

RPBCWD Staff Report – September 2024

Administration	Description	Update	Partners
Annual Report & Communication	Compile, finalize and submit an annual report to agencies.	No change	
DEI	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	Staff Mahon is collaborating with other watershed districts in the Watershed Equity Alliance to gather materials and draft an RFP to begin creating a district DEI Plan.	
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. 16. Minutes will be provided as part of the board packet; the guest speaker’s presentation on bird ecology is available on YouTube. The next regular meeting of the CAC will be Oct. 21; guest speaker will be Administrator Jeffery. CAC members have been invited to tour the Spring Road property along with the managers on Oct. 22.	
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.	
District-Wide	Description	Update	Partners
Regulatory Program	Review regulatory program to maximize efficiency. Engage Technical Advisory Committee and Citizen Advisory Committee on possible rule change. Implement a regulatory program.	Administrator Jeffery, Staff Nicklay, Engineer Sobiech, and Counsel Welch met to discuss near term updates to the regulatory program. Engineer Sobiech and Administrator Jeffery will meet to draft proposed changes to bring to the board for consideration prior to convening the TAC for further vetting.	City of Chanhassen City of Eden Prairie University of Minnesota MN DNR Carver County

<p>Cost-Share</p>	<p>Schedule and coordinate site visits. Review applications and recommend implementation. Evaluate program.</p>	<p>The Stewardship Grant program currently has 13 active projects. 39 site visits have been or are scheduled to be completed since requests opened March 1st. Grant applications remain closed to new applicants, however staff have begun opening applications to residents who put their names on a waitlist to apply after applications closed on June 6th. Staff Forbes and Staff Mahon are evaluating the grant program and drafting proposed changes for 2025. RPBCWD offered registration reimbursement for the 2024 Salt Symposium to all public works departments of our partner cities. Two cities (Shorewood and Eden Prairie) participated in the offer.</p>	<p>Carver Soil & Water Conservation District</p>
<p>Data Collection</p>	<p>Continue Data Collection at permanent sites. Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program. Identify monitoring sites to assess future project sites. Water Level Sensors. Lake and Stream Monitoring.</p>	<p>Metropolitan Council (METC) - Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program (WOMP): Regular biweekly and rain event samples were collected this month. Staff have fully taken over regular water quality sampling at the Riley Creek location. Staff are working with the City of Eden Prairie with setting up a purchasing agreement and placing the correct equipment into the unit for continuous monitoring now that METC has turned over the station. The Valley View 10-4 auto sampling station which had power issues is now fully operational. Regular lake and stream sampling has been occurring biweekly since the end of May. Zooplankton and Phytoplankton sampling is occurring once a month on Susan, Riley, Rice Marsh, Lotus, and Staring. Additional water sampling parameters for 2024 are total alum on lakes that received alum and TSS on Rice Marsh Lake. These extra parameters will help assess alum and sediment movement in the water column. Lake level sensors are checked monthly during the summer. They record water level every 30 minutes and assist with modeling and tracking over time. Lotus Lake alum treatment is set for the first week in October. The lake association and email list on the district website were notified. Staff will monitor nutrients and vertical profiles throughout the treatment. Staff will also collect additional water samples for a grad student in the Finlay Lab at the U of MN who is looking at nitrogen cycling.</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>District Hydrology & Hydraulics Model</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>No updates at this time.</p>	<p>City of Bloomington City of Minnetonka City of Eden Prairie City of Deephaven City of Shorewood</p>
<p>Education & Outreach</p>	<p>Implement Education & Outreach Plan, review at year end. Manage partnership activities with other organizations. Coordinate Public Engagement with District projects.</p>	<p>Staff continue to update the district website as needed. Evaluation is underway to determine organization and content needs. 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 RPBCWD YouTube channel. Staff Mahon continues to meet monthly with the 2 new RPBCWD stewards in this year’s Minnesota Water Stewards program through Freshwater Society. Administrator Jeffery and Seth Ristow, CCSWCD have been working with one of the stewards on the design of a biofiltration basin on the campus of a local church in Eden Prairie. Staff Mahon hosted a table at the Minnetonka Farmers Market on September 17th. Staff Mahon and Staff Maxwell led an activity at the annual Metro Children’s Water Festival in Saint Paul on September 25th. Approximately 300 children engaged with the AIS Junior Inspector activity. RPBCWD partnered with NMCWD and the MPCA to host a Smart Salting for Property Management training on September 10th for 13 attendees. The shoreland health web map developed by Staff Portuguese from data and information developed by Staff Hartmann and Staff Maxwell has been shared with lake associations. Staff Forbes developed a new webpage, rpbcd.org/shoreland-health, to provide background information and to serve as a launching point for the web map. This data will be updated shortly to include Round Lake and work out some kinks to make it easier for updating in the future.</p>	<p>Adopt-a-drain partners: Cities of Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Bloomington, and Eden Prairie; Hamline University; Nine Mile Creek Watershed District; MPCA; Bolton & Menk Freshwater Society City of Chanhassen City of Minnetonka</p>

