

RPBCWD Staff Report – February 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. Abdo has been engaged to begin the audit process. Staff Bakkum and administrator Jeffery have begun compiling information requested by Abdo. The Audit and Finance Committee met the week of February 13 th (date TBD) to begin the 2024 budget process and discuss the 2022 audit. A follow up meeting is being scheduled with RedPath to discuss accounting practices. 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 has reached out to watershed partners in an effort to identify Watershed Based Implementation Funding projects. A meeting with the representatives of the partners and the district will meet in March.	
Administration	Administrator activities	Administrator Jeffery and Staff Bakkum are working with Nine Mile Creek and Smith Partners to develop a cooperative agreement for shared office assistant position. Administrator Jeffery has received two quotes for boardroom furniture and configuration. These will be presented at the March workshop. Administrator Jeffery is working with Imagine IT to migrate IT administration back to the district. The final payment to ImagineIT will include the balance of the Microsoft 365 subscription. Administrator Jeffery and staff Bakkum have submitted solicitations of RFQs for professional services to the official publications. Administrator Jeffery is presenting to the Duck Lake Association at their March 7 th meeting. Administrator Jeffery is working with the Parks Director of Chanhassen to be placed on the Parks Commission agenda 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 the annual report and communication.	
DEI	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	No updates.	
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 approval of the cooperative agreement, the position will be advertised and filled. 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 February 4 th . They began reviewing 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 will be meeting in March with RedPath.	
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 20. Administrator Jeffery and Engineer Sobiech gave a presentation (part 3) about rules and permitting. The next regular meeting of the CAC will be on March 20.	
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 to be more indicative of the desire to include more organizations involved in the management of water resources. Minnesota Watersheds has launched their new website. Among the many changes is a members only section which includes a library and information on MN legislature. The new address is mnwatersheds.com 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. 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 25th 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 May or June workshop. GreenCorps Member Portoghese and Staff Dickhausen has developed a Microsoft Access database and 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. Administrator Jeffery is working with the MN DNR, the City of Chanhassen, BWSR, and Carver County SWCD on a wetland violation in Chanhassen. The property owner has retained the services of a wetland professional and a landscape architect to aid them through the process. A temporary erosion prevention and	

		sediment control plan has been provided to the above for review and comment.	
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 - one unit head was replaced and the unit is working fine. 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 Watershed Stewardship Grant (WSG) program currently has 9 active grant projects with an additional project in review. The application period for 2023 opens at the end of 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. The 2022 regular bi-weekly lake and stream sampling data is being processed and analyzed. The monthly winter collection of lake water quality is currently being collected on the Riley Chain of Lakes (3-year rotation between Riley and Purgatory Lakes). Zooplankton, phytoplankton, creek walks and lake level data is currently being analyzed and finalized for the water resources report. Staff met with Anthony Afdenkampe of LimnoTech to update the EnviroDIY code. Administrator Jeffery and staff Maxwell are part of a research team which submitted a research grant proposal to the MN Stormwater Council to develop a model for storm water retention pond loading. 	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.	Eden Prairie has provided final comments to Barr regarding the flood risk 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. Staff is also working with NMCWD to organize a Project WET training workshop for district teachers. RPBCWD will sponsor one new Minnesota Water Steward for the 2023 season, coordinating with Staff Mahon. Planning is underway for 2023 events. A lake association summit scheduled for Feb 21 will be rescheduled due to weather in either Mach or April. Staff Mahon and Nicklay hosted 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. Engage with the Technical Advisory Committee to identify potential projects. Develop a water conservation program (look at Woodbury model).	RPBCWD and Barr staff are evaluating the needs and benefits of reestablishing the monitoring well program that the district used to run.	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	University of Minnesota Report (Ray Newman and Maija Weaver): The 2022 annual plant progress report is in the final stage of editing, and will be completed soon. A visual presentation of the progress report is also in preparation for the Riley Summit.After	City of Eden Prairie City of Chanhassen

	the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources 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.	analyzing the data from 2021 and 2022, delineation plans for early spring 2023 were made. Delineation surveys for curlyleaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil will be conducted on Susan, Staring, and Riley. Treatment should not be needed in Staring Lake after whole-lake fluridone treatment in 2022, but delineation will confirm. Delineation results will be compared to maps of 2022 occurrence to determine if treatment was effective in the specified blocks. 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 and applicators for 2023. 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.	University of Minnesota MN DNR
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 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 and if it would be eligible for WBIF.	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	Administrator Jeffery and Eden Prairie staff are meeting on February 27 th to discuss the Purgatory Recreation Area berm.	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 March 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 which was completed and is currently under consideration.	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 at the February 1, 2023 meeting of the BOM. On Feb 17, Administrator Jeffery, Engineer Sobiech, and Staff Forbes, and Fred Rozumalski (Barr) held a kickoff meeting for the Ecological Health Action Plan (EHAP) to discuss next steps including potential advisors. Biweekly meetings will continue.	
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 al TEP meeting hosted by the City of Chanhassen on February 13. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss a no loss application related to theproposed plans to develop a site off Arboretum Blvd previosuly mentioned in last month's report. The TEP had previously reviewed the wetland delineation in fall of 2022 when the applicant submitted a boundary type application, and again when meeting for a preapplication meeting with applicants. The application was asking for a no-loss determination while filling two of the wetlands located on the site, the argument being that they were incidental,	City of Shorewood City of Deephaven City of Chanhassen City of Eden Prairie MCWD BWSR MN DNR A COE

		non-historical wetlands prior to site alteration. After extensive historical aerial imagery review and discussion, the TEP was in agreeance that these wetlands existed well before recent alterations to the site, therefore not incidental, and the City as the LGU would not approve a no-loss application request for these two wetlands. 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.	
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 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 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.	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 costshare 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 Funding . Seven projects were implemented through the program.	LMRWD RBWMO NMCWD
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 Improvement Phase 2	Complete final site stabilization and spring start up. Finalize and implement E & O for project. Monitor project.	No updates.	City of Chanhassen 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 but due to the low water levels, it	City of Chanhassen

		has been postponed until the water levels increase. It is tentatively scheduled for next spring contingent upon the snow pack this winter.	
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. The CRAS scores were updated this year after stream walks were completed. Scores have worsened from previous walks in 2015 as creek conditions have deteriorated.	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. Adminstrator Jeffery has submitted the final progress report and request for funding to BWSR through eLink. The district has received the grant dollars from the Metropoitan Council and Carver County SWCD. 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.	

spring for maintenance.

Prairie Restoration has completed the work and will return in the

Order project.

Design Project.

Work with the City of Chanhassen for design, cooperative agreement,

and implementation.

Silver Lake

Restoration

City of Chanhassen

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		Adminstrator Jeffery, Barr staff, and staff from the City of	
Improvement	Issue Identification	Chanhassen are meeting on March 3 rd to review the	
Project		preliminary design.	
	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