

RPBCWD Staff Report – October 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 Administrator Jeffery has requested NorthRisk Partners to meet with the Personnel Committee in October to review benefits for 2024. Budget and levy certifications have been submitted to both Hennepin and Carver Counties The Finance Committee and Administrator Jeffery have been working with RedPath to update the treasurer’s reports.	
Administration	Administrator activities	Lelch has finished installation of the interactive technology at the District offices on August 30 th . Staff have run mock meetings with people from outside the organization connecting remotely. The cameras, microphones, screen sharing, and security protocols all worked well Administrator Jeffery was notified by Alternate Business Furniture that delivery of the final product will take place October 31, 2023. Administrator Jeffery entered into a new agreement Metro Sales to discuss downsizing our printer/scanner that will save about \$130 per month. The new machine will be installed November 2 nd . Administrator Jeffery has worked with LMCIT to update worker’s compensation coverage as well as property and casualty coverage through 9/15/2024. Administrator Jeffery is participating in a salary survey being conducted on behalf of Rice Creek Watershed District. Results will be made available towards the end of the year. The LMC survey is not very valuable as there were only four watershed organizations that participated and the job descriptions for municipalities is not commensurate with those of watersheds.	
Annual Report & Communication	Compile, finalize and submit an annual report to agencies.	Staff have begun outlining format and compiling data for the report.	
DEI	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	Staff Mahon attended the October meeting of the Watershed Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access (DEIA) Workgroup to continue planning their session at this year’s Minnesota Watersheds Annual Conference.	
Human Resources	General Human Resources	NorthRisk Partners met with the Personnel Committee in October to discuss 2024 benefits and changes thereof. A comparison of	

		various plans showed that the current plan is still the most cost effective. This is despite the 10.3% increase in cost. There is adequate budget to accommodate this increase.	
Internal Policies	Work with Governance Manual and Personnel Committees to review bylaws and manuals as necessary.	The Governance Committee (GC) has finished their review of the Governance Manual excepting the finance policies section which will be addressed by the Audit and Finance Committee. A track edits version is being created for review by full board. The Audit and Finance Committee has continued to modify the Treasurer's Report format.	
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 Oct 16 in person at the district office. Administrator Jeffery gave an update about EHAP. Minutes will be provided as part of the board packet. The next regular meeting of the CAC will be Nov 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 Minnetonka adopted their minor plan amendment.	
MN Watersheds (formerly MAWD)	Business and happenings of MN Watersheds	Staff Forbes will be co-presenting with Laura Jester of Bassett Creek on the Low Salt, No Salt MN program at the Annual Conference. Administrator Jeffery and Fred Rozumalski will be presenting on the EHAP program at the Annual Conference. Administrator Jeffery is working with Jan Voit of MN Watersheds to synthesize and present the data collected in the statewide survey as well as the education survey. This information will be presented to MAWA and MN Watersheds at their respective end of year meetings. MN Watersheds Annual Conference and Trade Show will be held Tuesday, November 28 th through Friday, December 1 st this year. Tuesday will include MAWA's annual meeting and a meeting of MN Watershed Board of Directors. Wednesday will include conferences	

