

RPBCWD Staff Report – October 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 will be meeting with the 4M account manager on November 9, 2022 to discuss various fixed rate investment options. The results of this meeting will be brought to the Audit and Finance Committee in December for discussion and recommendation to the board.</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 November.</p> <p>Hennepin County has provided the final levy certification form. This will be submitted after the final budget and levy is adopted in December.</p>	
Administration	<p>Administrator activities</p>	<p>Administrator Jeffery and the Personnel Committee’s discussion on compensation and inflationary influences continued in October. NorthRisk Partners gave a presentation of 2023 benefits and increases. Health insurance rates will increase 7.59% in 2023 or \$4,899 in total. Other programs were evaluated including those with other insurance companies. These increases were consistent with what was observed in the comparables.</p> <p>Delegates have been submitted to MAWD for 2022 Annual Meeting. Manager Crafton and President Ziegler will be the delegates and Manager Duevel is the alternate. The MAWD packet is anticipated to arrive the first week of November.</p> <p>The Performance Review and Assessment Program - Organizational Report is complete and will be presented at the November 2, 2022 meeting. RPBCWD was compliant with 20 out of 20 basic performance standards and is meeting 10 of the 12 High Performance Standards. The High Performance Standards not met relate to strategic planning efforts which both BWSR and staff are recommending the RPBCWD undertake with utilization of the PRAP grant.</p>	
Annual Report & Communication	<p>Compile, finalize and submit an annual report to agencies.</p>	<p>No change</p>	

DEI	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	Staff Mahon attended the October DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Access) Workgroup meeting for watershed districts, as the group discussed plans for a workshop to be held at the MAWD Conference.	
Human Resources	General Human Resources	Personnel Committee met October 14 th . Ken Carlson of NorthRisk Partners presented on the 2023 benefits and pricing. The Personnel Committee and Administrator Jeffery also discussed with NorthRisk about human resources services they offer. Many are included with the existing services. There are additional on-demand HR options for a base monthly fee of \$29 to \$49. NorthRisk Partners will be providing additional materials to Administrator Jeffery regarding these HR services.	
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 Oct 17. The next regular meeting of the CAC will be on Nov 21, when the group will continue discussion about bylaw revisions. Administrator Jeffery is drafting a memorandum to the TAC detailing results of the TAC meeting and follow up discussions with legal and engineering.	
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. A room has been secured for each manager and the four CAC members who will be attending. MAWD Delegate form was sent in. Managers Crafton and Ziegler will be the delegates for RPBCWD and Manager Duevel the alternate. MAWD indicated that the MAWD packet would be sent early November. This will be distributed to the managers as soon as it arrives.	
District-Wide	Description	Update	Partners
Regulatory Program	Review regulatory program to maximize efficiency.	Administrator Jeffery and Engineer Sobiech continue working with the City of Chanhassen to develop a regional stormwater management plan for northern and western Lotus Lake watershed areas.	

	<p>Engage Technical Advisory Committee and Citizen Advisory Committee on possible rule changes. Implement a regulatory program.</p>	<p>GreenCorps Member Portoghese and Staff Dickhausen are collecting soils data and infiltration data for various sites considered in the Lotus Lake Watershed Water Quality Project</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery and Engineer Sobiech continue 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.</p> <p>Staff Nicklay will begin making final inspections and preparations for the end of the construction season. This will include such items as temporary seeding of areas to remain disturbed over the winter months, removal of inlet protection to prevent icing up and flooding of roads, securing stockpile areas, touching up construction entrances, and the like.</p>	
<p>Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)</p>	<p>Review AIS monitoring program. Develop and implement Rapid Response Plan as appropriate. Coordinate with LGUs and keep stakeholders aware of AIS management activities. Manage and maintain the aeration system on Rice Marsh Lake. Riley Chain of Lakes Carp Management. Purgatory Chain of Lakes Carp Management. Review AIS inspection program. Keep abreast of technology and research in AIS. Zebra mussel adult and veliger monitoring.</p>	<p>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 have been completed and yielded low adult carp numbers this year except for LSPP Lake Susan Park Pond (Purgatory Creek Recreational Area Wetland, Lucy and Staring were the other areas sampled). 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 was not electrofished this year due to low water levels and difficulty accessing. Small mesh trap netting occurred on Lake Ann, Staring, Upper Rec Area, Lower Rec Area and Lotus. No young of the year carp were captured except for LPCRA meaning little/no recruitment occurred. Only 5-10 yoy were captured on LPCRA. Zebra mussel veliger sampling results were submitted and no veligers were found except for Lake Riley as expected. eDNA testing results were submitted 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 returned their monitoring plates. 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 occurred on Lotus this</p>	<p>City of Chanhassen City of Eden Prairie University of Minnesota MN DNR Carver County</p>

