

RPBCWD Staff Report –November 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, currently in print. Copies will be distributed to partners and stakeholders in December.	
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 on Nov. 18. Minutes will be provided as part of the board packet. The next regular meeting of the CAC will be Dec. 16 and will include a social event to close out the year. Applications for new CAC members closed on Nov. 15 with four new applicants. Eight CAC members will continue in 2025. A memo with the new applications has been provided as part of the Dec. board packet.	
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.	
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.	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 13 active projects. 40 site visits have been or are scheduled to be completed since requests opened March 1 st . The program closed for applications on October 31 st . Staff Forbes and Staff Mahon are evaluating the grant program and drafting proposed changes for 2025. Staff Mahon met with staff from NMCWD and the City of Minnetonka to discuss how the WDs grant programs and the City's Resilient Minnetonka program can work together in 2025 and beyond. 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.	Carver Soil & Water Conservation District
Data Collection	Continue Data Collection at permanent sites. Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program. Identify monitoring sites to assess future project sites. Water Level Sensors. Lake and Stream Monitoring.	Metropolitan Council (METC) - Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program (WOMP): Regular samples were collected this month every other week . The aeration permit from the DNR was approved and public notices will be published. The unit was also cleaned and tested. Regular growing season lake and stream sampling occurred every other week dwas completed in October, however district staff will continue to monitor a subset of lakes throughout the winter. 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. District staff conducted creek walks on Reach R2-Riley Creek from Lake Riley to Eden Prairie Road and PT1-Purgatory Creek Highway 101 above Hwy 7 to Purgatory Creek mainstem andPT2 and PT4 (west Lotus Lake tributaries). 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 sensors, which record a water level every 30 minutes, have been pulled this month and are currently being processed. 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.	Metropolitan Council City of Eden Prairie University of MN City of Chanhassen MN DNR City of Minnetonka Three Rivers Park District

		<p>Staff Hartmann and Alaina Portoghese updated the score the shore database to future proof and make it more efficient when updating. 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 some monitoring costs for the retired Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program station by the Metropolitan Council.</p> <p>The district sent fish and macro data to Claire Bass, a research assistant and Ph.D. student at the University of Minnesota working with a team of ecologists including Christy Dolph, Becky Forgrave, and Jacques Finlay. They are gathering biological monitoring data from the Twin Cities metro area as part of a broader effort to understand links between stream biodiversity and important environmental drivers in the metro. This research is an outgrowth of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area Long Term Ecological Research program (https://mspurbanlter.umn.edu/).</p> <p>Staff have been busy compiling and analyzing all water quality and quantity data for the annual report.</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. Evaluation is underway to determine 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>Adopt-a-drain partners: Cities of Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Bloomington, and Eden Prairie; Hamline</p>

		<p>Administrator Jeffery and Seth Ristow, CCSWCD have been working with one of the stewards on the design of a biofiltration basin on the campus of a local church in Eden Prairie. Staff Mahon, Portoghese and Hein attended the Bluff Creek Elementary School STEM Fest on November 14th. 35 4th and 5th graders learned about topography and nonpoint source pollution by engaging with the watershed sandbox and enviroscape learning exhibits.</p> <p>STEM on Tap, a program created in collaboration with NMCWD and the City of Eden Prairie aimed at engaging grade 6-12 educators in water-related topics, held its 4th workshop on November 13th. 9 area educators joined staff at Fat Pants Brewing for networking and a learning presentation on chloride pollution featuring Connie Fortin, Low Salt Strategist with Bolton & Menk.</p> <p>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, rbcwd.org/shoreland-health, to provide background information and to serve as a launching point for the web map. This data will be updated shortly to include Round Lake and work out some kinks to make it easier for updating in the future.</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery and Lori Haak, Eden Prairie, have been meeting quarterly with the Mitchell Lake Association. Staff Forbes and Staff Maxwell represented the RPBCWD at the September 10th meeting. Administrator Jeffery presented at the Lotus Lake Association and answered questions from members. Main presentation topics included the Fluridone™ treatment, alum treatment, Lotus Lake stormwater projects, and an update on the general lake condition.</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). Staff Forbes designed a poster to display at the Minnesota Watersheds conference.</p>	<p>University; Nine Mile Creek Watershed District; MPCA; Bolton & Menk Freshwater Society City of Chanhassen City of Minnetonka</p>
Groundwater Conservation	Work with other LGUs to monitor, assess, and identify gaps.	Barr is preparing quote solicitations for well advancement.	Metropolitan Council

