

RPBCWD Staff Report –December 2024

Administration	Description	Update	Partners
Annual Report & Communication	Compile, finalize and submit an annual report to agencies.	The RPBCWD 2025 Calendar will serve as the 2024 Annual Communication and is being distributed to partners and stakeholders.	
DEI	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	Staff Mahon is collaborating with other watershed districts in the Watershed Equity Alliance to gather materials and draft an RFP to begin creating a district DEI Plan.	
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/potluck on Dec. 16 preceded by a holiday happy hour. Minutes will be provided as part of the board packet. The next regular meeting of the CAC is Jan. 27. The 2025 CAC calendar and member list has been updated on the website: rpbcwd.org/CAC .	
Local SWMP	Review of member cities local surface water management plan.	<p>Bloomington 2018-2027</p> <p>Chanhassen 2016-2025</p> <p>Chaska 2015-2024</p> <p>Deephaven 2015-2024</p> <p>Eden Prairie 2021-2030</p> <p>Minnetonka 2020-2029</p> <p>Shorewood 2019-2028</p> <p>Minnetonka adopted their minor plan amendment.</p> <p>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.</p>	
District-Wide	Description	Update	Partners
Regulatory Program	Review regulatory program to maximize efficiency. Engage Technical Advisory Committee and Citizen Advisory Committee on possible rule change. Implement a regulatory program.	Administrator Jeffery, Staff Nicklay, Engineer Sobiech, and Counsel Welch met to discuss near term updates to the regulatory program. Engineer Sobiech and Administrator Jeffery will meet to draft proposed changes to bring to the board for consideration prior to convening the TAC for further vetting.	<p>City of Chanhassen</p> <p>City of Eden Prairie</p> <p>University of Minnesota</p> <p>MN DNR</p> <p>Carver County</p>

<p>Cost-Share</p>	<p>Schedule and coordinate site visits. Review applications and recommend implementation. Evaluate program.</p>	<p>The Stewardship Grant program currently has 13 active projects. 40 site visits have been or are scheduled to be completed since requests opened March 1st. The program closed for applications on October 31st. Staff Forbes and Staff Mahon presented proposed changes to the 2025 Stewardship Grant program to the board on Dec. 11. The grant season is expected to open on Feb. 15. Staff Forbes is updating and adding to the grant program outreach materials including webpages and handouts. RPBCWD offered registration reimbursement for the 2024 Salt Symposium to all public works departments of our partner cities. Two cities (Shorewood and Eden Prairie) participated in the offer.</p>	<p>Carver Soil & Water Conservation District</p>
<p>Data Collection</p>	<p>Continue Data Collection at permanent sites. Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program. Identify monitoring sites to assess future project sites. Water Level Sensors. Lake and Stream Monitoring.</p>	<p>Metropolitan Council (METC) - Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program (WOMP): Regular samples were collected this month every other week The Rice Marsh aeration permit unit was installed 1/3/2024. Staff will continue regular lake sampling on the Purgatory Chain of Lakes throughout the winter. This is part of the district's regular rotation every three years. Zooplankton and Phytoplankton sampling occurred once a month on Susan, Riley, Rice Marsh, Lotus, and Staring. Phytoplankton samples were submitted to Barr and results have been received. Zooplankton samples will be processed soon. Staff Hartmann recently created a Survey 123™ survey forms for creek walks, score the shore, and ais aquatic veg delineation surveys. This will allow for quicker processing of the data and better long-term tracking moving forward. Lake Level sensor data, record a water level every 30 minutes from March - November has been processed and sensors have been sent in for regular maintenance. Staff have begun the process of gathering ice out/in data from lake associations members. This data will be helpful in assessing climatic changes over time and how those shifts affect lake characteristics. Staff are in the process of acquiring a Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG) from the MN Pollution Control Agency with the city of Eden Prairie to potentially purchase water quality equipment and/or cover</p>	<p>Metropolitan Council City of Eden Prairie University of MN City of Chanhassen MN DNR City of Minnetonka Three Rivers Park District</p>