		<p>Staff Maxwell will present at the Mitchell Lake Association’s annual meeting on Oct. 10.</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery and Lori Haak, Eden Prairie, have been meeting quarterly with the Mitchell Lake Association. Staff Forbes and Staff Maxwell represented the RPBCWD at the September 10th meeting.</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery will present at the Lotus Lake Conservation Alliance annual meeting on Oct. 10.</p> <p>Staff Forbes and Lori Haak (City of EP) co-hosted a buckthorn workshop on Sept. 12 at Staring Lake Park. 21 people attended.</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>Barr is preparing quote solicitations for well advancement.</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery continues working with partner cities to garner agreements to advance wells on municipal owned properties.</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery and Engineer Sobiech will be meeting with the Public Works Directors, et al for Chanhassen, Eden Prairie, and Minnetonka on 9/27 to discuss objectives and implications of the proposed monitoring program.</p> <p>The communities of Bloomington, Chanhassen, Eden Prairie, Edina, Hopkins, Minnetonka, Richfield, and Saint Louis Park intend to develop a regional, multi-community wellhead protection plan for our shared groundwater resources. The goal of the plan is to work collaboratively to prevent human caused contamination from entering water supply wells.</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’s Master of Science student Maija Weaver completed her thesis and presented it. The thesis is titled “A Multi-Value Macrophyte Based Assessment for Lakes in the Twin Cities Metro, Minnesota.” Her study developed a comprehensive multi-value aquatic macrophyte based assessment for lakes in the Twin Cities Metro area, integrating metrics of invasive species, mean rake density, and species dominance. Staff are working with Maija to get her r code and excel formulas to process all lakes within the watershed.</p> <p>Point Intercept Surveys for 2024 will include Riley, Staring, Lotus, Susan, PCRA, and Idlewild. Eden Prairie is planning to conduct PI surveys on Mitchell, Red Rock, and Round.</p>	<p>City of Eden Prairie</p> <p>City of Chanhassen</p> <p>University of Minnesota</p> <p>MN DNR</p>

		Staff Hartmann and Maxwell have been working on compiling all historical Point Intercept data into one place so it can be easily analyzed and compared over time. Staff Portoghese has been mapping this data and creating content that will eventually be available on the website.	
Opportunity Projects	Assess potential projects as they are presented to the District	Administrator Jeffery and Engineer Sobiech, as presented to the Board of Managers at the Budget Workshops, is recommending that opportunity projects be eliminated. Given that any projects originating from this fund would still need to be included as a plan amendment, it is more efficient to simply put these funds into reserve and use them as opportunities arise that the managers feel are a prudent and efficient expenditure of funds.	All local units of government and all special units of government.
Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS)	Continue working with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS).	Draft Mississippi River – Lake Pepin Tributaries Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy Report Update 2024 was released for comment. Comments are due October 3, 2024. Administrator Jeffery, Engineer Sobiech, and Counsel Welch are all reviewing the document and will provide comments as appropriate.	MPCA BWSR Others
Repair & Maintenance Fund	Develop and formalize grant program. Maintenance of RPBCWD BMPs	One common theme heard from all departments of all municipalities is that long-term maintenance of practices installed on city land, especially emerging practices or those requiring special knowledge to maintain creates hesitance in wanting to implement. It may be in the interest of the RPBCWD and the resources we are charged with managing to develop a model to mitigate these concerns.	Cities of Bloomington, Chanhassen, Chaska, Deephaven, Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Shorewood;
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 of progress in the research. Identify next management steps.	No new updates.	Stormwater ponds partners: Cities of Bloomington, Chanhassen, Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Shorewood; U of MN

