www.rpbcwd.org/lowsaltnosalt) along with three video shorts on our YouTube channel. Staff Forbes and Jessica Wilson (City of Edina) will give a presentation on the Low Salt, No Salt program at the Minnesota Water Resources Conference in fall 2023.	Eleven watershed districts/WMOs Multiple cities MPCA Hennepin County Environmental Services Board of Water and Soil Resources
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 signaling the restoration is successful.	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. Staff from Barr, the City of Chanhassen, and Administrator Jeffery walked the corridor on June 1st to identify significant trees to be avoided, potential access points and routes, and other pertinent information. This project is programmed to go out for bids at the end of 2023 for 2024 construction. Barr completed 90% design plans for the crossing under Galpin Rd. This was presented at the March meeting. The plans have been provided to the city and they are engaging both Carver County and MNDOT to see if there are other funding options. Additional	

		funding opportunities were not identified so the project is being tabled for the time being.	
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.	Staff from Barr met with the restoration contractor to discuss 2023 maintenance activities and schedule. Engineer Sobiech and Administrator Jeffery met with Greg and Tammy Falconer who own the property east of the restoration site. They had a request for us to remove the barbed wire fence along their western (our eastern) property line. They also had questions about drainage. The survey data showed the fence to be on their property. Engineer Sobiech has reached out to Sunram to request a quote for removing the fence. A right-of-entry agreement would be needed with the Falconers were the district to remove this fence. Staff Dickhausen conducted a 50 ft grid survey on site to collect updated elevations across the wetland/project area.	City of Chanhassen MN DNR Carver County
Riley Creek Watershed	Description	Update	Partners
Lake Riley Alum Treatment	Continue monitoring of Lake.	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 Park Pond	Complete final site stabilization and spring start up. Finalize and implement E & O for project. Monitor project.	Administrator Jeffery and Engineer Sobiech discussed adding this as a bid item to the Upper Riley project.	City of Chanhassen Clean Water Legacy Amendment
Lake Susan Spent Lime	2022 startup and monitoring	District and Barr staff collected wetland sediment cores and additional sediment form the cattail areas around the wetland to the southwest of Lake Susan (spent lime unit treats). This is to confirm that the wetland is a nutrient loader and give us some data to start to discuss viable solutions to treat the wetlands runoff before it gets to Lake Susan. Samples were submitted to the University of Wisconsin-Stout for processing. Early results indicate the sediment release rates are extremely high. The spent lime unit was turned on in May and the material was "fluffed." The unit will operate M,W,F 8am to 5pm. Weekly samples were collected up until June when the pond levels eliminated flow through the unit.	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.	A final inspection occurred in the lower valley. There are one or two small items to button up and then staff and engineer will be recommending the project be closed out. CRAS scores significantly improved from pre to post restoration signaling the restoration is susccessful.	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. Depending upon budgeting considerations, 2024 is the projected 2 nd dose.	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.	Administrator Jeffery, Heather Lau, PE, and Engineer Sobiech met on site with staff from Chanhassen Public Works to discuss long-term maintenance of the Kraken MTD system installed in 2022 and put on-line in 2023. The raingarden was working well with no obvious signs of erosion or standing water. The pretreatment chambers were inspected and will be vacuumed out this fall. There was a small amount of sediment within them. The cartridges looked clean. Staff met early this month with Chanhassen on site early this month to investigate a potential blockage within the unit. The blockage was removed, and the unit is performing well now.	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 and will be presented to the City for discussion soon. Design continues. No updates.	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. The easements are with the title company for recording.	Bearpath Neighborhood Association City of Eden Prairie MN DNR
St Hubert Water Quality Project	Repair eroded ravine tributary to RML.	The project is substantially complete. Staff Mahon is developing curriculum to go along with project sites.	CCSWCD Metropolitan

	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.	Staff will be working closely with the middle school science teacher to ensure curriculum standards are met. Davey will be onsite the beginning of June to perform maintenance and replace three trees.	Council City of Chanhassen
Purgatory Creek Watershed	Description	Update	Partners
PCRA Berm		Legal counsel has advised that this project may not meet the statutory criteria for a maintenance project and a plan amendment may be necessary to implement the project.	City of Eden Prairie MN DNR
Lotus Lake Internal Load Control	Continue monitoring the Lake. Plan second alum application.	Barr will begin looking at release rates and dosing recommendations. Treatment will likely be delayed until the fall of 2024.	
Silver Lake Restoration	Order project. Design Project. Work with the City of Chanhassen for design, cooperative agreement, and implementation.	Prairie Restoration has performed the vegetative maintenance including treatment of garlic mustard on the site but outside of the grading area to prevent it from migrating further.	City of Chanhassen
Lotus Lake Watershed Water Quality Improvement Project	Feasibility Study/Preliminary Engineering Report Issue Identification Partnership Opportunities and CIP Alignment	Barr, City Staff, and Administrator Jeffery continue working on finalizing the feasibility report.	City of Chanhassen

Professional Development

Staff Maxwell and Dickhausen attended and received their confined space certificates. This is required for maintenance of the Kraken unit specifically. Staff Monahan is in the process of becoming a Notary Public.