



2017 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

www.RBWMO.org

I. Financial Report

The RBWMO has not expended or accrued funds during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017. No financial audits are necessary. Richfield and Bloomington expended \$1,606,250 and \$2,048,927 respectively from their storm water utility funds in 2017 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 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. Membership

Name	Representing
Jack Baloga	Bloomington
Tim Busse	Bloomington
Nathan Coulter	Bloomington
Pat Elliott	Richfield
Edwina Garcia	Richfield
Maria Regan Gonzalez	Richfield
Michael Howard	Richfield
Dwayne Lowman	Bloomington
Patrick Martin	Bloomington
Shawn Nelson	Bloomington
Gene Winstead	Bloomington
Simon Trautmann	Richfield

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:	Jeff Pearson City of Richfield City Engineer 1901 E. 66 th Street Richfield, MN 55423 612-861-9791
Assistant Executive Director:	Bryan Gruidl City of Bloomington Water Resource Engineer 1700 West 98 th Street Bloomington, MN 55431 952-563-4867

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

C. 2017 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.

Watershed Management Plan Update – As directed at the 2016 Annual Meeting and updated at the 2017 Annual Meeting, staff has completed the required update to the

Watershed Management Plan (the Plan). The updating of the Plan was structured into three phases:

1. Pre-Plan Development Phase – This task consisted of gathering data for analysis and inclusion in the plan. Successful development and implementation of a consensus-based Plan depends on input from interested parties. As part of this process the RBWMO requested other agencies and the general public submit comments for consideration in the updated RBWMO Watershed Management Plan. The information provided helped the RBWMO identify issues, goals and priorities that should be addressed during the Plan update.

- This activity began in May 2016 and was completed by June 2016

2. Plan Development Phase – This phase utilized a stakeholder process to help shape the Plan through a series of three stakeholder meetings, each meeting considering one of the three following questions:

1. Where are we now? – Using the data gathered in the pre-plan development phase this meeting reviewed past accomplishments, current land use, quality of water resources within the RBWMO, and issues facing the RBWMO;
 2. Where are we going? – The second meeting considered the previous work of the self-assessment project and used additional stakeholder input to set goals helping to shape the future vision of the RBWMO.
 3. How do we get there? – The final stakeholder meeting discussed the Implementation strategies necessary to move the RBWMO from its current state to its vision
- The result of this work is an initial draft plan to be distributed for public comment upon Board approval at the 2017 Annual Meeting
 - This work began with stakeholder meetings in August 2016 with completion of the draft plan by February 2017.

3. Plan Approval Phase – This phase is the review process from initial draft plan to final approved plan. The general plan approval process includes:

1. 60-Day Draft Plan for Agency and public review and comment – May, 2017
2. Public Hearing on Draft Plan – October, 2017
3. Board of Soil and Water Resources Approval – December, 2017
4. Adoption of Plan by RBWMO Board – Anticipated for March 2018

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 8, 2018 (Attachment 1).

Projects:

- 66th Street Reconstruction – Richfield
Construction was completed on the first year phase of 66th Street from Xerxes Avenue to Girard Avenue and Chicago Avenue to 16th Avenue. Sanitary sewer, watermain, and storm sewer utilities were reconstructed as part of the project. The project includes landscaped medians and boulevards within the right-of-way. Within the RBWMO, stormwater capacity issues west of I-35W (West Richfield Stormwater Improvement Project) were addressed as part of the project.
- Curb and Gutter, Manhole and Catch Basin Replacement – Richfield
Concrete and storm sewer repairs were conducted on 13 miles of residential roads in advance of a 2018 Mill and Overlay project.
- Bloomington Avenue (MCES) Sanitary Sewer Project - Bloomington
The 2016-501 Bloomington Ave. Sanitary Sewer Project included rehabilitation and/or replacement of 3150 linear feet of tunneled/bored sanitary sewer pipe, 1000 linear feet of open-cut sanitary sewer pipe, 4000 linear feet of watermain, and 2500 linear feet of storm sewer pipe.

The Project also included the reconstruction of 0.9 miles of the following residential streets:

- Bloomington Avenue South, between E. 86th and E. 90th Streets,
- East 86th Street, between Bloomington and 17th Avenues South, and
- 17th Avenue, between E. 86th and E. 84th Streets.

The Project was done under a cooperative agreement with the Metropolitan Council to improve sewer capacity in the South Loop District and the street construction under the City's Pavement Management Program. Temporary erosion control during construction was done in compliance with the Project SWPPP and NPDES permit. The Project resulted in a 0.4 acre reduction in impervious surface, as streets were narrowed from 36 feet to the standard 32 feet.

- H & H Model Update – Bloomington
The city's stormwater models were updated to reflect the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) revised precipitation frequency estimates (referred to as Atlas 14).

- CenterPoint Energy Beltline – Bloomington
CenterPoint Energy replaced approximately 6700 feet of natural gas main on Old Shakopee Road (CSAH 1) from Old Cedar Avenue to Oakland Avenue. The City of Bloomington coordinated storm sewer repairs during the work and Hennepin County also coordinated the street restoration with a mill and overlay.

D. 2018 Work Plan

Master Watershed Stewards – Community Leadership for Clean Water

Developed by Freshwater Society in 2013, the Master Water Stewards program is a volunteer education and outreach program designed to equip citizens with the knowledge and skills needed to help improve water quality at the grassroots level.

