

RPBCWD Staff Report – September 2022

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 and Treasurer Crafton have been contacted by the district 4M account manager regarding money market interest rates and several 1-to-3-year fixed rate investment options. Administrator Jeffery will work to pull together estimated schedule of project payment dates to identify needed liquid assets to determine if potentially moving a portion of our balance into one of these higher return options. This will be brought to the Audit and Finance Committee at a later date to be determined.</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery and Treasurer Crafton will work with Red Path and U.S. Bank to migrate the remaining balance from Old National Bank to the U.S. Bank account in October.</p> <p>Proposed 2023 Levy Forms have been submitted to both Carver and Hennepin Counties and their receipt acknowledged.</p>	
Administration	<p>Administrator activities</p>	<p>Administrator Jeffery met with the Personnel Committee to discuss staff organization, duties, and compensation.</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery has provided a letter of support for the Strategic Plan to MAWD.</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery will be serving as a panel member for a University of Minnesota course Environmental Science, Policy, and Management 4096 discussing career paths in environmental Science on October 5th</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery will be presenting to the Mitchell Lake Association along with staff from Eden Prairie on October 6th.</p> <p>The Performance Review Checklist was submitted to BWSR on 9/29/22 and is being used by BWSR to draft their PRAP report. Additional information regarding plan status will be submitted by October 7th.</p>	
Annual Report & Communication	<p>Compile, finalize and submit an annual report to agencies.</p>	<p>No change</p>	
DEI	<p>Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion</p>	<p>No updates.</p>	
Human Resources	<p>General Human Resources</p>	<p>Personnel Committee met September 23rd. The Personnel Committee will meet again on October 14th. Ken Carlson of NorthRisk Partners</p>	

		will be in attendance to update on benefits and potential changes in pricing/coverage for 2023.	
Internal Policies	Work with Governance Manual and Personnel Committees to review bylaws and manuals as necessary.	The SharePoint site was shared with Committee members. Signed minutes from 2021 and 2022 have been uploaded to the site as well as resolutions and the results of a search of the district OneDrive for all documents related to “policy.”	
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 Sept 19. The next regular meeting of the CAC will be on Oct 17. Administrator Jeffery, Engineer Sobiech, and legal counsel Welch met on September 27 th to discuss TAC comments. Mr. Welch pointed out that many of the options that the local road authorities were requesting are already available in the rules as drafted. It was discussed that a lack of planning for upcoming projects in a proactive fashion might be the greatest contributing factor to these options not being used.	
Local SWMP		No changes.	
MAWD	Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts	The MAWD Annual Conference and Trade Show is scheduled for November 30, 2022 – December 3, 2022. MAWD has not yet announced the release of tickets nor the block of rooms. Administrator Jeffery will make reservations as soon as he receives notification. The letter of support for the MAWD Strategic Plan was sent to MAWD.	
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.	See advisory committee for TAC meeting regarding linear projects. Administrator Jeffery and Engineer Sobiech are working with the City of Chanhassen to develop a regional stormwater management plan for northern and western Lotus Lake watershed areas. Administrator Jeffery and Engineer Sobiech are working with Eden Prairie Public Schools and the City of Eden Prairie to develop a regional stormwater management plan for the Round Lake watershed and elsewhere.	
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.	Staff have been checking/cleaning the barrier once per week. No carp removal events have occurred since the spring spawning run. Regular carp monitoring activities will wrap up the first week in October Electrofishing yielded low adult carp numbers this year except for LSPP Lake Susan Park Pond, Purgatory Creek	City of Chanhassen City of Eden Prairie University of Minnesota MN DNR