<p>Watershed Plan</p>	<p>Review and identify needs for amendments.</p>	<p>Administrator Jeffery, Engineer Sobiech, Staff Forbes, and Fred Rozumalski (Barr) have finished the last chapter of the EHAP and shared with the Board of Managers. Beginning with the October meeting, Staff will lead the managers through discussions on the sections of the EHAP report to gather input and gain a board consensus of the desired direction of the plan.</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery and Thrive Consultancy will present a workshop on Manager/Staff roles, responsibilities and relationships, Robert’s Rules of Order as it relates to the managers’ desired level of formality at meetings, as well as other items such as open meeting laws, MGDPA, etc. to the managers on October 17th at 4PM. This will lead into the development of Mission, Vision, and Values statements.</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery is preparing an RFP for planning services that will be brought to the Board of Managers for consideration. Administrator Jeffery will work with Staff Forbes and Staff Mahon to determine what portion of the proposed scope of service could be performed in-house. This could potentially result in a significantly decreased budget for this item in 2025 and 2026.</p> <p>Several Task Orders have been prepared by Barr based upon the direction provided by the Board of Managers when reviewing proposed lake management plans. These task orders will also address performing subwatershed assessments that will include all of the elements of the UAA plus additional consideration given to the ecology of the watershed area. The intent is to discuss the proposed scope of work for each TO and get direction from the board with the TOs being brought back to the Board at their October meeting for approval.</p>	
<p>Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)</p>	<p>Administer WCA within the Cities of Shorewood and Deephaven. Represent the District on Technical Evaluation Panel throughout the District.</p>	<p>The City of Chanhassen approved a boundary/type WCA application on September 3, and a subsequent no loss WCA application for the same site off Indian Hills Rd in Chanhassen on September 23. The TEP had previously concluded the delineation review and agreed on boundaries and that activities to be done in the wetland would be temporary and fit the no-loss requirements</p> <p>.Second violation identified off Lake Lucy Lane info to-date: The City of Chanhassen/TEP and District noticed a second possible wetland violation/ditching of a wetland in the same area as the above Lake Lucy Lane violation at the time they started investigating and pursuing regulatory action for said violation in 2022. Work done on this probable</p>	<p>City of Shorewood City of Deephaven City of Chanhassen City of Eden Prairie MCWD BWSR MN DNR</p>

		<p>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 probable violation, to which they received an email back from the property owner (October 20, 2022) informing the City that the letter did not apply to them. The City continued to receive complaints about work being done on the property. On September 8, 2023, City and Carver County SWCD staff visited the property and left info with contact info (there was no one home). A subsequent email was sent to the property owner on September 13, 2023 requesting them to contact the city to discuss the work being done on their property. No response was received. The TEP reviewed the site during several meetings over the course of this time, reviewing aerial photos of the site and discussing ways to get in contact with the property owner and next steps when the owner did not respond. On May 15, 2024 the City sent another letter summarizing what had happened during the investigation of this probable violation. The certified letter stated the landowner had until May 31, 2024 to respond or the DNR would be issuing a cease-and-desist order. There was an issue with sending the letter and the City had to resend, it with updated respond deadlines, but it was signed for and received. During the June 4, 2024 the TEP discussed next actions seeing that there was no response to the letter and a cease-and-desist would need to be issued. The landowner was located at another property outside of the District. A MnDNR officer served the landowner with a cease and desist order on July 23, 2024. The officer let the City know that the landowner expressed a strong desire Not to speak with the City staff. The City Water Resource Coordinator has since been in contact with the landowner and was able to visit the site with them to review the extent of the work/violation. Upon meeting with them, the landowner assured the City that they only meant to control excess water and invasive vegetation with the work. They are now seemingly ready to work with the City to resolve this violation and restore the wetland as quickly as possible. The City, TEP and District will be discussing how to move forward with addressing this violation and resolving it a quickly and smoothly as possible.</p>	A COE
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Wetland Management	Assess known existing wetlands, identify previously unknown wetlands, identify wetlands for potential restoration/rehabilitation and wetlands requiring additional protection.	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. Staff Dickhausen conducted delineation and survey/tree inventory work around the proposed Bluff Creek restoration site. This work started at the end of May and continued into/finished in June. Data and GIS shapefiles collected from this work has been shared with Barr to assist with project planning. A draft cooperative agreement between the City of Chanhassen and RPBCWD was developed by Smith Partners and shared with Chanhassen. They are currently reviewing the document and comments are expected shortly.	
Wetland Restoration at Pioneer Tr and MN TH 101	Remove 3 properties from flood zone, restore a minimum 7 acres and as many as 16 acres of wetlands, connect public with resources, reduction of volume, rate, pollution loads to Bluff Creek.	The contractor sprayed the reed canary grass on April 24 th and will address invasive and noxious weeds again in the fall. The contractor will make monthly visits to the site throughout the growing season. The weir was adjusted to lower the elevation four inches to allow for more effective vegetation management and establishment. Administrator Jeffery, Staff Dickhausen, and design staff from Barr met and walked	City of Chanhassen MN DNR Carver County

