



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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Bloomington Public Works
1700 West 98th Street, Bloomington, MN 55431
PH: 952-563-4870

Richfield Public Works
1901 East 66th Street, Richfield, MN 55423
PH: 612-861-9170



I. Financial Report

The RBWMO has not expended or accrued funds during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022. No financial audits are necessary. Richfield and Bloomington expended \$2.5M and \$5.8M respectively from their storm water utility funds in 2022 to manage surface and stormwater.

II. Activity Report

The RBWMO continues to function as an independent organization with Board membership consisting of the City Councils of both Richfield and Bloomington. The Staff of the RBWMO continues to be the staff of each City handling drainage and surface water issues within each municipality. Since each City addresses storm water and surface water issues on behalf of the RBWMO there is no official budget for the organization. Each municipality funds improvements and maintenance within the Watershed Management area within their City border via existing storm water utilities.

The 2018 Watershed Management Plan includes implementation of policies and programs that require financial resources from each member city. As in the past, costs to cover activities occurring in a particular city are borne by that city and activities transcending the municipal boundary will be shared equally.

Both Cities are permitted Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) operators under the NPDES permit program and implement Storm Water Pollution Prevention Programs (SWPPP) including education and maintenance programs.

A. 2022 Membership

Name	Representing
Shawn Nelson	Bloomington
Tim Busse	Bloomington
Simon Trautmann	Richfield
Jack Baloga	Bloomington
Maria Regan Gonzalez	Richfield
Nathan Coulter	Bloomington
Dwayne Lowman	Bloomington
Ben Whalen	Richfield
Mary Supple	Richfield
Sean Hayford Oleary	Richfield
Patrick Martin	Bloomington
Jenna Carter	Bloomington

Richfield members can be contacted at:	Richfield City Hall 6700 Portland Avenue South Richfield, MN 55423 612-861-9700
Bloomington members can be contacted at:	Bloomington City Hall 1800 West Old Shakopee Road Bloomington, MN 55431 952-563-8700

B. Staff

Executive Director:	Bryan Gruidl City of Bloomington Water Resources Manager 1700 West 98 th Street Bloomington, MN 55431 952-563-4557
Assistant Executive Director:	Mattias Oddsson City of Richfield Water Resources Engineer 1901 E. 66th Street Richfield, MN 55423 612-861-9797

In 2022 Assistant Executive Director, Jordan Vennes, left the City of Richfield. Assistant Executive Director responsibilities were carried out by Chad Donnelly until Mattias Oddsson was hired as the Richfield Water Resources Engineer in November 2022. Both Chad and Mattias were active in coordinating and supporting RMBWO related activities. City staff from both cities cooperate to provide necessary staff support for the RBWMO.

C. 2022 Activity

Both cities perform the duties of the Local Government Unit (LGU) for BWSR for implementation of the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). Storm water utilities also are in place in both cities providing a reliable funding source for storm water and surface water resources management and improvement activities.

The fee structures for both cities storm water utility include a water quality component and a water quantity component. A credit/adjustment policy is in place providing incentive for property owners to incorporate storm water best management practices into their sites.

The RBWMO works collaboratively with its member cities to include and promote best management practices (BMPs) from both cities storm water programs. Richfield completed routine maintenance of all structural pollution control devices for which it is responsible within the permitted MS4 and performed five city-wide street sweeping passes. Additionally, the city is on track to complete inspections of all ponds and outfalls prior to the expiration of the General Permit. Staff turnover has hindered the completion of stormwater BMP inspections. Richfield staff have completed an updated BMP inventory, along with updates to inspection forms and procedures, and will strengthen the inspection and maintenance program in 2023.

Bloomington provided two annual sweepings of city streets in addition to targeted sweeping in priority watersheds. Maintenance of structural pollution control devices was delayed due to equipment issues. As a result, these devices will be inspected and maintained in the spring of 2023 as weather allows. Inspections of 20% of the city's MS4 outfalls, ponds and sediment basins were also ongoing in 2022. Associated maintenance as identified by the inspections was either scheduled or completed at the time of inspection.