	<p>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.</p>	<p>Recreational Area Wetland, Lucy and Staring). A total of 52 carp were captured in LSPP, however no young of the year carp were captured so it is less of a concern. Rice Marsh will not be electrofished this year due to low water levels and difficulty accessing. Small mesh trap netting has occurred on Lake Ann, Staring, Upper Rec Area, and Lotus. No young of the year carp were captured meaning little/no recruitment occurred.</p> <p>Zebra mussel veliger sampling results were submitted and no veligers were found except for Lake Riley as expected. eDNA testing results were to sent the District by Carver County for Lotus, Ann, and Susan. The results were all negative for zebra mussel eDNA. The samples were taken from the public accesses. This is the first time since 2019 when Lotus Lake was listed that there was not a positive test. The 22 Adopt-a-Dock volunteers have been checking plates monthly. District staff have not found any new invasive species during their regular boat launch scans. A more in-depth zebra mussel survey occurred on Ann this month and no adults were found. A more comprehensive survey will occur on Lotus this month.</p> <p>Staff worked with Chanhassen and removed 542 goldfish from the Stone Creek Drive stormwater pond.</p>	<p>Carver County</p>
Cost-Share	<p>Schedule and coordinate site visits. Review applications and recommend implementation. Evaluate program.</p>	<p>The 2022 Watershed Stewardship Grant (WSG) program currently has a total of 11 active grant projects. Four projects were completed & inspected in September. Three municipal projects are in the pre-application stage. The 2022 budget is committed to ongoing and pre-application projects. Initial site visits continue to be offered for potential 2023 projects.</p>	<p>Carver County Soil & Water Conservation District</p>
Data Collection	<p>Continue Data Collection at permanent sites. Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program. Identify monitoring sites to assess future project sites. Water Level Sensors</p>	<p>Drought conditions persist across the district. Many stream sites are dry or have extremely limited flow compared to normal. Lake levels are very low across all lakes.</p> <p>WOMP stations: samples were collected 3 times this month for the Metropolitan Council.</p> <p>Regular bi-weekly lake and stream sampling was concluded for the growing season. Another sampling event may occur in October.</p> <p>Zooplankton and Phytoplankton were collected monthly on Riley, Lotus, Susan, Staring, and Rice Marsh in 2022. Phytoplankton</p>	<p>Metropolitan Council City of Eden Prairie University of MN City of Chanhassen MN DNR City of Minnetonka Three Rivers Park District</p>

		<p>samples will be submitted to Barr to be processed while staff will process the zooplankton samples.</p> <p>Staff have placed and been visiting three auto sampling stations this year: Site LL_3 – West Lotus Lake North Tributary. Site LL_7 - West Lotus Lake North Tributary. Site STL_17 – Purgatory Creek/Staring Lake Parkway. These stations were placed to collect more storm event nutrient and flow data to assess/confirm upstream loading for the proposed upcoming project sites. We will continue to run these units through October.</p> <p>Staff will be visiting lake level sensors this month to download data and ensure they are working correctly. Staring Lake, Red Rock, and Hyland sensors had to be resurveyed due to the low water levels and the sensor being out of the water.</p> <p>Staff visited upper bluff proposed project site, west bluff tributary restoration site, and the hwy 101 upper purgatory creek restoration site and took gopro videos and photos. Staff will try to complete the other restoration sites this year.</p> <p>Stream walks for lower Riley and lower Bluff Creeks will start up this month. This data will be used 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>Eden Prairie was provided a Google™ Map layer to review the results of the calibrated model. Eden Prairie will review and provide comments.</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 collected macroinvertebrate samples from Purgatory Creek to show the 75 2nd graders at St Hubert Catholic School. Students identified the macroinvertebrates present in the samples, and participated in games of “Build a Bug” while dressing up as different macroinvertebrate adaptations.</p>	<p>Adopt-a-drain partners: Cities of Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Bloomington, and Eden Prairie; Hamline University; Nine Mile Creek Watershed District;</p>

		<p>Staff Mahon is working with staff at NMCWD and the City of Minnetonka to build a stormwater story-map ahead of a raingarden workshop to be hosted October 25th.</p> <p>The new RPBCWD website will be released October 1. The old website will be archived.</p> <p>A Fall 2022 Projects Tour is being planned for Oct. 11. The tour will began at 2 pm and conclude with a meal at 6 pm.</p> <p>Staff is planning for the 2022 Cycle the Creek, to be held along Bluff Creek on October 9th.</p> <p>There has been high demand for the gravel bed tree saplings this year. Staff is planning a tree pickup event for October 7th.</p> <p>Staff Mahon and Staff Maxwell presented at the Metro Children’s Water Festival on Sept 28, which was attended by over 900 metro-area 4th graders. Staff led 6 classes through the AIS Jr Inspector activity.</p> <p>The District’s Green Corps member started their service/project on September 19. Staff have been orientating Member Portoghese to the District office and watersheds. Administrator Jeffery has begun training her on using a Modified Philip Dunne infiltrometer to conduct infiltration testing which will be a large part of the member project. Staff Dickhausen, the site supervisor , attended the MPCA’s Green Corps site supervisor training on September 12. Staff Dickhausen also attended two subsequent MPCA supervisor webinars/trainings on September 22 & 29. He has been meeting regularly with Member Portoghese to check in and get the project going.</p>	<p>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 projects.</p> <p>Develop a water conservation program (look at Woodbury model).</p>	No updates.	<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</p>	<p>University of Minnesota Report (Ray Newman): Biomass sampling, point-intercept sampling, and water quality surveys were conducted in August on Staring, Susan, and Riley. Biomass samples from Staring,</p>	<p>City of Eden Prairie</p> <p>City of</p>

