

RPBCWD Staff Report – June 2024

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 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 submitted the workplan and grant application to Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. The next deadline is July 17th at which time LSOHC members submit their recommendations for funding. On July 30th those submitted on July 17th will present to the council for consideration on the next legislative cycle. Administrator Jeffery met with Staff Forbes and Staff Mahon to set preliminary budget for next year's Watershed Stewardship Grant Program. Carver and Hennepin County ACH distributions were sent the week of July 1st. Abdo presented the 2023 Financial Audit to the Audit and Finance Committee and provided the report to requisite state agencies. There were two findings. The first was for payment after 35 days. The auditor was made aware that our current agreements call for payment within 45-days. This will address the issue for the next audit. The second finding was for a fund adjustment to provide sureties for the Spring Rd property. Administrator Jeffery met with Abdo for clarification as to how the acquisition should be accounted for. Abdo stated include it in the Spring Rd Conservation Project Fund. 	
Administration	Administrator activities	 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 a consultant from to provide a quote to update the Control Access System and the Notification System. The current system has outdated software which presents in numerous bugs such as being unable to set timing for daily savings time and for different days of the week. Additionally, the consultant 	

Annual Report & Communication	Compile, finalize and submit an annual report to agencies.	currently providing service no longer has a presence in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Administrator Jeffery attended the MN Association of Watershed Administrators quarterly meeting in St. Paul on June 25, 2024. The 2023 Annual Report is submitted and no comments have been received.	
DEI	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	Staff Mahon attended the 2024 Annual Retreat of the Watershed Equity Alliance (formerly called the Watershed Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access (DEIA) Workgroup).	
Human Resources	General Human Resources	 Dylan Monahan started fulltime with the RPBCWD on July 1, 2024 after completing his shared term with NMCWD. Staff Nicklay will be taking Family Leave beginning July 8, 2024. Administrator Jeffery will work with the intern Aidan Forbes to continue site inspections and permit administration. 	
Internal Policies	Work with Governance Committee and PasondCommittee to review bylaws and manuals as necessary.	Administrator Jeffery is working on an on-boarding packet for new Managers.	
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 June 17 in person at the district office. Minutes will be provided as part of the board packet. The next regular meeting of the CAC will be July 15.	
Local SWMP	Review of member cities local surface water management plan.	Bloomington2018-2027Chanhassen2016-2025Chaska2015-2024Deephaven2015-2024Eden Prairie2021-2030Minnetonka2020-2029Shorewood2019-2028Minnetonka 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	Then MN Watersheds Summer Tour was held June 25 th and 26 th .	
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. 	 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. 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 property owner has not responded to an NOPV from the district, nor multiple contact attempts and a Cease and Desist Order from the City of Chanhassen. 	City of Chanhassen Carver County MN DNR
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 veligermonitoring. 	 District staffrecieved a Scientific Fisheries Permit through the MNDNR to allow for regular common carp monitoring and Purgatory Creek spring removals. Staff have removed around 500 carp this year so far from the fish barrier location between Purgatory Creek Rec Area and Staring Lake. Staff have contacted a hatchery for stocking and has been approved by the DNR to stock. Looking to stock in Lucy, Staring, Rice Marsh, and Lower Rec Area. Zebra mussel veliger water samples will be collected this month to assess presence/absence in each major lake. Staff inspected a stormwater pond in Eden Prairie, MN where pennywort (<i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i>) was found in 2023. No plants were found but staff will likely go out and scan again later in the summer. 	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.	 The Stewardship Grant program currently has 21 active projects with 2 new applications in review. 39 site visits have been or are scheduled to be completed since requests opened March 1st. Staff Forbes and Staff Mahon made the decision to pause grant applications on June 4th due to the popularity of the program. After making a funding recommendation for a large project 	Carver Soil & Water Conservation District