1. **Ongoing Programs**

Hennepin County Chloride Initiative (HCCI) – Working together to develop a strategic plan to increase adoption of best management practices with private applicators.

In 2018 the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) piloted a watershed-based funding program allocating \$1,018,000 to Hennepin County. Through a series of meetings with eligible entities it was agreed to dedicate 10% of County's Watershed-based Funding (\$101,800) to countywide chloride programming. This effort has become known as the Hennepin County Chloride Initiative.

The overall purpose of the Hennepin County Chloride Initiative includes:

- Gain an understanding of what private applicators (and those that hire them) do and why they do it – knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, behaviors
- Develop a strategic plan, based on that understanding
- Act, to move the needle on reducing chloride use by private applicators, property managers, and property owners (commercial, institutional, multi-family)

In 2022 HCCI worked with MP+G Marketing solutions and developed the marketing campaign “Low Salt, No Salt Minnesota – [See web page.](#) Resources produced included a comprehensive toolbox for Local Government Units (LGU's) and two professionally developed videos focused on the impacts of chloride to the environment and reducing liability for slip and fall lawsuits. The group also purchased 100 “ultimate ice scrapers” with the grant funds to provide to primarily

low-income, multifamily housing or faith-based communities for use on their properties if they agree to meet with staff and participate in the Low Salt, No Salt Minnesota program.

The Low Salt, No Salt Minnesota toolbox is intended for Local Government Units (LGUs) such as cities and watershed management organizations to deliver the program locally, increasing awareness and providing support for private landowners to help them reduce chloride pollution from their properties.

The Low Salt, No Salt Minnesota program is currently being piloted in Edina and RBWMO is working with the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District to pilot the program in Bloomington.

The Hennepin County Chloride Initiative Project was selected as 2022 Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) Program of the year.

The grant period ended on December 31, 2022. A summary of activities is presented in the following table:

Original Budget	Grant \$101,800	Match: \$10,180
Task	Grant Funding Spent or Encumbered	Match Funding Spent
Qualitative research with private salt applicators, survey, and project report (2019 - 2020)	\$4,828	
Development of Smart Salting for Property Manager’s Guidebook (Fortin Consulting, Oct 2019)	\$10,000	\$10,500 (RPBCWD, NMCWD, LMRWD)
Development of Winter Management Plan Template (Fortin Consulting, March 2021)	\$9,950	
Parker’s Lake Chloride Project Facilitation Plan (BCWMC/Plymouth, March 2021)	\$20,750	
Marketing Campaign targeting boards/committees with HOAs and faith based organizations	\$46,300	
Purchase of ultimate ice scrapers	\$9,900	
Total	\$101,728	\$10,500

In addition to the HCCI program, as part of the 2018 watershed-based funding, RBWMO also partnered with the Lower Minnesota River WD, Nine Mile Creek WD, and Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek WD, forming the Minnesota River Basin group, to further chloride reduction efforts by developing a cost-share grant program. The program reduces chloride in the environment by providing cost-share grants to applicators to retrofit equipment with efficient technology to maintain sidewalks and roads.

The group rolled out the Chloride Reduction Cost-Share Grant program to offer financial support and resources for businesses and local government units for tools and practices which reduce, directly or indirectly, chloride usage. Entities applying for a Chloride Reduction Grant were required to be Smart Salting certified through the MPCA. The grant amount was up to \$20,000 max, and/or 75% of the project cost. In total 7 projects were funded for a total of \$97,868.72. This project was completed in December 2022 with Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District completing the final grant reporting to BWSR.

Education and Outreach Program – Continue providing educational opportunities using the Wood Lake Nature Center and through partnering with other watershed districts and watershed management organizations.

