



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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

Richfield Public Works
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PH: 612-861-9170

I. Financial Report

The RBWMO has not expended or accrued funds during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2015. No financial audits are necessary; however Special District Financial Reporting Forms have been submitted to the Office of the State Auditor as a supplement to the annual report upon their request. Richfield and Bloomington expended \$694,760 and \$2,184,162 respectively from their storm water utility funds in 2015 to manage surface water.

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/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 2008 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. Membership

Name	Representing
Cynthia Abrams	Bloomington
Tim Busse	Bloomington
Debbie Goettel	Richfield
Jack Baloga	Bloomington
Tom Fitzhenry	Richfield
Andrew Carlson	Bloomington
Dwayne Lowman	Bloomington
Pat Elliott	Richfield
Michael Howard	Richfield
Edwina Garcia	Richfield
Jon Oleson	Bloomington
Gene Winstead	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 Resource Engineer 1700 West 98 th Street Bloomington, MN 55431 952-563-4867
Assistant Executive Director:	Kristin Asher City of Richfield Director of Public Works 1901 E. 66 th Street Richfield, MN 55423 612-861-9795

The City staffs for both cities cooperate to provide necessary staff support for the RBWMO.

C. 2015 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.

RBWMO Self-Assessment – As directed at the 2015 Annual Meeting, staff has proceeded with convening a sub-committee and hiring a consultant to conduct a self-assessment of the RBWMO as recommended by the Board of Water and Soil Resources in the 2014 PRAP report. The report included findings and suggestions

for future consideration such as: board size, a grant program for property owners, and establishing a permanent use of other sub-committees. Overall the report was consistent with the 2014 PRAP report in that adequate water management work is being performed and statutory requirements are being met.

Minnesota Rules Chapter 8410 – An amendment of Minnesota Rules, Chapter 8410 became effective on July 13, 2015. The amendment moves future watershed management plans away from the prescriptive, one-size fits all approach to a more results oriented framework. The rules relate to water management in the seven-county metropolitan area and affect watershed management organizations, including watershed districts, and their watershed management plans. In essence, future watershed plans will consist of an initial effort to identify and assess issues, periodically updated inventories and goals, and frequently updated implementation and capital improvement plan sections.

MPCA Rulemaking –A draft TCMA Chloride Management Plan and TMDL was released for public comment in July of 2015. It is anticipated that the chloride TMDL will be approved by EPA in 2016. Staff has been keeping up with both the Tiered Aquatic Life Use (TALU) and Anti-degradation rules. TALU could have important effects on many TMDLs; uncertainty over what anti-degradation will bring.

Section V Implementation Program/Priorities Activities:

- a. Website Maintenance – The website is updated with the current watershed management plan, contact information, and resource links for residents, the general public and other agencies.
- b. Storm Water Quality Monitoring – See H. Water Quality Monitoring
- c. Continued TAC Coordination – In accordance with the 2008 Approved Watershed Management Plan, the RBWMO Technical Advisory Committee met on January 7, 2016 (Attachment 1).

Projects:

- 66th Street Reconstruction – Richfield Hennepin County, in cooperation with the City of Richfield, completed the final design for the upcoming reconstruction of 66th Street from Washburn Avenue to 16th Avenue. Stormwater capacity issues West of I-35W (West Richfield Stormwater Improvement Project) and near Stevens Avenue will be addressed in coordination with the project. The new design includes bicycle facilities along the road as well as green boulevards separating pedestrian and bicycle facilities from the roadway.

- 69th Street Reconstruction Project – Richfield
Reconstruction of 69th Street from Knox Avenue to Humboldt Avenue which included upgrading four 36” storm sewer lines with a 4x8 box culvert. The aging storm sewer had failing joints and upgrading the box will allow for more storm sewer capacity in the future, addressing flooding concerns in an underserved area of Richfield. The downstream waterbody is Wood Lake.
- Nokomis-Minnesota River Regional Trail (Formerly Intercity Regional Trail)
Three Rivers Park District partnered with the City of Bloomington, City of Richfield and City of Minneapolis to develop the Nokomis-Minnesota River Regional Trail. The trail measures approximately 5.14 miles from Lake Nokomis Parkway in Minneapolis to East 86th Street in Bloomington. This route expands multi-modal transportation and recreational access to vital employment, retail and recreational sites in the metropolitan region – providing safety, economic development, mobility, and environmental benefits. Trail construction began in the spring of 2015 with substantial completion by fall 2015. The project will be completed in the spring of 2016.
- Curb and Gutter, Manhole and Catch Basin Replacement – Richfield
Concrete and storm sewer repairs were conducted on 14 miles of residential roads in advance of a 2016 Mill and Overlay project.
- Park Avenue Reconstruction – Bloomington
As part of the 2015-101 Street Reconstruction Project, approximately 0.25 miles of Park Avenue South was reconstructed between 90th Street and 88th Street. The project included storm sewer, curb and gutter, grading, bituminous pavement and sod restoration. A project SWPPP will be implemented and the project slightly reduces the street width resulting in less impervious area.
- MCES Regional Sewer Improvement Project – Bloomington
Metropolitan Council’s Environmental Services (MCES) completed construction on its Bloomington Area Regional Sewer Improvements Project on 90th St E. The purpose of the work was to rehabilitate an approximately 2.5 mile section of an aging and deteriorating regional sanitary sewer located in and serving the City of Bloomington. Erosion control measures including inlet protection, temporary pavement, and permanent restoration were implemented where land disturbing activities were required.

