

RPBCWD Staff Report – July2024

Administration	Description	Update	Partners
<p>Accounting, Audit & Budget</p>	<p>Coordinate with Accountants for the development of financial reports. Coordinate with the Auditor. Continue to work with the Treasurer to maximize on fund investments.</p>	<p>Staff Monahan and Administrator Jeffery compiled the monthly treasurer’s report. Administrator Jeffery and Barr Engineering are in the process applying for FY 2025 BWSR Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants for the Upper Riley, Upper Bluff, and North Lotus Lake projects Administrator Jeffery met with Staff Forbes and Staff Mahon to set a preliminary budget for next year’s Watershed Stewardship Grant Program. Administrator Jeffery will be presenting the Spring Hill Conservation Project to the Lessard-Sam’s Outdoor Heritage Council on August 27, 2024. The grant application made it through the first round. This presentation will be an opportunity for the Council Members to gain further understanding of the proposal for possible recommendation to the state for funding.</p>	
<p>Administration</p>	<p>Administrator activities</p>	<p>All phones and tablets have been switched to T-Mobile. Administrator Jeffery provided information to LMCIT needed to update property and casualty insurance policy for the 2024-2025 work year. Administrator Jeffery met with Intelisys to provide a quote to update the Control Access System and the Notification System. Their proposal is included in this packet for review and approval for the Administrator to enter into an agreement with Intelisys with advice from counsel. Administrator Jeffery attended the MN Association of Watershed Administrators executive committee meeting on August 6, 2024. Administrator Jeffery met with Manager Nelson on August 2, 2024 to discuss the ten-year plan, meeting schedules, expectations, and upcoming activities. They were joined for a portion of their meeting by Legal Counsel Smith and she was sworn in signed her oath of office. Administrator Jeffery is working with legal counsel to prepare resolutions for MN Watersheds (MNWa) to be considered by the BOM prior to submitting to MNWa</p>	

Annual Report & Communication	Compile, finalize and submit an annual report to agencies.	No change	
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.	
Human Resources	General Human Resources	<p>Administrator Jeffery has reached out to North Risk Partners regarding 2025 insurance rates and changes. A meeting will be scheduled with the Personnel Committee in September.</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery updated the RPBCWD Organizational Chart and shared with the Personnel Committee at their July meeting. The Personnel Committee recommended adoption but suggested the Administrator carefully consider future needs.</p>	
Internal Policies	Work with Governance Committee and Personnel Committee to review bylaws and manuals as necessary.	Administrator Jeffery is working on an on-boarding packet for new Managers.	
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>	The CAC did not hold a regular meeting in July. There will be no minutes provided as part of the board packet. The next regular meeting of the CAC will be August 18.	
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	Then MN Watersheds Summer Tour was held June 25 th and 26 th .	

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>The Regulatory Program Intern, working with Staff Nicklay, has completed an initial draft GIS map of all permanent stormwater BMPs built in the District under District rules. This work will support future BMP inspection and maintenance efforts.</p> <p>Staff Nicklay continues to work with property owners and municipal partners to bring sites in violation of district rules in compliance. District staff are working with the City of Chanhassen, Carver County, and The MN DNR to address a probable wetland violation at 1831 Lake Lucy Ln. The MN DNR successfully delivered a Cease-and-Desist order to the property owner at his alternate residence on July 23, 2024.</p>	<p>City of Chanhassen Carver County MN DNR</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>Staff have removed around 500 carp this year so far from the fish barrier location between Purgatory Creek Rec Area and Staring Lake. The migration is likely done for 2024 but staff will check the barrier once a week for clogging and for signs of carp congregating at the barrier.</p> <p>Staff began electrofishing surveys to assess adult common carp abundance as part of the regular common carp monitoring schedule. Lake Ann and Lotus had their first surveys conducted and no carp were captured. Small mesh trap netting will begin next month to assess recruitment levels. Staff have been working on a webpage dedicated to carp management this month.</p> <p>Zebra mussel veliger water samples were collected this month to assess presence/absence in each major lake. Lotus and Ann had 2 collection events.</p> <p>Carver County conducted their regular snorkeling surveys and found no zebra mussels on Lotus Lake. They also did not find any Eurasian watermilfoil after the whole lake fluridone treatment completed by the district,</p> <p>AIS Inspections are ongoing on Lake Riley, Lake Ann, Lake Lucy, and Lake Susan. As of this drafting, no instances were reported of watercraft violations.</p>	<p>City of Chanhassen City of Eden Prairie University of Minnesota MN DNR Carver County</p>
Cost-Share	<p>Schedule and coordinate site visits.</p> <p>Review applications and recommend</p>	<p>The Stewardship Grant program currently has 21 active projects with 2 new applications in review. 39 site visits have been or are</p>	<p>Carver Soil & Water Conservation</p>