Youth education programming – The RBWMO, in partnership with the Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends (MVRF), continued implementation of a youth education program for fourth and fifth graders. This work is being funded by a BWSR grant as described below.

Conservation Education and Implementation Partnership – A partnership between several WMO's and led by Hennepin County to implement a pilot program engaging in education and outreach, that reduces duplication of efforts and overlapping messaging, and provides a more coordinated approach to bring focus and cost efficiency to education programming.

To meet immediate education needs and desires for tangible implementation actions, the West Metro Watershed Alliance (WMWA) and Hennepin County initiated a pilot program funded in part by county and WMO funding and part by WBIF. This pilot program pools financial resources from several organizations in Hennepin County to meet WMO, City, and County education and outreach needs, increase technical assistance, education, and outreach with residents focused on increasing conservation implementation success through the delivery of practical and interactive conservation education, follow-up technical assistance site visits, and financial assistance to help defray that cost of taking conservation action. This pilot program will include three elements:

1. A limited-duration half-time program coordinator, supported by Hennepin County, to provide community engagement, education, marketing, and promotion of program elements.
2. Resident-facing workshops using a model like Dakota County's [Landscaping for Clean Water](#) program where participants attend.
3. Multi-family housing-facing projects using Metro Blooms' model of [Equitable Engagement](#).

Adopt-a-Drain - RBWMO was also continued to participate in the Adopt-a-Drain program within the watershed in 2022. Adopt-a-Drain asks residents to adopt a storm drain in their neighborhood and keep it clear of leaves, trash, and other debris to reduce water pollution. Within the RBWMO there are currently 212 drains adopted. Participants reported adopting 32 new drains and removing 1024 lbs of debris in 2022. There were 18 new participants in 2022, for a cumulative total of 119.

Storm Water Monitoring Program – Identified as a high priority in the RBWMO both Richfield and Bloomington continue to conduct regular water quality monitoring as outlined in Section 5.4 of the approved watershed management plan. The monitoring is intended to establish long-term water quality data for Wood Lake, Richfield Lake, Smith Pond, and Wrights Lake. Monitoring records are available upon request.

Monitoring has been on-going at Wood Lake, Richfield, Lake, and Smith Pond since 2010. Monitoring began on Wrights Lake in 2013 From April to August, monthly water quality samples and aquatic vegetation surveys were conducted on Wrights Lake and Smith Park Pond. This information helps inform on future management decisions.

Richfield retained Barr Engineering to conduct water quality monitoring in 2022. Barr staff conducted monthly sampling for temperature, dissolved oxygen (DO), chloride, pH, and phosphorus, as well as continuous water level monitoring. Wood Lake, Richfield Lake, and Augsburg Pond were monitored throughout the growing season. Richfield staff are planning to transition to in-house water quality monitoring for 2023, with assistance from consultants as needed.

Website Maintenance – The website is updated with the current watershed management plan, contact information, and resource links for residents, the public and other agencies.

Technical Advisory Commission – In accordance with the 2018 Approved Watershed Management Plan, the RBWMO Technical Advisory Committee met on December 12, 2022. Minutes from that meeting are provided at the end of the report.

2. Watershed Based Implementation Funding

2020-21 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Program

In 2020 BWSR staff rolled out the FY20-21 Watershed-based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Program. Staff worked with BWSR and other agencies within the Lower Minnesota North basin through a series of meetings to ultimately determine a list of projects to receive funding from the 20-21 WBIF program.