D. 2016 Work Plan

Staff will focus on the development of the WMO’s next generation Water Management Plan in accordance with the new rules. A consultant will be brought on

board to assist with the plan development. Efforts are expected to begin in the spring.

Staff will continue to implement priorities/programs as outlined in Section V of the Watershed Management Plan, including:

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

Projects

- West Richfield Stormwater Improvement Project – Richfield
In conjunction with the 66th Street Reconstruction Project a 3x6 box culvert connection will be constructed through Monroe Park and James Avenue to the newly constructed 4x8 box culvert that was completed in 2015. The new connection will add a significant amount of storm water capacity to this area. This water flows under I-35W to Wood Lake.
- 66th Street Reconstruction – Richfield
In 2016, Hennepin County will complete the right-of-way acquisition (19 homes) needed in order to complete the reconstruction. The reconstruction is expected to begin in 2017 and will take 3 years to complete. The official detour route is Hwy 62.
- Street Reconstruction - Bloomington
As part of the 2016-101 Street Reconstruction Project Bloomington is proposing to reconstruct the following street segments:
 - 17th Avenue between 86th St and 84th St.
 - 90th Street between 12th Ave and Old Cedar
 - East 85th Street between Nicollet Ave and 2nd Ave
 - 1st Avenue between 86th St and 84th StThe project includes storm sewer, curb and gutter, grading, bituminous pavement and sod restoration. A project SWPPP will be implemented and the project slightly reduces the street width resulting in less impervious area.

E. Permits, Variances and Enforcement

Both Richfield and Bloomington had zero actions relating to the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) within the RBWMO area in 2015. The WCA 2015 Annual Reporting Forms are available upon request.

In 2015, Bloomington staff completed erosion control inspections at four construction/redevelopment sites in Bloomington within the RBWMO.

- Progress Valley – 1100 E 80th St
- 1301 East American Blvd

- Hilton Garden Inn – 1601 E American Blvd
- Hunt Electric – 7900 Chicago Ave S

In 2015, Richfield staff completed erosion control inspections at the following sites in Richfield within the RBWMO undergoing construction/redevelopment activity subject to an NPDES permit.

Inspection Continuation/New Permits Issued:

- Lyndale Station Phase II (6545 Lyndale Ave)
- RB Honda (401 77th Street W)
- Progress Valley Housing (308 78th Street E)
- Wendy’s Restaurant (6500 Lyndale Ave S)
- Wood Lake Nature Center Shelter Building
- Audi of Richfield (1401 77th Street W)
- Nokomis-Minnesota River Regional Trail
- 69th Street Reconstruction and Stormwater Improvement Project

Single Family Home Construction Projects Approved

- 7421 Pillsbury Avenue Richfield
- 7308 10th Avenue Richfield
- 7408 Bryant Avenue Richfield

F. Storm Water Pollution Prevention Programs (SWPPPs)

The RBWMO work plan includes 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). 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, will revise their education and outreach program that focuses on illicit discharge recognition and reporting, as well as other specifically selected storm water-related issues. In addition, both cities will 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, through quarterly utility bill mailing inserts, and Bloomington’s education program (including

the Green Room as a part of the City’s biennial Home Improvement Fair, and Public Works Open House). Information is available on city websites, the RBWMO website, in storm water 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. In 2016 both cities will review their programs and revise as necessary.

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 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.

Bloomington continues to administer the curb-side-cleanup resulting in the proper handling and disposal waste and problem items helping to keep these items from entering stormwater and surface waters. Continued promotion of the Hennepin County Hazardous Waste disposal facility provides residents a resource for proper disposal of hazardous wastes.

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 new MS4 permit was approved in August, 2013. Post-Construction stormwater management contains multiple new 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.

As expected Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and TMDL reporting have become a more substantial portion of the MS4 permit. Entities not only need to identify impaired waters and review the adequacy that their program to address TMDLs, but need to identify specific BMPs to reduce the pollutant load to the receiving water. There are no TMDL's within the RBWMO.

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.

The City of Richfield inspected 100% of the city's ponds, outfalls and sediment basins in 2015 and completed four city-wide street sweeping passes.

Bloomington provided two annual sweepings of city streets and completed 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 were also ongoing in 2015. Associated maintenance as identified by the inspections was either scheduled or completed at the time of inspection.

G. Local Surface Water Plans

Bloomington's CSWMP received RBWMO approval on September 17, 2007. Richfield's SWMP received RBWMO approval on March 17, 2008.

Subsequent to the August 28, 2008 approval of the RBWMO Plan, staff has reviewed each city's plan to ensure conformance with new policies and procedures.

H. Water Quality Monitoring

Richfield and Bloomington continue to implement the monitoring program as outlined in Section V.4 of the approved watershed management plan. The monitoring is intended to establish long-term water quality data for the direct storm sewer discharges to Wood Lake, Richfield Lake, Smith Pond, and Wrights Lake.

Monitoring has been on-going at Wood Lake, Richfield, Lake, and Smith Pond since 2010. Wrights Lake is currently being monitored as part of the Hennepin County Wetland Health Evaluation Program. Monitoring records are available upon request.

I. Consultant Services

Consulting for Non-Profits was hired to complete a Self-Assessment of the Organization. The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is contributing \$10,000 to the cost of the consultant. The remainder of the consultant fees \$6,500 will be split equally between the two member cities.

J. Information Program

A copy of the publication for the Bloomington Sun and Richfield Sun is included.
(Attachment 2)

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

K. Expenditures

All RBWMO expenses are shared equally and paid through the member cities storm water utility funds. Insurance for 2015 was \$2,275.00.