



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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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, 2020. No financial audits are necessary. Richfield and Bloomington expended \$2.1M and \$6.1M respectively from their storm water utility funds in 2020 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. 2020 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 |
| 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: | Patrick Martin City of Richfield Water Resources/GIS Specialist 1901 E. 66th Street Richfield, MN 55423 612-861-9797 |
| Assistant Executive Director: | Bryan Gruidl City of Bloomington Sr. Water Resources Manager 1700 West 98 th Street Bloomington, MN 55431 952-563-4557 |

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

C. 2020 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. City of Richfield inspected the city's ponds, outfalls and sediment basins and completed five city-wide street sweeping passes. Additionally, the City removed debris and sediment from 38 storm sewer pollution control structures.

Bloomington provided two annual sweepings of city streets in addition to targeted sweeping in priority watersheds and completed inspection and maintenance of 82% 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 2020. 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 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)

In 2019 research efforts with the University of Minnesota targeted private applicators to understand their experiences and practices during the winter season. During 2020 the group continued to work collaboratively to offer property manager trainings related to salt management and explored additional educational opportunities. Hands-on trainings that were anticipated in 2020 were not able to be implemented due to impacts of Covid-19.

Currently the group is moving forward with the development of a chloride management template for property owners. The template is anticipated to be used by property owners to direct the work of their winter maintenance crews as to when, where, and how snow and ice are managed on a specific site. In 2021 the group will look to convene an advisory panel to provide input and feedback on a template to continue moving this forward.

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 programming. 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.

In 2020 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 by that organization. Entities applying for a Chloride Reduction Grant must be currently Smart Salting certified through the MPCA. These are cost-share grants. That means the cost share grant covers part of the project cost, and the award recipient covers part. The grant amount is up to \$20,000 max, and up to 75% of the project cost.

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 January 14, 2021. Minutes from that meeting are provided at the end of the report as Attachment 1.

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.

Smart Salting Training – On August 18, 2020 RBWMO hosted Smart Salting training. The workshop provided staff from both Bloomington and Richfield an opportunity to learn application rates, new maintenance methods and environmental effects of salt. The training was virtually hosted by Bloomington with 30 attendees.

Adopt-a-Drain - RBWMO was also active with the Adopt-a-Drain program within the watershed in 2020. 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 participants have adopted a total of 154 storm drains and in 2020 collected over 1,200 lbs of debris from storm drains.

- 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 has been committed to monitoring at least one waterbody each year as part of the Hennepin County Wetland Health Evaluation Program (WHEP). However Hennepin County did not offer the WHEP program in 2020 due to Covid-19 and the program is now being re-evaluated by the County and it is unknown if this program will continue in the future.

During 2020 staff built and deployed an EnviroDIY monitoring unit on Wrights Lake to collect continuous data related to conductivity, depth, and water temperature. While the project was in a pilot phase in 2020 staff will be moving forward with a season long deployment of the monitoring unit on Wrights Lake in 2021.

Monitoring records are available upon request.

- c. 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.

The RBWMO submitted a youth education program for consideration and was awarded a grant of \$30,000 to implement the education program. The RBWMO partnered with the Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends to develop a youth education program with curriculum focused around basic hydrologic and ecological principles.

Estimated outputs include

- Up to 4 elementary schools from the vicinity of the RBWMO
- 100 student per school (either 4th or 5th grade)
- 5 classroom sessions per class
- 1 field trip to the Minnesota Valley Wildlife refuge per school.

The course will be taught by a professional educator licensed through the State of Minnesota. The course materials, the educator's time, transport and facilities will be at no cost to the schools. The 10% match fund required by the grant will be covered by the RBWMO with assistance from the MVRF.

Staff are currently working with Bloomington public schools on implementing this program with their 2021 summer school education program. Staff will continue to work with educators in both Richfield and Bloomington to implement this opportunity into the 2021-2022 school year.