District-Wide	Description	Update	Partners
Regulatory Program	<p>Review regulatory program to maximize efficiency.</p> <p>Engage Technical Advisory Committee and Citizen Advisory Committee on possible rule changes.</p> <p>Implement a regulatory program.</p>	<p>specific to staff, managers, or drainage. Thursday will be the Regional Caucuses, concurrent sessions, and banquet with awards. Friday will be a business meeting and a meeting of the Board of Directors.</p> <p>Staff Nicklay, Engineer Sobiech, and Administrator Jeffery met with representatives of Avienda to discuss using a regional approach to stormwater management for the remaining development.</p>	
Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)	<p>Review AIS monitoring program.</p> <p>Develop and implement Rapid Response Plan as appropriate.</p> <p>Coordinate with LGUs and keep stakeholders aware of AIS management activities.</p> <p>Manage and maintain the aeration system on Rice Marsh Lake.</p> <p>Riley Chain of Lakes Carp Management.</p> <p>Purgatory Chain of Lakes Carp Management.</p> <p>Review AIS inspection program.</p> <p>Keep abreast of technology and research in AIS.</p> <p>Zebra mussel adult and veliger monitoring.</p>	<p>Lakes sampled this year for carp were Lucy, Susan, Riley, Rice Marsh, Staring, and the Rec Area. Adult electrofishing surveys started at the end of July and went through October. These surveys have yielded low numbers of adults across the sampled lakes. A significant number of YOY (young of year) carp have been captured in Staring Lake and the Purg Creek Rec Area. The recruitment was a direct result of the winterkill.</p> <p>On 10/25/2023 during an intensive zebra mussel survey, RPBCWD found a single lift in the northeast bay that had numerous fully desiccated zebra mussels on it. No other search areas on the shoreline and across the lake yielded any other mussels. The mussels were smaller in size (4-6 mm) and were in clusters in each corner of the lift. Additionally, on 7/21/2023 Carver County sampled for veligers in the east lobe of the lake and found veligers. Carver County also took water samples to be processed for eDNA samples which tested positive for zebra mussel presence on the north bay and at the boat launch. On 8-27-23 at approximately 1pm at the Lotus Lake boat landing, a fishing boat was pulling their watercraft out of the lake for the season and the watercraft inspector discovered one singular desiccated mussel attached to a string of algae that was attached to the hull. The lake resident informed the inspector and Carver County who further investigated the event, that the boat has only been on Lotus for the season as well as for the past 20 years since he lived on the lake. Additional veliger testing (twice), an intensive survey (one additional), monthly boat launch checks, and volunteer and</p>	<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>boat launch adult zebra mussel plates yielded no mussels. Staff will continue to monitor the lake in 2024.</p> <p>The aeration unit was noticed in the Chanhassen Villager and a MNDNR permit was applied for operation during the 2023-2024 winter season on Rice Marsh Lake. It will also be posted on the district website.</p>	
Cost-Share	<p>Schedule and coordinate site visits.</p> <p>Review applications and recommend implementation.</p> <p>Evaluate program.</p>	<p>The Watershed Stewardship Grant (WSG) program currently has 6 active grant projects. Site visit requests continue with Seth Ristow from Carver SWCD scheduling visits; 32 site visits have been scheduled since the start of the grant season. Staff Forbes continues responding to inquiries from potential grantees, follow up with in-progress projects, and confer with city grant program coordinators. About 20 previously installed projects have been revisited to check their maintenance status.</p>	<p>Carver Soil & Water Conservation District</p>
Data Collection	<p>Continue Data Collection at permanent sites.</p> <p>Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program.</p> <p>Identify monitoring sites to assess future project sites.</p> <p>Water Level Sensors</p>	<p>Metropolitan Council (METC) - Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program (WOMP): Regular biweekly samples were collected this month, and no rain event sampling occurred this month. Regular lake and stream water quality and quantity sampling has occurred biweekly through the summer. Phytoplankton and Zooplankton samples have been collected once a month on Riley, Staring, Lotus, Susan, and Rice Marsh. Phytoplankton samples were submitted to Barr for processing. District staff will process zooplankton samples.</p> <p>Hach auto units and ISCO units were installed this summer along the three western drainages of Lotus Lake and on upper Bluff Creek. The multiple rain events this month allowed staff to collect first flush samples. These units are installed for pre project monitoring to assess flow and nutrient loading. The units were pulled at the end of October.</p> <p>Lake level sensors have been working well. Three River Park District will collect Hyland Lake levels moving forward. Units will be pulled at the beginning of November.</p> <p>Staff Maxwell presented potential data collection volunteer opportunities to the University of MN environmental ethics class as part of their service-learning program. Four students were selected and have completed 20 hours of volunteering for the</p>	<p>Metropolitan Council</p> <p>City of Eden Prairie</p> <p>University of MN</p> <p>City of Chanhassen</p> <p>MN DNR</p> <p>City of Minnetonka</p> <p>Three Rivers Park District</p>

