



DATE: March 5, 2025

TO: RBWMO Board of Managers

FROM: Bryan Gruidl, Bloomington, Assistant Director
Mattias Oddsson, RBWMO Executive Director

RE: Richfield Bloomington Watershed Management Organization Annual Meeting

Attached is the agenda for the Annual Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization (RBWMO) meeting. The 41st annual meeting will take place on **Tuesday, March 11, at 6PM**. The meeting will be held **in-person at the Richfield Municipal Center (6700 Portland Ave S)**.

Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR)

- Jen Dullum, Board Conservationist with BWSR will attend 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 2024 annual report will be submitted to BWSR as required. The presentation will summarize the annual report and include WMO's 2024 activities, including a public hearing to consider approving a minor plan amendment for a residential grant program, as well as highlight the upcoming work anticipated for 2025.

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 choose 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.

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



ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday March 11, 2025; 6:00 p.m.
Richfield Municipal Center (6700 Portland Ave)

1. Call to order and introductions
2. Approval of minutes of April 2, 2024 Annual Meeting
3. Review and approval of agenda
4. Election of Officers for 2025
 - a. Chair: Bloomington
 - b. Vice-Chair: Richfield
 - c. Secretary: Richfield
 - d. Treasurer: Bloomington
5. 2024 Executive Director's Report
6. Business Items
 - a. Watershed Based Funding
 - i. FY22-23 Watershed Based Implementation Funding
 - ii. FY24-25 Watershed Based Implementation Funding
 - b. Public Hearing to consider approval of a minor plan amendment to establish a residential grant program for the RBWMO
 - c. Adopt-a-Drain
7. Consideration of approval of 2024 Annual Report
8. Public Notice; scheduled to be published March 27, 2025
9. Insurance – Estimated \$2,500.00 for July 2025 - June 2026 (each City pay half: \$1,250.00)
10. Adjournment

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**RBWMO Annual Meeting
Tuesday, April 2, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.
Bloomington Civic Plaza – Haeg Conference Room
1800 W. Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington, MN 55431**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Busse called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. In attendance: Bloomington Mayor Tim Busse and Bloomington Councilmembers Lona Dallessandro, Chao Moua, Sean Nelson, Dwayne Lowman, and Victor Rivas; Mattias Oddsson, RBWMO Assistant Executive Director; Chad Donnelly, Assistant Utility Superintendent; Joe Powers, City Engineer; Kristin Asher, Public Works Director; Jen Dullum, BWSR Board Conservationist; Sean Hayford Oleary, Richfield; Simon Trautmann, Richfield; Sharon Christensen, Richfield; Mary Supple, Richfield; Ben Whalen, Richfield;

Staff present: City Manager Jamie Verbrugge, Bryan Gruidl, Water Resources Manager, Public Works - Engineering, and Council Secretary Safaa Mercer.

1. **Call to Order and Introductions**
2. **Approval of Minutes from March 14, 2023** Motion by Supple, seconded by Oleary, to approve 2023 minutes. Motion carried.
3. **Review and Approval of Agenda** Motion by Dallessandro, seconded by Moua, to approve agenda. Motion carried.
4. **Election of Officers for 2024**
Chair: Motion by Oleary, seconded by Busse, to appoint Supple as Chair. Motion carried.
Vice-Chair: Motion by Busse, seconded by Dallessandro, to appoint Rivas as Vice-Chair. Motion carried.
Secretary: Motion by Busse, seconded by Dallessandro, to appoint Moua as Secretary. Motion carried.
Treasurer: Motion by Supple, seconded by Asher, to appoint Oleary as Treasurer. Motion carried.
5. **Approve 2024 Staff Appointments**
Executive Director: Motion by Oleary, seconded by Busse, to appoint Mattias Oddsson, Richfield as the Executive Director. Motion carried.
Assistant Executive Director: Motion by Busse, seconded by Dallessandro, to appoint Bryan Gruidl, Bloomington as Assistant Executive Director. Motion carried.
6. **2023 Executive Director’s Report**
7. **Business Items**

- 7.1 FY22-23 Watershed Based Funding** Discussion regarding:

 - 1. Conservation Education and Implementation Partnership Pilot
 - 2. RBWMO feasibility study for water quality, water quantity and ecosystem management
- 7.2 FY24-25 Watershed Based Implementation Funding** Discussion regarding:

 - 1. Residential grant program challenges and feasibility.
 - 2. Existing programs, e.g, Nine Mile Creek, Dakota County, St. Louis Park.

Board directed staff to further investigate peer programs and bring forward formal proposals by next annual meeting. Executive director Oddsson to collect information regarding: size of program; staff commitment; comparison to peer programs; maintenance commitment; funding sources; and WBIF eligibility.
- 7.3 New Wood Lake Nature Center project** An update on the status of project was given.
- 7.4 Adopt-a-Drain** Discussion
- 8. Consideration of approval of 2023 Annual Report** Motion by Trautmann, seconded by Christensen, to approve the 2023 annual report. Motion carried.
- 9. Public Notice; scheduled to be published April 11, 2024** Motion by Supple, seconded by Moua to approve public notice publication. Motion carried.
- 10. Insurance – Estimated \$2,500.00 for July 2024 - June 2025 (each City pay half: \$1,250.00)** RBWMO is insured through League of MN Cities. Amt. is for 2024-2025. Bill goes to Richfield, half is then invoiced to Bloomington.
- 6. ADJOURNMENT** Motion by Moua, seconded by Asher, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Safaa Mercer
Council Secretary