	<p>implementation. Evaluate program.</p>	<p>scheduled to be completed since requests opened March 1st. Grant applications remain closed to new applicants, however staff have begun opening applications to residents who put their names on a waitlist to apply after applications closed on June 6th. Staff Forbes and Staff Mahon are evaluating the grant program and drafting proposed changes for 2025.</p> <p>Staff Forbes and Staff Mahon held a meeting with the grant review committee on July 11 to discuss potential changes for the 2025 season.</p>	<p>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 biweekly and rain event samples were collected this month. Staff have fully taken over regular water quality sampling at the Riley Creek location. Staff are working with the City of Eden Prairie with setting up a purchasing agreement and placing the correct equipment into the unit for continuous monitoring now that METC has turned over the station.</p> <p>The Valley View 10-4 auto sampling station again had power issues and was taken offline. A temporary unit was installed while staff price out turning it to a solar and wireless station vs repairing the underground electrical line.</p> <p>Regular lake and stream sampling has been occurring biweekly since the end of May. Zooplankton and Phytoplankton sampling is occurring once a month on Susan, Riley, Rice Marsh, Lotus, and Staring. Additional water sampling parameters for 2024 are total alum on lakes that received alum and TSS on Rice Marsh Lake. These extra parameters will help assess alum and sediment movement in the water column.</p> <p>. Lake level sensors are checked monthly during the summer and record water level every 30 minutes. The Round Lake sensor was again moved in shallower due to high water levels. Staff have been working with City of Eden Prairie staff to coordinate 2024 alum application of Round Lake with Lotus Lake. After looking at the data and the need for buffering the Round Lake Treatment, Administrator Jeffery and Joe Bischoff met with Eden Prairie</p>	<p>Metropolitan Council City of Eden Prairie University of MN City of Chanhassen MN DNR City of Minnetonka Three Rivers Park District</p>

		where it was decided that Round Lake would be done in 2025 with the Rice Marsh Lake application as both will need to be buffered.	
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.</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 continues to meet monthly with the 2 new RPBCWD stewards in this year’s Minnesota Water Stewards program through Freshwater Society.</p> <p>Staff Mahon hosted a table at the Minnetonka Farmers Market on July 9th and 23rd. She will have a table at the market approximately every other week throughout the season, which goes through the end of September.</p> <p>Staff Mahon and Staff Portoghese hosted a table at the Chanhassen July 4th festival.</p> <p>Staff Mahon is drafting a webpage with information and resources on climate change impacts on water quality.</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, rpbcwd.org/shoreland-health, to provide background information and to serve as a launching point for the web map.</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	Work with other LGUs to monitor, assess, and identify gaps.	Barr is preparing quote solicitations for well advancement.	Metropolitan Council

