



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

I. Financial Report

II. Activity Report

A. Membership

B. Staff

C. 2018 Activity

D. 2019 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

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, 2019. No financial audits are necessary. Richfield and Bloomington expended \$1.0M and \$8.0M respectively from their storm water utility funds in 2019 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/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. 2019 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
Edwina Garcia	Richfield
Patrick Martin	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 Sr. Water Resources Manager 1700 West 98 th Street Bloomington, MN 55431 952-563-4557
Assistant Executive Director:	Jeff Pearson City of Richfield City Engineer 1901 E. 66 th Street Richfield, MN 55423 612-861-9791

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

C. 2019 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. In 2019 the City of Richfield inspected 100% of the city's ponds, outfalls and sediment basins

and completed five city-wide street sweeping passes. Additionally, the City removed debris and sediment from 36 storm sewer pollution control structures.

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 2019. Associated maintenance as identified by the inspections was either scheduled or completed at the time of inspection.

Hennepin County Chloride Initiative – 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 the County's Watershed-based Funding (\$101,800) to countywide chloride programming. This effort has become known as the Hennepin County Chloride Initiative.

The 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)

To gain an understanding of private applicators experiences and practices during the winter season the group worked with a graduate student from the University of Minnesota to conduct qualitative research on behalf of the partnership. This research specifically targeted private applicators with an online survey, interviews with individual applicators, and tabling at different events. The data collected was analyzed and presented to the partnership in December 2019.

Additionally, RBWMO has continued to work with the Minnesota River Basin group (Richfield-Bloomington WMO, Lower Minnesota River WD, Nine Mile Creek WD, and Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek WD) to further the chloride reduction efforts by developing a cost-share grant program. The cost-share program proposes to provide cost-share grants to applicators to retrofit equipment with new technology to more efficiently maintain sidewalks and parking lots. The Minnesota River Basin group anticipates rolling out the cost-share grant program in 2020.

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.

Technical Advisory Commission – In accordance with the 2018 Approved Watershed Management Plan, the RBWMO Technical Advisory Committee met on September 19, 2019. Minutes from that meeting are provided at the end of the report.

Section V Implementation Studies and Programs Activities:

- a. Education and Outreach Program – Continue providing educational opportunities through the use of the Wood Lake Nature Center and in partnering with other watershed districts and watershed management organizations.

Level 1 Smart Salting Workshop - On March 25, 2019 RBWMO partnered with Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District to provide a Parking Lot and Sidewalks Level 1 Smart Salting Workshop for school district staff. The workshop provided attendees from both Bloomington and Richfield Public Schools an opportunity to learn application rates, new maintenance methods and included a tour of Bloomington's Brine making system an opportunity to educate attendees on the proper use of brine, which is currently being used by the Bloomington Public Schools.

Adopt-a-Drain - RBWMO was also active with the Adopt-a-Drain program within with watershed in 2019. 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, at the end of 2019, participants had adopted a total of 96 storm drains and collected over 1,500 lbs of debris from storm drains.

Success Academy – RBWMO partnered with the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District to bring about 60 students from Success Academy to the Moir Park area along Nine Mile Creek to give students a hands-on look at creek health and water science. RBWMO provided financial assistance for bussing costs to get the kids to the creek and the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District staff provided the programing at the creek.

- b. 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 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. The RBWMO is committed to monitoring at least one waterbody each year has part of the Hennepin County Wetland Health Evaluation Program. Smith Park Pond was monitored again in 2019 as part of the County's program, in addition to monitoring activity conducted by staff. Monitoring records are available upon request.

- c. Hydrologic and Hydraulic (H&H) Model Update – This study includes updating stormwater models to reflect the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) revised precipitation frequency estimates (referred to as Atlas 14). This work was initially started with watershed areas in Bloomington in 2017. Work to update models has been ongoing and was completed for both Bloomington and Richfield watersheds in 2019.
- d. Christian Pond Dredging Project – Bathymetric data collected was inconsistent in some areas making it difficult to determine where areas of greatest need were in the ponds. As a result of the inconsistent data, the dredging project was postponed. Staff are working with a second consultant to move forward with this project. Work on this project is anticipated to be done in 2020 once pond profiles are confirmed which will provide the information necessary to estimate the amount of sediment to be removed and costs associated with the construction activity.
- e. I-494: Airport to Highway 169 – Staff continued to work with MnDOT and other stakeholders regarding surface and stormwater management challenges and opportunities throughout the I-494 corridor.
- f. Wood Lake Goldfish – The winter of 2018-19 resulted in very thick ice and very deep snow for an extended period which resulted in a winter kill on Wood Lake. As the ice melted, goldfish and bullheads floated to the surface and a flock of 200 seagulls fed on the winter killed fish for nearly a month. Staff contacted the U of M for consultation and they agreed that to help the stability of the Wood Lake aquatic system we may want to pursue an aeration system to be used in one of the deep sedimentation ponds to create a fish sanctuary for winter. In addition to the fish benefits this may also improve water quality and support the invertebrate populations as well. In early 2019 staff applied for an AIS grant from Hennepin County in the amount of \$13,000 for an aeration system and fish stocking, but the grant application was denied.