		<p>the site. There is some presence of reed canary grass and some cattail encroachment but overall, the restoration is coming along very well. There is good species diversity and richness on the site and several distinct communities are becoming established.</p> <p>Staff Dickhausen conducted a Floristic Quality Assessment (FQA) of the wetland communities July 5. Such assessments will be conducted on the restoration site annually to assess how the plant communities change.</p>	
Riley Creek Watershed	Description	Update	Partners
Lake Riley Alum Treatment	Continue monitoring of Lake.	Staff submitted all required data to the MPCA for delisting. The Lake now meets all the nutrient criteria following all the integrated lake management activities/projects that have occurred.	
Lake Susan Park Pond	Complete final site stabilization and spring start up. Finalize and implement E & O for project. Monitor project.	The structure and pump have been installed. The suction assembly was installed on 8/23. A punch list was provided to Peterson for completion on 8/30.	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. The unit was switched to only sampling M & F to fully drain the unit between operation in hopes to increase removal efficiencies.	City of Chanhassen
Lake Susan Preserve Wetland Loading	Sediment release rates and water chemistry study to determine loading rates and potential treatment from wetland area.	Sediment cores were collected in the spring of 2024 and sent to UW Stout for analysis which have been received. The cattail areas of the pond have little phosphorus release while the open water areas have very high phosphorus values. Barr has prepared a draft technical memorandum that is currently being reviewed by Administrator Jeffery.	
Lower Riley Creek Stabilization	Coordinate agreement and acquire easements if needed for the restoration of Lower Riley Creek reach D3 and E. Implement Project. Continue Public Engagement for project and develop signage for restoration.	The project is closed out. CRAS scores significantly improved from pre to post restoration signaling the restoration is successful (Previous Tier 1 Score = 26; Post Tier 1 Score = 14).	City of Eden Prairie Lower MN River Watershed District
Rice Marsh Lake Alum Treatment	Continue monitoring of Lake. Prepare for second dose.	Depending upon budgeting considerations, 2025 is the projected 2 nd dose. This dosage will be combined with Round Lake treatment (requested	City of Eden

		and paid for by the City of Eden Prairie) to realize cost savings. A plan amendment may be needed.	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. Administrator Jeffery, Staff Dickhausen, and staff from Barr walked the site to review vegetation establishment. Some minor punch list items to address but both the pollinator lawn and prairie restoration area are doing well.	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 reviewed by Chanhassen and provided to Administrator Jeffery. Administrator Jeffery, Engineer Sobiech, and Counsel Welch will be meeting to review proposed edits. Chanhassen intends to bring to their Council on 9/23 for approval. The document will be brought to the BOM at their 10/2 meeting for the same. 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 two agreements have been agreed to and are awaiting signatures and execution. All property owners have been engaged and have provided at least tacit approval. Agreements are being drafted for all owners for their consideration. Information about the project may be found on the project webpage .	City of Chanhassen
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 Landbridge Ecological as a subcontractor to replant the prairie area and place the two missing trees. Site preparation began on 9/5 and seeding will occur in the spring of 2025. Minger Construction has agreed to pay the full cost of site preparation and planting. Under this proposed arrangement, the RPBCWD would enter into an agreement with Landbridge for three years of prairie establishment and maintenance. This agreement is on tonight's agenda for board approval. Staff Forbes and Staff Portoghese are developing interpretive signage for the St Hubert BMPs. St Hubert's has not yet been invoiced for their portion of the project. Administrator Jeffery intends to do so upon completion of the planting in the spring of 2025.	CCSWCD Metropolitan Council City of Chanhassen

Purgatory Creek Watershed	Description	Update	Partners
PCRA Berm		No changes. At the last WBIF convene meeting, it was discussed including this in the next cycle of WBIF funding. The RPBCWD will need to amend the 10-year plan to include this project and develop a cooperative agreement with the City of Eden Prairie.	City of Eden Prairie MN DNR
Lotus Lake Internal Load Control	Continue monitoring the Lake. Plan second alum application.	Bids were solicited and only one firm submitted a bid for the project. This will be brought to the Board for approval at the 9/11 meeting of the BOM. The treatment is set to begin on Oct 1.	
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 has updated their scope to include additional engagement and enhanced project elements. This is before the board at tonight's 9/11 board meeting. Administrator Jeffery and Staff Forbes met with Barr Engineering Staff on July 23 for a brainstorming session about North Lotus Lake water quality improvements.	City of Chanhassen

Professional Development

Staff Maxwell and Liz Forbes worked with the EP News to release an article regarding the importance of lakeshores and aquatic vegetation. The link is attached: <https://www.eplocalnews.org/2024/08/30/lakeshore-homeowners-play-key-role-in-lake-health/>
 Staff Mahon attended the 3-day Summer Institute for Climate Change Education hosted by Climate Generation.
 Administrator Jeffery completed a levy and taxation course through the League of MN Cities in August.
 Administrator Jeffery and Fred Rozumalski will be presenting at the MN Water Resources Conference on the EHAP.