		<p>district. Each student will give a presentation on a topic within the district that has ethical implications.</p> <p>Macroinvertebrate sampling occurred on Purgatory Creek at each regular water quality site at the end of September. Only 5 samples were submitted as upper purgatory creek was dry. RMB will be processing the samples this year.</p> <p>District Staff conducted creek walks on lower Bluff Creek (below Pioneer Trail), upper Riley (upstream of Hwy 5), and middle Riley (Susan to RML). Photos, videos, and assessments were completed to update the Creek Restoration Action Strategy.</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>	<p>Flood risk assessment mapping for Eden Prairie was completed and the GIS database is being updated accordingly. Updated maps will be placed on the district website.</p> <p>Engineer Sobiech and Administrator Jeffery have begun discussing ways in which the model can be utilized for added benefit in project prioritization, issue identification, etc.</p>	<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.</p> <p>Staff Bakkum 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 and Forbes created a Passport Adventure Activity to encourage residents to explore sites across the District during the month of October. 15 households have so far completed their passport and picked up a prize pack.</p> <p>Staff hosted the 2023 Cycle the Creek ride along Riley Creek on October 7th.</p> <p>Staff Mahon and Staff Portoghese held a Build Your Own Rainbarrel event using retired oak wine barrels on October 3rd. 20 District households participated.</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery presented at the Mitchell Lake Association Annual Meeting on Oct 5. Staff Forbes tabled the event.</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</p> <p>Freshwater Society</p> <p>City of Chanhassen</p> <p>City of Minnetonka</p>
Groundwater Conservation	<p>Work with other LGUs to monitor, assess, and identify gaps.</p> <p>Engage with the Technical Advisory Committee to identify potential</p>	<p>Engineer Sobiech has provided a</p>	<p>Metropolitan Council</p> <p>City of Eden Prairie</p>

	<p>projects. Develop a water conservation program (look at Woodbury model).</p>		<p>City of Shorewood City of Bloomington City of Minnetonka City of 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. 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.</p>	<p>Maija Weaver (Graduate Student) and Ray Newman, University of Minnesota – Data from this summer are all entered and are being summarized and analyzed. Biomass processing has been completed and Lake Riley, Lake Susan, and Staring Lake all had lower average biomass than in previous years. In Lake Susan, native plant biomass in June 2022 was 170 g/m² compared to 115 g/m² in June of 2023. Invasive biomass also decreased from 3.9 g/m² in June 2022 to 2.5 g/m² in June of 2023. In Staring Lake, native plant biomass decreased from 259 g/m² in June of 2022 to 20 g/m² in June of 2023. Invasive biomass decreased from 10.7 g/m² to 4.7 g/m² respectively. In Lake Riley biomass was much higher, but still showed a decrease from 2022 to 2023. Native biomass was 571 g/m² in August of 2022 and 338 g/m² in August of 2023 Invasive species biomass decreased significantly, from 31 g/m² in 2022 to 0.9 g/m² in 2023. Both native and invasive species biomass decreased on average this year, so there were less plants in general found during sampling. Secchi depths were also lower on average this summer, which could lead to a decrease in plant growth and biomass. This effect was likely exacerbated by the dry summer season this year and in years prior. Katie Hembre presented a poster at the Minnesota Water Resources Conference on our USGS project to assess plant response to alum treatments, of which Lake Riley is one of our focal lakes. Looking forward, curlyleaf pondweed turion sampling is planned for the coming weeks in October, which will tell us more about the invasive plant communities in these lakes. Staff conducted a curlyleaf turion survey on Mitchell Lake which yielded low turion numbers. The low number of turions indicates treatments have been effective.</p>	<p>City of Eden Prairie City of Chanhassen University of Minnesota MN DNR</p>