Hennepin County is providing funding for four Hennepin County residents to go through the Master Watershed Stewards program. One of the Stewards being funded is a resident of Richfield-Blooming watershed. Stewards are asked to learn about water resources science, water policy, and community outreach. In order to graduate from the program, they must complete a capstone project in their watershed (e.g. rain garden, or some other small scale BMP) and complete a community outreach component. In the case of the Steward from the RBWMO, the capstone project is anticipated to be focused on stormwater capture and re-use.

In 2018 Staff will work with the Steward and with Hennepin County to help facilitate a successful project and provide any guidance as necessary.

FY 2018-19 Clean Water Fund Watershed-based Funding Pilot Program

BWSR is piloting a watershed-based funding program that has allocated \$1,018,000 to Hennepin County for FY18/19. BWSR has tasked eligible entities with deciding on and describing a collaborative approach to spend that money by June 30, 2018. Eligible entities in Hennepin County include watershed districts, watershed management organizations, and cities. Hennepin County is leading the effort to develop a collaborative approach with input from the county's 11 watershed entities, and 35 eligible cities.

RBWMO staff will continue to be involved in working with Hennepin County and other partners as the process as moves forward in pursuing a collaborative approach and governance.

Local Water Plan Review

Both the cities of Richfield and Bloomington are updating their Local Watershed Plans as part of each cities overall comprehensive Plan update process. The RBWMO is one of the approving agencies for each cities Local Water Plan and as such RBWMO staff will be reviewing each city's plan to ensure conformance with new policies and procedures.

Joint Powers Agreement Review and Update

RBWMO staff will be reviewing the current JPA with the anticipation of bringing any proposed updates to the Board for consideration in March, 2019

Projects

- 66th Street Reconstruction – Richfield
In 2017, Hennepin County began reconstruction of the roadway and utilities west of I-35W and east of Portland Ave. Construction will continue in between these two points in 2018 and is expected to be completed in 2019. Ames Construction is the primary contractor.
- Richfield Pavement Management Program - Richfield
There are approximately 12.7 miles of proposed mill and overlay in the RBWMO
- Bloomington Pavement Management Program - Bloomington
These projects includes 4.5 miles of residential street reconstruction and 7.26 miles of mill and overlay throughout Bloomington. In 2018 there are about 0.65 miles of street reconstruction in the RBWMO:
 - East 83rd Street from Portland to Columbus Avenues South
 - Columbus Avenue South from East 84th to East 83rd Streets
 - Park Avenue South from East 87-1/2 to East 86th Streets
 - East 87-1/2 Street from Oakland to Park Avenues South,
 - Oakland Avenue South from East 87-1/2 Street to 150th north, and
 - 16th Avenue South from East 82nd Street to north terminus

There are 0.96 miles of proposed mill and overlay in the RBWMO:

 - 12th Avenue South from American Boulevard East to East 86th Street
 - East 82nd Street from 10th to 12th Avenues South
- CenterPoint Beltline Project- Bloomington and Richfield
CenterPoint Energy will be replacing the existing gasmain with 24” steel gasmain on Nicollet Avenue South from 98th Street (Bloomington) to 67th Street (Richfield). Hennepin County will complete the street restoration with a mill and overlay.
- Portland Avenue (CSAH 35) – Bloomington
Hennepin County will mill and overlay Portland Avenue South from East Old Shakopee Road (CASH 1) to East 81st Street.

E. Permits, Variances and Enforcement

Both Richfield and Bloomington had zero actions relating to the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) within the RBWMO area in 2017. The WCA 2017 Annual Reporting Forms are available upon request.

In 2017, Bloomington staff completed erosion control inspections at one construction/redevelopment sites in Bloomington within the RBWMO subject to a NPDES permit:

- Palacio Del Sol Apartments/ 9101 Old Cedar Avenue South

Single family home construction sites:

- 8440 Bloomington Avenue South
- 9517 Elliott Avenue South
- 1309 East 86th Street

In 2017, 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:

- Aldi (6310 Penn Ave S)
- Panera (980 W 78th St)
- Havenwood Assisted Living (245 76th St W)
- Holy Angels Sports Facilities Improvements (6600 Nicollet Ave)
- 66th Street Reconstruction
- Seven Hills Academy (1401 W 76th St)
- Metropolitan Council Environmental Services Airport Sewer Lining Project

Single Family Home Construction Projects Approved

- 6836 Irving Ave S

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, 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 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, 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.

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 current MS4 permit was approved in August, 2013. 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.

Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and TMDL reporting are a 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.

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 2016 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 2016. Associated maintenance as identified by the inspections was either scheduled or completed at the time of inspection.

G. Local Surface Water Plans

Bloomington's Local Surface Water Management Plan (LSWMP) received RBWMO approval on September 17, 2007. Bloomington's Local Surface Water Management Plan is currently out for Agency review from and public comment until mid-April, 2018 as part of a comprehensive LSWMP update being completed in partnership with the City's overall Comprehensive Plan.

Richfield's LSWMP received RBWMO approval on March 17, 2008. Richfield's Local Surface Water Management Plan is currently being prepared for Agency review and public comment as part of a comprehensive LSWMP update being completed in partnership with the City's overall Comprehensive Plan.

Subsequent to the approval of the RBWMO Plan, staff will review each city's LSWMP updates 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. Monitoring began on Wrights Lake in 2013 including being monitored as part of the Hennepin County Wetland Health Evaluation Program from 2013-2015. Smith Park Pond was also evaluated as part of the Wetland Health Evaluation Program beginning in 2017. Monitoring records are available upon request.

I. Consultant Services

None

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 2017 was \$2,275.00.