



DATE: March 7, 2023

TO: Mayor, City Council, and City Manager

FROM: Bryan Gruidl, Bloomington, RBWMO Executive Director
Mattias Oddsson, Richfield Water Resources Engineer

RE: Richfield Bloomington Watershed Management Organization Annual Meeting

Attached is the agenda material for the Annual Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization (RBWMO) meeting. The 39th annual meeting will take place on **Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 6PM** with a light supper starting at 5:30PM. The meeting will be held **in-person at the Richfield Municipal Center (6700 Portland Ave)**.

Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR)

- Steve Christopher, Board Conservationist with BWSR will be in attendance at the annual meeting. BWSR Staff have continued working with local Watershed Management Organizations and Watershed Districts with the Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Program.

Annual Report and WMO Activities

- The annual report is included with the agenda material. Pending Board approval, the 2022 annual report will be submitted to BWSR as required. The presentation will summarize the annual report and include WMO's 2022 activities as well as highlight the upcoming work anticipated for 2023.

The RBWMO was formed to provide more uniform and comprehensive management of surface water at the local level as mandated by the Minnesota Legislature. Where no watershed district was in existence local governments could chose to join an existing watershed district (i.e. Nine Mile Creek, Minnehaha) or form a watershed management organization through joint powers agreements. The cities of Richfield and Bloomington elected to cooperatively enter into a joint-power agreement on January 23, 1984, thereby forming the Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization.

The attached agenda packet indicates there is some action that is requested of the Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization Board at the annual meeting. However, no formal action is necessary as a City Council.



ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday March 14, 2023; 6:00 p.m.
Richfield Municipal Center (6700 Portland Ave)

1. Call to order and introductions
2. Approval of minutes of February 22, 2022 Annual Meeting
3. Review and approval of agenda
4. Election of Officers for 2023
 - a. Chair: Bloomington
 - b. Vice-Chair: Richfield
 - c. Secretary: Richfield
 - d. Treasurer: Bloomington
5. Approve 2023 staff appointments (1st year of 1-yr term)
 - a. Executive Director: Bryan Gruidl, Bloomington
 - b. Assistant Executive Director: Mattias Oddsson, Richfield
6. 2022 Executive Director's Report (Gruidl)
7. Business Items
 - a. Watershed Based Funding
 - i. Hennepin County Chloride Initiative and Minnesota River Basin group update
 - ii. Youth Education program and partnership with Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends
 - iii. FY22-23 Watershed Based Implementation Funding
 1. Conservation Education and Implementation Partnership Pilot
 2. Sheridan Pond Water Quality Project
 3. RBWMO feasibility study for water quality, water quantity and ecosystem management
 - b. New Wood Lake Nature Center project
 - c. Adopt-a-Drain
8. Consideration of approval of 2022 Annual Report
9. Public Notice; scheduled to be published March 23, 2023
10. Insurance – Estimated \$2,500.00 for July 2023 - June 2024 (each City pay half: \$1,250.00)
11. Adjournment

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



RBWMO Meeting UNAPPROVED MINUTES

RBWMO Meeting Tuesday, February 22, 2022 Cisco Webex Virtual Meeting

CALL TO ORDER - 6:00 PM	Chair Patrick Martin called the 2022 meeting of the Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization (RBWMO) to order at 6:00pm.
	<i>Bloomington Council Present:</i> Councilmembers J. Carter, P. Martin, S. Nelson
	<i>Richfield Council Present:</i> Mayor M. Regan Gonzalez; Council members S. Trautmann, M. Supple, S. Hayford Oleary, B. Whalen
	<i>Bloomington Staff Present:</i> Bryan Gruidl, Julie Long, Jack Distel, Karl Keel
	<i>Richfield Staff Present:</i> Kristin Asher, Katie Rodriguez, Chris Swanson, Scott Kulzer, Kari Sinning, Jordan Vennes
	<i>Other:</i> Board Conservationist Steve Christopher
	<i>Absent:</i> T. Busse, N. Coulter, D. Lowman, L. Dallessandro
Approval of March 9, 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes	Motion by Regan Gonzalez to approve the March 9, 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes, seconded by Supple. Motion carried unanimously.
Review and Approval of Agenda	Motion by Whalen to approve Agenda, seconded by Nelson. Motion carried unanimously.
Election of Officers for 2022	Motion by Supple to nominate Sean Hayford Oleary as Chair. Seconded by Trautmann. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Nelson to nominate Jenna Carter as Vice Chair. Seconded by Martin. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Nelson to nominate Nathan Coulter as Secretary. Seconded by Martin. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Whalen to nominate Mary Supple as Treasurer. Seconded by Regan Gonzalez. Motion carried unanimously.
Approve 2022 staff appointments	Approve 2022 staff appointment for Executive Director Bryan Gruidl. Motion by Supple. Seconded by Nelson. Motion carried unanimously. Approve 2022 staff appointments for Assistant Director Jordan Vennes. Motion by Regan Gonzalez. Seconded by Whalen. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director's Report	Gruidl provided overview of RBWMO geographic area, staff, and functions via PowerPoint. Explained Annual Reporting to BWSR; Technical Advisory Committee; Community Advisory Commissions; Water quality monitoring program; 2021 activities; Smith Park Pond; 2021 permits and enforcements; 2022 work plan.
Business Item: Watershed Based Funding	<p>Christopher provided watershed-based funding information including overview of program; Hennepin County Chloride Initiative; shift in distribution method to a watershed basis for FY 22/23. RBWMO will receive \$75,000 in funding. Eligibility requirements may affect funding for current education program with Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends.</p> <p>Distel presented on RBWMO youth education partnership with Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends. Summer program for Bloomington students was successful—student assessment demonstrated increased ability to positively impact water resources and increased confidence to be a water steward. Vennes provided summary of current program progress with Richfield Public Schools. Distel noted that summer school programming with Bloomington Public Schools is planned to continue in 2022.</p> <p>Martin opened the meeting to questions and comments. Whalen asked for clarification on funding eligibility for the education partnership with Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends. Gruidl responded that the program may need to be modified to be eligible for funding. Regan Gonzalez commented on the importance of outreach and education work and thanked RBWMO staff. Martin echoed Regan Gonzalez’s comments and noted appreciation for Distel’s inclusion of education outcome measurements.</p>
Consideration to Approve 2021 Annual Report	Motion by Carter to approve the 2021 Annual Report. Seconded by Nelson. Motion carried unanimously.
Consideration to Approve 2022 Public Notice	Motion by Supple to approve the 2022 Public Notice. Seconded by Whalen. Motion carried unanimously.
Insurance	Insurance estimated at \$2,500.00 for July 2022 – June 2023. Consistent with past years each city will pay half the cost or \$1,250.00.
ADJOURN	Motion by Regan Gonzalez to adjourn. Seconded by Carter. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:44 pm.

