

RPBCWD Staff Report – December 2023

Administration	Description	Update	Partners
Accounting, Audit & Budget	<p>Coordinate with Accountants for the development of financial reports.</p> <p>Coordinate with the Auditor.</p> <p>Continue to work with the Treasurer to maximize on fund investments.</p>	<p>Staff Bakkum compiled the monthly treasurer’s report.</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery is reviewing adopted 2024 budget and is updating with the most current year to date revenues and expenditures.</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery and Engineer Sobiech are reviewing the adopted budget to provide a clearer illustration of committed funds relative to funds in reserve. This will allow for the Audit and Finance Committee to make an educated estimate as to funds available for investment.</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery and Staff Bakkum have been provided with new login credentials from Abdo to begin the 2023 audit season.</p>	
Administration	<p>Administrator activities</p>	<p>Administrator Jeffery was appointed to the MAWA Executive Committee, Communications Platform Committee, Policy Committee, and Finance Committee at the November meeting of MAWA.</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery is participating in a focus group being facilitated by the Metropolitan Council as they develop their next generation transportation plan.</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery is part of the Central Subregional Water Supply Work Group</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery is participating in the West Metro Water Supply Planning work group.</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery and Staff Bakkum have programmed new fobs for new staff. In meeting with the technician, it was decided to upgrade the security system as the current system is unsupported and nearly 2 decades old.</p>	
Annual Report & Communication	<p>Compile, finalize and submit an annual report to agencies.</p>	<p>Staff continue formatting data compilation, and writing the Annual Report.</p>	
DEI	<p>Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion</p>	<p>Staff Mahon attended the December meeting of the Watershed Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access (DEIA) Workgroup. The workgroup discussed outcomes from the experiential learning activity session held at the 2023 Minnesota Watersheds Annual Conference and plans going forward</p>	

Human Resources	General Human Resources	LMCIT Board of Trustees approved premium rates and coverage changes for 2024. Property and casualty rates will decrease an average of 0.75% and workers' compensation rates decreased an average of 15%	
Internal Policies	Work with Governance Committee and Personnel Committee to review bylaws and manuals as necessary.	<p>The administrator and the Audit and Finance Committee are working on updating the Public Purposes Expenditure Policy, the Fund Balance Policy, and Internal Controls and Procedures for Financial Management.</p> <p>The Governance Committee will be meeting in February to finalize the draft revisions to the Governance Manual to be brought to the full Board of Managers at the next available workshop.</p>	
Advisory	<p>Engage with the Technical Advisory Committee on water conservation, chloride management and emerging topics.</p> <p>Engage with the Citizen Advisory Committee on water conservation, annual budget, and emerging topics.</p>	<p>The CAC held a regular meeting on Dec. 18 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 Jan. 22.</p> <p>The Natural Resources sub-group of the EHAP Technical Advisory Panel met on January 4th to discuss implementation and collaboration of plan initiatives.</p>	
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>	
MN Watersheds (formerly MAWD)	Business and happenings of MN Watersheds	<p>The MAWA Executive Committee met on January 8, 2024.</p> <p>The MAWA Executive Committee will be meeting in mid-January to discuss a joint comment letter on the Clean Water Council Draft Strategic Plan.</p> <p>The MAWA Executive Committee will be meeting with the Executive Director of the MN Golf Course Owners Association on January 18th to discuss potential partnerships.</p>	

		<p>Some members of MN Watersheds will be meeting with representatives of the MN Department of Commerce to discuss the Solar on Public Buildings Grant Program on January 11th, 2024.</p> <p>Buffalo Creek WD, Heron Lake WD, and Prior Lake-Spring Lake WD have all joined MN Watersheds as dues paying members as of January 2024.</p>	
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>Staff Portoghesse has been developing a map of permitting data to appear on the website. The map will be added to the website by late 2024.</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>The aeration unit was noticed in the Chanhassen Villager and a MNDNR permit was applied for and received for the operation during the 2023-2024 winter season on Rice Marsh Lake. It was also posted on the district website. Based on ice conditions the unit will likely be started Feb 1.</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>
Cost-Share	<p>Schedule and coordinate site visits.</p> <p>Review applications and recommend implementation.</p> <p>Evaluate program.</p>	<p>The Stewardship Grant (WSG) program currently has 6 active projects with one new application tentatively approved. The application period for first-time applicants is paused until site visits can resume in spring. Potential applicants may still work with staff to review potential projects. Staff Forbes is compiling a program summary for the 2023 Annual Report.</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>Metropolitan Council (METC) - Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program (WOMP): Regular biweekly samples were collected this month, and no rain event sampling occurred this month.</p>	<p>Metropolitan Council</p> <p>City of Eden Prairie</p>