RBWMO submitted a youth education program for consideration and was awarded a grant of \$30,000 to develop and implement the program. RBWMO partnered with the Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends (MVRF) to develop the youth education program with curriculum focused around basic hydrologic and ecological principles. The funding covers materials, educator fees, and transportation costs for approximately 400 students. Each session is ended with a field trip to the Minnesota River at the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge and Trailhead. The goals of the program are to:

- Increase knowledge on hydraulic and ecological principles
 - basic understanding of a watershed
 - understanding of how water interacts with environment
 - understanding of water stewardship
- Increase ability to positively impact water resources
- Increase confidence to be a water steward

In 2021 the MVRF were contracted by the RBWMO and City of Bloomington to run the program. MVRF contracts a professional educator to create and carry out the curriculum. The curriculum was designed to empower youth members of the RBWMO community to become water quality stewards. These students leave the program better able to protect water resources, enhance local ecology and be better equipped to support restoration initiatives. The curriculum is tailored to reference the Lower Minnesota River corridor. However, the topics covered in the curriculum pertain to drinking water, surface water and groundwater. Major concepts covered by the curriculum include: Watersheds, Storm water, Storm drains, Run off, Habitat, Pollution, Pollutant, Point source pollution, Nonpoint source pollution, Wetlands.

In 2021, the first session was successfully implemented. It was hosted in cooperation with a Bloomington summer school program. A total of 103 students took part in the programming though attendance fluctuated throughout the program. At the end of 2021, a full classroom session was completed in partnership with Richfield Public Schools. It was conducted fully online due to pandemic restrictions. An in-person fieldtrip occurred that spring.

In 2022, there were two Bloomington summer sessions. One partnered with the districts summer school program and the other partnered with the American Indian Studies Program. In total they reached 37 students. That fall, an in-person classroom

session was conducted with Richfield Public Schools, reaching 84 students. Pre and post assessments from all sessions conducted to date have shown a marked increase in knowledge, ability, and confidence. The field trip was highly regarded.

Because the 2022 Bloomington summer school program was smaller than anticipated, there are enough funds to host one additional classroom session in cooperation with Bloomington Public Schools in 2023. The BWSR grant period expires on December 31, 2023. To date the project has spent a total of \$24,248.84, including match funding. There is \$16,706.63 left on the grant.

2022-23 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Program

In February 2022 BWSR Kicked-off the FY 22-23 WBIF program. The goal of this program continues to be to accelerate Clean Water Fund activities towards advancing Minnesota's water quality goals through prioritized, targeted, cost effective actions with measurable water quality results. RBWMO was awarded \$75,000 from the WBIF program and through a series of convene meetings the following projects were selected for funding: Conservation Education and Implementation Partnership (\$25,000), Sheridan Pond Water Quality Outlet Structure (\$20,000), and a Feasibility Study to assess hydraulic and biotic interventions to improve water quality and biotic integrity within the RBWMO (\$30,000)

3. **Projects**

Sheridan Pond Maintenance Project – Richfield Public Works Stormwater Utility division initiated this project to improve the functional nature of the pond as well as to enhance the adjacent terrestrial area. Phase 1 included dredging and re-shaping of the basin and storm sewer installation. A new outlet structure designed to improve downstream water quality by capturing debris funded through WBIF was also installed.

77th Street Underpass – The City of Richfield coordinated the construction of underpass beneath TH77 connecting 77th St to the east and west of of TH77.

The project is currently ongoing and includes Construction of 4-lane divided road connecting 77th Street to realigned Longfellow Ave on East side of TH77, new bridge on TH77 carrying TH77 over 77th St. Reconstruction of southbound TH77 to westbound I-494 ramp, westbound I-494 to northbound TH77 amp, and frontage road over new 77th St. Also includes rehabilitation and/or replacement of majority of city-owned utilities in project area. Stormwater management elements on the project include underground detention system beneath Washington Park. A SWPPP was developed for the project and MPCA Construction Stormwater Permit was obtained. Erosion control includes inlet protection, bioroll and silt fence perimeter control, stabilized construction exits, seed mix and sod. The project is approximately

85% complete as of March 2023. Remaining work will focus on pavement and concrete for 77th St and landscaping in Washington Park.

Bloomington PMP Street Maintenance Project - As part of the 2021-101 PMP Street Maintenance Project Bloomington coordinated the reconstruction sections of 3rd Avenue, 11th Avenue, and 22nd Avenue areas.