**RICHFIELD-BLOOMINGTON
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION
www.RBWMO.org**

RBWMO Information for New Board Members

The Organization's purpose is to preserve and use natural water storage and retention systems within the Richfield- Bloomington Watershed to meet the purposes set forth in the Surface Water Management Act.

ABOUT THE RBWMO

The Richfield-Bloomington Watershed covers a 7.55 square mile, contiguous area that comprises portions of eastern Bloomington and southeastern Richfield. Portions of the two local governmental units within the watershed are listed below:

LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT		
Local Government Unit	Area within Watershed (Square Miles)	Percent of Watershed
Richfield	4.25	56%
Bloomington	3.3	43%

A Board of Commissioners has been established as the governing body of the Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization. The Board of Commissioners is comprised of all City Council Members in the Cities of Richfield and Bloomington. The RBWMO holds at least one public meeting each year, at which time the Board elects officers and conducts necessary business. The RBWMO has no direct expenses. As identified in the Joint Powers Agreement, personnel of the Cities may be utilized, but no additional compensation will be paid by the WMO. Each city budgets and expends funds in their respective storm drainage utilities to cover costs associated with watershed storm water management. Any items that cross city boundaries is split 50/50 between the two member cities (i.e., consultant fees).

PURPOSE AND INTENT

The duties of the organization, as enacted by the Board, are as follows:

- Prepare and adopt a watershed management plan meeting the requirements of Minnesota Rules Chapter 8410 (*current plan adopted in 2018*).
- Review and approve local water management plans (*Bloomington & Richfield*) as defined in Minnesota Rules Chapter 8410.
- Exercise the authority of a Watershed District or Watershed Management Organization under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103B to regulate the use and development of land when:
 1. A local water management plan has not been approved and adopted. *Both Bloomington and Richfield have current, adopted plans.*
 2. A local permit requires an amendment to or variance from the local water management plan.
 3. The Board has been authorized by the local government to require permits for land use. *This has not been authorized by either member city.*

The intent of the organization is to address water drainage issues and storm water management within the watershed that are inter-governmental, rather than local (specific to one community or the other), in scope. Goals of the organization include the following:

- Protecting, preserving, and using natural surface and groundwater storage and retention systems;
- Minimizing public capital expenditures needed to address flooding and water quality problems;
- Identifying and planning for opportunities to effectively protect and improve surface and groundwater quality;
- Establishing more uniform local policies and official controls for surface and groundwater management;
- Preventing erosion of soil into surface water systems;
- Protecting and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat and water recreational facilities; and
- Securing the other benefits associated with the proper management of surface and groundwater within the Richfield-Bloomington Watershed.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE RBWMO

In 1982 the Minnesota Legislature passed the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act mandating a comprehensive surface water management plan be developed for 46 separate watersheds in the Metropolitan Area. A primary purpose of the Act was to provide for more uniform and comprehensive management of surface water at the local level. Where no watershed district was in existence, local government could chose to join an existing watershed district (i.e., Nine Mile Creek, Minnehaha Creek) or form a watershed management organization through joint powers agreements. This was the case for the Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization (RBWMO) formed on December 19, 1983. The agreement was amended and bylaws were adopted January 23, 1984.