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

- I. Financial Report

- II. Activity Report
 - A. Membership
 - B. Staff
 - C. 2024 Activity
 - 1. Ongoing Programs
 - 2. Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF)
 - 3. Projects
 - D. 2025 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

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I. Financial Report

The RBWMO has not expended or accrued funds during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024. No financial audits are necessary. Richfield and Bloomington expended \$3.8M and \$6.1M respectively from their storm water utility funds in 2024 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. 2024 Membership

Name	Representing
Shawn Nelson	Bloomington
Tim Busse	Bloomington
Simon Trautmann	Richfield
Lona Dallessandro	Bloomington
Sharon Christensen	Richfield
Chao Moua	Bloomington
Dwayne Lowman	Bloomington
Ben Whalen	Richfield
Mary Supple	Richfield
Sean Hayford Oleary	Richfield
Victor Rivas	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:	Mattias Oddsson City of Richfield Water Resources Engineer 1901 E. 66th Street Richfield, MN 55423 612-861-9797
Assistant Executive Director:	Bryan Gruidl City of Bloomington Water Resources Manager 1700 West 98 th Street Bloomington, MN 55431 952-563-4557

C. 2024 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 are also 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 seven 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 will continue to strengthen the inspection and maintenance program in 2025.

Bloomington provided two annual sweepings of city streets in addition to targeted sweeping in priority watersheds. Maintenance of structural pollution control devices was completed in the fall of 2024. Inspections of 20% of the city's MS4 outfalls, ponds and sediment basins were also ongoing in 2024. Associated maintenance as identified by the inspections was either scheduled or completed at the time of inspection.

1. **Ongoing Programs**

Education and Outreach Program – Continue providing educational opportunities through partnering with the Wood Lake Nature Center and other watershed districts and watershed management organizations. Additionally, RBWMO has partnered with Hennepin County and the West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA) member watersheds to implement a program engaging in education and outreach, and implementation of conservation efforts.

Adopt-a-Drain - RBWMO also continued to participate in the Adopt-a-Drain program within the watershed in 2024. 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 242 drains adopted. Participants reported removing 1,740 lbs. of debris in 2024.

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 and posted on the RBWMO website.

Monitoring has been on-going at Wood Lake, Richfield, Lake, and Smith Pond since 2010. Monitoring began on Wrights Lake in 2013. From May to September, 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 staff conducted monthly sampling for temperature, dissolved oxygen (DO), chloride, pH, and phosphorus, as well as continuous water level monitoring throughout the growing season. Within the RBWMO, Wood Lake, Richfield Lake, and Augsburg Pond were monitored. This data is used to support management decisions, such as Richfield's pond prioritization framework.

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 9, 2024. Minutes from that meeting are provided at the end of the report.

2. Watershed Based Implementation Funding

2022-23 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Program

RBWMO was awarded \$75,000 from the FY 22-23 WBIF program and the following projects were selected for funding: Conservation Education and Implementation Pilot Program (\$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).

Sheridan Pond Maintenance Project – Completed in the winter of 2022-2023 this project installed a new pond outlet structure to improve downstream water quality by capturing debris. The outlet structure was installed in cooperation with the planned pond maintenance activity to improve the functional nature of the pond as well as to enhance the adjacent terrestrial area.

RBWMO Feasibility Study – Completed in 2023 the feasibility report focused on water quality enhancements in the watersheds surrounding Richfield Lake, Wright’s Lake, and Smith Park Pond. Utilizing existing data, water quality estimates were developed for both external and internal loading. Based on these loading estimates conceptual projects were identified to meet the goals of the RBWMO with respect to water quality, water quantity, and watershed-wide ecological integrity.

In 2024 RBWMO staff reviewed potential projects for implementation based on the findings of the 2023 feasibility study combined with ongoing dialogue with partner organizations. Based on this review and conversations with partner organizations, the RBWMO aims to undertake a study in 2025-2026 to evaluate and quantify the presence of invasive carp and goldfish in Richfield Lake, Wood Lake, and Smith Pond.

Conservation Education and Implementation Pilot Program – A partnership with the West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA) member watersheds and led by Hennepin County to implement a pilot program engaging in education and outreach, and implementation of conservation efforts.

This pilot program was initiated in April 2022 when RBWMO staff worked with WMWA members and member watersheds, Hennepin County and the Board of Soil and Water Resources to secure Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) grant dollars to pilot a two-year, part-time Conservation Education and Implementation position employed by and shared jointly with Hennepin County with 50% of time spent on WMWA and Richfield-Bloomington WMO outreach and implementation, and 50% on Hennepin County outreach.

In spring 2023, Hennepin County filled the Conservation Specialist position. Throughout 2023 the Conservation Specialist has created work plans for WBIF funded projects, campaigns for pet waste, chloride, and Adopt-A-Drain education, and begun implementing outreach to faith-based organizations for chloride consultations. This position will coordinate the WBIF grant projects identified by each watershed including a Southgate Apartment BMP implementation, in the RBWMO.

The Southgate Apartment BMP project kicked off in June 2024 with resident engagement opportunities held on site through the summer months. Hennepin County hired Metro Blooms to facilitate the community engagement process as well as developing a concept design based on community feedback. Concept design was completed in November 2024 with final design and construction anticipated for 2025.