Project included 7,150 feet of fully reconstructed bituminous pavement. Curb and gutter total length 12,710 feet with typical street width of 32-feet. Stormwater Elements: A SWPPP was developed for the project. MPCA Construction Stormwater Permit was obtained. Erosion control included inlet protection, perimeter control, and sod. The new storm sewer construction included oversized perforated CMP at two sites identified as flood areas under our Atlas 14 study. Each pipe gallery included a sump MH for pre-treatment at one end and a second one with cedar stop logs for level control. The pre-treatment sumps include a SAFL Baffle.

I-494: Airport to Highway 169 – Staff worked cooperatively with MnDOT to coordinate plans for stormwater utilities with highway construction.

D. 2023 Work Plan

Watershed Based Funding – As part of the FY22-23 WBIF staff will continue to work with Hennepin County, WMWA, and the other partners to launch, coordinate and implement educational programs including individual and multi-family housing focused equitable engagement projects.

As part of the FY20-21 WBIF staff will continue to work with Richfield and Bloomington educators and Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends to implement the youth education program.

Education and Outreach – Staff will look to partner with adjacent watershed districts to promote and sponsor educational opportunities such as Smart Salting and Summer Turf Maintenance workshops. Additionally, staff will look for opportunities to continue engaging with and educating youth about water and natural resources using the Wood Lake Nature Center.

Wood Lake Nature Center – The Wood Lake Nature Center is proposing to construct a new nature center building incorporating water education and water quality features. RBWMO staff are working to identify opportunities for partnership within this project, with a particular focus on enhancing education and outreach around water resources.

I-494: Airport to Highway 169 – Staff will work cooperatively with MnDOT and the design-build team as the project begins the first year of construction.

Adopt-a-Drain – RBWMO Staff will continue to promote the Adopt-a-drain program for the area. This program is organized through Hamline University is now available to all interested entities in the metro area.

Ongoing Items – Staff will continue to implement ongoing studies and programs as outlined in the 2018 Watershed Management Plan, including:

- Website maintenance for distribution of education and WMO related information
- Water quality monitoring
- Continued TAC coordination

Sheridan Pond Maintenance Project – Phase 2 of the project begins on May 1st, 2023. Phase 2 will consist of substantial vegetation restoration and improvements, planting native wetland species around the perimeter of the pond, as well as native prairie species and oak trees upland. Substantial completion is scheduled for June 30th, 2023.

E. Permits, Variances and Enforcement

There were zero actions relating to the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) within the RBWMO area in 2022. The WCA 2022 Annual Reporting Forms are available upon request.

In 2022, Bloomington staff completed erosion control inspections at three construction/redevelopment sites in Bloomington within the RBWMO.

- 8201 Old Cedar: Apartment Complex
- 8714 Portland Ave S: Portland Commons Ph. 2
- 1900 E 86th Street: Village Club

In 2022, Richfield staff completed erosion control inspections at seven construction/redevelopment sites in Richfield within the RBWMO.

- 600 W 64th St: Riley Apartments
- 6228 Penn Ave S: Landsby on Penn Apartments
- 7132 Portland Ave S: Hope Church
- 6437 Lyndale Ave S: Lynvue Apartments
- 6300 Richfield Pkwy: RF64 Townhomes and Rya Apartments
- 6500 Nicollet Ave S: Partnership Academy
- 6501 Penn Ave S: Stormwater Management Project

F. Storm Water Pollution Prevention Programs (SWPPPs)

The RBWMO works collaboratively with its member cities to include and promote best management practices (BMPs) from both cities storm water programs consistent with the requirements of the MPCA Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Storm Water Program and the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP). In December 2022, Richfield staff began an update to the city SWPPP, transitioning to an improved, more concise format and incorporating the latest information. These updates are anticipated to be completed by summer of 2023. The Richfield and Bloomington SWPPPs address all of the six Minimum Control Measures (MCM) outlined in the permit and BMPs have been prepared for each measure as follows:

