

RPBCWD Staff Report – January 2024

Administration	Description	Update	Partners
Accounting, Audit & Budget	<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 Bakkum compiled the monthly treasurer’s report. Administrator Jeffery and Engineer Sobiech have reviewed the adopted budget to provide a clearer illustration of committed funds relative to funds in reserve. This will be presented to the Audit and Finance Committee on 2/12/24 to make an educated estimate as to funds available for investment or other needs. Administrator Jeffery, Staff Bakkum, and Staff Monahan have begun providing Abdo with preliminary paperwork to begin the 2023 audit. All 2022 WBIF grants have had their final reports and request for reimbursement submitted by Administrator Jeffery.</p>	
Administration	<p>Administrator activities</p>	<p>The MAWA Executive Committee, of which Administrator Jeffery is a member, will meet on February 6, 2024. Administrator Jeffery met with the West Metro Water Supply Planning work group on January 30th. Staff have been updating their 2024 work plans and providing them to Administrator Jeffery for review. The MSRS account has been set up. Staff can now take advantage of this vehicle for retirement planning.</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 January meeting of the Watershed Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access (DEIA) Workgroup. The group voted on an official name, now called the Watershed Equity Alliance.</p>	
Human Resources	<p>General Human Resources</p>	<p>Staff have prepared and are advertising for two temporary seasonal staff to assist with DC and with construction site inspections. The District leave policy is compliant with the new ESST requirement. Legal counsel and Administrator Jeffery have drafted language clarifying the requirements of ESST. This has been provided to staff in addition to the MN DOE fact sheet posted on the staff bulletin board. Employment law specialist Julie Fleming-Wolfe has provided an opinion to MAWA that watershed district employees are not</p>	

		subject to the FMLA unless the district employs 50 or more employees.	
Internal Policies	Work with Governance Committee and Personnel Committee to review bylaws and manuals as necessary.	The Personnel Committee met January 22 nd to discuss updates to the Personnel Handbook, the Administrator’s upcoming review, and set their 2024 calendar of meetings to take place quarterly. The Governance Committee will be meeting February 9 th to finalize the draft revisions to the Governance Manual to be brought to the full Board of Managers at the next available workshop.	
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 Jan. 22 in person at the district office.; Staff Nicklay gave a presentation about the Regulatory Program. Minutes will be provided as part of the board packet. The next regular meeting of the CAC will be Feb. 26. The natural resources, planning, and water resources/engineering sub-groups of the EHAP Technical Advisory Panel met on January 3, 11, and 17 (respectively) to discuss implementation and collaboration of plan initiatives.	
Local SWMP	Review of member cities local surface water management plan.	Bloomington 2018-2027 Chanhassen 2016-2025 Chaska 2015-2024 Deephaven 2015-2024 Eden Prairie 2021-2030 Minnetonka 2020-2029 Shorewood 2019-2028 Minnetonka adopted their minor plan amendment. 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.	
MN Watersheds (formerly MAWD)	Business and happenings of MN Watersheds	The MAWA Executive Committee met on February 6, 2024. The MAWA Executive Committee met on January 12 th and prepared a joint comment letter on the Clean Water Council Draft Strategic Plan. The MAWA Executive Committee will be meeting with the Executive Director of the MN Golf Course Owners Association on February 13 th to discuss potential partnerships. Legislative days are March 6 th and 7 th . Materials have been distributed to the managers pertaining to this event.	