		<p>some monitoring costs for the retired Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program station by the Metropolitan Council.</p> <p>Staff have been busy compiling and analyzing all water quality and quantity data for the annual report.</p> <p>Staff have a meeting scheduled in January with 9mile and CLFLWD to discuss with St. Croix Big Marine Watershed District about their program to install woody debris along shorelines to increase habitat and Score The Shore Scores. We will then meet with the MNDNR area fisheries supervisor and hydrologists to set up a streamlined process.</p>	
District Hydrology & Hydraulics Model	<p>Coordinate maintenance of Hydrology and Hydraulics Model.</p> <p>Coordinate model update with LGUs if additional information is collected.</p> <p>Partner and implement with the City of Bloomington on Flood Evaluation and Water Quality Feasibility.</p>	No updates at this time.	<p>City of Bloomington</p> <p>City of Minnetonka</p> <p>City of Eden Prairie</p> <p>City of Deephaven</p> <p>City of Shorewood</p>
Education & Outreach	<p>Implement Education & Outreach Plan, review at year end.</p> <p>Manage partnership activities with other organizations.</p> <p>Coordinate Public Engagement with District projects.</p>	<p>Staff continue to update the district website as needed. A new hosting platform is in development to better meet organization and content needs including ADA accessibility.</p> <p>Staff Monahan continues to receive inquiries via the district website "Contact Us" form.</p> <p>Staff Forbes continues to upload open sessions of recorded board meetings to the RPBCWD YouTube channel.</p> <p>Staff Mahon, Portoghese, Maxwell and Hein visited the Clear Springs Elementary School 4th graders over 2 days on December 19th and 20th. 120 students engaged in activities surrounding stormwater runoff, topography and pervious vs. impervious surfaces. The shoreland health web map developed by Staff Portoghese from data and information developed by Staff Hartmann and Staff Maxwell has been shared with lake associations. Staff Forbes developed a new webpage, rpbcwd.org/shoreland-health, to provide background information and to serve as a launching point for the web map. Administrator Jeffery</p>	<p>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</p> <p>City of Chanhassen</p>

		<p>and Lori Haak, Eden Prairie, have been meeting quarterly with the Mitchell Lake Association. Staff Forbes also attended the meeting held on Dec. 9.</p> <p>Staff Portoghese continues to develop a public-facing map depicting aquatic vegetation point-intercept data throughout district lakes. This map will be available on the website when completed.</p> <p>As part of the Low Salt, No Salt MN effort, Staff Forbes worked with members from the HCCI to develop a set of materials to promote Winter Salt Week (Jan 27-31). The LSNS group is helping to promote the MPCA Smart Salting: Community Leaders Workshop (Jan. 31).</p> <p>Staff Forbes met with Lori Haak City of EP) on Dec 17 to discuss ongoing and potential 2025 collaboration opportunities.</p>	City of Minnetonka
Groundwater Conservation	<p>Work with other LGUs to monitor, assess, and identify gaps.</p> <p>Engage with the Technical Advisory Committee to identify potential projects.</p> <p>Develop a water conservation program (look at Woodbury model).</p>	<p>Barr is preparing quote solicitations for well advancement.</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery, Engineer Sobiech, and Counselor Welch are developing cooperative agreements to be used with the cities for installation, maintenance, and disposition of the monitoring wells.</p> <p>The communities of Bloomington, Chanhassen, Eden Prairie, Edina, Hopkins, Minnetonka, Richfield, and Saint Louis Park are developing a regional, multi-community wellhead protection plan for our shared groundwater resources. The goal of the plan is to work collaboratively to prevent human introduced contamination from entering water supply wells.</p>	Metropolitan Council Cities' of Eden Prairie, Shorewood, Bloomington, Minnetonka, and Chanhassen
Lake Vegetation Management	<p>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.</p> <p>Implement herbicide treatment as needed.</p> <p>Secure DNR permits and contracts with herbicide applicators.</p> <p>Schedule regularly scheduled point intercept surveys.</p> <p>Work with Three Rivers Park District for Hyland Lake.</p>	<p>Staff Hartmann and Maxwell have been working on compiling all historical Point Intercept aquatic veg data into one place so it can be easily analyzed and compared over time. This has been completed, and Staff Portoghese will be mapping this data and creating content that will eventually be available on the website.</p> <p>Staff Maxwell applied for the 2025 Invasive Aquatic Plant Management Grants through the MN DNR.</p> <p>Summer point intercept vegetation reports were received this month. Turions from Mitchell Lake and Lake Susan are undergoing viability testing in the district lab. Samples are placed under lamps to see if curlyleaf turions sprout. This is after a month of cold storage which simulated MN winters.</p>	Eden Prairie Chanhassen University of Minnesota MN DNR