2024-25 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Program

RBWMO was awarded \$114,644.00 from the FY 24-25 WBIF program. A convene meeting was held on June 7th with representatives from BWSR, Hennepin County, Richfield, Bloomington, and RBWMO. At the conclusion of the meeting the following projects were selected for funding:

- I. Conservation Education and Implementation Partnership (\$45,000) Continue the partnership with Hennepin County and the West Metro Water Alliance for education and project implementation,
- II. Residential Grant Program (\$15,000) Distribute grants to residents and property owners to construct stormwater BMPs and implement sustainable landscaping on their property
- III. Fisheries and AIS study (\$54,644) Quantify presence of invasive carp and goldfish in RBWMO waterbodies and develop an invasive species management plan for implementation. Potential actions include electrofishing, biocontrol, trapping, and tagging fish. Any rough fish caught and not tagged for research purposes will be removed from the lake.

3. Projects

Woodlawn Terrace Utility Improvements – This project involved watermain replacement and other utility improvements, along with road reconstruction, within a mobile home cooperative in Richfield. The cooperative originally sourced its drinking water from a private well, but contamination necessitated a connection to municipal water and replacement of the existing water system. This work was supported by the City HRA and State grant funding. The project was NPDES-permitted, involving erosion control inspections as well as permanent stormwater treatment through sump catch basin and manhole retrofits. Remaining work includes sealing the disused private well to protect groundwater from further contamination.

Smith Pond Maintenance Project – Bloomington engineering division initiated this project to remove approximately 1,000 cubic yards of accumulated sediment from the westerly storm sewer inlet and restore the pond area to the 1998 grading plan. This project was anticipated to be completed over the winter of 2024-25 but due to dewatering limitations on the DNR permit the work was rescheduled for spring 2025. Additionally, Bloomington Park and Recreation Department will be enhancing the existing buffer area and restoring additional upland area with a native vegetation restoration project scheduled for 2025.

I-494: Airport to Highway 169 – Staff worked cooperatively with MnDOT to coordinate plans for stormwater utilities with highway construction. Staff will continue to work with MnDOT as they move into I-494 Project 2 design in 2025.

D. 2025 Work Plan

Watershed Based Funding – As part of the FY22-23 WBIF staff will continue to work with Hennepin County, Metro Blooms, Southgate Residents and Management on final design and construction of the Southgate Apartment BMP project.

For the FY2024-2025 WBIF funding RBWMO was awarded \$114,644. Staff will be working on the 3 projects selected including: Conservation Education and Implementation Partnership, Residential Grant Program, and a Fisheries and AIS study on goldfish and carp in select RBWMO waterbodies.

Education and Outreach – In addition to the Conservation Education and Implementation Program Staff will look to partner with adjacent watershed districts to promote and sponsor educational opportunities such as Smart Salting and Summer Turf Maintenance workshops.

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. The submitted site plan is currently undergoing review for

stormwater compliance. The RBWMO will continue to coordinate and actively seek opportunities for partnership on this project.

I-494: Airport to Highway 169 – Staff will work cooperatively with MnDOT and the design-build team as MnDOT kicks off project 2 in 2025. Project 2 on the I-494 project is the completion of the full I-494 vision. Project 2 includes extension of E-Z Pass lanes on I-494 from I35W to Hwy 77, pavement reconstruction and drainage on I-494 from Lyndale Avenue to 24th Avenue and bridge replacements.

Smith Pond Maintenance Project – A pond maintenance project to remove approximately 1,000 cubic yards of accumulated sediment from the westerly storm sewer inlet and restore the pond area to the 1998 grading plan. This project is anticipated to be completed in the spring 2025. Staff will also coordinate with Bloomington Park and Recreation Department on a native vegetation restoration project scheduled for 2025.

Nicollet Avenue Reconstruction – Staff will continue coordination work with Hennepin County on meeting stormwater requirements for the Nicollet Avenue reconstruction and improving stormwater infrastructure in 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 and 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

E. Permits, Variances and Enforcement

There were two 2024 Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) actions within the RBWMO. A no loss decision related to Bloomington's Smith Park Pond Maintenance project, and a boundary/type decision for the Wood Lake Nature Center site.. The WCA 2024 Annual Reporting Forms are available upon request.

In 2024, Bloomington staff completed erosion control inspections at five construction/redevelopment sites in Bloomington within the RBWMO.

- 8244 13th Ave S: New single family home
- 9030 Park Ave S. Single family home demo
- 7801 Portland Ave S. BP gas station demo
- 7876 Portland Ave S. Commercial building demo
- 9200 Old Cedar BP gas station update project

- 8232 10th Ave S new garage construction

In 2024, Richfield staff completed erosion control inspections at six construction/redevelopment sites in Richfield within the RBWMO.

- 6437 Lyndale Ave S: Lynvue Apartments
- 65th Street Reconstruction Site
- 101 E 66th Street
- 2 Meridian Crossing
- 7421 Lyndale Ave – Woodlawn Terrace
- 630 E 66th Street – Veteran’s Park Splashpad

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 were successfully completed in late 2023. Smaller scale revisions continue to be made as needed to supporting documents. The Richfield and Bloomington SWPPPs address all 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 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, and Bloomington’s annual 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 RBWMO did not retain any consulting services in 2024.

I. Information Program

A copy of the publication for the Bloomington Sun and Richfield Sun Current 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 2024 was \$2,481



Staff Report

Originator	Item
RBWMO Staff	6.b Public Hearing: Minor Plan Amendment to incorporate a residential grant program into the RBWMO Watershed Management Plan
Agenda Section	Date
BUSINESS ITEMS	March 11, 2025

Requested Action:

Staff recommend approval of the minor plan amendment to incorporate a residential grant program into the RBWMO Watershed Management Plan through the following motion:

Motion made by _____, seconded by _____, to adopt a minor plan amendment to incorporate a residential grant program into the RBWMO Watershed Management Plan, thereby amending Section 5 of the Watershed Management Plan.