	<p>Identify monitoring sites to assess future project sites.</p> <p>Water Level Sensors.</p> <p>Lake and Stream Monitoring.</p>	<p>Staff have been summarizing and QC data for the annual report.</p> <p>Staff have been working with City of Eden Prairie staff to coordinate 2023 alum application of Round Lake with Lotus Lake. Staff will collect the appropriate sediment cores for Round to calculate dosing rates.</p> <p>Staff have begun the process of delisting Rice Marsh Lake and Lake Riley from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Impaired waters list. The district submitted all relevant data and is coordinating the transfer of missing data for Rice Marsh into the MPCA's website database.</p> <p>Staff have replaced the area/velocity sensor in the Kraken Unit and ran it through protective conduit to prevent it from being destroyed by muskrats again. Staff will also replace the spring culvert insert this month to secure the sensor better under the higher velocity conditions seen in the unit.</p> <p>Staff Portoghesi has been mapping all the score your shore data, most of which was collected this summer. This will be incorporated into the EHAP project as well as 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.</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 Hydrology & Hydraulics Model</p>	<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>
<p>Education & Outreach</p>	<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 Forbes is updating the lake and creek fact sheets with 2023 data.</p>	<p>Adopt-a-drain partners: Cities of Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Bloomington, and Eden Prairie; Hamline University;</p>

		<p>RPBCWD 2024 Calendars were printed and distributed to public libraries, city halls and community centers around the district.</p> <p>Staff Mahon met with staff at Nine Mile Creek Watershed District and the City of Eden Prairie to discuss developing a program that connects middle and high school science teachers with educational resources about various water resource topics.</p> <p>Staff Mahon gave a presentation to the Minnetonka High School Envirothon Club about water resources in Minnesota.</p> <p>Staff accepted 2 new RPBCWD residents into the 2024 cohort of Minnesota Water Stewards, hosted by Freshwater Society.</p> <p>Staff Mahon and staff Dickhausen are working with GreenCorps member Whittington to reach out to district educators and schedule classroom visits over the winter as part of her GreenCorps workplan.</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery met with the Mitchell Lake Association on December 11, 2023. Outcomes from this meeting were not available as of writing the report.</p>	<p>Nine Mile Creek Watershed District; MPCA; Bolton & Menk Freshwater Society City of Chanhassen 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 projects.</p> <p>Develop a water conservation program (look at Woodbury model).</p>	<p>Engineer Sobiech has provided a scope for installation of monitoring wells to re-establish the district’s monitoring program. The scope and purpose of this initiative will be discussed at the January work session followed by a task order presented at the February board meeting. This will be part of the larger data collection program.</p> <p>Staff Hartmann is researching pressure transducers to evaluate the most effective data collection method. Staff Hartmann and Administrator Jeffery will be meeting with staff from the CCWMO in January to learn about their monitoring program.</p>	<p>Metropolitan Council City of Eden Prairie City of Shorewood City of Bloomington City of Minnetonka City of Chanhassen</p>
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</p>	<p>Maija Weaver (Graduate Student) and Ray Newman, University of Minnesota – Data from 2023 plant surveys in May, June, and August is being compiled and analyzed. Curlyleaf pondweed turion data is also being finalized. Summative graphs and analysis will be written up in the formal annual plant progress report and presented at the RPBCWD Summit in early February.</p> <p>Staff will begin the process of applying for herbicide treatments for 2024 this month.</p>	<p>City of Eden Prairie City of Chanhassen University of Minnesota MN DNR</p>