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS)	Continue working with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS).	No updates	MPCA BWSR Others
Repair & Maintenance Fund	Develop and formalize grant program. Maintenance of RPBCWD BMPs	One common theme heard from all departments of all municipalities is that long-term maintenance of practices installed on city land, especially emerging practices or those requiring special knowledge to maintain creates hesitance in wanting to implement. It may be in the interest of the RPBCWD and the resources we are charged with managing to develop a model to mitigate these concerns.	Cities of Bloomington, Chanhassen, Chaska, Deephaven, Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Shorewood;
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 of progress in the research. Identify next management steps.	Professor John Gulliver reached out to Administrator Jeffery on October 30 th about a proposal for the MN Stormwater Research Council to test the efficacy of aeration on phosphorous release from pond sediment. Administrator Jeffery has requested additional information.	Stormwater ponds partners: Cities of Bloomington, Chanhassen, Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Shorewood; U of MN
Watershed Plan	Review and identify needs for amendments.	Administrator Jeffery and Fred Rozumalski (Barr) Will be presenting to the MPCA and other agency staff on the concept of the EHAP and systems planning for watershed management on January 9 th . Administrator Jeffery, Staff Maxwell, Staff Hartmann, Engineer Sobiech, Staff Dickhausen, and Joe Bischoff will be meeting on January 16 th to assess progress to date on the lake management planning effort and how the wetland assessment program should be considered for this effort.	
Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)	Administer WCA within the Cities of Shorewood and Deephaven.	Lake Lucy Lane violation/project updates: Project mobilization began on November 18. Staff Nicklay made a site visit the same day. On November 21 there was a check of the elevation at the top of the weir and a final walkthrough was conducted before pouring of cement for	City of Shorewood City of Deephaven

	<p>Represent the District on Technical Evaluation Panel throughout the District.</p>	<p>the check dam (Staff Nicklay also did an elevation confirmation with the District Trimble unit). MNL finished up blanketing and equipment work on November 22. At the December 9 monthly TEP meeting, the TEP discussed steps moving forward as to dealing with the second part of the restoration to be done on the eastern property where the ditch outlets. Those landowners have yet to complete the necessary steps to secure the permit and start work. The TEP discussed possibilities of what could come next, including the placing of a lien on the property.</p> <p>Second violation identified off Lake Lucy Lane info to-date: The City of Chanhassen/TEP and District noticed a second possible wetland violation/ditching of a wetland in the same area as the above Lake Lucy Lane violation at the time they started investigating and pursuing regulatory action for said violation in 2022. Work done on this probable violation consists of an excavated ditch adjacent to/within a shallow marsh wetland and also within the City’s drainage utility easement, causing lateral effects on said wetland. The City had sent a certified letter on October 9, 2022 to the landowner informing them of the probable violation, to which they received an email back from the property owner (October 20, 2022) informing the City that the letter did not apply to them. The City continued to receive complaints about work being done on the property. On September 8, 2023, City and Carver County SWCD staff visited the property and left info with contact info (there was no one home). A subsequent email was sent to the property owner on September 13, 2023 requesting them to contact the city to discuss the work being done on their property. No response was received. The TEP reviewed the site during several meetings over the course of this time, reviewing aerial photos of the site and discussing ways to get in contact with the property owner and next steps when the owner did not respond. On May 15, 2024 the City sent another letter summarizing what had happened during the investigation of this probable violation. The certified letter stated the landowner had until May 31, 2024 to respond or the DNR would be issuing a cease-and-desist order. There was an issue with sending the letter and the City had to resend, it with updated respond deadlines, but it was signed for and received. During the June 4, 2024 the TEP discussed next actions seeing that there was no response to the letter and a cease-and-desist would need to be issued. The landowner was located at another property outside of the District. A MnDNR officer</p>	<p>City of Chanhassen City of Eden Prairie MCWD BWSR MN DNR A COE</p>
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Wetland Management	Assess known existing wetlands, identify previously unknown wetlands, identify wetlands for potential restoration/ rehabilitation and wetlands requiring additional protection.	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.	Chanhassen 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.	City of Chanhassen
Bluff Creek Reaches B5 and B6	Develop Feasibility Study regarding potential creek and wetland restoration.	Administrator Jeffery has reached out to the property owner about enrolling in the VIC program where the promiscuous dump is located but has not yet been in contact with them.	
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 removed two block from the outlet structure to allow for drawdown of the water in the wetland to allow for fall and spring vegetation management.	City of Chanhassen MN DNR Carver County
Riley Creek Watershed	Description	Update	Partners
Lake Riley Alum Treatment	Continue monitoring of Lake.	Staff submitted all required data to the MPCA for delisting. The lake now meets all the nutrient criteria following all the integrated lake management activities/projects that have occurred.	
Lake Susan Park Pond	Complete final site stabilization and spring start up. Finalize and implement E & O for project. Monitor project.	The structure and pump have been installed. The system should be fully operational, however, given the late time of the year, a test run of the system was not performed. Substantial completion will not be issued until the system is shown to be fully functional in the spring.	City of Chanhassen Clean Water Legacy Amendment
Lake Susan Spent Lime	2022 startup and monitoring	Removal efficiencies have declined significantly in the facility. Administrator Jeffery, Staff Maxwell, Engineer Sobiech, and Brandon Barnes of Barr met to discuss possible causes and solutions. Staff purchased a sewer camera to verify that the inlet and outlet, as well as the underdrain system were unimpeded. The pipes were found to be conveying water fine. Sediment cores may yet be flushed to see drainage speeds.	City of Chanhassen
Lake Susan Preserve Wetland Loading	Sediment release rates and water chemistry study to determine loading rates and potential treatment from wetland area.	Sediment cores were collected in the spring of 2024 and sent to UW Stout for analysis which have been received. The cattail areas of the pond have little phosphorus release while the open water areas have very high phosphorus values.	
Rice Marsh Lake Alum Treatment	Continue monitoring of Lake. Prepare for second dose.	Depending upon budgeting considerations, 2025 is the projected 2 nd dose. This dosage will be combined with Round Lake treatment (requested	City of Eden Prairie