	<p>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>Susan and Riley have been processed but not analyzed. Overall, water levels were low in the month of August. Water clarity was down from June in Susan, with Secchi depth of 0.5m, Staring with a Secchi of 0.95m, and Riley with a Secchi of 3.1m. Plant diversity was the same from June to August for Staring with 12 species found in both months, and lower in Riley and Susan, decreasing from 15 to 12 species and from 11 to 9 species, respectively. The percent of vegetated points also decreased from June to August, decreasing in Staring by 21.9% and in Susan by 4.2%. Coontail is still the dominant species in each lake. Eurasian watermilfoil was found in Staring and Riley at a lower frequency than in June. In Staring, Eurasian watermilfoil was found at 24.2% of vegetated points in June and was found at 2.5% of points in August. In Riley, Eurasian watermilfoil was found at 27.7% of vegetated points in June, and at 16.3% of points in August. The fluridone treatment on Staring appears to have been effective at controlling milfoil although total plant frequency also decreased. Curlyleaf pondweed turion samples will be collected on Susan, Staring, and Riley in the coming month as weather permits.</p> <p>Red Rock and Mitchell Lake Vegetation Management Plan has been finalized and will be available on our website.</p> <p>BARR has been working on the Lotus Lake Vegetation Management Plan and the draft report is complete.</p>	<p>Chanhassen University of Minnesota MN DNR</p>
<p>Opportunity Projects</p>	<p>Assess potential projects as they are presented to the District</p>	<p>Administrator Jeffery and Engineer Sobiech met with Eden Prairie Public Schools, Eden Prairie Public Works, and Eden Prairie Parks and Recreation on September 21 to discuss a regional stormwater management plan for the area around Eden Prairie High School. The consulting engineer for the school district is going to begin preliminary calculations to see what volume reductions could occur if a reuse system was installed using the existing on-site ponds.</p>	<p>City of Chanhassen St Hubert School Eden Prairie Public Schools City of Eden Prairie</p>
<p>Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)</p>	<p>Continue working with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on the Watershed Restoration and Protection</p>	<p>No changes.</p>	<p>MPCA</p>

	Strategies (WRAPS).		
Repair & Maintenance Fund	Develop and formalize grant program. Maintenance of RPBCWD BMPs	Administrator Jeffery is meeting with Stantec to discuss potential repairs to the berm in the Purgatory Creek Recreational Area in Eden Prairie. This berm serves as a barrier to the northern basin, providing flood storage and water quality treatment. It is also used be Eden Prairie Parks for a trail corridor. Flood storage and treatment are largely unimpacted but the trail is impaired as a result of the breach.	
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.	Administrator Jeffery is working with faculty at the U of M to schedule a presentation to the BOM on the findings of the pond study.	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 or Shorewood. No invitations to attend TEP meetings or site visits pertaining to WCA applications within Bloomington, Chanhassen, Chaska, Eden Prairie, or Minnetonka were received in August. Administrator Jeffery met with BWSR on September 19 to review WCA administration procedures and record keeping. This is part of the overall PRAP process.	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 Dickhausen has continued wetland assessments in Minnetonka/Deephaven/Shorewood area of the district. Administrator Jeffery and Staff Dickhausen continue updating the MNRAM Access database. Numerous requests for MNRAM scores have been made by municipalities and private developers. Staff Dickhausen, Administrator Jeffery, Engineer Sobiech, and Joe Bischoff of Barr Engineering met to discuss progress on Phase 1 of the assessment program and to begin scoping Phase 2. It is anticipated that a soil health action plan will be developed, and this effort will be applicable to the Wetland Assessment Program.	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 develop a package/toolbox that will be available for city and watershed partners to use in their chloride reduction efforts. Piloting of the program materials will began in late September. RPBCWD will host content for the “Low Salt, No Salt Minnesota” initiative on its new website.	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 program remains open until October 31 All grant projects must be concluded by November 30 to meet the end-of-year fiscal deadline. Information is posted on District website and advertised through Fortin Consulting (now Bolton & Menk) and the MPCA.	LMRWD RBWMO NMCWD
Bluff Creek Watershed	Description	Update	Partners
Bluff Creek Tributary Restoration	Implement and finalize restoration. Monitor Project.	No new updates.	City of Chanhassen
Bluff Creek Reaches B5 and B6	Develop Feasibility Study regarding potential creek and wetland restoration.	Barr continues to develop plans for the project.	
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.	Davey has finished vegetation management for the 2022 season. Management of the area will resume next spring.	City of Chanhassen MN DNR Carver County
Riley Creek Watershed	Description	Update	Partners
Lake Riley Alum Treatment	Continue monitoring of Lake.	Staff will plan to core again in 2023 to assess the second alum dose. Lake Riley water quality remains excellent following the	