		 application currently in review, applications may reopen if funds remain.Staff Forbes and Staff Mahon are evaluating the grant program and drafting proposed changes for 2025. Staff Forbes arranged a tour for managers and the CAC of The Preserve Association on June 20. General Manager Scott Anderson led the tour of cost-share projects and other efforts the HOA is doing to protect water quality and restore habitat. 	
Data Collection	Continue Data Collection at permanent sites. Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program. Identify monitoring sites to assessfuture project sites. Water Level Sensors. Lake and Stream Monitoring.	 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. 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. Staff Maxwell worked with an electrician to return half power to the 10-4 Stream Auto Sampling Station to return it to full operation. Staff will need to contact Excel Energy to restore full power.Auto sampling units placed at middle and northern Lotus Lake tributary and Bluff Creek at Galpin and Hwy 5. Multiple rain event samples have been collected this month. Lake level sensors are checked monthly during the summer and record water level every 30 minutes. The Mitchell Lake and Round Lake level sensors needed to be shifted 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 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. 	Metropolitan Council City of Eden Prairie University of MN City of Chanhassen MN DNR City of Minnetonka Three Rivers Park District

District Hydrology & Hydraulics Model	Coordinate maintenance of Hydrology and Hydraulics Model. Coordinate model update with LGUs if additional information is collected. Partner and implement with the City of Bloomington on Flood Evaluation and Water Quality Feasibility.	No updates at this time.	City of Bloomington City of Minnetonka City of Eden Prairie City of Deephaven City of Shorewood
Education & Outreach	 Implement Education & Outreach Plan, review at year end. Manage partnership activities withother organizations. Coordinate Public Engagement with District projects. 	 Staff continue to update the district website as needed. Separate pages were built to house a searchable library of meeting minutes and finalized resolutions. Staff Monahan continues to receive inquiries via the district website "Contact Us" form. Staff Forbes continues to upload open sessions of recorded board meetings to the <u>RPBCWD YouTube channel</u>. Staff Mahon continues to meet monthly with the 2 new RPBCWD stewards in this year's Minnesota Water Stewards program through Freshwater Society. Staff Mahon hosted a table at the Minnetonka Farmers Market on June 11th and June 25th. She will have a table at the market approximately every other week throughout the season, which goes through the end of September. Staff Mahon is drafting a webpage with information and resources on climate change impacts on water quality. The shoreland health web map developed by Staff Portoghese from data and information developed by Staff Hartmann and Staff 	Adopt-a-drain partners: Cities of Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Bloomington, and Eden Prairie; Hamline University; Nine Mile Creek Watershed District; MPCA; Bolton & Menk Freshwater Society City of Chanhassen City of Minnetonka
		Maxwell has been shared with lake associations. Staff Forbes developed a new webpage, <u>rpbcwd.org/shoreland-health</u> , to provide background information and to serve as a launching point for the web map.	
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).						ner cities to garner ned properties.	City of Eden Prairie City of Shorewood City of Bloomington City of Minnetonka City of Chanhassen
Lake Vegetation Management		hav Gra of t lack	e occurred. S nts for treatn	·			DNR AIS Control Susan. Below is a list	City of Eden Prairie City of Chanhassen University of Minnesota
	Implement herbicide treatment as needed.	LAKE	species	name	Size of treatment	Treatment timing	Point Intercept	MN DNR
	Secure DNR permits and contracts with	Duck	Eurasian Watermilfoil	Procellacor	6.85 acres	26-Jun	Surveys for 2024	
	herbicide applicators. Schedule regularly scheduled point intercept surveys. Work with Three Rivers Park District for Hyland Lake.	Lotus	Eurasian Watermilfoil	Fluridone	245 acres	29-Apr Bump dose: 22-May	will tentatively include Riley,	
		Mitchell	Curlyleaf Pondweed	Flumioxazin	13.9 acres	1-May	Staring, Lotus, Susan, PCRA, and	
		Red Rock	Curlyleaf Pondweed	Flumioxazin	8.8 acres	1-May	Idlewild. Eden	
		Riley	Curlyleaf Pondweed	Diquat	16.1 acres	1-May	Prairie is planning to conduct PI	
		Staring	Curlyleaf Pondweed	Flumioxazin	8.8 acres	1-May	surveys on	
		Susan	Curlyleaf Pondweed	None	None	No treatment	Mitchell, Red Rock, and Round.	
		Flur	idone, the sy	stemic he	erbicide t	hat was ap	plied to Lotus Lake,	
		may	y take up to 3	0 days be	efore its a	affects are o	observable and up to	
			•		cur if ne	eded to kee	ep concentrations	
			ere they need		racidan	to adiacant		
							to invasive aquatic pplication of	
						•	he treatments were	
							tions; anyone can	
		sign	up at <u>rpbcw</u>	d.org/nev	<u>wsletter</u> .	Informatio	n about treatments	
		is u	pdated as it b	ecomes a	available	on <u>rpbcwd</u>	.org/AIScontrol.	

