

RPBCWD Staff Report – December 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>The Old National bank account was closed on December 29th and all funds transferred to the U.S. Bank account.</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery and Treasurer Crafton met 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 January for discussion and recommendation to the board.</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 met with representatives of Mitchell Lake and Eden Prairie to discuss upcoming management activities in and around Mitchell Lake as well as the possibility of a more comprehensive Lake Management Plan.</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery, Staff Maxwell, Staff Forbes, and Joe Bischoff met with representatives of the LLCA to discuss lake vegetation report and to take input from the LLCA to include into the plan. There was also discussion around activities being proposed within the overall watershed.</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery submit the final report for St Hubert Opportunity project to Met Council and requested distribution of grant funds.</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery is beginning the year end eLink reporting as required by the WBIF and CWLLA grants.</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery has been working on the PRAP Grant application and has been in contact with BWSR, as well as other agencies inquiring about how others have used third parties to improve inter-organizational relationships.</p>	
Annual Report & Communication	<p>Compile, finalize and submit an annual report to agencies.</p>	<p>No change</p>	
DEI	<p>Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion</p>	<p>No change.</p>	
Human Resources	<p>General Human Resources</p>	<p>Administrator Jeffery and Staff Bakkum met with staff from Nine Mile Creek Watershed District to discuss the envisioned responsibilities</p>	

		of a potential shared office assistant. Staff Bakkum followed up to finalize a job description. A cooperative agreement will be put in front of the board at the February regular meeting.	
Internal Policies	Work with Governance Manual and Personnel Committees to review bylaws and manuals as necessary.	All signed minutes and resolutions have been organized in easily accessible binders at the District Office as part of a board materials library. The governance committee met December 9 th and 16 th as they continue to receive feedback and propose changes to the governance manual. All proposed changes will be presented to the board at the January meeting for consideration and comment. The next meeting of the governance committee will be on January 6 th .	
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 Dec 12. The next regular meeting of the CAC will be on Jan 16. We are accepting new CAC member applications until Dec. 28.	
Local SWMP		No changes.	
MAWD	Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts	The MAWD Annual Conference and Trade Show was held November 30, 2022 – December 3, 2022.	
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.	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. 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 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. Staff Nicklay will be reducing the number of routine site inspections from two to one per month. This inspection schedule will continue	

		<p>until the spring thaw and commencement of the 2023 construction season.</p> <p>Staff Nicklay and Staff Forbes developed a handout, "Erosion and Sediment Control for Residential Building Lots."</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>Staff applied and received an aeration permit for Rice Marsh Lake this month. Notification of its operation was posted in the Chanhassen Villager and on the district website. Thin ice and access signage was placed, and the unit was started on 10/26/2022. A pressure valve was replaced.</p> <p>A final fisheries report will be submitted to the MN DNR per permit requirement.</p> <p>A traditional AIS control grant was submitted for lake vegetation management on Riley, Lotus, Mitchell, Red Rock, and Susan. Grant results will be known in January.</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 2022 Watershed Stewardship Grant (WSG) program currently has 9 active grant projects with an additional project in review. Evaluation is underway to recommend 2023 program changes.</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>WOMP stations: samples were collected 3 times this month for the Metropolitan Council. District expenses were submitted for this quarter for grant reimbursement.</p> <p>Regular bi-weekly lake and stream sampling is being processed and analyzed. Monthly winter collection of lake water quality will begin on the Riley Chain of Lakes when ice is safe (3-year rotation between Riley and Purgatory Lakes).</p> <p>Zooplankton and Phytoplankton were collected monthly on Riley, Lotus, Susan, Staring, and Rice Marsh in 2022. Phytoplankton samples will be submitted to Green Water Labs to be processed while staff will process the zooplankton samples.</p> <p>District Staff met with Lori Haak (EP) to discuss/align 2023 sampling plans. Staff will pull the three auto sampling stations that were deployed this year: Site LL_3 – West Lotus Lake North Tributary.</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>

		<p>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. Data is currently being analyzed.</p> <p>All lake level sensors have been pulled. Staring Lake, Red Rock, Mitchell, Round, Ann, and Hyland sensors were affected by the drought and were either resurveyed or ran dry at the end of the year. This data has been analyzed and will be submitted to the MN DNR. Sensors were sent in for yearly maintenance/check. One sensor was bad and will need to be replaced.</p> <p>Stream walks for lower Riley and lower Bluff Creeks were completed up to the first snowfall. This data will be used to update the Creek Restoration Action Strategy.</p>	
District Hydrology & Hydraulics Model	<p>Coordinate maintenance of Hydrology and Hydraulics Model.</p> <p>Coordinate model update with LGUs if additional information is collected.</p> <p>Partner and implement with the City of Bloomington on Flood Evaluation and Water Quality Feasibility.</p>	<p>Eden Prairie was provided a Google™ Map layer to review the results of the calibrated model. Eden Prairie will review and provide comments.</p>	<p>City of Bloomington</p> <p>City of Minnetonka</p> <p>City of Eden Prairie</p> <p>City of Deephaven</p> <p>City of Shorewood</p>