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 Portoghese 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 may not be turned on this year.</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 program currently has 6 active projects with four new applications in review. 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>The bulk of Stewardship Grant program duties will transition this year to Staff Mahon as part of new role as Community Engagement Coordinator. Staff Forbes will remain involved in the program.</p>	<p>Carver Soil & Water Conservation District</p>
Data Collection	<p>Continue Data Collection at permanent sites.</p> <p>Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program.</p> <p>Identify monitoring sites to assess future project sites.</p> <p>Water Level Sensors.</p> <p>Lake and Stream Monitoring.</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>One regular sampling event occurred on the Purgatory Chain of Lakes and a series of stormwater ponds draining EP city center this month. Additional focused chloride samples were collected from the stormwater pond next to the office.</p>	<p>Metropolitan Council</p> <p>City of Eden Prairie</p> <p>University of MN</p> <p>City of Chanhassen</p> <p>MN DNR</p> <p>City of Minnetonka</p>

		<p>Staff have been working with METC and the City of Eden Prairie to take over the Riley WOMP station as METC is no longer supporting the station. The district has obtained a Right of Way Access Permit and will purchase replacement equipment being removed from the unit so we can continually monitor the site.</p> <p>Staff have been summarizing and QC data for the annual report and Riley Purg Bluff Creek Summit.</p> <p>Staff have been working with City of Eden Prairie staff to coordinate 2023 alum application of Round Lake with Lotus Lake. Staff collected sediment cores for Round to calculate dosing rates.</p> <p>Staff have been coordinating data submittal and information requests for the delisting process for Rice Marsh Lake and Lake Riley from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Impaired waters list. Staff Portoghese 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>Staff have sent out a request for applications for summer water quality interns/technicians.</p>	Three Rivers Park District
District Hydrology & Hydraulics Model	<p>Coordinate maintenance of Hydrology and Hydraulics Model.</p> <p>Coordinate model update with LGUs if additional information is collected.</p> <p>Partner and implement with the City of Bloomington on Flood Evaluation and Water Quality Feasibility.</p>	<p>Flood risk assessment mapping for Eden Prairie was completed and the GIS database is being updated accordingly. Updated maps will be placed on the district website.</p> <p>Engineer Sobiech and Administrator Jeffery have begun discussing ways in which the model can be utilized for added benefit in project prioritization, issue identification, etc.</p>	<p>City of Bloomington</p> <p>City of Minnetonka</p> <p>City of Eden Prairie</p> <p>City of Deephaven</p> <p>City of Shorewood</p>
Education & Outreach	<p>Implement Education & Outreach Plan, review at year end.</p> <p>Manage partnership activities with other organizations.</p> <p>Coordinate Public Engagement with District projects.</p>	<p>Staff continue to update the district website as needed.</p> <p>Staff Bakkum continues to receive inquiries via the district website "Contact Us" form.</p> <p>Staff Forbes continues to upload open sessions of recorded board meetings to the RPBCWD YouTube channel.</p> <p>Staff 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>Staff Mahon is working with staff at Nine Mile Creek Watershed District to host a program that connects middle and high school science teachers with educational resources about various water resource topics called STEM on Tap. Eden Prairie Water Resources Coordinator Lori Haak will be presenting at the first workshop on February 26th.</p> <p>Staff accepted 2 new RPBCWD residents into the 2024 cohort of Minnesota Water Stewards, hosted by Freshwater Society. The intro session was held in person at Capitol Region Watershed District's office on January 9th.</p> <p>Staff Mahon, Dickhausen, Maxwell and Greencorp member Whittington met with 2 science teachers at Minnetonka High School to discuss how RPBCWD can help them with integrating water resources into their curriculum. It was determined that the district could provide water quality testing equipment in the form of classroom kits that could be checked out by teachers. Staff will also provide ongoing support and resources as the school develops curriculum for a brand-new Earth Sciences class beginning in Fall 2024.</p> <p>Staff Mahon and Staff Dickhausen are working with Greencorp member Whittington to plan a February visit to Clear Springs Elementary School's 1st grade Spanish Immersion classrooms to learn about the layers of soil, and an April visit to St Hubert Catholic School's 2nd graders to lead activities surrounding trees, birds and insects, and storm drains.</p> <p>Staff Mahon, Staff Portoghese and Greencorp Member Whittington visited the Clear Springs Elementary School 4th grade Spanish Immersion classes on January 11th. 75 students were engaged in activities surrounded topography, impervious and pervious surfaces, and stormwater runoff.</p> <p>Staff is finalizing dates for 2024 workshop offerings, including turfgrass maintenance, smart salting, resilient shorelines, and buckthorn workshops.</p> <p>Staff has begun planning activities for Creek Week 2024, which will be moved from the fall to the spring based on participant feedback.</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>
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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>Task Order No 45 has been included on this month’s agenda for consideration by the BOM.</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>Maija Weaver (Graduate Student) and Ray Newman, University of Minnesota – Turion assessment is now completed. Lake Riley had a curlyleaf pondweed turion viability of 91% and a lake density of 24 viable turions/m². Staring Lake had a turion viability of 66% and a lake density of 2 viable turions/m². Lake Susan had a turion viability of 87% and a lake density of 18 viable turions/m². Data from 2023 plant surveys in May, June, and August have been analyzed and compiled in a formal annual plant progress report, which will include turion results. This report is in the final stages of revision and findings will be presented at the RPBCWD Summit on February 8th.</p> <p>Staff will begin the process of applying for herbicide treatments for 2024 this month. Staff recieved \$13450 in MN DNR AIS Control Grants for treatment on Lotus, Mitchell, and Susan.</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>Minnetonka is continuing the design for that reach of Purgatory Creek within Purgatory Creek Preserve for restoration. Funding will be provided via WBIF.</p>	<p>City of Chanhassen</p> <p>St Hubert School</p> <p>Eden Prairie Public Schools</p> <p>City of Eden Prairie</p>
Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)	<p>Continue working with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS).</p>	<p>No changes</p>	<p>MPCA</p>