- d. Lower Minnesota River 1W1P – Staff participated with Le Sueur County and SWCD in their request to initiate the 1W1P process for the Lower Minnesota River watershed. Through a series of meetings staff was able to learn more about the 1W1P process and what types of commitments were required. Ultimately the group chose to amend the boundary of planning area 56 to only include areas outside the metro. This decision was supported by all parties including RBWMO as metro watershed have already been working extensively on planning since 1982 when the Minnesota legislature passed Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act which mandating a comprehensive surface water management plan be developed for 46 separate watersheds in the Metropolitan Area.
- e. Christian Pond Dredging Project – Richfield– Work started on dredging the Christian Park Pond in early 2021. A new outlet is being installed to improve system capacity and work is expected to finish in the spring.
- f. I-494: Airport to Highway 169 – Staff continued to work with MnDOT and other stakeholders on surface and stormwater management challenges and opportunities throughout the I-494 corridor.
- g. Wood Lake Goldfish – Wood Lake has a well-known population of large, invasive goldfish. The Nature Center received a Hennepin County Aquatic Invasive Species grant in 2017 to help manage the invasive population. Nature Center staff are hoping to secure grant funds in 2021 for lake aeration and stocking to help limit the goldfish population.

Projects:

- Mill and Overlay – Richfield completed bituminous milling and overlay of approximately 14.25 miles of residential streets in 2020.
- Lyndale Avenue Reconstruction – Final detail, including striping and minor punch list work was completed on the reconstruction of Lyndale Avenue, from 76th Street to 66th Street. 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.

- Bloomington PMP Street Maintenance Project
As part of the 2020-102 PMP Street Maintenance Project Bloomington coordinated the mill and overlay of Oakland Avenue from E. 84th Street to E. 83rd Street.

The project included a full mill at intersections, edge mill along existing curb and gutter, about 625 feet of bituminous paving and sod restoration. A project SWPPP for construction activities was included. Post construction activity included turf restoration and there was no net change in impervious surface.

D. 2021 Work Plan

Watershed Based Funding – Staff will continue to work on the Hennepin County Chloride Initiative to develop a chloride management template for property owners. Staff will also continue working with the Minnesota River Basin group on the cost-share grants for applicators to retrofit equipment to use efficient technology to maintain sidewalks and roads. 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 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. This effort was initiated in 2020, but progress was impacted due to Covid-19. To further this effort the WMO will use the experience with the Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends and Bloomington and Richfield schools youth education program to continue 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 staff anticipate finishing the dredging and outlet improvements at Christian Park Pond in early 2021.

E. Permits, Variances and Enforcement

Richfield had zero actions and Bloomington had zero actions relating to the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) within the RBWMO area in 2020. The WCA 2020 Annual Reporting Forms are available upon request.

In 2020, Bloomington staff completed erosion control inspections at five construction/redevelopment sites in Bloomington within the RBWMO.

- 8244 13th Ave S: Single family home
- 8100 12th Ave S: Southgate Apartments
- 8640 11th Ave S: Twinhome
- 8714 Portland Ave S: Portland Commons Ph. 2
- 1900 E 86th Street: Village Club

In 2020, Richfield staff completed erosion control inspections at five construction/redevelopment sites in Richfield within the RBWMO.

- Henley Apartments and Townhomes (6324-6360 Lyndale Avenue South)
- Chase Bank (66th and Lyndale Avenue South)
- Sheridan Hills Elementary School (6400 Sheridan Avenue South)
- Novo Apartments (2400 66th Street West)
- Lunds Residential (6228 Penn Avenue South)

Single Family Home Construction Projects Approved/Inspected

- 800 73rd St. W. Richfield
- 6310 Irving Ave. S. Richfield
- 6929 Oliver Ave. Richfield
- 6933 Oliver Ave. Richfield

- 6937 Oliver Ave. Richfield
- 6717 Emerson Ln. Richfield
- 6721 Emerson Ln. Richfield
- 6725 Emerson Ln. Richfield
- 6731 Emerson Ln. Richfield
- 6739 Emerson Ln. 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 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.
(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

J. Expenditures

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

Insurance for 2020 was \$2,275.00.

Attachment 1
TAC Meeting Minutes

Attachment 2
Copy of Annual Publication