<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 Bakkum continues to receive inquiries via the district website “Contact Us” form. Staff Mahon is working with NMCWD and the City of Minnetonka to plan and host a Soil Health workshop series in 2023. Staff Forbes and Staff Mahon drafted the 2023 E&O Work Plan. Planning is underway for 2023 events. First up is a volunteer appreciation event to be held Jan 20. A lake association summit is scheduled for Feb 21. Staff Forbes designed and ordered two sets of RPBCWD-branded feather flags to use at indoor and outdoor events.</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>Groundwater Conservation</p>	<p>Work with other LGUs to monitor, assess, and identify gaps. Engage with the Technical Advisory Committee to identify potential projects. Develop a water conservation program (look at Woodbury model).</p>	<p>RPBCWD and Barr staff held a groundwater brainstorming session on December 8 to begin planning 2023 efforts.</p>	<p>Metropolitan Council City of Eden Prairie City of Shorewood City of Bloomington City of Minnetonka City of Chanhassen</p>
<p>Lake Vegetation Management</p>	<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. Implement herbicide treatment as needed. Secure DNR permits and contracts with herbicide applicators. Schedule regularly scheduled point</p>	<p>University of Minnesota Report (Ray Newman): Turion viability studies were completed earlier this month with the turions found in Susan and Riley. After 30 days in cold dark conditions, no turions sprouted, but after a week in the lit growth chamber, turions began to sprout for both Riley and Susan and sprouting was monitored for an additional month. Viability was calculated as percentage of total turions collected that sprouted in the lab (in dark or in environmental chamber). Riley’s total turion viability was ~50% and Susan’s was ~80%. Data from the field season of 2022 are being analyzed and compared to previous years for</p>	<p>City of Eden Prairie City of Chanhassen University of Minnesota MN DNR</p>

	<p>intercept surveys. Work with Three Rivers Park District for Hyland Lake.</p>	<p>inclusion in the 2022 annual plant progress report. The district is providing data collected in 2021 and additional water quality data.</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. 106 turions were found (114.22/m²) which will be tested for viability under dark/cold and then light/warm conditions.</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery, Staff Maxwell, Staff Forbes, and Joe Bischoff (Barr) met with representatives of the Lotus Lake Conservation Association on Dec 20 to discuss updates to the Lotus Lake Vegetation Management Plan.</p>	
Opportunity Projects	<p>Assess potential projects as they are presented to the District</p>	<p>Administrator Jeffery and Engineer Sobiech are awaiting information from the consulting engineer for Eden Prairie Public Schools to continue investigating the feasibility of a regional storm water treatment system.</p> <p>Administrator Jeffery, Engineer Sobiech, and Staff Forbes met with the owner of Hackamore Brewery on Dec. 8 to discuss potential partnering opportunities that incorporate water quality considerations in the new brewery's patio design.</p>	<p>City of Chanhassen St Hubert School Eden Prairie Public Schools 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	<p>Develop and formalize grant program. Maintenance of RPBCWD BMPs</p>	<p>Administrator Jeffery met with Stantec regarding the Purgatory Rec Area Berm. The ACOE has some questions about the duration and timing that the proposed weir structure might be opened to attract carp schooling for netting purposes.</p>	<p>City of Eden Prairie</p>
University of Minnesota	<p>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.</p>	<p>Administrator Jeffery has asked Dr. Gulliver and his PhD candidate to present the findings of the storm water pond study at the February 2022 work session.</p> <p>Staff Maxwell and Administrator Jeffery met with Limnotech about a submittal of a proposal to the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council. The study would be led by Limnotech, with potential district staff data collection in 2023, with the use of the districts historic stormwater pond data being used. The study proposes to</p>	<p>Stormwater ponds partners: Cities of Bloomington, Chanhassen, Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Shorewood; U of MN</p>