In 1990 Legislature enacted a number of revisions to the Surface Water Management Act including the requirement that the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) develop rules to help guide and coordinate a number of aspects of the Metro Watershed Plan development and implementation. These rules were codified under Chapter 8410 of State Rule. One aspect of the rules specifies that no plan is to be in effect for more than ten years. The most recent update the RBWMO plan was approved in October, 2017.

STAFF CONTACTS

Bryan Gruidl, Bloomington – 952-563-4557

Mattias Oddsson, Richfield – 612-861-9797



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

I. Financial Report

II. Activity Report

A. Membership

B. Staff

C. 2022 Activity

1. Ongoing Programs

2. Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF)

3. Projects

D. 2023 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, 2022. No financial audits are necessary. Richfield and Bloomington expended \$2.5M and \$5.8M respectively from their storm water utility funds in 2022 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. 2022 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
Sean Hayford Oleary	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:	Bryan Gruidl City of Bloomington Water Resources Manager 1700 West 98 th Street Bloomington, MN 55431 952-563-4557
Assistant Executive Director:	Mattias Oddsson City of Richfield Water Resources Engineer 1901 E. 66th Street Richfield, MN 55423 612-861-9797

In 2022 Assistant Executive Director, Jordan Vennes, left the City of Richfield. Assistant Executive Director responsibilities were carried out by Chad Donnelly until Mattias Oddsson was hired as the Richfield Water Resources Engineer in November 2022. Both Chad and Mattias were active in coordinating and supporting RMBWO related activities. City staff from both cities cooperate to provide necessary staff support for the RBWMO.

C. 2022 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. Richfield completed routine maintenance of all structural pollution control devices for which it is responsible within the permitted MS4 and performed five 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 turnover has hindered the completion of stormwater BMP inspections. Richfield staff have completed an updated BMP inventory, along with updates to inspection forms and procedures, and will strengthen the inspection and maintenance program in 2023.

Bloomington provided two annual sweepings of city streets in addition to targeted sweeping in priority watersheds. Maintenance of structural pollution control devices was delayed due to equipment issues. As a result, these devices will be inspected and maintained in the spring of 2023 as weather allows. Inspections of 20% of the city's MS4 outfalls, ponds and sediment basins were also ongoing in 2022. Associated maintenance as identified by the inspections was either scheduled or completed at the time of inspection.

1. **Ongoing Programs**

Hennepin County Chloride Initiative (HCCI) – 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 overall 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 2022 HCCI worked with MP+G Marketing solutions and developed the marketing campaign “Low Salt, No Salt Minnesota – [See web page.](#) Resources produced included a comprehensive toolbox for Local Government Units (LGU's) and two professionally developed videos focused on the impacts of chloride to the environment and reducing liability for slip and fall lawsuits. The group also purchased 100 “ultimate ice scrapers” with the grant funds to provide to primarily

low-income, multifamily housing or faith-based communities for use on their properties if they agree to meet with staff and participate in the Low Salt, No Salt Minnesota program.

The Low Salt, No Salt Minnesota toolbox is intended for Local Government Units (LGUs) such as cities and watershed management organizations to deliver the program locally, increasing awareness and providing support for private landowners to help them reduce chloride pollution from their properties.

The Low Salt, No Salt Minnesota program is currently being piloted in Edina and RBWMO is working with the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District to pilot the program in Bloomington.

The Hennepin County Chloride Initiative Project was selected as 2022 Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) Program of the year.

The grant period ended on December 31, 2022. A summary of activities is presented in the following table:

Original Budget	Grant \$101,800	Match: \$10,180
Task	Grant Funding Spent or Encumbered	Match Funding Spent
Qualitative research with private salt applicators, survey, and project report (2019 - 2020)	\$4,828	
Development of Smart Salting for Property Manager's Guidebook (Fortin Consulting, Oct 2019)	\$10,000	\$10,500 (RPBCWD, NMCWD, LMRWD)
Development of Winter Management Plan Template (Fortin Consulting, March 2021)	\$9,950	
Parker's Lake Chloride Project Facilitation Plan (BCWMC/Plymouth, March 2021)	\$20,750	
Marketing Campaign targeting boards/committees with HOAs and faith based organizations	\$46,300	
Purchase of ultimate ice scrapers	\$9,900	
Total	\$101,728	\$10,500

In addition to the HCCI program, as part of the 2018 watershed-based funding, RBWMO also partnered with the Lower Minnesota River WD, Nine Mile Creek WD, and Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek WD, forming the Minnesota River Basin group, to further chloride reduction efforts by developing a cost-share grant program. 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.

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. Entities applying for a Chloride Reduction Grant were required to be Smart Salting certified through the MPCA. The grant amount was up to \$20,000 max, and/or 75% of the project cost. In total 7 projects were funded for a total of \$97,868.72. This project was completed in December 2022 with Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District completing the final grant reporting to BWSR.

Education and Outreach Program – Continue providing educational opportunities using the Wood Lake Nature Center and through partnering with other watershed districts and watershed management organizations.

