



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

- I. Financial Report

- II. Activity Report
 - A. Membership
 - B. Staff
 - C. 2024 Activity
 - 1. Ongoing Programs
 - 2. Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF)
 - 3. Projects
 - D. 2025 Work Plan
 - E. Permits, Variances, and Enforcement
 - F. Storm Water Pollution Prevention Programs
 - G. Local Surface Water Plans
 - H. Consultant Services
 - I. Information Program
 - J. Expenditures

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I. Financial Report

The RBWMO has not expended or accrued funds during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024. No financial audits are necessary. Richfield and Bloomington expended \$3.8M and \$6.1M respectively from their storm water utility funds in 2024 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. 2024 Membership

Name	Representing
Shawn Nelson	Bloomington
Tim Busse	Bloomington
Simon Trautmann	Richfield
Lona Dallessandro	Bloomington
Sharon Christensen	Richfield
Chao Moua	Bloomington
Dwayne Lowman	Bloomington
Ben Whalen	Richfield
Mary Supple	Richfield
Sean Hayford Oleary	Richfield
Victor Rivas	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:	Mattias Oddsson City of Richfield Water Resources Engineer 1901 E. 66th Street Richfield, MN 55423 612-861-9797
Assistant Executive Director:	Bryan Gruidl City of Bloomington Water Resources Manager 1700 West 98 th Street Bloomington, MN 55431 952-563-4557

C. 2024 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 are also 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 seven 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 will continue to strengthen the inspection and maintenance program in 2025.

Bloomington provided two annual sweepings of city streets in addition to targeted sweeping in priority watersheds. Maintenance of structural pollution control devices was completed in the fall of 2024. Inspections of 20% of the city's MS4 outfalls, ponds and sediment basins were also ongoing in 2024. Associated maintenance as identified by the inspections was either scheduled or completed at the time of inspection.

1. **Ongoing Programs**

Education and Outreach Program – Continue providing educational opportunities through partnering with the Wood Lake Nature Center and other watershed districts and watershed management organizations. Additionally, RBWMO has partnered with Hennepin County and the West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA) member watersheds to implement a program engaging in education and outreach, and implementation of conservation efforts.

Adopt-a-Drain - RBWMO also continued to participate in the Adopt-a-Drain program within the watershed in 2024. 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 242 drains adopted. Participants reported removing 1,740 lbs. of debris in 2024.

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 and posted on the RBWMO website.

Monitoring has been on-going at Wood Lake, Richfield, Lake, and Smith Pond since 2010. Monitoring began on Wrights Lake in 2013. From May to September, 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 staff conducted monthly sampling for temperature, dissolved oxygen (DO), chloride, pH, and phosphorus, as well as continuous water level monitoring throughout the growing season. Within the RBWMO, Wood Lake, Richfield Lake, and Augsburg Pond were monitored. This data is used to support management decisions, such as Richfield's pond prioritization framework.

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 9, 2024. Minutes from that meeting are provided at the end of the report.

2. Watershed Based Implementation Funding

2022-23 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Program

RBWMO was awarded \$75,000 from the FY 22-23 WBIF program and the following projects were selected for funding: Conservation Education and Implementation Pilot Program (\$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).

Sheridan Pond Maintenance Project – Completed in the winter of 2022-2023 this project installed a new pond outlet structure to improve downstream water quality by capturing debris. The outlet structure was installed in cooperation with the planned pond maintenance activity to improve the functional nature of the pond as well as to enhance the adjacent terrestrial area.

RBWMO Feasibility Study – Completed in 2023 the feasibility report focused on water quality enhancements in the watersheds surrounding Richfield Lake, Wright’s Lake, and Smith Park Pond. Utilizing existing data, water quality estimates were developed for both external and internal loading. Based on these loading estimates conceptual projects were identified to meet the goals of the RBWMO with respect to water quality, water quantity, and watershed-wide ecological integrity.

In 2024 RBWMO staff reviewed potential projects for implementation based on the findings of the 2023 feasibility study combined with ongoing dialogue with partner organizations. Based on this review and conversations with partner organizations, the RBWMO aims to undertake a study in 2025-2026 to evaluate and quantify the presence of invasive carp and goldfish in Richfield Lake, Wood Lake, and Smith Pond.

Conservation Education and Implementation Pilot Program – A partnership with the West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA) member watersheds and led by Hennepin County to implement a pilot program engaging in education and outreach, and implementation of conservation efforts.

This pilot program was initiated in April 2022 when RBWMO staff worked with WMWA members and member watersheds, Hennepin County and the Board of Soil and Water Resources to secure Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) grant dollars to pilot a two-year, part-time Conservation Education and Implementation position employed by and shared jointly with Hennepin County with 50% of time spent on WMWA and Richfield-Bloomington WMO outreach and implementation, and 50% on Hennepin County outreach.

In spring 2023, Hennepin County filled the Conservation Specialist position. Throughout 2023 the Conservation Specialist has created work plans for WBIF funded projects, campaigns for pet waste, chloride, and Adopt-A-Drain education, and begun implementing outreach to faith-based organizations for chloride consultations. This position will coordinate the WBIF grant projects identified by each watershed including a Southgate Apartment BMP implementation, in the RBWMO.

The Southgate Apartment BMP project kicked off in June 2024 with resident engagement opportunities held on site through the summer months. Hennepin County hired Metro Blooms to facilitate the community engagement process as well as developing a concept design based on community feedback. Concept design was completed in November 2024 with final design and construction anticipated for 2025.

