

RPBCWD Staff Report – May 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 Monahan compiled the monthly treasurer's report. Administrator Jeffery, Staff Bakkum, and Staff Monahan have been responding to requests as the auditors complete their disbursement testing. All 2022 state grants have had their final reports and request for reimbursement submitted by Administrator Jeffery. Payment is still pending on St Huberts as additional information about water quality benefits is needed. This was provided on June 3 rd . Administrator Jeffery met with members of the Hennepin County Chloride Initiative group to discuss possible continuation of the program with WBIF funding. Administrator Jeffery and Staff Maxwell are applying for a Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG) to acquire monitoring equipment for the Riley Creek WOMP station at Flying Cloud Rd. Administrator Jeffery applied for a Water Quality and Storage Grant to be applied to the wetland restoration portion of the Upper Bluff Creek Ecological Enhancement project. BWSR sent an email regretting to inform us that the project was not selected. Administrator Jeffery submitted the workplan and grant application to Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. The next deadline is July 17 th at which time LSOHC members submit their recommendations for funding. On July 30 th those submitted on July 17 th will present to the council for consideration on the next legislative cycle.	
Administration	Administrator activities	Administrator Jeffery met with a representative of T-Mobile to determine if a less expensive mobile plan is available for the RPBCWD phones and field tablets. Switching to T-Mobile will save the RPBCWD approximately \$300 per month. Staff will be switching phones and tablets to T-Mobile on June 10 th . Administrator Jeffery provided information to LMCIT needed for the 2024-2025 Workers' Compensation policy underwriting. Administrator Jeffery is working with LMCIT to update property and casualty insurance policy for the 2024-2025 work year.	
Annual Report & Communication	Compile, finalize and submit an annual report to agencies.	The 2023 Annual Report has been submitted to BWSR.	

DEI Human Resources	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion General Human Resources	Staff Mahon attended the April meeting of the Watershed Equity Alliance (formerly called the Watershed Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access (DEIA) Workgroup). Amy Bakkum's last day was May 20 ^{th.} Dylan Monahan will start fulltime with the RPBCWD on July 1, 2024 at the completion of the term of his shared position with NMCWD.	
Internal Policies	Work with Governance Committee and Pasond Committee to review bylaws and manuals as necessary.	Administrator Jeffery is working on an on-boarding packet for new Managers.	
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 April 15 in person at the district office. Minutes will be provided as part of the board packet. The next regular meeting of the CAC will be May 20. Staff Forbes put together a CAC member guidance document. After review with the CAC committee, the document was finalized and placed on the CAC webpage.	
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. 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.	
MN Watersheds (formerly MAWD)	Business and happenings of MN Watersheds	Then MN Watersheds Legislative Event was held on March 6 th and 7 th and was attended by four of the managers.	
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.	Staff Portoghese developed a web map of permitting data . Visit rpbcwd.org/permits-map to access the permits map. Staff Nicklay is working with the Regulatory Program Intern to develop a database and GIS map of all permanent stormwater BMPs built in the District under District rules. This work will support future BMP inspection and maintenance efforts.	

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.	District staff is waiting for a Scientific Fisheries Permit through the MNDNR to allow for regular common carp monitoring and Purgatory Creek spring removals. The carp barrier between Staring and the Rec Area was put in at the beginning of the month. Barrier checks and cleaning have begun. No carp has been seen yet. Staff have contacted a hatchery for stocking and has been approved by the DNR to stock. Looking to stock in Lucy, Staring, Rice Marsh, and Lower Rec Area.	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 11 active projects with 7 new applications in review. 24 site visits have been or are scheduled to be completed since requests opened March 1 st . 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.	Carver 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. Lake and Stream Monitoring.	Metropolitan Council (METC) - Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program (WOMP): Regular biweekly samples were collected this month, and one rain event sample occurred this month. Staff have fully taken over regular water quality sampling at the Riley Creek location. Staff are working with the City of Eden Prairie with setting up a purchasing agreement and placing the correct equipment into the unit for continuous monitoring now that METC has turned over the station. Staff attended the regular METC meeting. Auto sampling units have been placed at middle Lotus Lake tributary and Bluff Creek at Galpin and Hwy 5. Staff are waiting for additional equipment to install two units on the upper Lotus Lake tributary. Multiple rain event samples have been collected already.	Metropolitan Council City of Eden Prairie University of MN City of Chanhassen MN DNR City of Minnetonka Three Rivers Park District