Youth education programming – The RBWMO, in partnership with the Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends (MVRF), continued implementation of a youth education program for fourth and fifth graders. This work is being funded by a BWSR grant as described below.

Conservation Education and Implementation Partnership – A partnership between several WMO's and led by Hennepin County to implement a pilot program engaging in education and outreach, that reduces duplication of efforts and overlapping messaging, and provides a more coordinated approach to bring focus and cost efficiency to education programming.

To meet immediate education needs and desires for tangible implementation actions, the West Metro Watershed Alliance (WMWA) and Hennepin County initiated a pilot program funded in part by county and WMO funding and part by WBIF. This pilot program pools financial resources from several organizations in Hennepin County to meet WMO, City, and County education and outreach needs, increase technical assistance, education, and outreach with residents focused on increasing conservation implementation success through the delivery of practical and interactive conservation education, follow-up technical assistance site visits, and financial assistance to help defray that cost of taking conservation action. This pilot program will include three elements:

1. A limited-duration half-time program coordinator, supported by Hennepin County, to provide community engagement, education, marketing, and promotion of program elements.
2. Resident-facing workshops using a model like Dakota County's [Landscaping for Clean Water](#) program where participants attend.
3. Multi-family housing- facing projects using Metro Blooms' model of [Equitable Engagement](#).

Adopt-a-Drain - RBWMO was also continued to participate in the Adopt-a-Drain program within the watershed in 2022. 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 212 drains adopted. Participants reported adopting 32 new drains and removing 1024 lbs of debris in 2022. There were 18 new participants in 2022, for a cumulative total of 119.

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.

Monitoring has been on-going at Wood Lake, Richfield, Lake, and Smith Pond since 2010. Monitoring began on Wrights Lake in 2013 From April to August, 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 retained Barr Engineering to conduct water quality monitoring in 2022. Barr staff conducted monthly sampling for temperature, dissolved oxygen (DO), chloride, pH, and phosphorus, as well as continuous water level monitoring. Wood Lake, Richfield Lake, and Augsburg Pond were monitored throughout the growing season. Richfield staff are planning to transition to in-house water quality monitoring for 2023, with assistance from consultants as needed.

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 12, 2022. Minutes from that meeting are provided at the end of the report.

2. Watershed Based Implementation Funding

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.

RBWMO submitted a youth education program for consideration and was awarded a grant of \$30,000 to develop and implement the program. RBWMO partnered with the Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends (MVRF) to develop the youth education program with curriculum focused around basic hydrologic and ecological principles. The funding covers materials, educator fees, and transportation costs for approximately 400 students. Each session is ended with a field trip to the Minnesota River at the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge and Trailhead. The goals of the program are to:

- Increase knowledge on hydraulic and ecological principles
 - basic understanding of a watershed
 - understanding of how water interacts with environment
 - understanding of water stewardship
- Increase ability to positively impact water resources
- Increase confidence to be a water steward

In 2021 the MVRF were contracted by the RBWMO and City of Bloomington to run the program. MVRF contracts a professional educator to create and carry out the curriculum. The curriculum was designed to empower youth members of the RBWMO community to become water quality stewards. These students leave the program better able to protect water resources, enhance local ecology and be better equipped to support restoration initiatives. The curriculum is tailored to reference the Lower Minnesota River corridor. However, the topics covered in the curriculum pertain to drinking water, surface water and groundwater. Major concepts covered by the curriculum include: Watersheds, Storm water, Storm drains, Run off, Habitat, Pollution, Pollutant, Point source pollution, Nonpoint source pollution, Wetlands.

In 2021, the first session was successfully implemented. It was hosted in cooperation with a Bloomington summer school program. A total of 103 students took part in the programming though attendance fluctuated throughout the program. At the end of 2021, a full classroom session was completed in partnership with Richfield Public Schools. It was conducted fully online due to pandemic restrictions. An in-person fieldtrip occurred that spring.

In 2022, there were two Bloomington summer sessions. One partnered with the districts summer school program and the other partnered with the American Indian Studies Program. In total they reached 37 students. That fall, an in-person classroom

session was conducted with Richfield Public Schools, reaching 84 students. Pre and post assessments from all sessions conducted to date have shown a marked increase in knowledge, ability, and confidence. The field trip was highly regarded.

Because the 2022 Bloomington summer school program was smaller than anticipated, there are enough funds to host one additional classroom session in cooperation with Bloomington Public Schools in 2023. The BWSR grant period expires on December 31, 2023. To date the project has spent a total of \$24,248.84, including match funding. There is \$16,706.63 left on the grant.