MCM 1 & 2 – Public Education, Participation, Outreach and Involvement

The RBWMO, through its member cities, has an established education and outreach program that focuses on illicit discharge recognition and reporting, as well as other specifically selected storm water-related issues such as chloride management. In addition, both cities continue to solicit public input on the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program. The RBWMO offers opportunities to learn how storm water can impact streams, rivers, and wetlands, and the steps people can take to reduce pollutants in the storm water runoff. These opportunities are offered on a continual basis at the Wood Lake Nature Center where the center receives 75,000 visitors per year (on average). In addition to educating various grades of student classrooms annually, additional education opportunities are provided through quarterly utility bill mailing inserts, Bloomington’s Green Room (which is part of the City’s biennial Home Improvement Fair), and Public Works Open House. Information is available on city websites, the RBWMO website, in city newsletters, and through employee training programs.

Public participation and involvement is solicited through public meetings and specific storm water project meetings, or open houses.

MCM 3 – Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

Both cities implement and enforce an illicit discharge program. Richfield’s and Bloomington’s staff keep up-to-date records of the storm sewer system identifying all ponds, lakes, streams, storm sewer pipes, conveyances, and outfalls leaving the RBWMO. Public Works staff annually inspects sanitary and storm sewer mainline pipes checking for defects such as fractures, cracks, open joints, or other defects that could lead to illicit discharges. Once identified, pipe distresses can be scheduled for repair or maintenance.

MCM 4 – Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control

Both cities require site specific storm water management plans and erosion control plans for new development and redevelopment that meet the NPDES requirements. The required erosion control BMPs are monitored and inspected as the work progresses. Existing erosion control ordinances and development plan review procedures provide the mechanisms to help prevent soil erosion into the MS4.

MCM 5 – Post Construction Storm Water Management for New Development and Redevelopment

Storm water runoff rate control continues to be a critical component in Richfield and Bloomington development/redevelopment.

The current MS4 permit was approved in November 2020. Post-Construction stormwater management requirements contain multiple components including: storm water volume reduction requirements for new development and redevelopment, regulating areas allowed for infiltration, allowable exceptions, mitigation provisions, long-term maintenance requirements of structural BMPs, and site plan review.

MCM 6 – Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

Both cities continue to implement education and conduct inspection measure to ensure that good housekeeping practices are in place at their respective facilities.

Annually the City of Richfield completes several city-wide street sweeping passes and performs inspection and maintenance on all structural pollution control devices within the permitted MS4. Additionally, the City inspects all outfalls and ponds within the city's MS4 during each permit term.

Bloomington provides two annual sweepings of city streets and completes inspection and maintenance of 100% of the structural pollution control devices within the permitted MS4. Inspections of 20% of the city's MS4 outfalls, ponds and sediment basins are also completed annually. Associated maintenance as identified by the inspections is either scheduled or completed at the time of inspection.

G. Local Surface Water Plans

Bloomington's LSWMP received RBWMO approval on May 16, 2018.
Richfield's SWMP received RBWMO approval on August 23, 2018.

Subsequent to the March 5, 2018 approval of the RBWMO Plan, staff has reviewed each city's plan to ensure conformance with new policies and procedures.

H. Consultant Services



RICHFIELD | BLOOMINGTON
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

The City of Richfield retained Barr Engineering to conduct water quality monitoring, and WSB to assist with erosion control inspections throughout 2022.

I. Information Program

A copy of the publication for the Bloomington Sun and Richfield Sun is included.

The RBWMO website provides a location for the public and other agencies to view the Watershed Management Plan as well as find general contact information, and links to other water resources-related information. The website address is www.RBWMO.org

J. Expenditures

All RBWMO expenses are shared equally and paid through the member cities storm water utility funds.

Insurance for 2022 was \$2,473.00.