	<p>Engage with the Technical Advisory Committee to identify potential projects.</p> <p>Develop a water conservation program (look at Woodbury model).</p>	<p>Administrator Jeffery continues working with partner cities to garner agreements to advance wells on municipal owned properties.</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery and Engineer Sobiech will be meeting with the Public Works Directors, et al for Chanhassen, Eden Prairie, and Minnetonka on 9/27 to discuss objectives and implications of the proposed monitoring program.</p> <p>The communities of Bloomington, Chanhassen, Eden Prairie, Edina, Hopkins, Minnetonka, Richfield, and Saint Louis Park intend to develop 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>	<p>Cities' of Eden Prairie, Shorewood, Bloomington, Minnetonka, and Chanhassen</p>
<p>Lake Vegetation Management</p>	<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 data into one place so it can be easily analyzed and compared over time. Staff Portoghesse has been 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 will be received this month.</p>	<p>Eden Prairie Chanhassen University of Minnesota MN DNR</p>
<p>Opportunity Projects</p>	<p>Assess potential projects as they are presented to the District</p>	<p>Administrator Jeffery and Engineer Sobiech, as presented to the Board of Managers at the Budget Workshops, is recommending that opportunity projects be eliminated. Given that any projects originating from this fund would still need to be included as a plan amendment, it is more efficient to simply put these funds into reserve and use them as opportunities arise that the managers feel are a prudent and efficient expenditure of funds.</p>	<p>All local units of government and all special units of government.</p>
<p>Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Watershed Restoration and</p>	<p>Continue working with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS).</p>	<p>Draft Mississippi River – Lake Pepin Tributaries Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy Report Update 2024 was released for comment. Comments were due October 3, 2024.</p>	<p>MPCA BWSR Others</p>

Protection Strategy (WRAPS)			
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) presented the draft EHAP at the MN Water Resources Conference. Administrator Jeffery and Thrive Consultancy will present a workshop on visioning for the next plan development on December 12 th . This session will focus on reviewing the existing mission statement and developing the new mission statement. Administrator Jeffery, Staff Maxwell, Staff Hartmann, Engineer Sobiech, and Joe Bischoff will be kicking off the lake management planning effort in late November.	
Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)	Administer WCA within the Cities of Shorewood and Deephaven. Represent the District on Technical Evaluation Panel throughout the District.	Lake Lucy Lane violation/project updates: on November 13, the restoration project manager (with MNL) working on the design of the project for the western property (the landowners who have met permit requirements and are moving forward with project work yet this year) contacted the City and TEP about a change to the rock being used for this portion of the restoration. The City advised they get approval from the designing engineer, and then the permitting agencies before finalizing the change. Project mobilization began on November 18. Staff Nicklay made a site visit the same day. On November 21 there was	City of Shorewood City of Deephaven City of Chanhassen City of Eden Prairie

		<p>a check of the elevation at the top of the weir and a final walkthrough was conducted before pouring of cement for 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.</p> <p>Second violation identified off Lake Lucy Lane info to-date: The City of Chanhasen/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 served the landowner with a cease and desist order on July 23, 2024. The officer let the City know that the landowner expressed a strong desire Not to speak with the City staff. The City Water Resource</p>	<p>MCWD BWSR MN DNR A COE</p>
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		Coordinator has since been in contact with the landowner and was able to visit the site with them to review the extent of the work/violation. Upon meeting with them, the landowner assured the City that they only meant to control excess water and invasive vegetation with the work. They are now seemingly ready to work with the City to resolve this violation and restore the wetland as quickly as possible. The City, TEP and District will be discussing how to move forward with addressing this violation and resolving it as quickly and smoothly as possible.	
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. 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.	Due to added costs to address utility conflicts, the board decided the project is no longer cost effective. Administrator Jeffery spoke with Public Works Director Charlei Howley of Chanhassen. He is having his design engineer contact the culvert manufacturer to determine if fabrication has begun and the cost to restock the item if it has. Administrator Jeffery met with a landowner along the project corridor, west of Galpin Boulevard. At this meeting, the landowner showed the extent of refuse that was left behind in a promiscuous dump site from the previous agricultural land use. Heather Lau of Barr Engineering will be presenting on this area at tonight's meeting.	

		Project is still scheduled to have bid solicitation in the summer of 2025 for construction in 2026.	
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.	No updates.	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 suction assembly was installed on 8/23. A punch list was provided to Peterson for completion on 8/30.	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 will meet to discuss possible causes and solutions. Staff will run some tests at the unit and through some spent lime material to determine reduced performance.	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.	
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.	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.	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.	There has been ongoing discussions between staff and legal counsel of both the city of Chanhassen and the RPBCWD. A final draft will be brought to the Board at the December 11 th meeting for approval. Chanhassen City Council will be reviewing and acting on the agreement at their November 18 th meeting. 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 to solicit bids as soon as possible after the Cooperative Agreement is executed – likely mid-December. The goal is to begin construction yet this winter although the delay in bid solicitation may impact that schedule. 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	City of Eden Prairie

		amend the 10-year plan to include this project and develop a cooperative agreement with the 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 with proposals due on November 15 th . Staff Forbes and staff from Barr held an open house on November 2 nd at North Lotus Lake Park. This open house served the purpose of allowing the artists to see the space and ask questions and for the RPBCWD to solicit input from park users. Additional outreach efforts are being planned. 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			
Administrator Jeffery and Fred Rozumalski presented at the MN Water Resources Conference on the EHAP. Staff Forbes and Mahon attended a BWSR workshop on meeting facilitation and design on Nov 19.			