		completed alum treatment. A study will be published about the project after the results of the final coring event are received.	
Lake Susan Improvement Phase 2	Complete final site stabilization and spring start up. Finalize and implement E & O for project. Monitor project.	No updates.	City of Chanhassen Clean Water Legacy Amendment
Lake Susan Spent Lime	2022 startup and monitoring	The Lake Susan Spent Lime Treatment System has been monitored and continues to experience no flows due to decreased water levels in the wetland.	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. As-built survey has been provided to Eden Prairie.	City of Eden Prairie Lower MN River Watershed District
Rice Marsh Lake Alum Treatment	Continue monitoring of Lake.	Staff conducted sediment core sampling in February to assess treatment effectiveness and prepare for/direct the second dose application. The results will be presented at the October meeting.	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.	Notice of substantial completion was issued. A maintenance schedule is to be provided to the district from the contractor. Staff Maxwell installed equipment to monitor flows and removals through and by the Kraken™ manufactured treatment devices. The GreenCorps member (Alaina Portoghesse) will begin collecting data on infiltration results and soil development in the restoration areas as well as comparative samples in the unchanged ball field area of the park.	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.	Administrator Jeffery and Engineer Sobiech met with Mr. Welch to begin development of the term sheet for use in drafting the cooperative agreement with Chanhassen. Discussions with Chanhassen are on-going regarding cost share as well as improvements to the public works site adjacent to the creek. These improvements include pond improvements and the construction of a decant facility for separating solids from the liquid in the street sweepings, vector truck removals, etc. Staff Dickhausen conducted a wetland delineation of the NWI labeled wetland area between Park Place and Park Drive, adjacent to the	City of Chanhassen

		Chanhassen Public Works building in Chanhassen this month. A total of four upland-to-wetland transects were assessed to delineate the boundaries of the wetland. Staff also conducted a survey of the entire boundary using the District's Trimble GPS survey equipment. This, along with a District MnRAM assessment will help inform the design and permitting of the Upper Riley Creek Stabilization project.	
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 and Engineer Sobiech met with representatives of Bearpath and their engineer to discuss future plans by Bearpath and to determine status of easement recordation. Legal counsel for Bearpath has reached out to Administrator Jeffery and is addressing the easements.	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. Staff Mahon and Interim Administrator Jeffery are working with the Science Committee to have students plant areas in the prairie restoration that pond water to provide treatment, rate control, and infiltration. One option is to have the 5 th grade class and their kindergarten "buddies" plant and the kindergartners could follow their plot throughout their academic career at the school	CCSWCD Metropolitan Council City of Chanhassen
Purgatory Creek Watershed	Description	Update	Partners
PCRA Berm		No change	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.	Barr has prepared a task order for review of sediment release rates from core samples and dosing rates.	

Silver Lake Restoration	Order project. Design Project. Work with the City of Chanhassen for design, cooperative agreement, and implementation.	Prairie Restoration was given the notice to proceed and will be finishing work this fall.	City of Chanhassen
Lotus Lake Watershed Water Quality Improvement Project	Feasibility Study/Preliminary Engineering Report Issue Identification Partnership Opportunities and CIP Alignment	A feasibility plan and conceptual drawings are in process. Administrator Jeffery and Engineer Sobiech continue their dialogue with Chanhassen staff.	City of Chanhassen

Professional Development

Staff Forbes registered for an online Facilitation Skills Course on Oct 31-Nov 3 through the MN Office of Management & Budget.
Staff Nicklay is currently taking a course on project management through edX.