Description:

At the 2024 Annual Meeting, the RBWMO Board of Managers directed staff to explore a grant program aimed at supporting the installation of residential-scale green infrastructure stormwater best management practices (BMPs). The WMO's Watershed Management Plan outlines the general direction for projects and programs the WMO plans to pursue over a 10-year period. Since this grant program was not included in the most recent plan, a minor amendment was needed to incorporate it, allowing the WMO to seek additional funding sources, such as other grants, to help offset the program's costs.

The procedure for minor Plan amendments is defined in Minnesota Administrative Rules 8410.0140. On January 29, 2025 staff released the proposed minor plan amendment for the 30-day statutory review and comment period. The comment period closed on February 28, 2025. Three comments were received during the comment period, all of which supported the development of a RBWMO Grant program. The comments received are included at the end of this report.

Grant Program Feasibility and Alternatives Analysis

I. Grant option 1: BMP focused installation

This program aims to install raingardens, bioswales or other similar designs on residential properties. These projects would result in relatively high cost per project and would therefore limit the number of annual installations. This option will rely on a third-party consultant to lead design and project implementation.

- **Staff commitment:** Moderate – third party consultant will significantly reduce staff workload.
- **Program description:** Partner with a third-party consultant (e.g. Metro Blooms) to support the grant program – design, installation, reporting documentation.
- **Maintenance commitment:** Grant recipients maintain their projects as directed by the grant agreement. RBWMO inspects project sites yearly for the duration of the grant agreement (e.g., 10-year maintenance guarantee)..
- **Funding sources:** Watershed Based Implementation Funds and each member city's stormwater utility fund. Grant recipients required to provide 10% match.
- **WBIF eligibility:** High - It results in infrastructure installed which is a heavily favored outcome of the WBIF program.

Project scheme:

1. **Application:** RBWMO or member cities would receive and process applications. Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis until the allocated funding has been awarded.
2. **Site consultation:** Conducted by RBWMO staff to assess project options and define the project scope.
3. **Project design:** The third-party consultant designs the project based on the defined scope and working with the property owner.
4. **Project installation:** The third-party consultant constructs the project, including excavation and planting/seeding.
5. **Project documentation:** The third-party consultant will submit project documentation to RBWMO staff. This includes site plans and site photos.

II. Grant option 2: incentivizing good landscaping

This option targets smaller, simpler projects, providing \$300-\$500 of assistance, similar to Lawns to Legumes grant. The simplicity is intended to increase participation. However, staff will need to process applications, review completion photos, and inspect post-implementation. Quantifying the benefits of these projects in the short and long term is more challenging and therefore WBIF funds may not be an available funding source for this option.

- **Staff commitment:** High – all grant activities will be handled by staff. The projects are smaller but there are more of them.
- **Program description:** the projects will be small scale and the funds would likely only be helpful for purchasing plants.



- **Maintenance commitment:** Grant recipients maintain their projects as directed by the grant agreement. RBWMO staff inspects project sites yearly for the duration of the grant agreement (e.g., 10-year maintenance guarantee).
- **Funding sources:** All properties eligible for the same amount of funding – around \$500.
- **WBIF eligibility:** Low - It results in hard to measure outcomes and therefore WBIF funds are not likely eligible to fund this option

Project scheme:

1. **Application** RBWMO or member cities would receive and process applications. Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis until the allocated funding has been awarded.
2. **Project execution:** Grant recipient funds the project and verifies completion with RBWMO by submitting project cost receipts and installation photos. RBWMO staff may provide technical assistance as capacity allows.
3. **Funds disbursement:** Once project is verified, the RBWMO will send a reimbursement check.

III. Staff recommendation:

Option 1 is recommended by staff. It has higher applicability to the WBIF funds and by using a third-party consultant, we will have more control over the execution and scope of projects. Furthermore, it will reduce staff time commitments. The downside is that the cost per project will limit the number of grant participants for each respective year.

Attachments:

Minor plan amendment

Comments received



January 29, 2025

VIA EMAIL

Dear Watershed Partners:

The Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization is soliciting comments on a proposed minor plan amendment to incorporate a Grant Program into the Implementation Program (Section 5) of the WMO's Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

The WMO Board provided direction to staff to develop a grant program for the RBWMO area. It was identified that in order to implement a grant program for the WMO a minor amendment to the plan is required.

Please find attached draft language of adding Grant Program language to the Implementation Program section of the WMO's Plan.

As of the date of this letter, the WMO is releasing the proposed minor plan amendment for the 30-day statutory review and comment period. Comments are due on Friday, February 28, 2025. The proposed minor plan amendment is attached to this email, but can also be found on the WMO's website at RBWMO.org

The WMO invites submission of written comments on the minor plan amendment. Comments may be submitted by mail or email and must be received by Friday, February 28. Comments should be submitted to:

Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization
Attn: Bryan Gruidl, Assistant Executive Director
1700 West 98th Street
Bloomington MN 55431
Email: bgruidl@BloomingtonMN.gov

Comments on the minor plan amendment must also be submitted to Jen Dullum, Board Conservationist, Board of Soil and Water Resources, at Jen.Dullum@state.mn.us

In addition to receiving written comments, the WMO will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 6:00 PM at the Richfield Municipal Center, 6700 Portland Ave S, Richfield, MN, at which time all interested persons will have the opportunity to address the WMO Board of Managers concerning the proposed

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



minor plan amendment. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the Board of Managers will weigh all comments received in writing and offered at the public hearing before considering the adoption of the minor plan amendment.