		develop defensible recommendations for the design, retrofit and management of constructed stormwater ponds and their catchments to optimize phosphorus retention.	
Watershed Plan	Review and identify needs for amendments.	District staff, met with ecologists and soil scientists from Barr, and Manager Crafton to brainstorm ideas about overall ecosystem health in the district. Barr will be preparing a scope that will be brought to the BOM for consideration later this spring.	
Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)	Administer WCA within the Cities of Shorewood and Deephaven. Represent the District on Technical Evaluation Panel throughout the District.	<p>A WCA boundary/type application was received from a Deephaven resident and their wetland professional representative on November 10. The District has reviewed the application and sent out a WCA Notice of Application to the city and members of the TEP on November 17. Due to weather/snow conditions, as well as the post growing season timing of the application and delineation, Staff Dickhausen and the professional representative of the applicant decided/agreed that they would resubmit the application in the spring of 2023. Staff Dickhausen did receive comment from the BWSR TEP representative voicing their concerns surrounding the site/weather conditions as well as some questions/concerns about the placement of the wetland boundaries. The TEP site visit was canceled and Staff Dickhausen noticed the TEP members of the plans to resubmit the application in 2023.</p> <p>Staff Dickhausen attended several TEP meetings hosted by the City of Chanhassen through the month of December. On December 6, 15, 19 and 22, the City held TEP meetings to review the on-going review and meeting with applicants of the WCA replacement/sequencing plan received by the city in November. The TEP discussed with the applicants their plans, alternative plans, and how they could change alternatives so that they would accommodate the applicant's needs, as well as further reduce wetland and waterway/channel impacts. During the meeting on the 22, City staff, the District engineer, and applicant representatives/consultants discussed how WCA and District rules/regulations coincide and how the applicants could further reduce impacts while still adhering to the rule requirements of the District.</p> <p>WSB, on behalf of the City of Chanhassen, drafted a restoration order to be sent out to the landowners of the properties in question</p>	<p>City of Shorewood City of Deephaven City of Chanhassen City of Eden Prairie MCWD BWSR MN DNR ACOE</p>

		<p>in the ongoing investigation into the WCA violation in northern Chanhassen they have been working on since late September. The TEP had time to review the letter and comment during the month of December; it includes orders to restore impacted wetlands in conformance with a plan outlined within the letter. This includes the timeline by which each item of the order must be completed. The City will be sending the order to the landowners upon its review by their legal council.</p>	
Wetland Management	<p>Assess known existing wetlands, identify previously unknown wetlands, identify wetlands for potential restoration/rehabilitation and wetlands requiring additional protection.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>City of Chanhassen City of Eden Prairie Hennepin County Carver County MN DNR BWSR USFWS</p>
Hennepin County Chloride Initiative	<p>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.</p>	<p>The HCCI team continues to develop the Low Salt, No Salt Minnesota (LSNS) toolbox targeted at city and watershed partners to use in their chloride reduction efforts. Piloting of the program materials continues to inform adjustments to draft materials. Staff Forbes and another HCCI member hosted pilot LSNS presentations in December to Cherry Creek Assoc in Minnetonka and Pax Christi in EP. RPBCWD is hosting content for the “Low Salt, No Salt Minnesota” initiative on its website along with three video shorts on our YouTube channel (currently unpublished pending full launch of program). On January 26, a “train the trainer” LSNS workshop will officially launch the program. RPBCWD will host the workshop with invitations offered to districts, municipalities, and other LGUs in Hennepin County. A press release will coincide with program launch.</p>	<p>Eleven watershed districts/WMOs Multiple cities MPCA Hennepin County Environmental Services Board of Water and Soil Resources</p>
Lower Minnesota Chloride Cost-Share Program	<p>The Lower Minnesota River Watersheds are coming together to offer cost-share grants.</p>	<p>The Chloride Reduction cost-share grant program closes out in December. All grant projects were concluded by November 30 to meet the end-of-year fiscal deadline for BWSR Watershed Based Funding . Seven projects were implemented through the program.</p>	<p>LMRWD RBWMO NMCWD</p>

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	Staff are planning on 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, it 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 D3 and E. Implement Project.	No changes. This will be removed from the February staff report.	City of Eden Prairie Lower MN River Watershed District

	Continue Public Engagement for project and develop signage for restoration.		
Rice Marsh Lake Alum Treatment	Continue monitoring of Lake.	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 in October. It is likely that no event since has triggered flow through the unit. Notice of substantial completion was issued. A maintenance schedule is to be provided to the district from the contractor. The GreenCorps member (Alaina Portoghese) collected 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.	Legal counsel for RPBCWD and Bear Path have been working through the specifics of what needs to be recorded and on what parcels.	Bearpath Neighborhood Association City of Eden Prairie MN DNR
St Hubert Water Quality Project	Repair eroded ravine tributary to RML. Install BMPs to provide water quality and quantity benefits for site. Develop curriculum to be used with teachers and students at St. Hubert. Establish native vegetation and monitor soil development, water quality/quantity benefits, and ecological changes.	The project is substantially complete. Staff Mahon is developing curriculum to go along with project sites. Staff will be working closely with the middle school science teacher to ensure curriculum standards are met. Staff Mahon and Administrator Jeffery are working with the Science Committee to have students plant areas in the prairie restoration that pond water to provide treatment, rate control, and infiltration. Staff Mahon and Administrator Jeffery will work with the science department to plant the two wetland areas in the spring.	CCSWCD Metropolitan Council City of Chanhassen

		Administrator Jeffery submitted the final report to the Metropolitan Council for grant reimbursement.	
Purgatory Creek Watershed	Description	Update	Partners
PCRA Berm		No new updates	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.	City of Chanhassen
Professional Development			
Staff Nicklay completed a course on project management through edX.			