2022-23 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Program

In February 2022 BWSR Kicked-off the FY 22-23 WBIF program. The goal of this program continues to be to accelerate Clean Water Fund activities towards advancing Minnesota's water quality goals through prioritized, targeted, cost effective actions with measurable water quality results. RBWMO was awarded \$75,000 from the WBIF program and through a series of convene meetings the following projects were selected for funding: Conservation Education and Implementation Partnership (\$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)

3. Projects

Sheridan Pond Maintenance Project – Richfield Public Works Stormwater Utility division initiated this project to improve the functional nature of the pond as well as to enhance the adjacent terrestrial area. Phase 1 included dredging and re-shaping of the basin and storm sewer installation. A new outlet structure designed to improve downstream water quality by capturing debris funded through WBIF was also installed.

77th Street Underpass – The City of Richfield coordinated the construction of underpass beneath TH77 connecting 77th St to the east and west of TH77.

The project is currently ongoing and includes Construction of 4-lane divided road connecting 77th Street to realigned Longfellow Ave on East side of TH77, new bridge on TH77 carrying TH77 over 77th St. Reconstruction of southbound TH77 to westbound I-494 ramp, westbound I-494 to northbound TH77 amp, and frontage road over new 77th St. Also includes rehabilitation and/or replacement of majority of city-owned utilities in project area. Stormwater management elements on the project include underground detention system beneath Washington Park. A SWPPP was developed for the project and MPCA Construction Stormwater Permit was obtained. Erosion control includes inlet protection, bioroll and silt fence perimeter control, stabilized construction exits, seed mix and sod. The project is approximately

85% complete as of March 2023. Remaining work will focus on pavement and concrete for 77th St and landscaping in Washington Park.

Bloomington PMP Street Maintenance Project - As part of the 2021-101 PMP Street Maintenance Project Bloomington coordinated the reconstruction sections of 3rd Avenue, 11th Avenue, and 22nd Avenue areas.

Project included 7,150 feet of fully reconstructed bituminous pavement. Curb and gutter total length 12,710 feet with typical street width of 32-feet. Stormwater Elements: A SWPPP was developed for the project. MPCA Construction Stormwater Permit was obtained. Erosion control included inlet protection, perimeter control, and sod. The new storm sewer construction included oversized perforated CMP at two sites identified as flood areas under our Atlas 14 study. Each pipe gallery included a sump MH for pre-treatment at one end and a second one with cedar stop logs for level control. The pre-treatment sumps include a SAFL Baffle.

I-494: Airport to Highway 169 – Staff worked cooperatively with MnDOT to coordinate plans for stormwater utilities with highway construction.

D. 2023 Work Plan

Watershed Based Funding – As part of the FY22-23 WBIF staff will continue to work with Hennepin County, WMWA, and the other partners to launch, coordinate and implement educational programs including individual and multi-family housing focused equitable engagement projects.

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 engaging with and educating youth about water and natural resources using the Wood Lake Nature Center.

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. RBWMO staff are working to identify opportunities for partnership within this project, with a particular focus on enhancing education and outreach around water resources.

I-494: Airport to Highway 169 – Staff will work cooperatively with MnDOT and the design-build team as the project begins the first year of construction.

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

Sheridan Pond Maintenance Project – Phase 2 of the project begins on May 1st, 2023. Phase 2 will consist of substantial vegetation restoration and improvements, planting native wetland species around the perimeter of the pond, as well as native prairie species and oak trees upland. Substantial completion is scheduled for June 30th, 2023.

E. Permits, Variances and Enforcement

There were zero actions relating to the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) within the RBWMO area in 2022. The WCA 2022 Annual Reporting Forms are available upon request.

In 2022, Bloomington staff completed erosion control inspections at three construction/redevelopment sites in Bloomington within the RBWMO.

- 8201 Old Cedar: Apartment Complex
- 8714 Portland Ave S: Portland Commons Ph. 2
- 1900 E 86th Street: Village Club

In 2022, Richfield staff completed erosion control inspections at seven construction/redevelopment sites in Richfield within the RBWMO.

- 600 W 64th St: Riley Apartments
- 6228 Penn Ave S: Landsby on Penn Apartments
- 7132 Portland Ave S: Hope Church
- 6437 Lyndale Ave S: Lynvue Apartments
- 6300 Richfield Pkwy: RF64 Townhomes and Rya Apartments
- 6500 Nicollet Ave S: Partnership Academy
- 6501 Penn Ave S: Stormwater Management Project

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 are anticipated to be completed by summer of 2023. 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.

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 City of Richfield retained Barr Engineering to conduct water quality monitoring, and WSB to assist with erosion control inspections throughout 2022.

I. Information Program

A copy of the publication for the Bloomington Sun and Richfield Sun 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 2022 was \$2,473.00.

**RICHFIELD-BLOOMINGTON WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION (RBWMO)
2022 TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA
DECEMBER 12, 2022**

1:00p.m. | Hybrid Meeting – 1700 W. 98th St South Conference Room + WebEx

Technical Advisory Members: Bryan Gruidl (Bloomington); Steve Gurney (Bloomington); Jack Distel (Bloomington); Julie Long (Bloomington); Kristin Asher (Richfield) Chad Donnelly (Richfield); Joe Powers (Richfield); Mattias Oddsson (Richfield)

A. 1:00 PM: STAFF INTRODUCTIONS (ALL)

1:07 PM: Discussion of RBWMO organizational structure. BWSR review in 2014 suggested either increased public awareness or integration with existing watershed districts. Decision was made to retain RBWMO. Executive director & asst. executive director in 2 yr rotating terms, annual meeting exchanged annually.