		All lake level sensors were placed this month. Lake level sensors are checked monthly during the summer and record water level every 30 minutes. 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 mapped 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. This information will be available on the website along with an interactive map. All staff have been very clear when engaging with the public that the intent is not to admonish anyone but rather to get people to begin asking themselves, "what can I do to improve my lake?"	
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.	No updates at this time.	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.	Adopt-a-drain partners: Cities of Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Bloomington, and Eden Prairie; Hamline University;

Groundwater Conservation	Work with other LGUs to monitor, assess, and identify gaps.	Barr is preparing quote solicitations for well advancement.	Metropolitan Council
	Markwith ather I Clista manitar	stewards in this year's Minnesota Water Stewards program through Freshwater Society. Staff Mahon and staff Portoghese hosted a table at the Eden Prairie Eco Expo on March 20 th at the Eden Prairie mall. The sampling boat was brought in as a part of the Family Fun Zone, so families could engage in the Aquatic Invasive Species Junior Inspector activity. Staff Mahon and GreenCorps member Whittington visited the Eden Lake Elementary School 1st graders with macroinvertebrate samples. Students identified macroinvertebrate species and used their findings to guess the health of the creek sampled. The native plant and associated resource list was moved from the Stewardship Grant page to its own page: rpbcwd.org/nativeplants Staff Dickhausen, Staff Mahon and GreenCorps Member Whittington visited the St Hubert Elementary School's 2nd grade classes. 65 students were engaged in activities surrounding stormwater pollution, insects and camouflage, and tree characteristics. Staff is planning activities for Creek Week 2024, planned for May 5-11th. Activities include a garlic mustard pull volunteer event, a build your own rain barrel workshop, a watershed trivia night, Cycle the Creek, and a family-friendly pop-up event at Purgatory Creek Pavilion. A 'passport event' will also run for the entire month of May, a self-guided activity in which residents must visit 6 unique sites in natural areas within the District to win a prize pack. Staff Mahon and Maxwell presented to STEM Educators about Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring and Management at a new program called STEM on Tap. A Zebra Mussel classroom activity/lesson plan was given to the teachers to try out. The event was very well received. Staff Mahon will be meeting with staff from the City of EP and NMCWD next month to discuss expanding the program in the new school year.	Watershed District; MPCA; Bolton & Menk Freshwater Society City of Chanhassen City of Minnetonka

	Engage with the Technical Advisory Committee to identify potential projects. Develop a water conservation program (look at Woodbury model).		•		tner cities to gai iicipal owned pr		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 herbicide applicators. Schedule regularly scheduled point intercept surveys. Work with Three Rivers Park District for Hyland Lake.	\$1345 Mitch (Duck in size where was v LAKE Duck Lotus Mitchell Red Rock Riley Staring Susan Point Starin to con Flurid may t Staff maile plant lakes	take pending of edue to limited e treatment acre ery robust. Lake pending of edue to limited e treatment acre ery robust. Lake Target invasive species Eurasian Watermilfoil Eurasian Watermilfoil Curlyleaf Pondweed Intercept Surveys one, the system ake up to 30 days and postcards to treatment area prior to applica	Relow is a list of delineation). More delineation was not delineation. More delineation was not delineation. More delineation was not delineation. The delineation delineation was not delineation. The delineation delineatio	ts for treatments of the treatment o	ton Lotus, so for 2024 vere reduced itchell Lake so because clp lack of clp. Treatment timing* To be determined 29-Apr 1-May 1-May 1-May No treatment ude Riley, sie is planning und. to Lotus Lake, able. assive aquatic is Mitchell so about the	City of Eden Prairie City of Chanhassen University of Minnesota MN DNR