	Engage with the Technical Advisory Committee to identify potential projects. Develop a water conservation program (look at Woodbury model).	Administrator Jeffery continues working with partner cities to garner agreement to advance wells on municipal owned properties.	City of Eden Prairie City of Shorewood City of Bloomington City of Minnetonka City of Chanhassen
Lake Vegetation Management	Work with the University of Minnesota or Aquatic Plant Biologist, Cities of Chanhassen and Eden Prairie, lake associations, and residents as well as the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources on potential treatments. Implement herbicide treatment as needed. Secure DNR permits and contracts with herbicide applicators. Schedule regularly scheduled point intercept surveys. Work with Three Rivers Park District for Hyland Lake.	All 2024 curly leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil treatments have occurred. Staff received \$13450 in MN DNR AIS Control Grants for treatment on Lotus, Mitchell, and Susan. Staff assisted the MNDNR on two separate unpermitted, private aquatic herbicide applications on Lotus and Red Rock this month. Both treatments were large and were targeted at water lilies and American Lotus (protected MN species). Staff went out and mapped the Red Rock treatment and wrote a report on the damage and compared the 2023 point intercept survey with what was treated. Staff provided details to the DNR about unpermitted treatments from 2023 Lotus which matched the area treated this year. A conservation officer was sent and is investigating the matter further. Point Intercept Surveys for 2024 will include Riley, Staring, Lotus, Susan, PCRA, and Idlewild. Eden Prairie is planning to conduct PI surveys on Mitchell, Red Rock, and Round.	City of Eden Prairie City of Chanhassen University of Minnesota MN DNR
Opportunity Projects	Assess potential projects as they are presented to the District	No updates.	City of Chanhassen St Hubert School Eden Prairie Public Schools City of Eden Prairie
Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)	Continue working with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS).	All WRAPS have been completed. No anticipated work at this time.	MPCA
Repair & Maintenance Fund	Develop and formalize grant program. Maintenance of RPBCWD BMPs	No updates.	Cities of Bloomington, Chanhassen, Chaska, Deephaven, Eden Prairie,

			Minnetonka, Shorewood;
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 new 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) have finished the last chapter of the EHAP and will bring to the Board of Managers at a workshop tonight.</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery is working with Thrive Consultancy to develop new manager orientation materials and team building workshops to be held with the managers in September and/or October. This will lead to the development of Mission, Vision, and Values statements.</p> <p>The 2025 budget was presented at the July workshop. Administrator Jeffery reviewed the Annual Financial Audits dating back to 2016 and will present at the August 7, 2024 Regular Meeting of the BOM. In general, it was found that approximately</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>The property owners with the Lake Lucy Lane wetland violation have hired MN Native Landscapes (MNL) to perform the work. MNL is in the process of procuring a performance bond with work anticipated to begin late spring/early summer.</p> <p>Staff Dickhausen attended the Chanhassen TEP monthly meeting (moved to July 17) in which they discussed the District's wetland delineation of the wetland at the Upper Bluff Creek Reach 5 restoration site. The TEP agreed with the boundaries and found a small, 0.01 acre plot to add as a second wetland. This second wetland was found outside of the proposed project area.</p> <p>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</p>	<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>

		<p>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.</p> <p>Excavation of a ditch adjacent to a wetland on the north side of Lake Lucy Rd, between Powers and Audubon was observed. The DNR and the city have been notified to begin the WCA violation process.</p>	
Wetland Management	Assess known existing wetlands, identify previously unknown wetlands, identify wetlands for potential restoration/	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	City of Chanhassen City of Eden Prairie Hennepin County

	rehabilitation and wetlands requiring additional protection.	update vegetation assessments with FQA in parts of Chanhassen where these types of assessments were not previously conducted. Administrator Jeffery and Staff Dickhausen continue updating the MNRAM Access database. Numerous requests for MNRAM scores continue to be made by municipalities and private developers. Any changes in District management classifications for the wetlands (based on QA/QC work and updates due to applications and delineation work done within the District) will be reflected in the future Annual reports.	Carver County MN DNR BWSR USFWS
Bluff Creek Watershed	Description	Update	Partners
Bluff Creek Tributary Restoration	Implement and finalize restoration. Monitor Project.	Annual maintenance of vegetation establish continues. CRAS scores significantly improved from pre to post restoration signaling the restoration is successful (Previous Tier 1 Score = 22; Post Tier 1 Score = 10).	City of Chanhassen
Bluff Creek Reaches B5 and B6	Develop Feasibility Study regarding potential creek and wetland restoration.	The Board of Managers approved the Barr task order to begin design, public engagement, and bid package development for this project at their December 2023 regular meeting. A public open house for the Bluff Creek Headwaters Ecological Restoration Project (reach weB5) was held on July 29 th at the Chanhassen Rec Center. There were 9 attendees including 2 managers. Staff Dickhausen conducted delineation and survey/tree inventory work around the proposed Bluff Creek restoration site. This work started at the end of May and continued into/finished in June. Data and GIS shapefiles collected from this work has been shared with Barr to assist with project planning. A draft cooperative agreement between the City of Chanhassen and RPBCWD was developed by Smith Partners and shared with Chanhassen. They are currently reviewing the document and comments are expected shortly.	
Wetland Restoration at Pioneer Tr and MN TH 101	Remove 3 properties from flood zone, restore a minimum 7 acres and as many as 16 acres of wetlands, connect public with resources, reduction of volume, rate, pollution loads to Bluff Creek.	The contractor sprayed the reed canary grass on April 24 th and will address invasive and noxious weeds again in the fall. The contractor will make monthly visits to the site throughout the growing season. The weir was adjusted to lower the elevation four inches to allow for more effective vegetation management and	City of Chanhassen MN DNR Carver County