	<p>intercept surveys. Work with Three Rivers Park District for Hyland Lake.</p>	<p>Lake level data and fisheries data was submitted to the DNR (Department of Natural Resources) this month as part of the reporting requirements. District staff applied for MN DNR AIS Control Grants for Lotus, Riley, Susan, Red Rock, and Mitchell. Eden Prairie (subcontractor Steve McComas): On Mitchell Lake, a total of 3.13 acres of chara, Eurasian watermilfoil, and coontail were delineated for harvesting. An assessment survey was conducted on July 25, 2023 while conducting a point intercept survey found navigational hindrances were mostly removed. The point intercept aquatic plant survey determined plants grew out to 11 feet of water depth, that coontail was the dominant plant (52% of the sites), Eurasian watermilfoil was found at 15 sites at mostly light growth, and curlyleaf pondweed was present at 5 sites also at mostly light growth. Brittle naiad was discovered in this survey in one area in the northeast end of Mitchell Lake. The acreage of aquatic submerged plants in Mitchell Lake in late summer was about 68 acres (61% of the lake) and submerged plant growth ranged from light to heavy. The number of species observed at each site ranged from 1 to 5 species</p>	
Opportunity Projects	Assess potential projects as they are presented to the District	Minnetonka is continuing the design for that reach of Purgatory Creek within Purgatory Creek Preserve for restoration. Funding will be provided via WBIF.	<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).	No changes	MPCA
Repair & Maintenance Fund	Develop and formalize grant program. Maintenance of RPBCWD BMPs	In a meeting with the Natural Resources staff of various cities and organizations, it was identified that the District taking on an	City of Eden Prairie

		additional role in the operations and maintenance of constructed BMPs would be helpful.	
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.	Stormwater ponds partners: Cities of Bloomington, Chanhassen, Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Shorewood; U of MN
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) will occur in January. Group members will divide into three separate groups based upon their job focus: planning (Jan. 11), natural resources (Jan. 3), and water resources engineering (Jan. 17).</p> <p>Engineer Sobiech, Staff Maxwell, Joe Bischoff, and Administrator Jeffery met on January 4th to discuss modifying the lake management plan scope to take advantage of efficiencies that may be developed by identifying tasks that would be relatively universal across lakes. An updated scope will be brought back to the Board of Managers at their March meeting.</p> <p>Engineer Sobiech is preparing a task order to address design of modifications for the Duck Lake outlet. This will be presented to the Board of Managers at the February meeting.</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>	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. The TEP met on December 21 to discuss the latest version of the	<p>City of Shorewood</p> <p>City of Deephaven</p> <p>City of Chanhassen</p> <p>City of Eden Prairie</p> <p>MCWD</p> <p>BWSR</p> <p>MN DNR</p> <p>A COE</p>

		restoration plans. They agreed that the plans looked good and detailed, and from a WCA and restoration perspective should allow for a successful restoration of the site by the deadline of May 1, 2024. The applicants still need to submit an application and plans/materials to the District to get the appropriate permits and meet the requirements of the District for a restoration of the site. On December 21, the City of Chanhassen noticed their decision to approve a boundary type application for a delineation of a future road improvement off W 78 th St.	
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.	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.	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.	
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.	Administrator Jeffery is working with BWSR to finalize the eLink report and receive final payment from the grant.	City of Chanhassen MN DNR 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. Staff will start 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.	Peterson Construction has provided three copies of the signed agreement to be executed by the district. Engineer Sobiech is working with WaterTronics on the SCADA system licensure and installation. The City of Chanhassen is reviewing the draft cooperative agreement internally and will be taking to their City Council in mid to late January.	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.	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.	A final inspection occurred in the lower valley and the project is closed out.	City of Eden Prairie

	Implement Project. Continue Public Engagement for project and develop signage for restoration.	CRAS scores significantly improved from pre to post restoration signaling the restoration is successful (Previous Tier 1 Score = 26; Post Tier 1 Score = 14).	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, 2025 is the projected 2 nd dose. Likely the lake could be delisted for nutrients in 2024.	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 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.		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.	Administrator Jeffery is working with BWSR to finalize the grant closeout to receive final payment. Minger Construction will be retaining 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 has begun looking at release rates and dosing recommendations. Treatment will likely occur in 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	The draft feasibility report has been provided to Administrator Jeffery for review by Barr Engineering. They will be meeting towards the end of the week of the 8 th to discuss.	City of Chanhassen
Professional Development			