Subsequent trapping and observation over the 2019 summer resulted in low numbers of small bullheads and small goldfish. Water levels on Wood Lake

were extremely high all summer and the cattail islands began floating all over the marsh. Staff consulted with Rademacher Ponds (fish stocking contractor) and as a result elected to wait until 2020 to restock with largemouth bass and use 2019 to monitor conditions and consider future strategies for Wood Lake.

Projects:

- Mill and Overlay – Richfield completed bituminous milling and overlay of approximately 15 miles of residential streets in 2019.
- Lyndale Avenue Reconstruction – The reconstruction of Lyndale Avenue, from 76th Street to 66th Street, reached substantial completion in the fall of 2019. Final detail, including striping and minor punch list work will be completed in the spring. The projects were to improve the failing pavement conditions, replace deteriorating sidewalks, and upgrade aging and underground utilities while improving operational safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicles.
- Street Reconstruction - Bloomington
As part of the 2019-101 Street Reconstruction Project Bloomington reconstructed portions of the following streets:
 - Park Avenue South
 - Park Road
 - 11th and 17th Avenues
 - East 87th and 88th Streets
 - 16th Ave. S from E. 82nd St. to north terminus

The project included repairs to existing storm sewer, curb and gutter, sidewalk, and reconstructing the existing bituminous street pavement and sod restoration. A project SWPPP and NPDES permit for construction activities were included. Post construction activity included turf restoration and there was no net change in impervious surface.

D. 2020 Work Plan

Watershed Based Funding – Staff will continue to work on the Hennepin County Chloride Initiative as well as working with the Minnesota River Basin group to roll out cost-share grants to applicators to retrofit equipment with new technology to more efficiently maintain sidewalks and parking lots.

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 the goal of engaging with and educating youth about water

and natural resources using the Wood Lake Nature Center and through partnerships with other watershed districts and water management organizations.

Education and Outreach Plan – One of goals of the WMO is to work more efficiently and effectively with public and private partners on engaging youth in area schools. To further this effort the WMO will look to begin developing an education and outreach plan geared towards specifically engaging with students. The education and outreach plan will consider ways to engage with schools, public and private partners and youth in an effort to incorporate water resources educational programming.

I-494: Airport to Highway 169 – Staff will continue to collaborate with other watershed districts and water management organizations for an acceptable approach to water management along the I-494 corridor. Staff will also continue working with MnDOT and other stakeholders on surface and stormwater management challenges and opportunities throughout 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 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

Projects

Christian Pond Dredging Project – Richfield

In 2020 Staff will be working with a consultant to move forward with this project. The consultant will be confirming pond profiles using bathymetric data in order to estimate the volume of sediment to be removed and associated costs.

E. Permits, Variances and Enforcement

Richfield had zero actions and Bloomington had one action relating to the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) within the RBWMO area in 2019. The WCA 2019 Annual Reporting Forms are available upon request.

In 2019, Bloomington staff completed erosion control inspections at seven construction/redevelopment sites in Bloomington within the RBWMO.

- 7801 12th Ave S: Holiday Inn Express
- 9517 Elliot Ave S: Twinhome
- 7801 12th Ave S: Holiday Inn Express
- 8100 24th Ave S: MOA Transit Hub
- 1550 American Blvd E: The Bloc (bldg. remodel)
- 8100 12th Ave S: Southgate Apartments
- 8715 Portland Ave S: Portland Commons Ph. 2

In 2019, 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:

- Morries Jaguar Land Rover (1525 77th St E)
- Lyndale Gardens Multi-Family Housing (6324-6360 Lyndale Ave S)
- Partnership Academy (6500 Nicollet Ave S)
- Richfield STEM Elementary and Dual Language School (7020 12th Ave S)
- Richfield High School (7001 Harriet Ave S)

Single Family Home Construction Projects Approved/Inspected

- 7324 Girard Ave Richfield
- 6310 Girard Ave Richfield
- 6929 Oliver Ave Richfield
- 6933 Oliver Ave Richfield
- 6937 Oliver Ave Richfield

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). 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.

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.

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 inspects 100% of the city's ponds, outfalls and sediment basins and completes several city-wide street sweeping passes. Additionally, the City removes debris and sediment from storm sewer pollution control structures.

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

None

I. Information Program

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



RICHFIELD | BLOOMINGTON
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

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 2019 was \$2,275.00.