

RPBCWD Staff Report – February 2022

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. Staff Bakkum and Temporary Interim Administrator Sobiech met with the board treasurer to review the 2021 budget and recommended fund transfers to reconcile budget.	
Administration	Administrator activities	Engineer Sobiech continues to serve as Temporary Interim Administrator and was provided with a District specific email address	
Annual Report & Communication	Compile, finalize and submit an annual report to agencies.	The 2021 Annual Communication has been printed and distributed. Additional copies are available at city halls and libraries around the District. All staff are contributing content for the 2021 Annual Report. Staff Forbes is pulling together the draft document.	
DEI	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	Staff Mahon Attended a DEI Workgroup kickoff session hosted by CRWD for watershed districts to work together on their DEI goals.	
Human Resources	General Human Resources	Mark Casey of DDA Human Resources reached out to District staff to begin compiling information to create a job profile for the permanent District Administrator position.	
Internal Policies	Work with Governance Manual and Personnel Committees to review bylaws and manuals as necessary.	No changes	
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 February 21. The next regular meeting of the CAC will be on March 21. There is no scheduled TAC meeting at this time though it is anticipated that a TAC meeting will be scheduled for late February or early March.	
Local SWMP		No changes.	

MAWD	Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts	No new updates	
District-Wide	Description	Update	Partners
Regulatory Program	Review regulatory program to maximize efficiency. Engage Technical Advisory Committee and Citizen Advisory Committee on possible rule changes. Implement a regulatory program.	Potential workshop item in April	
Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)	Review AIS monitoring program. Develop and implement Rapid Response Plan as appropriate. Coordinate with LGUs and keep stakeholders aware of AIS management activities. Manage and maintain the aeration system on Rice Marsh Lake. Riley Chain of Lakes Carp Management. Purgatory Chain of Lakes Carp Management. Review AIS inspection program. Keep abreast of technology and research in AIS. Zebra mussel adult and veliger monitoring.	The Rice Marsh Lake aeration unit was turned on the 1 st of the year and has been working well. Thin ice signs were placed, and pressure gauges were replaced. One pump was replaced near the end of the month. Staff have/will check the unit weekly. The District has begun planning/applying for 2022 ais vegetation treatments and fisheries permits.. 2022 MNDNR Scientific Permits were applied for this month. Approval will allow the District to conduct common carp management and monitoring this year.	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.	Twenty-three Watershed Stewardship Grant (WSG) cost-share projects were completed in 2021. Twelve projects remain active. The 2022 WSG season kicks off in March. With permission, HEI shared a copy of the Capitol Region WD's MS4Front grant module for review by RPBCWD. We would like to proceed with a similar module for our cost-share programs to allow for streamlined management of applications and project reporting including post-installation follow-up.	Carver County Soil & Water Conservation District
Data Collection	Continue Data Collection at permanent sites. Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program.	WOMP stations: samples were collected 3 times this month for the Metropolitan Council.	Metropolitan Council City of Eden Prairie

	<p>Identify monitoring sites to assess future project sites.</p> <p>Water Level Sensors</p>	<p>Winter sampling occurred on the Riley Chain of Lakes this year per normal rotation.</p> <p>Rice Marsh Lake sediment cores will be collected in February to assess alum effectiveness. Three additional cores will be collected on Lake Susan to confirm data.</p> <p>Staff posted the temporary 2022 Water Quality Assistant position/internship and are seeking applicants.</p> <p>Yearly maintenance was completed on the EXO3 YSI water quality sonde this month.</p> <p>The Metropolitan Council's is updating its lake monitoring plan with respect to its priority lakes. Staff sent lake monitoring SOP's and other information to allow for coordination of efforts. This will avoid duplication of monitoring activities and identify potential gaps in monitoring information for the Council's priority lakes.</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>
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>District Staff, Barr Engineering, and Eden Prairie will be updating the District's stormwater model for both Purgatory Creek and Riley Creek. Staff submitted water elevation data for Upper Purgatory Creek Recreational Area, Bren Pond, Eden Lake, three purgatory creek sites, and three additional ponds to Barr.</p> <p>Barr Engineering has been providing model assumptions and parameters to Eden Prairie engineering for review and confirmation. Task 1 of 3, Modeling and Evaluation, will continue well into 2022.</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 Bakkum continues to receive inquiries via the district website "Contact Us" form.</p> <p>Staff Mahon is working with staff at NMCWD and the City of Minnetonka to build a stormwater storymap ahead of a raingarden workshop to be hosted sometime in the fall.</p> <p>Staff Forbes, Bakkum and Mahon are reviewing comments received on the rough draft of the new website.</p> <p>The Minnesota Water Stewards 2022 cohort had its February meeting which covered any questions arising from the Water Foundations chapter of the course, and have begun brainstorming capstone projects.</p>	<p>Adopt-a-drain partners: Cities of Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Bloomington, and Eden Prairie; Hamline University; Nine Mile Creek Watershed District; MPCA; Bolten & Menk Freshwater Society</p>

