

RPBCWD Staff Report – February 2024

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 and Staff Monahan compiled the monthly treasurer's report. Administrator Jeffery met with Justin Nilson of Abdo to discuss plan amendment and Spring Road Conservation Project and other attorneys that may need to be contacted as part of the audit process. Administrator Jeffery, Staff Bakkum, and Staff Monahan continue to provide Abdo with preliminary deliverables to begin the 2023 audit. All 2022 grants have had their final reports and request for reimbursement submitted by Administrator Jeffery. Payment is pending. Administrator Jeffery has begun scheduling the 2024 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) convene meeting with the partner LGUs. Administrator Jeffery, with advice of Audit and Finance Committee has worked with Cory Boyer of 4M to invest in a 12-month and 18-month CD at \$250,000 each. Returns of just shy of 5% are expected. Administrator Jeffery and Engineer Sobiech have begun identifying grant opportunities and gathering the necessary information to apply.	Partifiers
Administration	Administrator activities	Administrator Jeffery has continued to devote significant time to the lawsuit and the negotiations for the Spring Rd property. Administrator Jeffery is meeting with the Communications Platform Committee for MN Watersheds on March 15.	
Annual Report & Communication	Compile, finalize and submit an annual report to agencies.	An updated draft of the Annual Report including appendices have been sent to managers for review.	
DEI	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	Staff Mahon attended the February meeting of the Watershed Equity Alliance (formerly called the Watershed Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access (DEIA) Workgroup). The group recapped last month's 'Drivers for Decision Making: Resiliency, Diversity, and Public	

		Outreach for Stormwater Projects' webinar and began planning its	
		third annual summer retreat.	
Human Resources	General Human Resources	The District has received twelve applications for the Data Collections Technician position. Interviews began on Friday, March 8 th . The District has received only three applications for the permit inspection technician position. Staff are evaluating other methods of outreach for these positions. Staff has communicated with other districts asking that candidates not hired be directed to RPBCWD. Staff Bakkum went to part-time hourly as of 2/15/24 so she can concentrate on her law degree. There is no need for additional staff at this time but this will be revisited in the future.	
Internal Policies	Work with Governance Committee and Personnel Committee to review bylaws and manuals as necessary.	The audit and finance committee met February 12 th to discuss the financial policies to be revised as part of the governance manual update, among other items. Another meeting was scheduled for March 13 th to do a complete review and provide recommendations for the March 15 th governance committee meeting. Minutes of this meeting are provided within the regular meeting packet. The governance committee met February 9 th to discuss the manual review process and set a calendar of meetings. Minutes of this meeting are provided within the regular meeting packet.	
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 Feb. 26 in person at the district office.; Staff Dickhausen gave a presentation about the Wetland Program. Minutes will be provided as part of the board packet. The next regular meeting of the CAC will be March 18.	
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 Minnetonka adopted their minor plan amendment.	

MN Watersheds (formerly MAWD)	Business and happenings of MN Watersheds	Chaska submitted a plan amendment for review. They are updating their H&H to include Atlas 14 and some of their rate control regulations. The plan still defers to the district for administration of their regulatory program. Then MN Watersheds Legislative Event was held on March 6 th and 7 th and was attended by four of the managers.	
District-Wide Regulatory Program	Review regulatory program to maximize efficiency. Engage Technical Advisory Committee and Citizen Advisory Committee on possible rule changes. Implement a regulatory program.	Staff Portoghese has been developing a map of permitting data to appear on the website. The map will be added to the website by late 2024. Staff Nicklay is working with Staff Forbes to develop a mailing targeting landscape contractors in the metro with the aim of increasing awareness of permitting requirements and reducing the number of after-the-fact permits. Staff Nicklay and Administrator Jeffery are drafting an updated violation SOP with the aim of providing a clear and efficient path for enforcement of District regulations.	Partners
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 veligermonitoring.	The aeration unit was noticed in the Chanhassen Villager and a MNDNR permit was applied for and received for the operation during the 2023-2024 winter season on Rice Marsh Lake. It was also posted on the district website. Based on ice conditions the unit will not be turned on this year. District staff applied for a Scientific Fisheries Permit through the MNDNR to allow for regular common carp monitoring and Purgatory Creek spring removals.	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 Stewardship Grant program currently has 6 active projects with four new applications in review. The application period for first-time applicants is paused until site visits can resume in spring. Potential applicants may still work with staff to review potential	Carver Soil & Water Conservation District