2024-25 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Program

RBWMO was awarded \$114,644.00 from the FY 24-25 WBIF program. A convene meeting was held on June 7th with representatives from BWSR, Hennepin County, Richfield, Bloomington, and RBWMO. At the conclusion of the meeting the following projects were selected for funding:

- I. Conservation Education and Implementation Partnership (\$45,000) Continue the partnership with Hennepin County and the West Metro Water Alliance for education and project implementation,
- II. Residential Grant Program (\$15,000) Distribute grants to residents and property owners to construct stormwater BMPs and implement sustainable landscaping on their property
- III. Fisheries and AIS study (\$54,644) Quantify presence of invasive carp and goldfish in RBWMO waterbodies and develop an invasive species management plan for implementation. Potential actions include electrofishing, biocontrol, trapping, and tagging fish. Any rough fish caught and not tagged for research purposes will be removed from the lake.

3. Projects

Woodlawn Terrace Utility Improvements – This project involved watermain replacement and other utility improvements, along with road reconstruction, within a mobile home cooperative in Richfield. The cooperative originally sourced its drinking water from a private well, but contamination necessitated a connection to municipal water and replacement of the existing water system. This work was supported by the City HRA and State grant funding. The project was NPDES-permitted, involving erosion control inspections as well as permanent stormwater treatment through sump catch basin and manhole retrofits. Remaining work includes sealing the disused private well to protect groundwater from further contamination.

Smith Pond Maintenance Project – Bloomington engineering division initiated this project to remove approximately 1,000 cubic yards of accumulated sediment from the westerly storm sewer inlet and restore the pond area to the 1998 grading plan. This project was anticipated to be completed over the winter of 2024-25 but due to dewatering limitations on the DNR permit the work was rescheduled for spring 2025. Additionally, Bloomington Park and Recreation Department will be enhancing the existing buffer area and restoring additional upland area with a native vegetation restoration project scheduled for 2025.

I-494: Airport to Highway 169 – Staff worked cooperatively with MnDOT to coordinate plans for stormwater utilities with highway construction. Staff will continue to work with MnDOT as they move into I-494 Project 2 design in 2025.

D. 2025 Work Plan

Watershed Based Funding – As part of the FY22-23 WBIF staff will continue to work with Hennepin County, Metro Blooms, Southgate Residents and Management on final design and construction of the Southgate Apartment BMP project.

For the FY2024-2025 WBIF funding RBWMO was awarded \$114,644. Staff will be working on the 3 projects selected including: Conservation Education and Implementation Partnership, Residential Grant Program, and a Fisheries and AIS study on goldfish and carp in select RBWMO waterbodies.

Education and Outreach – In addition to the Conservation Education and Implementation Program Staff will look to partner with adjacent watershed districts to promote and sponsor educational opportunities such as Smart Salting and Summer Turf Maintenance workshops.

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. The submitted site plan is currently undergoing review for

stormwater compliance. The RBWMO will continue to coordinate and actively seek opportunities for partnership on this project.

I-494: Airport to Highway 169 – Staff will work cooperatively with MnDOT and the design-build team as MnDOT kicks off project 2 in 2025. Project 2 on the I-494 project is the completion of the full I-494 vision. Project 2 includes extension of E-Z Pass lanes on I-494 from I35W to Hwy 77, pavement reconstruction and drainage on I-494 from Lyndale Avenue to 24th Avenue and bridge replacements.

Smith Pond Maintenance Project – A pond maintenance project to remove approximately 1,000 cubic yards of accumulated sediment from the westerly storm sewer inlet and restore the pond area to the 1998 grading plan. This project is anticipated to be completed in the spring 2025. Staff will also coordinate with Bloomington Park and Recreation Department on a native vegetation restoration project scheduled for 2025.

Nicollet Avenue Reconstruction – Staff will continue coordination work with Hennepin County on meeting stormwater requirements for the Nicollet Avenue reconstruction and improving stormwater infrastructure in the corridor.

Adopt-a-Drain – RBWMO Staff will continue to promote the Adopt-a-drain program for the area. This program is organized through Hamline University and 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

E. Permits, Variances and Enforcement

There were two 2024 Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) actions within the RBWMO. A no loss decision related to Bloomington's Smith Park Pond Maintenance project, and a boundary/type decision for the Wood Lake Nature Center site.. The WCA 2024 Annual Reporting Forms are available upon request.

In 2024, Bloomington staff completed erosion control inspections at five construction/redevelopment sites in Bloomington within the RBWMO.

- 8244 13th Ave S: New single family home
- 9030 Park Ave S. Single family home demo
- 7801 Portland Ave S. BP gas station demo
- 7876 Portland Ave S. Commercial building demo
- 9200 Old Cedar BP gas station update project

- 8232 10th Ave S new garage construction

In 2024, Richfield staff completed erosion control inspections at six construction/redevelopment sites in Richfield within the RBWMO.

- 6437 Lyndale Ave S: Lynvue Apartments
- 65th Street Reconstruction Site
- 101 E 66th Street
- 2 Meridian Crossing
- 7421 Lyndale Ave – Woodlawn Terrace
- 630 E 66th Street – Veteran’s Park Splashpad

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 were successfully completed in late 2023. Smaller scale revisions continue to be made as needed to supporting documents. The Richfield and Bloomington SWPPPs address all 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 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, and Bloomington’s annual 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

The RBWMO did not retain any consulting services in 2024.

I. Information Program

A copy of the publication for the Bloomington Sun and Richfield Sun Current 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 2024 was \$2,481