		and paid for by the City of Eden Prairie) to realize cost savings. A plan amendment may be needed.	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.	No updates	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 with the City of Chanhassen. Order project and begin design.	The Chanhassen City Council decided not to enter into an agreement for the decant facility at this time. The decant facility will be placed into the Capital Improvement Plan for future programming. The date is not yet determined. The City wants to do more research regarding operating costs without the system as well as implications for their MS4 permit. Design is complete. Administrator Jeffery continues working with property owners to secure rights to enter on to their properties for completion of this project. Thus far two agreements have been agreed to and are awaiting signatures and execution. All property owners have been engaged and have provided at least tacit approval. Agreements are being drafted for all owners for their consideration. The schedule is still in flux as the additional agreements are secured. 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.	Landbridge Ecological treated the prairie area on 9/5 and seeding will occur in the spring of 2025. Staff Forbes and Staff Portoghese are developing interpretive signage for the St Hubert BMPs. St Hubert's has not yet been invoiced for their portion of the project. Administrator Jeffery intends to do so upon completion of the planting in the spring of 2025.	CCSWCD Metropolitan Council City of Chanhassen
Purgatory Creek Watershed	Description	Update	Partners
PCRA Berm		No changes. At the last WBIF convene meeting, it was discussed including this in the next cycle of WBIF funding. The RPBCWD will need to amend the 10-year plan to include this project and develop a cooperative agreement with the City of Eden Prairie.	City of Eden Prairie MN DNR

Lotus Lake Internal Load Control	Continue monitoring the Lake. Plan second alum application.	Project completed the first week in October.	
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	Information about the project may be found on the project webpage . A Request for Qualifications for artists went out on October 18 th . Seven responses were received. District staff and Barr will review the proposals to select two or three to a concept plan with the engineering design team. A selection committee consisting of staff and managers from the District and city representatives (TBD) will make the final selection. Administrator Jeffery is coordinating with staff of the City of Chanhassen on this project. An open house was held at North Lotus Lake Park on Nov. 2 to collect input on preliminary concepts for the North Lotus Lake water quality project . The event was also an information session for artists interested in the RFQ, which was due Nov 15.	City of Chanhassen

Professional Development

Staff Dickhausen and Staff Whittington presented on the data/findings of the last two years of soils assessments and sample collection at the 2024 Minnesota Watersheds annual conference (Dec 5).

Staff Hartmann and Staff Portoghese presented on the Shoreland Health Evaluation/Score the Shore project, map, and webpage at the 2024 Minnesota Watersheds annual conference (Dec 4).

Staff Maxwell is now in the steering team for the Twin Cities Water Monitoring and Data Assessment Group which is made up of public sector water resources practitioners to establish and promote standard practices for water monitoring, analysis, and data stewardship.