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 additional role in the operations and maintenance of constructed BMPs would be helpful.	City of Eden Prairie
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.	No updates.	Stormwater ponds partners: Cities of Bloomington, Chanhassen, Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Shorewood; U of MN
Watershed Plan	Review and identify needs for amendments.	Administrator Jeffery, Engineer Sobiech, Staff Forbes, and Fred Rozumalski (Barr) are meeting bi-weekly to develop the Ecological Health Action Plan (EHAP). The joint BOM/CAC EHAP workshop is scheduled for March 11. Engineer Sobiech, Staff Maxwell, Joe Bischoff, and Administrator Jeffery met on January 4 th 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 or April meeting.	
Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)	Administer WCA within the Cities of Shorewood and Deephaven. Represent the District on Technical Evaluation Panel throughout the District.	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.	City of Shorewood City of Deephaven City of Chanhassen City of Eden Prairie MCWD BWSR MN DNR A COE
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.	City of Chanhassen City of Eden Prairie Hennepin County Carver County

		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.	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 site survey for the Bluff Creek Headwaters Ecological Enhancement Project will begin in February. Notifications were sent to property owners in late January.	
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.	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.	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	City of Chanhassen

		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.	
Lower Riley Creek Stabilization	Coordinate agreement and acquire easements if needed for the restoration of Lower Riley Creek reach D3 and E. Implement Project. Continue Public Engagement for project and develop signage for restoration.	A final inspection occurred in the lower valley and the project is closed out. CRAS scores significantly improved from pre to post restoration signaling the restoration is successful (Previous Tier 1 Score = 26; Post Tier 1 Score = 14).	City of Eden Prairie Lower MN River Watershed District
Rice Marsh Lake Alum Treatment	Continue monitoring of Lake. Prepare for second dose.	STaff have started the process of delisting RML from the impaired waters list for nutrients as it meets all the criteria. 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. A mailing was sent to property owners on Jan. 24 requesting a meeting with Administrator Jeffery to discuss property access and a maintenance easement to construct the Upper Riley Ecological Enhancement Project. Information about the project may be found on 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.		Bearpath Neighborhood Association City of Eden Prairie

	Develop cooperative agreement with Bearpath.		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			