		<p>past month.</p> <p>Staff applied for an aeration permit for Rice Marsh Lake this month. Notification of its operation was posted in the Chanhassen Villager and on the district website.</p>	
Cost-Share	<p>Schedule and coordinate site visits.</p> <p>Review applications and recommend implementation.</p> <p>Evaluate program.</p>	<p>The 2022 Watershed Stewardship Grant (WSG) program currently has a total of 10 active grant projects. Two projects were completed & inspected since the last staff report. Three municipal projects are in the pre-application stage. Site visit scheduling closes October 31. Staff Forbes is evaluating WSG policy.</p>	<p>Carver County 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>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. Data analysis will begin shortly.</p> <p>Zooplankton and Phytoplankton were collected monthly on Riley, Lotus, Susan, Staring, and Rice Marsh in 2022. Phytoplankton samples will be submitted to Barr to be processed while staff will process the zooplankton samples.</p> <p>Staff will pull the three auto sampling stations that were deployed 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. Staff will be pulling the lake level sensors this month Staring Lake, Red Rock, Mitchell, and Hyland sensors had to be redeployed and resurveyed due to the low water levels as the sensors were out of the water.</p> <p>Staff visited all post and pre stream restoration sites and took photos and gopro videos.</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>	<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>Three Rivers Park District</p>

District Hydrology & Hydraulics Model	<p>Coordinate maintenance of Hydrology and Hydraulics Model.</p> <p>Coordinate model update with LGUs if additional information is collected.</p> <p>Partner and implement with the City of Bloomington on Flood Evaluation and Water Quality Feasibility.</p>	<p>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 City of Minnetonka City of Eden Prairie City of Deephaven 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>A Rain Garden and Shoreline Buffer Workshop hosted in collaboration with the city of Minnetonka and NMCWD has been rescheduled for November 29th.</p> <p>RPBCWD and NMCWD hosted a Smart Salting for Property Management training with the MPCA on October 4th. Another training, Smart Salting for Parking Lots and Sidewalks, is scheduled for November 15th.</p> <p>The new RPBCWD website was released October 1. The old website is archived.</p> <p>A Fall 2022 Projects Tour was held Oct. 11 to visit six project sites in various stages. All managers and 6 CAC members attended.</p> <p>On October 7th, staff dug out the nearly 100 tree and shrub saplings growing in the office gravel beds and sent them home with 35 residents from across the district to plant in their yards.</p> <p>Staff Mahon attended the Minnetonka High School Volunteer Fair on October 25 to promote opportunities for youth to engage in watershed work. The District’s Green Corps member has begun to conduct infiltration testing using a Modified Philip Dunne which will be a large part of the member project. Staff Dickhausen, the site supervisor, the site supervisor has continued to meet regularly with Member Portoghese to check in and get the project going.</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</p> <p>Freshwater Society City of Chanhassen 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</p>	<p>No updates.</p>	<p>Metropolitan Council City of Eden Prairie City of Shorewood City of Bloomington</p>

	(look at Woodbury model).		City of Minnetonka City of Chanhassen
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>University of Minnesota Report (Ray Newman): Data on biomass and point-intercept sampling from August has been recorded and entered. Preliminary comparison and analysis has begun. Eurasian watermilfoil levels were reported last month, and the number of vegetated points with occurrence decreased in Staring by 21.7% (treated with fluridone) and in Riley by 11.4% (spot treated). Overall plant density and coverage decreased from June to August in Staring and Susan, but went up slightly in Riley, with ~98% of points being vegetated. Native vegetation made up 97% of the Riley biomass in June and 95% in August. In Staring, native vegetation made up 96% of total biomass in June, and 99.9% in August. Total plant biomass in Riley increased from June to August, while in Susan and Staring total biomass decreased. In-depth data summaries and analyses are being developed.</p> <p>Curlyleaf pondweed turion samples will be collected on Susan, Staring, and Riley in the next few weeks.</p> <p>District staff conducted a curly leaf pondweed turion survey on Red Rock Lake this month which is the first time a survey of this kind has occurred on the lake. Turions are the primary reproductive structure of curly leaf pondweed and a turion survey can assess herbicide treatment effectiveness and identify hot zones.</p>	<p>City of Eden Prairie</p> <p>City of Chanhassen</p> <p>University of Minnesota</p> <p>MN DNR</p>
Opportunity Projects	Assess potential projects as they are presented to the District	<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. There are no additional updates at this time.</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)	Continue working with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on the	No changes.	MPCA

	Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS).		
Repair & Maintenance Fund	Develop and formalize grant program. Maintenance of RPBCWD BMPs	Administrator Jeffery met with Stantec regarding the Purgatory Rec Area Berm. Stantec met with ACOE to determine if additional permitting would be necessary or if work could take place under the existing permit.	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.	Administrator Jeffery has asked Dr. Gulliver and his PhD candidate to present on the findings of the storm water pond study at the December 7, 2022 work session.	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. Staff Dickhausen attended several TEP meetings hosted by the City of Chanhassen through the month of October. Two meetings, held on October 6 and 24, were held to address work that had been done in violation of WCA rules/procedures on a single site. The first of these two meetings was a follow up to a site-visit which occurred on October 4; the TEP discussed details of the extent of violation actions as well as wetland boundaries/impacts. The second meeting was used to compile the TEP's findings and questions, as well as to discuss the City's (as acting WCA LGU) actions moving forward in issuing a restoration order. A TEP site visit was held on October 10 to review wetland boundaries on different site in Chanhassen. The TEP found several areas in which wetland area needed to be expanded and/or added to the delineation, but ultimately suggested acceptance of the boundaries with their added discovery of areas. On October 31, Chanhassen held a pre-application via a virtual meeting with a large property owner and the TEP to discuss a sequencing application; the property owner and their contractors provided draft construction plans, of which the TEP had concerns of their potential impacts to	City of Shorewood City of Deephaven City of Chanhassen City of Eden Prairie MCWD BWSR MN DNR ACOE

		the wetlands and water course on-site, as well as the potential downstream effects of the project. No invitations to attend TEP meetings or site visits pertaining to WCA applications within Bloomington, Chaska, Eden Prairie, or Minnetonka were received in August.	
Wetland Management	Assess known existing wetlands, identify previously unknown wetlands, identify wetlands for potential restoration/rehabilitation and wetlands requiring additional protection.	Staff Dickhausen has wrapped up this season’s wetland assessments in Minnetonka/Deephaven/Shorewood area of the district. The majority of wetlands within this area were assessed. Administrator Jeffery and Staff Dickhausen continue updating the MNRAM Access database. Numerous requests for MNRAM scores have been made by municipalities and private developers.	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 has begun to inform adjustments to draft materials. RPBCWD will host content for the “Low Salt, No Salt Minnesota” initiative on its 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.	Annual maintenance of vegetation establish continues.	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. With the revised budget, this project is programmed to go out for bids at the end of 2023 for 2024 construction.	
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 2023/2024 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. It will be winterized this month. Staff is planning of taking sediment cores in the wetland south of Lake Susan within the Lake Susan Park Preserve. These sediment cores will be assessed to determine if the wetland is a significant loader to Lake Susan and if there is opportunity for an alum treatment to decrease the nutrient loading to Lake Susan. It was originally scheduled for this fall but, due to the low water levels, has been postponed until the water levels increase. It is tentatively scheduled for next spring contingent upon the snow pack this winter.	City of Chanhassen
Lower Riley Creek Stabilization	Coordinate agreement and acquire easements if needed for the restoration of Lower Riley Creek reach	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

	D3 and E. Implement Project. Continue Public Engagement for project and develop signage for restoration.		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. Water quality continues to be excellent following the first dose of alum.	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 valve was opened to allow water to flow through the unit this month. Notice of substantial completion was issued. A maintenance schedule is to be provided to the district from the contractor. The GreenCorps member (Alaina Portoghese) 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. Administrator Jeffery and Engineer Sobiech will be meeting with staff from the City of Chanhassen to discuss the 60% plans as well as location and funding of the decant facility being proposed.	City of Chanhassen
Middle Riley Creek	Work with Bearpath HOA/Golf Course to develop scope of work (in addition to stabilizing the creek, can we mitigate climate change and provide for an improved recreational experience). Draft feasibility report. Develop cooperative agreement with Bearpath.	Administrator Jeffery has been in communication with the attorney for Bear Path Golf and Country Club to get the easements recorded on the properties.	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.	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	CCSWCD Metropolitan Council City of Chanhassen

	Establish native vegetation and monitor soil development, water quality/quantity benefits, and ecological changes.	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	
Purgatory Creek Watershed	Description	Update	Partners
PCRA Berm		A meeting was held with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to determine if additional permitting was needed to repair the berm or if the repairs could occur under the existing permit. The ACOE requested additional information regarding a proposed weir plate to be used for carp harvesting. They wanted to know under what flow conditions and for what duration it would be removed.	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 will begin looking at release rates and dosing recommendations.	
Silver Lake Restoration	Order project. Design Project. Work with the City of Chanhassen for design, cooperative agreement, and implementation.	Prairie Restoration has mobilized onto the site and has completed the majority of the planting. A sub is installing vertical PVC and clear rock to improve infiltration within the channel.	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. GreenCorps member Portoghese and Staff Dickhausen are collecting soils data and infiltration rates at various locations throughout the project area. These will be used to not only aid in the design of any stormwater BMPS, but will allow for an assessment of changes in soil health over time and per practice.	City of Chanhassen

Professional Development

Staff Forbes begins 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.

Staff assisted Joe Bischoff (BARR engineering) with a presentation given at MWRC about the successful Lake Riley management (with a focus on alum).

Staff Maxwell will be attending the NALMS Annual Conference in Minneapolis