Sincerely,

Bryan Gruidl

Bryan Gruidl
RBWMO Assistant Executive Director

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5 Implementation Program

This section presents the Implementation Program (the Program) for this Plan. The RBWMO's Program addresses the issues and water resources challenges in Section 4.1 and applies goals and strategies generated by the RBWMO's stakeholders in Section 4.2. The Program consists of administrative and managerial efforts, coordination, studies, and programs; capital improvement projects (CIP); and funding mechanisms to successfully execute the Plan. Each element, if not described in Section 4, is described below.

The RBWMO Program schedule and budget is presented in Table 5-1. The estimated impacts of the implementation program on residents and local government are presented in the next section. RBWMO will review the Program every two years, at minimum, and at that time consider what programs the WMO may want to consider for grant funding.

5.1 Administrative and managerial

As stipulated in the JPA, administrative and managerial efforts will be carried out by staff from the cities of Bloomington and Richfield. Staff will take care of the day-to-day operation of the District, maintenance, and upkeep of the WMO's website, and implement other elements of the Program, as discussed below.

5.2 Operation and Maintenance Program

Activities detailed in this Program require both on-going and new operation and maintenance (O&M) activities. The cities of Bloomington and Richfield shall incorporate O&M activities as part of their stormwater management program budgets associated with their municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permits.

5.3 Education and Outreach Program

This implements Goal 4. The goal of the Education and Outreach Program is to complete the comprehensive education and outreach plan and to subsequently engage and educate youth about water and natural resources using the Wood Lake Nature Center.



Photo 5-1: Wood Lake Nature Center

5.4 Monitoring Program

Monitoring and data collection are crucial to determining the current state of water resources and to document the effectiveness of the RBWMO's ongoing management and improvement strategies. Meeting in-lake nutrient reduction and stormwater runoff goals may require nutrient reduction strategies, and implementation could require adaptive management principles. Adaptive management is appropriate because it is difficult to predict the lake response. Future technological advances may alter the course of actions detailed in this plan. Continued monitoring and "course corrections" responding to monitoring results are the most appropriate strategy for attaining the various goals established in this Plan.

5.5 Capital Improvement Projects

The capital improvement projects (CIP) identified below includes projects that will move the RBWMO toward achieving its goals. The CIP, limited by financial and human resources, is not a comprehensive list of all capital needs nor potential required projects. The inclusion of a project in the CIP is not a determination that the project will be implemented. Table 5-1 contains planning level cost estimates for the CIP identified for the period between adoption of this Plan and the biennial Plan review.

5.6 Special Studies

The CIP includes funding to update the suite of special studies that serve as the basis for the WMO's management planning. It also includes additional special studies to enhance the RBWMO's understanding of problems and issues in the watershed and to refine management planning. These special studies include:

- Establishing a water quality data management and evaluation process
- Reviewing TMDL's for waste load allocations attributed to the RBWMO
- Updating the H&H models incorporating NOAA Atlas-14 data
- Developing a comprehensive education and outreach plan

- Updating the functional assessment of wetlands.
- Developing a comprehensive invasive species management plan

5.7 Grant Program

The RBWMO values and supports efforts made by residents to help achieve its goals. Through the Grant Program, the RBWMO hopes to engage citizens in community actions that protect local lakes, ponds, streams, and wetlands. Eligible applicants must meet eligibility criteria and apply to and be approved by the RBWMO. The grant program and incentives will be reviewed annually. Program effectiveness will be measured by how many projects are funded through the program and the cumulative water quality impact of the projects.

5.8 5.7 Local Water Plans

Pursuant to M.S. 103B.231, following the approval and adoption of the Plan, the cities of Bloomington and Richfield shall each prepare a local water management plan (LWMP), updating capital improvement programs and official controls as necessary to bring local water management into conformance with the Plan. The LWMP must be consistent with and address the priorities identified in the Plan by December 2019. Since both cities have MS4 permits with MPCA approved stormwater pollution prevention programs (SWPPP), significant portions of their SWPPP may be incorporated into their LWMP.

Table 5-1: Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization Implementation Program Schedule and Budget (2018 – 2027)

Action	Funding Source	Year										
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Administrative/ Managerial												
General Administrative Services	Funded by Municipal SWU Fees	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
Technical and Citizen Advisory Commissions	Funded by Municipal SWU Fees	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2000
Studies and Programs												
Operation and Maintenance Program	Funded by Municipal SWU Fees	\$505,000	\$505,000	\$505,000	\$505,000	\$505,000	\$505,000	\$505,000	\$505,000	\$505,000	\$505,000	\$505,000
Education and Outreach Program	Funded by Municipal SWU Fees	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000

Action	Funding Source	Year										
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Monitoring Program	Funded by Municipal SWU Fees	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Water Quality Data Management and Evaluation	Funded by Municipal SWU Fees	\$10,000			\$10,000			\$10,000				\$10,000
H&H Model Update	Funded by Municipal SWU Fees	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000								
Education and Outreach Plan	Funded by Municipal SWU Fees		\$20,000									
MNRAM Wetland Assessments	Funded by Municipal SWU Fees						\$30,000					
Invasive Species Management Plan	Funded by Municipal SWU Fees				\$20,000							
<u>Grant Program</u>	<u>Funded by Municipal SWU Fees and WBIF</u>								<u>\$15,000</u>	<u>\$15,000</u>	<u>\$15,000</u>	