		<p>Staff Mahon, Dickhausen and Maxwell worked with the Eden Prairie Outdoor Center to teach the winter portion of a seasonal water program with Eden Prairie 4th graders.</p> <p>Staff Mahon met with Bolten & Menk staff (formerly Fortin Consulting) and NMCWD staff to plan and schedule community trainings through the MPCA for the year.</p> <p>Staff had a table at Chanhassen's Annual February Festival held on Lake Ann on February 5th. Staff provided outreach materials, bingo cards and snowshoes tours.</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 projects.</p> <p>Develop a water conservation program (look at Woodbury model).</p>	<p>The City of Chanhassen has requested a new groundwater conservation grant to adjust scope and timeline based on new recommendations. The previous grant agreement is voided.</p>	<p>Metropolitan Council</p> <p>City of Eden Prairie</p> <p>City of Shorewood</p> <p>City of Bloomington</p> <p>City of Minnetonka</p> <p>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 intercept surveys.</p> <p>Work with Three Rivers Park District for Hyland Lake.</p>	<p>Ray Newman is working on an aquatic vegetation proposal which is near completion.</p> <p>Wenck/Stantec have been updating the Red Rock and Mitchell Lake Vegetation Management Plan with comments submitted by the City of Eden Prairie and staff.</p> <p>Aquatic plant herbicide treatments and surveys planned and applied for starting this month.</p> <p>Staff applied for a MNDNR traditional aquatic plant management grant for the proposed Fluridone treatment.</p> <p>A Lake Vegetation Management Plan was submitted for Staring Lake to the MNDNR.</p>	<p>City of Eden Prairie</p> <p>City of Chanhassen</p> <p>University of Minnesota</p> <p>MN DNR</p>
Opportunity Projects	<p>Assess potential projects as they are presented to the District</p>	<p>No new updates</p>	<p>City of Chanhassen</p> <p>St Hubert School</p>

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)	Continue working with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS). Engage the Technical Advisory Committee.	No new updates	MPCA
Repair & Maintenance Grant	Develop and formalize grant program.	No changes	
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 to progress in the research. Identify next management steps.	Along with completing an additional year of monitoring on the iron filing ponds (deadline extended), the U of MN has a new project funded by the Local Road Research Board to study wetlands (historic/converted to pond) and have been conducting in situ monitoring and laboratory studies with sediment cores on a pond in Shorewood and Chanhassen. The district is currently in discussion with the U of MN with a new urban long-term ecological research (LTER) program in the Twin Cities. This study will investigate how urban stressors – climate change, pollutants, invasive species, habitat fragmentation – affect the ecological structure and functioning of urban nature, including pollinators, forests, watersheds, and lakes and streams. It will also address how diverse residents interact with and experience the benefits and burdens of urban nature. The aim is to better understand urban nature and related policies and practices, to improve environmental outcomes for all residents. Historical data will be submitted to the U of MN in February.	Stormwater ponds partners: Cities of Bloomington, Chanhassen, Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Shorewood; U of MN
Watershed Plan	Review and identify needs for amendments.	No changes.	
Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)	Administer WCA within the Cities of Shorewood and Deephaven. Represent the District on Technical Evaluation Panel throughout the District.	No WCA applications have been received in Deephaven. No WCA applications have been received in Shorewood. Staff Dickhausen has been representing the District on TEP meetings in Chanhassen and Chaska. Annual report of WCA activities was sent to BWSR this month	City of Shorewood City of Deephaven City of Chanhassen City of Eden Prairie MCWD BWSR MN DNR ACOE