		<p>Preliminary curlyleaf pondweed Flumioxazin treatment results indicate the herbicide was extremely effective at controlling clp while having less or similar impacts as other available herbicides. This was a joint study between RPBCWD, MNDNR, and the U of MN. The herbicide has had very little use in MN and is one of the cheaper herbicides in use.</p> <p>District and Lori Haak of Eden Prairie conducted a brittle naiad scan on Mitchell Lake after an initial survey in August. This was to see the extent of the plants distribution across the entire lake. Brittle naiad appears to be limited to mainly the the northeast bay.</p>	
Opportunity Projects	Assess potential projects as they are presented to the District	<p>Administrator Jeffery is working with Minnetonka on a project to stabilize a section of Purgatory Creek within Purgatory Park. Funding from the project will come from the WBIF, the City of Minnetonka, and RPBCWD. This project has been delayed to 2024. Staff Portoghese will work with the new GreenCorps member to collect MPD infiltrometer data at several locations in the downtown Chanhassen area as they look to develop a regional stormwater management plan for their downtown.</p>	<p>City of Chanhassen St Hubert School Eden Prairie Public Schools City of Eden Prairie</p>
Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)	Continue working with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS).	The new NPDES General Construction Stormwater Permit was issued in August. It will have minimal bearing on the District.	MPCA
Repair & Maintenance Fund	Develop and formalize grant program. Maintenance of RPBCWD BMPs	No updates.	City of Eden Prairie
University of Minnesota	<p>Review and monitor progress on University of Minnesota grant.</p> <p>Support Dr. John Gulliver and Dr. Ray Newman research and coordinate with local partners.</p> <p>Keep the manager abreast to progress in the research.</p> <p>Identify next management steps.</p>	No updates.	<p>Stormwater ponds partners: Cities of Bloomington, Chanhassen, Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Shorewood; U of MN</p>

Watershed Plan	Review and identify needs for amendments.	<p>Administrator Jeffery, Engineer Sobiech, Staff Forbes, and Fred Rozumalski (Barr) are meeting bi-weekly to develop the Ecological Health Action Plan (EHAP).</p> <p>The fourth meeting of the Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) for the EHAP will be held in November and the larger TAP will be divided into three cohorts to promote a more robust and role specific conversation.</p>	
Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)	<p>Administer WCA within the Cities of Shorewood and Deephaven.</p> <p>Represent the District on Technical Evaluation Panel throughout the District.</p>	<p>Administrator Jeffery and Staff Dickhausen are working with Chanhassen, DNR, Carver SWCD, and BWSR to address a wetland violation on Lake Lucy Lane in Chanhassen. A restoration order has been issued by the DNR and the landowner has retained the services of a professional wetland delineator and an environmental services company to design a restoration plan . The TEP has been in communication with the environmental service contractors to review and comment on restoration plans.</p> <p>The Minnetonka TEP met on site, October 16, to review a boundary/type application/delineation off Sparrow Road. Immediately, the TEP found an area adjacent to the delineated wetland area that was strongly suspected to be wetland. After taking several soil cores around the area, it was determined that a large area of wetland was present outside of the delineated area. The TEP/City asked the delineator on stie that day to amend the boundaries to include this area. The City received the amended boundaries and report later that day and it was shared with the TEP.The Chanhassen TEP met on site, October 19, to review a boundary/type delineation along Hazeltine Blvd/TH 41. Ahead of road work to be done on-site. The TEP agreed with the boundaries and agreed that the wetlands along the road within the ditch were incidental wetlands and their removal or impact from future project work would be an exemption. After meeting on sight for that site review, the TEP discussed the Lake Lucy Lane violation and if there were any ways to move along restoration actions with one pair of homeowners who is very eager to get their work done, ahead of waiting for information and pre-project planning to be done on the part of the other home owners. A meeting with all homeowners, the TEP and City, and District is set to take place early in November. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss plans, responsibilities schedules, etc. in relation to restoring the wetland on the two properties.</p>	<p>City of Shorewood City of Deephaven City of Chanhassen City of Eden Prairie MCWD BWSR MN DNR A COE</p>