		projects. Staff Forbes is compiling a program summary for the 2023 Annual Report. The bulk of Stewardship Grant program duties has transitioned to Staff Mahon as part of her new role as Community Engagement Coordinator. Staff Forbes will remain involved in the program.	
Data Collection	Continue Data Collection at permanent sites. Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program. Identify monitoring sites to assessfuture project sites. Water Level Sensors. Lake and Stream Monitoring.	Metropolitan Council (METC) - Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program (WOMP): Regular biweekly samples were collected this month, and no rain event sampling occurred this month. Staff have fully taken over regular water quality sampling at the Riley Creek location. Staff will work on placing the correct equipment into the unit for continuous monitoring now that METC has turned over the station. Due to ice conditions no regular sampling event occurred on the Purgatory Chain of Lakes and a series of stormwater ponds draining EP city center this month. Additional focused chloride samples were collected from the stormwater pond next to the office. Staff have been summarizing and QC data for the annual report and Riley Purg Bluff Creek Summit. A final draft is being reviewed which will incorporate managers' input before being released to BWSR. Staff have been working with City of Eden Prairie staff to coordinate 2023 alum application of Round Lake with Lotus Lake. Staff collected sediment cores for Round to calculate dosing rates. Staff have been coordinating data submittal and information requests for the delisting process for Rice Marsh Lake and Lake Riley from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Impaired waters list. Staff Portoghese has been mapping all the score your shore data, most of which was collected this summer. This will be incorporated into the EHAP project and will be used for outreach to lakeshore owners. Staff are also working with the DNR who also collected score your shore data on a subset of lakes within the district. This will be used to compare both data sets. Discussion has occurred about the possibility of specific targeting of improving shorelines with the grant program.	Metropolitan Council City of Eden Prairie University of MN City of Chanhassen MN DNR City of Minnetonka Three Rivers Park District

		Staff have sent out a request for applications for summer water quality interns/technicians. Interviews will begin early in March.	
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.	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. Engineer Sobiech and Administrator Jeffery have begun discussing ways in which the model can be utilized for added benefit in project prioritization, issue identification, etc.	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. Separate pages were built to house a searchable library of meeting minutes and finalized resolutions. 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 2023 lake and creek fact sheets are now available: rpbcwd.org/factsheets. Staff hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Night on February 22nd. Volunteers from the Citizen Advisory Committee, Adopt a Dock program, and Minnesota Water Stewards were invited to join staff at Camp Fire Minnesota, a local summer camp venue. Staff has partnered with NMCWD to create a new program for educators called STEM on Tap. The program aims to gather grade 6-12 STEM educators at a brewery once a month during the winter to dive deep into a new STEM topic. 15 educators attended the first program on February 26th, led by Lori Haak, Water Resources Coordinator for Eden Prairie, who discussed Schoolyard Stormwater. Staff accepted 2 new RPBCWD residents into the 2024 cohort of Minnesota Water Stewards, hosted by Freshwater Society. RPBCWD has partnered with VRWJPO and RCWD to host checkin sessions with their stewards, holding the first group checkin on February 14th. Staff Mahon hosted a table at the Minnetonka Winter Farmers Market on February 10th. The 2023-24 Winter Newsletter was sent to email subscribers on February 16th.	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