Opportunity Projects	Assess potential projects as they are presented to the District	anyone can sign up at rpbcwd.org/newsletter . Information about treatments is updated as it becomes available on rpbcwd.org/AlScontrol . Minnetonka is continuing the design for that reach of Purgatory Creek within Purgatory Creek Preserve for restoration. Funding will be provided via WBIF. Minnetonka staff provided an update at the WBIF convene meeting. Work is anticipated to begin late fall of 2024.	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).	All WRAPS have been completed. No anticipated work at this time.	MPCA
Repair & Maintenance Fund	Develop and formalize grant program. Maintenance of RPBCWD BMPs	Jeffery and Engineer Sobiech are considering repair and maintenance in preparation of the 2025 draft budget and will be developing a policy for use to be considered for adoption by the Board of Managers at a meeting later this summer.	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.	Maija Weaver, and M.S. candidate at the University of Minnesota, defended her Masters Thesis on May 30 th . "A MS Multi-Value Aquatic Macrophyte Based Assessment for Lakes in the Twin Cities Metro, Minnesota" was based, in large part, on work performed in partnership with the RPBCWD. RPBCWD should take pride in helping train future pioneers in the water resource sciences while also gathering important knowledge that will guide future work.	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 finishing the last chapter of the EHAP and will bring to the Board of Managers at a future meeting. This will likely be the July Workshop. Administrator Jeffery met with an AICP certified planner to discuss strategic planning with staff and board. Administrator Jeffery will be applying for PRAP grant funding to supplement the costs. Likely schedule will be to begin the process sometime after the appointments are finalized in August.	

Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)	Administer WCA within the Cities of Shorewood and Deephaven. Represent the District on Technical Evaluation Panel throughout the District.	The property owners with the Lake Lucy Lane wetland violation have hired MN Native Landscapes (MNL) to perform the work. MNL is in the process of procuring a performance bond with work anticipated to begin late spring/early summer. Excavation of a ditch adjacent to a wetland on the north side of Lake Lucy Rd, between Powers and Audubon was observed. The DNR and the city have been notified to begin the WCA violation process.	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 future Annual reports.	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.	The contractor sprayed the reed canary grass on April 24 th and will address invasive and noxious weeds again in the fall. The contractor will make monthly visits to the site throughout the growing season. The weir does not need any adjustment at this time. If the need for adjustment to regulate inundation to best foster plant propagation should be needed, the contractor will let us know.	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.	The structure is scheduled for the beginning of June with work commencing upon its arrival.	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 unit was turned on and material mixed (tilled). The unit will run 8am-5pm M,W,F.	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 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.	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. Administrator Jeffery has been working with property owners to secure rights to enter on to their properties for completion of this project. Thus far one agreement has been completed. All property owners have been engaged and have provided at least tacit approval. Agreements are being drafted for all owners for their consideration. Upon final terms, they will be brought to the managers for approval. Information about the project may be found on the project webpage.	City of Chanhassen
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.	Minger Construction has retained 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 is preparing the bid package for alum treatment with a target date of advertisement for bid around June 17 th . Round Lake will be included in this although the costs will be borne by Eden Prairie. Legal counsel will be drafting a cooperative agreement for review and approval by the Board.	

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 presented at the May 28 th meeting of the Chanhassen Parks and Recreation Commission. The project was well received. Some concern was noted as to how the costs would be split and long-term maintenance requirements and funding. It was explained that costs would be pro-rated based upon necessary removals for future road reconstruction projects and that we would use the maintenance agreement to identify long-term maintenance obligations and responsibilities. Administrator Jeffery will be presenting to the Chanhassen Parks and Recreation Committee in May to discuss the project and garner support.	City of Chanhassen

Professional Development

Administrator Jeffery is taking an online budgeting course through the League of MN Cities.