Wetland Management	Assess known existing wetlands, identify previously unknown wetlands, identify wetlands for potential restoration/rehabilitation and wetlands requiring additional protection.	Staff Dickhausen is done with this season’s wetland assessments. He carried out QA/QC assessments in the southeast part of Eden Prairie and Bloomington. He will continue QA/QC work next season, as well as update vegetation assessments with FQA in parts of Chanhassen where these types of assessments were not previously conducted. Administrator Jeffery and Staff Dickhausen continue updating the MNRAM Access database. Numerous requests for MNRAM scores continue to be made by municipalities and private developers. Any changes in District management classifications for the wetlands (based on QA/QC work and updates due to applications and delineation work done within the District) will be reflected in the upcoming 2023 Annual report.	City of Chanhassen City of Eden Prairie Hennepin County Carver County MN DNR BWSR USFWS
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 keep in touch about training opportunities for others about the Low Salt, No Salt Minnesota (LSNS) toolbox, which targeted at city and watershed partners to use in their chloride reduction efforts. RPBCWD is hosting content for the “Low Salt, No Salt Minnesota” initiative on its website (www.rpbcwd.org/lowsaltnosalt) along with three video shorts on our YouTube channel. Staff Forbes and Jessica Wilson (City of Edina) gave a presentation on the Low Salt, No Salt program at the Minnesota Water Resources Conference on Oct 17th. Staff Forbes and Laura Jester (Basset Creek) will give a presentation on the Low Salt, No Salt program at the Minnesota Watersheds (formerly MAWD) conference on Nov 29th.	Eleven watershed districts/WMOs Multiple cities MPCA Hennepin County Environmental Services Board of Water and Soil Resources
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.	Administrator Jeffery and engineer Sobiech met with the City of Chanhassen to discuss the term sheet for the cooperative agreement. This will be brought to the board for approval at a later meeting.	
Wetland Restoration at	Remove 3 properties from flood zone, restore a minimum 7 acres and as	Staff from Barr met with the restoration contractor to discuss 2023 maintenance activities and schedule.	City of Chanhassen MN DNR

Pioneer Tr and MN TH 101	many as 16 acres of wetlands, connect public with resources, reduction of volume, rate, pollution loads to Bluff Creek.	No updates	Carver County
Riley Creek Watershed	Description	Update	Partners
Lake Riley Alum Treatment	Continue monitoring of Lake.	Lake Riley water quality remains excellent following the completed alum treatment.	
Lake Susan Park Pond	Complete final site stabilization and spring start up. Finalize and implement E & O for project. Monitor project.	Three quotes were received. Peterson Construction is the apparent low bidder.	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 from 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 spent lime unit was turned on in May and the material was “fluffed.” The unit will operate M,W,F 8am to 5pm. Weekly samples were collected up until June when the pond levels eliminated flow through the unit.	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.	Water quality continues to be excellent following the first dose of alum. Depending upon budgeting considerations, 2024 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. Staff have collected multiple base flow and storm event samples since the unit was installed to assess pollutant removals.	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 cooperative agreement is currently being drafted by Smith Partners and will be presented to the City for discussion soon. Design continues. No updates. An open house for the Upper Riley Ecological Enhancement Project was held on the afternoon of October 23rd at the RPBCWD office. Representatives included Administrator Jeffery, Engineer Sobiech, Staff Forbes, Shanna Braun (Barr), and Joe Seidl (Chanhassen). About 15 individuals attended. Exhibits from the open house have been uploaded to the project webpage .	City of Chanhassen
Middle Riley Creek	Work with Bearpath HOA/Golf Course to develop scope of work (in addition to stabilizing the creek, can we mitigate climate change and provide for an improved recreational experience). Draft feasibility report. Develop cooperative agreement with Bearpath.	Administrator Jeffery reached out to the Bear Path team for an update on their progress, if any. The easements are with the title company for recording.	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.	CCSWCD Metropolitan Council City of Chanhassen
Purgatory Creek Watershed	Description	Update	Partners
PCRA Berm		Legal counsel has advised that this project may not meet the statutory criteria for a maintenance project and a plan amendment may be necessary to implement the project.	City of Eden Prairie MN DNR

Lotus Lake Internal Load Control	Continue monitoring the Lake. Plan second alum application.	Barr will begin looking at release rates and dosing recommendations. Treatment will likely be delayed until the fall of 2024.	
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	Barr, City Staff, and Administrator Jeffery continue working on finalizing the feasibility report.	City of Chanhassen

Professional Development

Staff Forbes will be attending a Public Participation/Civic Engagement Networking and Co-Learning Workshop on Nov. 14.