		Staff Mahon and Staff Dickhausen are working with GreenCorpsMember Whittington to plan an April visit to St Hubert Catholic School's 2 nd graders to lead activities surrounding trees, birds and insects, and storm drains. Staff Dickhausen and GreenCorps Member Whittington visited the Clear Springs Elementary School 1 ^{st th} grade Spanish Immersion classes on February 27 th . 66 students were engaged in activities surrounding soil profiles. Staff Forbes is partnering with the City of Eden Prairie to hold a Woodland Invaders Workshop on March 19. Focus will be on i.d. and control of Garlic Mustard and Buckthorn. More info and registration here. Staff is finalizing dates for 2024 workshop offerings, including turfgrass maintenance, smart salting, and resilient shorelines. Staff has begun planning activities for Creek Week 2024, which will be moved from the fall to the spring based on participant feedback. Staff are planning the Lake Association Summit to be held at the District office on March 21. Two representatives from each lake association have been invited.	
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).	Task Order No 45 has been included on this month's agenda for consideration by the BOM.	Metropolitan Council City of Eden Prairie City of Shorewood City of Bloomington City of Minnetonka 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 Natural Resources on potential treatments. Implement herbicide treatment as needed. Secure DNR permits and contracts with	Staff began the process of applying for herbicide treatments for 2024 this month. Staff recieved \$13450 in MN DNR AIS Control Grants for treatment on Lotus, Mitchell, and Susan. Below is a list of potential treatments for 2024 and their probability of being needed:	City of Eden Prairie City of Chanhassen University of Minnesota MN DNR

	herbicide applicators.				# of	Total	Avg		
	Schedule regularly scheduled point	Lake	Delineation	Herbicide	Areas	Acres	Depth	Liklihood	
	intercept surveys.	Mitchell	CLP	Flumioxazin	2 @ 6.5	13	7.5	Yes	
	Work with Three Rivers Park District for	Susan	CLP	Flumioxazin	2 @ 4.3	8.6	6	Yes	
	Hyland Lake.	Red Rock	CLP	Flumioxazin	1	13	8.3	Yes	
		Riley	CLP	Diquat		20		Yes	
		Staring	CLP	Flumioxazin	2@10	20	4	Unknown	
		Duck	EWM	Procellacor	1	7	4	Yes	
		Lotus	EWM	Fluridone	whole	245	10.2	Yes	
		PCRA, on Mit	ept Surveys f and Idlewild. chell, Red Ro	Eden Prairie	e is planr nd.	ning to c	onduct	PI surveys	
Opportunity	Assess potential projects as they are		a is continuin	-			_	•	City of Chanhassen
Projects	presented to the District		Purgatory Cr	eek Preserv	e for res	toration	. Fundin	g will be	St Hubert School
		provide	ed via WBIF.						Eden Prairie Public Schools
									City of Eden Prairie
Total Maximum	Continue working with the Minnesota	No changes							MPCA
Daily Load (TMDL)	Pollution Control Agency on the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS).								
Repair &	Develop and formalize grant program.	In a meeting	g with the Na	atural Resou	rces staf	f of vario	ous citie	s and	City of Eden Prairie
Maintenance	Maintenance of RPBCWD BMPs	organiza	ations, it was	identified tl	hat the [District to	aking or	n an	
Fund		additional role in the operations and maintenance of constructed BMPs would be helpful.							
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.	No updates	5.						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 joint BOM/CAC EHAP workshop is scheduled for March 11. Engineer Sobiech, Staff Maxwell, Joe Bischoff, and Administrator Jeffery met on January 4 th to discuss modifying the lake management plan scope to take advantage of efficiencies that may be developed by identifying tasks that would be relatively universal across lakes. An updated scope will be brought back to the Board of Managers at their March or April meeting.	
Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)	Administer WCA within the Cities of Shorewood and Deephaven. Represent the District on Technical Evaluation Panel throughout the District.	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 restoration plans. The Chanhassen TEP met on February 22 to discuss where the landowners and their consultants were at with designing their restoration plans and applying for/acquiring the necessary permits to complete work.	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, identify wetlands for potential restoration/ rehabilitation and wetlands requiring additional protection.	Staff Dickhausen is done with this season's wetland assessments. He carried out QA/QC assessments in the southeast part of Eden Prairie and Bloomington. He will continue QA/QC work next season, as well as update vegetation assessments with FQA in parts of Chanhassen where these types of assessments were not previously conducted. 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. Any changes in District management classifications for the wetlands (based on QA/QC work and updates due to applications and delineation work done within the District) will be reflected in the upcoming 2023 Annual report.	City of Chanhassen City of Eden Prairie Hennepin County Carver County MN DNR BWSR USFWS