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	 Review and monitor progress onUniversity 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. 	University of MN has finished the majority of their field work for 2024. Their reports will be uploaded to the RPBCWD website.	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 finishing the last chapter of the EHAP and will bring to the Board of Managers at a future meeting. Administrator Jeffery is working with Thrive Consultancy to develop new manager orientation materials and team building workshops to be held with the managers in August and/or September. This will lead to the development of Mission, Vision, and Values statements. The 2025 budget is being developed with the knowledge that work will need to begin on the next plan iteration in earnest in 2025. 	

Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)	Administer WCA within the Cities of Shorewood and Deephaven. Represent the District on Technical Evaluation Panel throughout the District.	 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. Staff Dickhausen attended the Chanhassen TEP monthly meeting (moved to June 4) in which they discussed updates surrounding the Lake Lucy Lane violation work progress. The probable violation occurring between Lake Lucy Lane and Lake Lucy Road (see below) was also discussed. They also visited a site near Hemlock way in Chanhassen to review a boundary/type delineation application. It was determined that the wetlands in question were incidental and the City would treat as such when reviewing any future WCA applications. The contractor conducting the delineation will be conducting further assessments, including MnRAMs of wetlands downstream of the site for when they bring forth project plans and apply for District permits. 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 probably violation consists of an 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 propable violation, to which they received an email back form 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 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 discuss	City of Shorewood City of Deephaven City of Eden Prairie MCWD BWSR MN DNR A COE
--------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

		 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. 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. 	
Wetland Management	Assess known existing wetlands, identify previously unknown wetlands, identify wetlands for potential restoration/ rehabilitation and wetlands requiring additional protection.	Staff Dickhausen is done with this season's wetland assessments. He carried out QA/QC assessments in the southeast part of Eden Prairie and Bloomington. He will continue QA/QC work next season, as well as update vegetation assessments with FQA in parts of Chanhassen where these types of assessments were not previously conducted. Administrator Jeffery and Staff Dickhausen continue updating the MNRAM Access database. Numerous requests for MNRAM scores continue to be made by municipalities and private developers. Any changes in District management classifications for the wetlands (based on QA/QC work and updates due to applications and delineation work done within the District) will be reflected in the future Annual reports.	City of Chanhassen City of Eden Prairie Hennepin County 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 project has been tentatively scheduled for July 29th. 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 24th 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 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. 	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 andspring 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
Lower Riley Creek Stabilization	Coordinate agreement and acquire easements if needed for the restoration of Lower Riley Creek reach	The project is closed out.	City of Eden Prairie

	D3 and E. Implement Project. Continue Public Engagement for project and develop signage for restoration.	CRAS scores significantly improved from pre to post restoration signaling the restoration is successful (Previous Tier 1 Score = 26; Post Tier 1 Score = 14).	Lower MN River Watershed District
Rice Marsh Lake Alum Treatment	Continue monitoring of Lake. Prepare for second dose.	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 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 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. 	
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. 	 Minger Construction has retained the services of a Landbridge Ecological as a subcontractor to complete the requisite maintenance. Staff Forbes and Staff Portoghese are developing interpretive signage for the St Hubert BMPs. 	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 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. 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.	City of Chanhassen
course on June 17.	opment	d the Minnesota Wetland Professional Certification Programs' Floristic Quined District's Summer Tour.	ality Assessment

Staff attended and were certified in the American Redcross for CPR/AED/First Aid.