Action	Funding Source	Year									
		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Capital Improvement Projects											
Sheridan Pond Dredging Project			\$200,000								
Christian Pond Dredging Project				\$200,000							
77 th Street Underpass Project					\$850,000						
66 th Street Sewer Improvement Project		\$1,500,000									
Total	City of Bloomington	\$200,500	\$178,000	\$145,500	\$163,000	\$145,500	\$160,500	\$153,000	\$145,500 <u>\$154,000</u>	\$145,500 <u>\$154,000</u>	\$153,000 <u>\$159,000</u>
	City of Richfield	\$1,896,500	\$624,000	\$641,500	\$1,259,000	\$391,500	\$406,500	\$399,000	\$391,500 <u>\$400,000</u>	\$391,500 <u>\$400,000</u>	\$399,000 <u>\$405,000</u>



Comments Received

Greetings Mr Gruidl,

Thank you for the opportunity to review your minor plan amendment. DNR Area Hydrologist Wes Saunders-Pearce was able to review Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization's (RBWMO) plan amendment. He had no specific comments. In general, it's exciting to see the RBWMO move forward with a grant program to engage citizens in community actions that protect local lakes, ponds, streams, and wetlands. Best wishes as you move towards implementation of the program.

Thank you,

Megan Moore

District Manager - Central Region | Ecological and Water Resources

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

1801 S. Oak St.

Lake City, MN 55041

Phone: 651-299-4024

Email: megan.moore@state.mn.us

mndnr.gov



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Good afternoon, Bryan,

Staff in the Source Water Protection Unit at the Minnesota Department of Health have reviewed the proposed minor amendment to the Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization (RBWMO) Watershed Management Plan. We support the addition of a residential grant program, not only to improve water quality, but to engage and inform residents and encourage them to take action to protect their local water resources.

Please feel free to contact me if there is ever any technical assistance or resources that we can provide to the RBWMO to assist in working towards mutual goals.

Sincerely,

Abby Shea

Principal Planner, Metro District | Source Water Protection Unit

Minnesota Department of Health

Office: 651-201-4386 | Mobile: 651-396-0018



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February 24, 2025

Bryan Gruidl
Assistant Executive Director
Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization
1700 WeWst 98th St
Bloomington, MN 55431

RE: Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization Minor Amendment 30-Day Review
Period

Dear Bryan Gruidl:

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has reviewed the Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization (RBWMO) Minor Amendment (Amendment) of incorporating a grant program into the budget in the RBWMO's Water Management Plan (2018-2027). The MPCA does not have any comments as part of the review period.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on your Amendment. If we may be of further assistance, please contact me, Amy Timm, at 651-757-2632.

Sincerely,



This document has been electronically signed.

Amy Timm
Environmental Specialist
Watershed Division

AT:jdf



March 4, 2025

Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization
Attn: Bryan Gruidl, Assistant Executive Director
1700 West 98th Street
Bloomington MN, 55431

RE: Richfield-Bloomington Water Management Organization – Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Amendment (Minor)

Dear Bryan Gruidl:

On January 29, 2025, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) received documentation of proposed changes to the Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization's (RBWMO) Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) submitted in accordance with the minor amendment process defined in MN Rules 8410.0140 Sup.2. RBWMO also sent the minor amendment documentation to plan review authorities for the required 30-day review and comment period, which ended on February 28, 2025.

The Plan amendment incorporates a grant program into the Implementation Program section of the Plan.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Department of Health reviewed the proposed minor amendment and had no comments except to express support for the grant program intended to engage the public in community actions to protect local waters. The Metropolitan Council also commended the RBWMO for updating the Plan and involving residents in local water protection but did mention discrepancies in funding totals in the Implementation Table. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency also reviewed the proposed amendment and had no comments.

No county board has filed an objection to the amendments with BWSR during the comment period. RBWMO will hold a public meeting on the proposed plan amendment in accordance with the rule requirements on March 11, 2025.

In reviewing this information, BWSR agrees that this revision constitutes a minor plan amendment in accordance with MN Rules 8410.0140 Subp.2.

BWSR commends the RBWMO for maintaining a current watershed management plan as it leads to greater transparency and demonstrates a commitment to the implementation process. Once the RBWMO Board of Managers adopts the changes, please forward it in the form of replacement pages to the Plan to all plan review authorities and plan holders in accordance with 8410.140 Subps. 4 & 5. Refer to the Metro Plan Review Roster, found on the BWSR website, for the plan format that review agencies have requested (BWSR only requires electronic copies/link to the updated pages). We appreciate the opportunity to comment and please contact me with any questions at 651-308-6956.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dullum

Jen Dullum
Board Conservationist

Cc: Megan Moore, MnDNR (via email)
Abby Shea, MDH (via email)
Jeff Berg, MDA (via email)
Maureen Hoffman, Metropolitan Council (via email)
Jeff Risberg, MPCA (via email)
Katie Kowalczyk, MnDOT (via email)



Hello,

This message is in response to the proposed amendment to the Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization's (WMO) Management Plan (Plan). We commend the WMO for keeping an update Implementation Program and for recognizing and involving its residents in protecting its local waterbodies. We have one minor technical comment, the Implementation Program Table's new totals come to an addition of \$17,000 instead of the identified \$15,000 for the program. We ask the WMO update the table so the program total equals the new city totals.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed amendment!