Wetland Management	Assess known existing wetlands, identify previously unknown wetlands, identify wetlands for potential restoration/rehabilitation and wetlands requiring additional protection.	Staff Jeffery, Staff Dickhausen and Staff Nicklay continue updating the MNRAM Access database. Staff Dickhausen and Interim Administrator Jeffery are continuing to develop biological assessment metrics of wetlands with Barr Engineering staff to supplement District MNRAM assessments.	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 marketing consultant has completed initial interviews with property managers/HOAs and will present initial findings to the HCCI sub-group in early March.	Eleven watershed districts/WMOs Multiple cities MPCA Hennepin County Environmental Services Board of Water and Soil Resources
Lower Minnesota Chloride Cost-Share Program	The Lower Minnesota River Watersheds are coming together to offer cost-share grants.	Chloride Reduction cost-share grant remains open and is posted on District website and advertised through Fortin Consulting and the MPCA. A grant agreement was entered into with Eden Prairie Schools following approval by the BOM. Two more applications are under review.	LMRWD RBWMO NMCWD
Bluff Creek 1W1P	Description	Update	Partners
Bluff Creek Tributary Restoration	Implement and finalize restoration. Monitor Project.	No new updates.	City of Chanhassen
Wetland Restoration at Pioneer Trl/Hwy 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 new updates Additional treatment of the site will occur in the early spring with planting late spring/early summer.	City of Chanhassen MN DNR Carver County

Riley Creek 1W1P	Description	Update	Partners
Lake Riley Alum Treatment	Continue monitoring of Lake.	Sediment coring occurred in October and final results are pending.	
Lake Susan Improvement Phase 2	Complete final site stabilization and spring start up. Finalize and implement E & O for project. Monitor project.	No new updates.	City of Chanhassen Clean Water Legacy Amendment
Lake Susan Spent Lime	2021 startup and monitoring	The spent lime treatment system ran from May to November and was working with removals over 41% across the summer. Staff took the system offline this month. More information will be available in the water resources report. Staff and Barr will be coring the wetland within the Lake Susan Preserve, which drains into the facility to determine phosphorous loading from this wetland. The 2021 water diversion volume was reported this month to the DNR as part of the permit requirements.	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.	Maintenance of the site has been turned over to the City of Eden Prairie although District staff will assist with inspections.	City of Eden Prairie Lower MN River Watershed District
Rice Marsh Lake Alum Treatment	Continue monitoring of Lake.	Staff will be conducting sediment core sampling this month to assess treatment effectiveness and prepare for/direct the second dose application.	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.	No new 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.	Interim Administrator Jeffery is working with Counselor Welch to develop the term sheet and subsequent cooperative agreement with Chanhassen.	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.	No new updates.	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 met with school staff on February 18 th to begin 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 1W1P	Description	Update	Partners
PCRA Berm		Interim Administrator Jeffery is working with Eden Prairie to define roles and responsibilities.	City of Eden Prairie MN DNR
Duck Lake Water Quality Project	Work with the City to implement neighborhood BMP. Identify neighborhood BMP to help improve water resources to DuckLake. Implement neighborhood BMPs.	No changes	City of Eden Prairie
Lotus Lake Internal Load Control	Continue monitoring the Lake. Plan second alum application.	Application areas may shift to account for high release rates in some of the shallower areas in the central and northern portion of the lake.	
Silver Lake Restoration	Order project. Design Project. Work with the City of Chanhassen for design, cooperative agreement, and implementation.	Per Board direction a letter was sent indicating contract termination.	City of Chanhassen
Professional Development			