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 (Previous Tier 1 Score = 22; Post Tier 1 Score = 10).	City of Chanhassen
Bluff Creek Reaches B5 and B6	Develop Feasibility Study regarding potential creek and wetland restoration.	The Board of Managers approved the Barr task order to begin design, public engagement, and bid package development for this project at their December 2023 regular meeting. A site survey for the Bluff Creek Headwaters Ecological Enhancement Project will begin in February. Notifications were sent to property owners in late January.	
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.	Administrator Jeffery has submitted the final report for payment of the balance of the grant.	City of Chanhassen MN DNR Carver County
Riley Creek Watershed	Description	Update	Partners
Lake Riley Alum Treatment	Continue monitoring of Lake.	Staff started the process of delisting the Lake as it meets all the nutrient criteria.	
Lake Susan Park Pond	Complete final site stabilization and spring start up. Finalize and implement E & O for project. Monitor project.	A pre-construction meeting was held with Peterson Contracting and Chanhassen Parks and Recreation Staff. Engineer Sobiech is working with WaterTronics on the SCADA system licensure and installation. The City of Chanhassen is bringing the cooperative agreement to their council for review and approval. Administrator Jeffery will be presenting to the Chanhassen Parks and Recreation Committee in April or May to discuss the project and garner support.	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	City of Chanhassen

		the University of Wisconsin-Stout for processing. Early results indicate the sediment release rates are extremely high.	
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 and the project is closed out. CRAS scores significantly improved from pre to post restoration signaling the restoration is successful (Previous Tier 1 Score = 26; Post Tier 1 Score = 14).	City of Eden Prairie Lower MN River Watershed District
Rice Marsh Lake Alum Treatment	Continue monitoring of Lake. Prepare for second dose.	Staff have started the process of delisting RML from the impaired waters list for nutrients as it meets all the criteria. Depending upon budgeting considerations, 2025 is the projected 2 nd dose. Likely the lake could be delisted for nutrients in 2024.	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.	The 2024 maintenance schedule was provided.	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 draft cooperative agreement has been drafted by Smith Partners and has been presented to the City for consideration and discussion. Design continues. No updates. A mailing was sent to property owners on Jan. 24 requesting a meeting with Administrator Jeffery to discuss property access and a maintenance easement to construct the Upper Riley Ecological Enhancement Project. Administrator Jeffery has met with two fo the property owners to discuss right of entry agreement and has had email correspondence with two others. One land owner remains to be contacted. Information about the project may be found on the project webpage.	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.		Bearpath Neighborhood Association City of Eden Prairie MN DNR

	Develop cooperative agreement with Bearpath.		
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.	Administrator Jeffery has submitted the final report to BWSR and a request for payment. Minger Construction will be retaining the services of a new vegetation subcontractor to complete the requisite maintenance.	CCSWCD Metropolitan Council City of Chanhassen
Purgatory Creek Watershed	Description	Update	Partners
PCRA Berm		No changes	City of Eden Prairie MN DNR
Lotus Lake Internal Load Control	Continue monitoring the Lake. Plan second alum application.	Barr will be presenting findings and dosing recommendations at 3/13/24 meeting.	
Silver Lake Restoration	Order project. Design Project. Work with the City of Chanhassen for design, cooperative agreement, and implementation.	Prairie Restoration has performed 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	Administrator Jeffery, Engineer Sobiech, Counsel Welch, and Project Engineer Keeler met to discuss project scope, regulatory program implications, regional credit, and term sheet development for the project.	City of Chanhassen

Professional Development

Staff Nicklay attended the 2024 Minnesota Erosion Control Conference in Plymouth, MN.

Staff Maxwell attended "The Use of P8 Modeling Software." This workshop introduced the fundamentals of water quality modeling with a focus on P8 Urban Catchment Model. P8 is a water quality model for simulating pollutant generation and treatment in urban areas.