Maureen Hoffman

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Senior Planner | Water Resources

Metropolitan Council Environmental Services

390 Robert St. North, St. Paul MN 55101

P. 651-602-1279

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**RICHFIELD-BLOOMINGTON WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION (RBWMO)
2024 TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA
DECEMBER 9, 2024**

10:00a.m. | Hybrid Meeting – Bloomington Public Works, South Conference Room + Microsoft Teams

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

A. STAFF INTRODUCTIONS (ALL) -SKIP!

B. 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.
- Implementation Program:
 - I. Monitoring Program
 - II. Water Quality, Data Management, and Evaluation
 - III. H&H Model Updates
 - IV. Education and Outreach Plan
 - V. MNRAM Wetland Assessments
 - VI. Invasive Species Management Plan
- **PLAN REWRITE DUE 2028, COMPLETE IN 2027. COORDINATE WITH CITY SWMP DEVELOPMENT**
- **ACTION ITEM: CHECK W/ BWSR REGARDING MINOR PLAN AMENDMENTS**
 - I. **DRAFT EDUCATION & OUTREACH PLAN – WILL USING THIS ALLOW US TO IMPLEMENT GRANT PROGRAM WITHOUT PLAN AMENDMENT?**

C. 2024 PROJECT REVIEW

(PRIVATE – BLOOMINGTON)

Size: 1.15 Acres

Description: The Site is a 1.15-acre gas station with concrete drives and other impervious surfaces totaling 28,209 square feet of coverage. The project consists of building a 491 square foot addition and 838 square foot car wash bay to the existing building, expanding the parking and drive aisles to accommodate stacking and emergency vehicles, moving the propane storage tank, installing stormwater treatment systems and landscaping.

Stormwater Elements: The city prohibits infiltration techniques when the infiltration BMP will receive discharges from vehicle fueling and maintenance areas. Therefore, the proposed rain garden BMPs included an impermeable liner and drain tile to prevent contaminants leaching into the groundwater. Two rain guardian bunkers were used as pre-treatment structures to the rain gardens which provided 75%-90% total suspended solids (TSS) removals, and a Contech Jellyfish structure to help remove up to 85% TSS removals and up to 75% of total phosphorus (TP) particles.

(PUBLIC – BLOOMINGTON)

Size: Oakland Ave 0.51 acres of fully reconstructed impervious surface; E. 82nd Street 2.89 acres of fully reconstructed impervious surface.

Description: Both projects were full street reconstruction projects. The Oakland Ave site was under the 1-acre threshold for the CSW permit and the street segment was reconstructed to existing conditions, no new impervious surface created. The E. 82nd Street

segment had a total disturbed area of 3.52 acres and impervious surface was decreased from 3.14 acres to 2.89 acres for a 0.25-acre reduction.

Stormwater Elements: Both sites had SWPPP's developed for them and the contractor was required to follow the BMPs as designed in the plan. For the E. 82nd Ave segment, a rainwater garden was planned to be constructed within the ROW near 9201 12th Ave S., however during construction the homeowner that abuts the proposed raingarden area was not supportive and as a result the rain garden was not able to be constructed with the project.

WOODLAWN TERRACE UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS (PRIVATE - RICHFIELD)

Size: 2.14 Acres

Description: Watermain replacement and other utility improvements, along with road reconstruction, within a mobile home cooperative in Richfield. Work supported by City HRA and State grant funding.

Stormwater Elements: NPDES-permitted project, involving erosion control inspections as well as permanent stormwater treatment through sump catch basin and manhole retrofits. Remaining work includes sealing disused private well for DWSMA and source water protection.

VETERAN'S PARK SPLASHPAD (PUBLIC - RICHFIELD)

Size: ~0.25 Acres

Description: Public splashpad facility in Veteran's Park. Uses water recirculation with integrated filtration system.

Stormwater Elements: Triggers City erosion control ordinance – ongoing discussions with contractor regarding winter workplan.

D. 2024 NPDES ANNUAL REPORT REVIEW (ALL)

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

MS4 annual reporting? Challenges with unknowns expected of reporting.

E. COMPLIANCE CONCERNS (AII)

- WCA Action
- Other compliance concerns – 951 E. American Blvd private stormwater BMP maintenance enforcement required rehabilitation of infiltration basin.

F. 2025 RBWMO ANNUAL MEETING (AII)

- Richfield Hosting
- Sun Current Public Notices
- Agenda
 - Annual Report
 - Business items

Tentatively targeting March 11th meeting.

Minor plan amendment procedure requires 30 day comment period from plan review authorities, public meeting with 7 & 14 day prior notice.

G. 2025-26 WBIF Projects

- Ongoing Hennepin County Conservation Education & Implementation Partnership
- RBWMO Grant Program
 - Alternatives to present to Board?
 - Timeline for implementation

If partnering with 3rd party – is it worth putting out an RFP or similar? Continue developing alternatives analysis and prepare to present to board.

- Fisheries/AIS Study
 - RFP/RFQ/Direct hire for consultant?
 - Previous fisheries work 2015-2020 – any available information?
 - 2017 Hennepin County grant
 - 2020 Proposed fish stocking
 - Scope, goals, and deliverables

Direct hire rather than RFP. Approach WSB for quote once scope is finalized. Move forward ASAP.

H. OTHER ITEMS

- Past WBIF projects
 - FY2019 Watershed Based Implementation Funding - Pilot project (Bryan)
 - Hennepin County Chloride Initiative
 - This project was completed in 2022. We still have ice scrapers to give away as a thank-you gift to organizations who take the time to meet with staff and discuss their salt use and [Low Salt No Salt Minnesota](#) campaign to encourage decreased salt use for winter maintenance.
 - FY2020-2021 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (Jack)
 - RBWMO Youth Education Program
 - Wood Lake Nature Center Partnership
 - Grant closed at end of 2023
 - FY2022-2023 Watershed Based Implementation Funding
 - Sheridan Pond Maintenance Project (Chad)
 - Conservation Education and Implementation Partnership (Bryan)
 - Southgate Apartment Complex stormwater education and implementation project
 - Feasibility study to help assist in management decisions and identification of priority project that will protect, enhance, and restore surface water quality.
 - Website Maintenance and updates
- Post TAC meeting minutes, Annual meeting agenda, WQ monitoring.
- I-494: Airport to Highway 169
- Schedule meeting to discuss latest 494 updates. Phase 2 largely funded, MNDOT still seeking additional funds for bridges, EZ pass lanes, etc. What will municipal stormwater maintenance obligations be?
- 2025 Work Plan Items
 - I-494: Airport to Highway 169
 - Conservation Education and Implementation Partnership
 - Implement results of RBWMO Feasibility Study

Revisit with next planning process and identify additional CIP projects.