Staff Maxwell attended U of MN Professor Ray Newman’s Annual Hybrid Watermilfoil Update and Manager Meeting on Monday 23 October. Attendees were provided an overview of results to date and tentative plans; Ashley Wolfe presented a demo of her new app to map the known distribution of watermilfoil genotypes in the US.

Staff Maxwell attended/hosted the Carver County AIS stakeholder meeting on October 26, 2023. Andrew Dickhart the AIS Coordinator of Carver County led the meeting which discussed the boat inspection program and possible new ideas to be added to the program to improve it. Suggestions included a walkthrough of the U of MN AIS Explorer Tool, roving AIS inspections (drive to multiple lakes), eyelid camera systems, road traffic counters at boat launches, additional education and outreach from inspectors. Discussion was also had about what/how dollars should be spent on a new pilot vegetation management program.

Staff Dickhausen attended the MN Water Resources Conference on Tuesday, October 17 and Wednesday October 18. He attended sessions on: potential hydrological impacts from trends in intense rainfall events; soil health management and how it affects things like water infiltration, soil architecture/structure, and soil moisture; tools and policies for managing water contaminants; assessing the effectiveness of BMPs and looking at water quality outcomes using several different tools and methods; looking at ground water – human connections, specifically groundwater flow modeling, data visualization tools for looking at private wells across the state, outcomes of a state private well forum, and looking at groundwater age and tracing chemical markers over time in a water table, all to estimate timeframes of seeing improvements will be seen post a BMP/land management change; a special wetland session which covered several topics, including important updates on the joint initiative between the Mn and Wi DNRs and BWSR to develop a new standard rapid wetland assessment tool to be used for general wetland functional assessments, regulatory programs, etc. This session also focused on long-term hydrology monitoring efforts across the state by the DNR in representative wetlands to assess wetland water levels across years and varying conditions.

Staff Dickhausen attended BWSR Academy on October 24 and 25. The two main areas of interest/goals of attendance were to: A) Learn about switching from using ArcMap as a primary GIS software/tool for geospatial analysis related to his work. Sessions on the topic included navigating the interface, basics of editing

and creating/importing/exporting databases, creating maps and processing data, editing and connecting data, using specialized tools specific to ArcGIS Pro, using Arc Online and the many associated apps that can connect and be used concurrently with ArcGIS Pro, and using ArcGIS Pro in the field. B) Dive deeper into effects of soil health on water quality and how to teach soil and water management/health topics to a wide range of audiences. Some of the sessions attended focused on land management practices and breaking down their effectiveness in reducing water quality issues such as nutrient loading, erosion and TSS, runoff/flow mitigation. They also looked at hurdles for implementing such practices. Other sessions focused on discovering and using natural resource focused activities to engage students and adults in learning about water quality, soil health, watersheds, agriculture. Attendees participated in several of these activities and were provided with lots of valuable information and resources, including the MN Department of Agriculture's curriculum database which has almost 500 different activities/lesson plans.

Staff Jeffery attended the MN Water Resources Conference on October 17th and 18th. The most impactful presentation was a park retrofit with stormwater management, public engagement, and public art that is analog to the North Lotus Lake Project.

Staff Mahon and Administrator Jeffery attended the Midwest Climate Resilience Conference October 25th through the 27th in Duluth, MN. The biggest takeaways were the emphasis on nature-based solutions and the need for cross-sector collaboration. Numerous ideas were heard that may be beneficial to incorporate into the EHAP initiative.