		<p>establishment. Administrator Jeffery, Staff Dickhausen, and design staff from Barr met and walked the site. There is some presence of reed canary grass and some cattail encroachment but overall the restoration is coming along very well. There is good species diversity and richness on the site and several distinct communities are becoming established.</p> <p>Staff Dickhausen conducted a Floristic Quality Assessment (FQA) of the wetland communities July 5. Such assessments will be conducted on the restoration site annually to assess how the plant communities change.</p>	
Riley Creek Watershed	Description	Update	Partners
Lake Riley Alum Treatment	Continue monitoring of Lake.	Staff started the process of delisting the Lake as it meets all the nutrient criteria.	
Lake Susan Park Pond	Complete final site stabilization and spring start up. Finalize and implement E & O for project. Monitor project.	The structure and pump have been installed.	City of Chanhassen Clean Water Legacy Amendment
Lake Susan Spent Lime	2022 startup and monitoring	The unit was turned on and material mixed (tilled). The unit will run 8am-5pm M,W,F. Multiple samples have been collected this past month.	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. Barr has prepared a draft technical memorandum that is currently being reviewed by Administrator Jeffery.	
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.	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	The 2024 maintenance schedule was provided.	City of Chanhassen

	<p>of impact on soil health and runoff parameters. Install curb-cut rain garden.</p>	<p>Administrator Jeffery, Staff Dickhausen, and staff from Barr walked the site to review vegetation establishment. Some minor punchlist items to address but both the pollinator lawn and prairie restoration area are doing well.</p>	
Upper Riley Creek	<p>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.</p>	<p>The draft cooperative agreement has been drafted by Smith Partners and has been presented to the City for consideration and discussion. 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 one agreement has been completed. All property owners have been engaged and have provided at least tacit approval. Agreements are being drafted for all owners for their consideration. Upon final terms, they will be brought to the managers for approval. Information about the project may be found on the project webpage.</p>	City of Chanhassen
St Hubert Water Quality Project	<p>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.</p>	<p>Minger Construction has retained the services of Landbridge Ecological as a subcontractor to replant the prairie area and place the two missing trees. Administrator Jeffery is working with Landbridge to put together a three-year maintenance plan. This will be brought to the board for review and approval at the September meeting. Staff Forbes and Staff Portoghese are developing interpretive signage for the St Hubert BMPs.</p>	<p>CCSWCD Metropolitan Council City of Chanhassen</p>
Purgatory Creek Watershed	Description	Update	Partners
PCRA Berm		No changes	City of Eden Prairie MN DNR
Lotus Lake Internal Load Control	<p>Continue monitoring the Lake. Plan second alum application.</p>	<p>Barr has been preparing the bid package for alum treatment with a target date of advertisement for bid late July or early August. Round Lake will not be included in this but instead will be included with the Rice Marsh Lake solicitation in 2025. Legal counsel will be drafting a cooperative agreement for review and approval by the Board.</p>	

		After discussion with legal counsel, it was decided that the cleanest way forward will be to do a plan amendment to include Round Lake Alum treatment with reimbursement from Eden Prairie.	
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	Based upon discussions with the Chanhassen Parks and Recreation as well as internal discussions, Barr is updating their project scope to include additional engagement with the public and with the City of Chanhassen. Administrator Jeffery and Staff Forbes met with Barr Engineering Staff on July 23 for a brainstorming session about North Lotus Lake water quality improvements.	City of Chanhassen

Professional Development

Staff Mahon attended the 3-day Summer Institute for Climate Change Education hosted by Climate Generation.