 - Adam's Hill Pond
 - Best Buy Stormwater Ponds
 - Nicollet Ave Reconstruction

Working with design consultant on stormwater management requirements. Nicollet in Bloomington also being reconstructed year after Richfield project. 2027/28.

 - West Metro Water Alliance/Hennepin County education & outreach partnership
 - Southgate Apartments project

Status update: going better! Through concept design, eligible for \$40k pollinator pathways grant. Some nature play/rec benefits being incorporated as well. Outreach & engagement with tenants has been informative, lessons learned for improving future engagement. Initiating construction next spring.

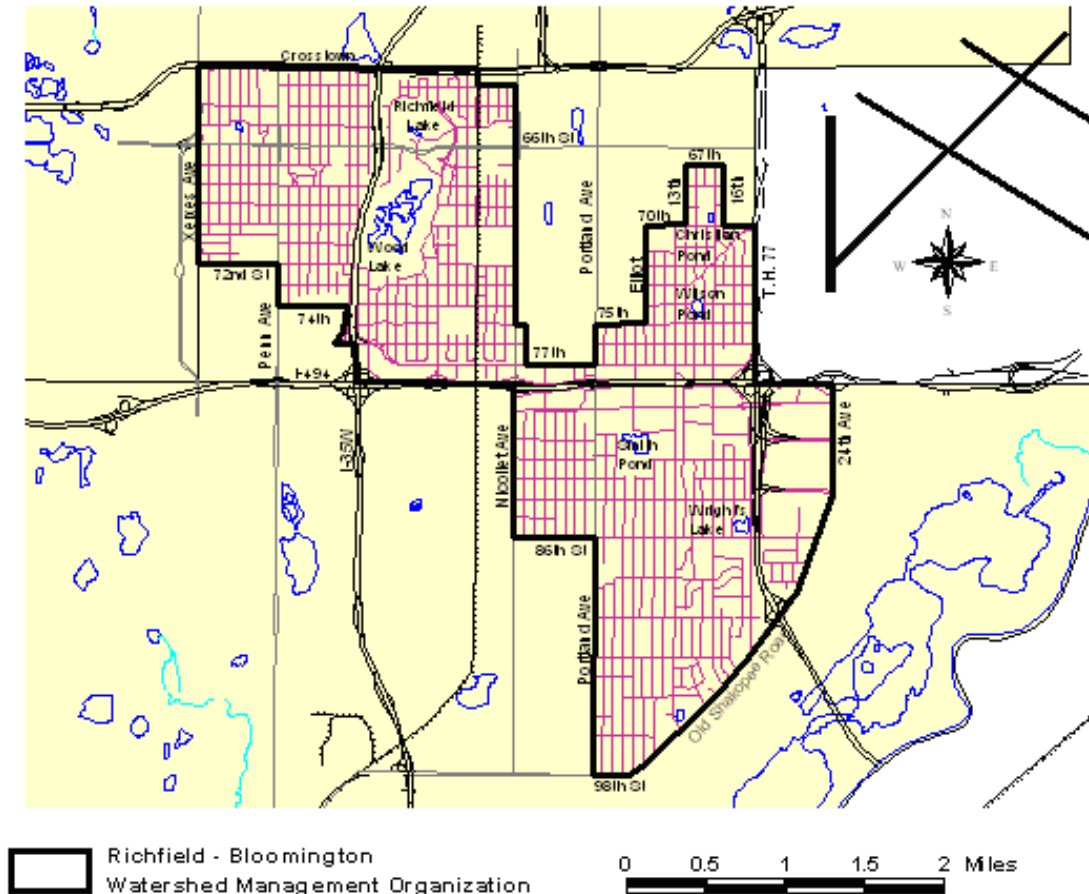
- Other items

Wilson pond & connection to Smith Park Pond/494 system. Possible to send addl. volume to interchange?

Regulator controls when water can be discharged to MNDOT's system – once system is at capacity, all runoff is sent to Smith Park Pond. Connection is likely underneath parallel pipes of MNDOT's system. Next few months prior to Phase 2 is appropriate time to approach MNDOT.

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:



The intent of the organization is to address water drainage issues and stormwater 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.

The RBWMO meets at least once a year in the first 90 days of each year, at which time the Board elects officers and conducts necessary business. The annual meeting is open to the public.

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
Walter Burk	Richfield
Sharon Christensen	Richfield
Lona Dallessandro	Bloomington
Mary Supple	Richfield
Chao Moua	Bloomington
Victor Rivas	Bloomington
Rori A. Coleman-Woods	Richfield
Sean Hayford Oleary	Richfield
Dwayne Lowman	Bloomington
Jenna Carter	Bloomington

Mattias Oddsson, Water Resources Engineer for the City of Richfield, is the current (2025) Executive Director of the RBWMO. Bryan Gruidl, Water Resources Manager for the City of Bloomington, 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 27, 2025