Bloomington City Council will confirm shortly attendance at annual meeting. Confirmed anticipated date on 3/14.

1:11 PM: Request for Bryan to remain as Executive Director for 2023; normal rotation will resume in 2024.

B. 1:13 PM: LOCAL PLAN ACTIVITIES AND RBWMO PLAN REVIEW (DUE IN EVEN YEARS) (ALL)

- Current Watershed management plan approved by the BWSR on December 20, 2017 and adopted by the RBWMO Board of Commissioners on March 5, 2018.

1:14 PM: Plan to be updated by 2027, will begin discussion in next few years.

- Implementation Program:

I. Monitoring Program

1:15 PM: Jack Distel handles all Bloomington WQ monitoring. Collects monthly surface water samples. Bloomington plans to invest in updated Sonde for monitoring. Conductivity, pH, DO of interest. All monitoring conducted in-lake. Bloomington will share with Richfield bid information for sondes. 4 public waters within RBWMO are of main importance for monitoring.

II. Water Quality, Data Management, and Evaluation

1:20 PM: Planning for RBWMO website to be updated with WQ data accessible to public. Bloomington does EnviroDIY autonomous monitoring – conductivity, temp, depth every 15 mins.

III. H&H Model Update

1:24 PM: Confirming that H&H updates were complete for Bloomington & Richfield. For next update, will include 'midcentury storm' – modeling more intense rain events in anticipation of climate change.

IV. Education and Outreach Plan

1:27 PM: Discussing collaboration with Wood Lake Nature Center. Potential incorporation of BMPs into Nature Center Renovations. Potential need to develop more detailed education & outreach plan. Bloomington presented draft of Education Program summary; will share with Richfield & develop final draft. Idea: signage for chloride reduction posted in winter. Challenges: cost of transportation for students. Use of Old Cedar Ave Bridge in Bloomington as focal point in addition to Wood Lake.

V. MNRAM Wetland Assessments

1:38 PM: MNRAM now obsolete – MN-WI Functional assessment being developed as replacement.

VI. Invasive Species Management Plan

1:40 PM: RFP out with WBIF to identify methods to manage invasive species. Goldfish in Wood Lake, Penn Lake are main problem. Riparian buffer crowding with Buckthorn or hybrid cattail are also noted concerns with invasive species management. AIS grants available are primarily geared

towards Eurasian Watermilfoil and Curlyleaf Pondweed. RBWMO will act on grants when available – either through BWSR or DNR. Funds could be brought to Wood Lake Nature Center for restoration. Plan would need to be amended in order to fund projects. Dredging projects would not be grant-funded, but new outlet structures, WQ improvements, vegetation improvements could be. Next round of WBIF will be in 2024-25. Amendments will be proposed before 3/14/23 meeting.

VII. Sheridan Pond Dredging Project

To be discussed with 2022 project review

VIII. Christian Pond Dredging Project

Project complete

IX. 77th Street Underpass Project

Project progressing as scheduled – stormwater management components complete, forecast completion in late summer 2023.

X. 66th Street Sewer Improvement Project

Project complete

C. 1:54 PM: 2022 PROJECT REVIEW

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW (PRIVATE - BLOOMINGTON)

Use: Our Design Review Committee reviewed several potential redevelopment projects, although there were no ground-disturbing projects undertaken in 2022.

Stormwater Elements: The proposed projects involve repurposing of existing buildings, so no permanent BMPs are anticipated. Erosion control will be required for ground-disturbing exterior work.

2021-101 BLOOMINGTON PMP RECONSTRUCT PROJECT, 3RD AVENUE, 11TH AVENUE, AND 22ND AVENUE AREAS (PUBLIC - BLOOMINGTON)

Use: Full reconstruction of residential street and storm sewer.

Size: (RBWMO only) 7.8 Acre total Site, 0.20 ac decrease in impervious surface, including pavement and curb and gutter.

Description: Project included 7,150 feet of fully-reconstructed bituminous pavement. Curb and gutter total length 12,710 feet with typical street width of 32-feet.

Stormwater Elements: A SWPPP was developed for the project. MPCA Construction Stormwater Permit was obtained. Erosion control included inlet protection, perimeter control, and sod. The new storm sewer construction included oversized perforated CMP at two sites identified as flood areas under our Atlas 14 study. Each pipe gallery included a sump MH for pre-treatment at one end and a second one with cedar stop logs for level control. The pre-treatment sumps include a SAFL Baffle.

LANDSBY APARTMENTS (PRIVATE - RICHFIELD)

Use: Redevelopment dividing existing commercial lot in two and constructing 6 story, 132 unit apartment building with underground parking.

Size: 5.30 ac original lot, 2.01 ac apartment lot, 1.46 ac (72.6%) impervious.

Stormwater Elements: A SWPPP was developed for this project, and MPCA Construction Stormwater Permit was obtained. 2 underground stormwater systems were installed. Site is located in an area of high groundwater vulnerability, but an infiltration system was allowed to receive runoff from the roof after engineering review, with a maintenance agreement requiring regular water quality testing.

SHERIDAN POND MAINTENANCE AND RESTORATION (PUBLIC - RICHFIELD)

Use: Dredging and regrading of constructed stormwater pond, followed by vegetation restoration throughout park.

Size: Project area 3.9 ac, disturbed area <1 ac

Description: Sheridan Pond is a constructed stormwater pond that drains to Richfield Lake.

Stormwater Elements: Construction Stormwater Permit not required, but erosion control measures are included in the plan and will be implemented, including silt fencing and floating curtains around the pond outlet. Accumulated sediment will be dredged to improve storage capacity and pollutant removal. A new outlet structure containing a baffle and sump will be installed at the pipe leading to Richfield Lake. Native vegetation will be planted as buffers around the pond in phase II of the project.

D. 2:08 PM: 2021 NPDES ANNUAL REPORT REVIEW (ALL)

- TMDL'S
 - I. South Metro Mississippi
 - II. TCMA Chloride
 - III. Penn Lake Nutrients

No TMDL within RBWMO – main concerns are regional TMDLs listed above. Project in development to address Penn Lake TMDL.

E. 2:12 PM: COMPLIANCE CONCERNS (All)

- No WCA action
- Other compliance concerns: N/A in 2022

F. 2:13 PM: 2023 RBWMO ANNUAL MEETING (All)

- Richfield hosting, will be in-person with hybrid option (if needed)
 - Preferred date: March 14, 2023

Bryan will confirm with Bloomington City Council and staff that 3/14 will work.

- Sun Current Public Notices – will be submitted by Richfield
- Agenda
 - Annual Report

Bryan will begin work on annual report.

- Business items

Update new board members on RBWMO.

G. 2:19 PM: OTHER ITEMS

- 2022 Activity Update:
- FY2019 Watershed Based Implementation Funding - Pilot project (Bryan)
 - Hennepin County Chloride Initiative
 - Grant extended due to Covid impacts; expires 12/31/2022
 - Lower Minnesota River Collaborative
 - Grant extended due to Covid impacts. Grant expires 12/31/2022

Some funds will be returned to BWSR at grant expiration.

- FY2020-2021 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (Jack)
 - RBWMO Youth Education Program

RBWMO was approached by Lower MN Valley Refuge Friends about education program. Ongoing since summer 2021, total of 314 students reached so far. Grant funding (\$30,000) received to carry out program. \$15,000 spent so far, remaining funding will be received following report to BWSR. RBWMO funds education + field trip for program participants. Goal of 400 students, on target to reach with upcoming Bloomington Public Schools Program. Look into continuing program under separate grant once current funding expires. Inconsistency of programming has been a limiting factor. Predictability of education program will be key to getting more teachers onboard.

- FY2022-2023 Watershed Based Implementation Funding
 - Sheridan Pond Maintenance Project (Chad) - \$20,000 for improved outlet structure

- Conservation Education and Implementation Partnership (Bryan) - \$25,000 to Hennepin County for education program development. West metro developing coordinated stormwater education program. Meeting to be forwarded to Richfield city staff. In collaboration with Metro Blooms.
- Feasibility study - \$30,000 to help assist in management decisions and identification of priority project that will protect, enhance, and restore surface water quality.
 - Primary waters to be assessed in the study are: Richfield Lake, Wood Lake, Smith Pond, and Wrights Lake.
 - Is there a desire to include the Richfield portion of the Penn Lake TMDL?

Workplan being completed for cost requests as of week of 12/12/22 on E-Link. Will be ready for 3/14 board meeting. Richfield has ongoing study on Best Buy Campus related to Penn Lake TMDL.

- Website Maintenance and updates

Mattias will update website with projects, water quality data

- I-494: Airport to Highway 169

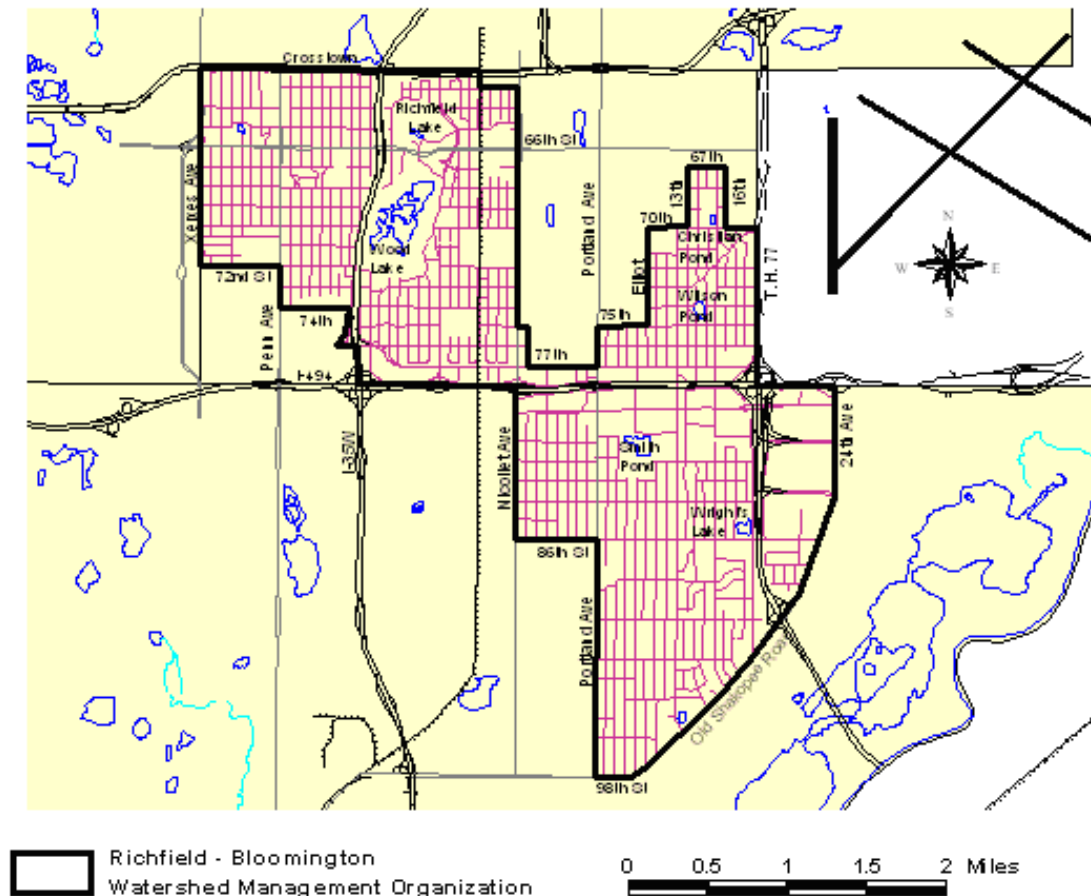
City staff working to prepare for upcoming project.

- 3:05 PM: 2023 Work Plan Items
 - Sheridan Pond Maintenance Project
 - Youth Education program partnership with Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends
 - I-494: Airport to Highway 169
 - Conservation Education and Implementation Partnership
 - RBWMO Feasibility Study
 - Other items

H. 3:20 PM: Meeting Adjourned

PUBLIC NOTICE CONCERNING THE RICHFIELD-BLOOMINGTON WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

The Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization (RBWMO) is a result of a joint powers agreement between the cities of Richfield and Bloomington. The organization was established to manage natural water drainage, retention, and stormwater management occurring in approximately a 7.5 square mile, contiguous area that comprises portions of eastern Bloomington and southeastern Richfield. A map of the area is shown below:



Commissioners of the RBWMO Board are all members of the Richfield and Bloomington City Councils. Current members of the RBWMO Board are as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Shawn Nelson	Bloomington
Tim Busse	Bloomington
Simon Trautmann	Richfield
Sharon Christensen	Richfield
Lona Dallessandro	Bloomington
Mary Supple	Richfield
Chao Moua	Bloomington
Patrick Martin	Bloomington
Ben Whalen	Richfield
Sean Hayford Oleary	Richfield
Dwayne Lowman	Bloomington
Jenna Carter	Bloomington

Bryan Gruidl, Water Resources Manager for the City of Bloomington, is the current (2023) Executive Director of the RBWMO. Mattias Oddsson, Water Resources Engineer for the City of Richfield, is the Assistant Executive Director.

The RBWMO has no direct expenses. Each city budgets and expends funds in their respective storm drainage utilities to cover costs associated with watershed stormwater management.

The RBWMO's revised Watershed Management Plan was approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) in 2017 and adopted by the RBWMO Board on March 5, 2018. The plan discusses the physical environment, land use and development in the RBWMO area; discusses geologic and hydrologic features of the watershed district; sets forth a management plan for the district, including the water qualities that will be sought and opportunities for improvement; describes the objectives and policies of the RBWMO; and sets forth an implementation program consistent with the management plan. More information can be found at www.rbwmo.org

Both cities serve as the Local Government Unit in their respective communities for enforcement of the regulations of the State Wetland Conservation Act.

Both cities have approved stormwater management plans and are owners of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems regulated by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Permit coverage for each MS4 under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) is required including implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program.

Richfield and Bloomington residents can obtain additional information about the RBWMO, view the Watershed Management Plan, and/or contact their RBWMO commissioner by visiting their website at www.rbwmo.org or by calling their city halls. Addresses and phone numbers for both locations are listed below:

Richfield City Hall
6700 Portland Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423
612-861-9700

Bloomington City Hall
1800 West Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington, MN 55431
952-563-8700

For publication in the Richfield-Bloomington *Sun-Current*: March 23, 2023