

**Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 24, 2015, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Richfield City Hall**  
**6700 Portland Avenue**  
**Richfield, Minnesota 55423**

**Call to Order**

Chair Baloga called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**Roll Call & Introductions  
Item 1**

*Bloomington Council Present:* Mayor Winstead, Council Members Jack Baloga, Tim Busse, Cynthia Bemis Abrams, Jon Oleson.

*Richfield Council Present:* Mayor Debbie Goettel (arrived 6:13 p.m.), Council Members Tom Fitzhenry, Pat Elliot

*Bloomington Council Absent:* Dwayne Lowman, Andrew Carlson

*Richfield Council Absent:* Edwina Garcia, Michael Howard

*Bloomington Staff Present:* Bryan Gruidl, Shelly Pederson, Jim Gates, Karl Keel, Steve Segar, and Jamie Verbrugge.

*Richfield Staff Present:* Kristin Asher, Mike Eastling and Derick Anderson.

*Guests:* Steve Christopher, Board Conservationist, Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR).

At Chair's request, all of the attendees introduced themselves:

Tom Fitzhenry (Ward 3), Richfield City Council  
Jon Oleson (District IV), Bloomington City Council  
Jack Baloga (District III), Bloomington City Council  
Cynthia Bemis Abrams (At Large), Bloomington City Council  
Gene Winstead, Bloomington Mayor  
Jamie Verbrugge, Bloomington City Manager  
Pat Elliot, (Ward 1) Richfield City Council  
Derick Anderson, Richfield Engineering Technician  
Steve Segar, Bloomington Civil Engineer  
Jim Gates, Bloomington Deputy Director of Public Works  
Karl Keel, Bloomington Director of Public Works  
Mike Eastling, Richfield Director of Public Works  
Shelly Pederson, Bloomington City Engineer  
Tim Busse (At Large), Bloomington City Council  
Steve Christopher, BSWR  
Kristin Asher, Richfield City Engineer  
Bryan Gruidl, Bloomington Civil Engineer

**Approval of Minutes  
Item 2**

Motion was made by Abrams seconded by Elliot and all voting aye, to approve the Sept 9, 2014, Meeting minutes of the Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization (RBWMO).

**Review and Approval  
of Agenda  
Item 3**

Motion was made by Abrams, seconded by Fitzhenry and all voting aye, to approve the agenda as presented.

**Appoint Executive  
Director & Assistant  
Executive Directors  
Item 4**

Baloga stated this is the second of the two-year terms for the Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director of the 2015 RBWMO.

Motion was made by Fitzhenry, seconded by Abrams, to appoint Gruidl (Bloomington) as the Executive Director of the 2015 RBWMO.

Motion was made by Oleson, seconded by Elliot, to appoint Asher (Richfield) as the Assistant

Executive Director of the 2015 RBWMO.

**2014 Executive  
Director's Report  
Item 5**

Gruidl presented the following with a PowerPoint presentation:

- **Background on the RBWMO:**  
In 1982, the Minnesota Legislature required all land area in the Metro be within a water management organization. Final agreement and bylaws were adopted in 1984, forming the Richfield Bloomington Watershed Management Organization. She showed map of the RBWMO boundary, approximate area is 4.5 square miles. The staff of the RBWMO continues to be the staff of each member city handling drainage and surface water issues within their respective boundaries. Both cities act as Local Governing Unit (LGU) for the Wetland Conservation Act. Both cities have a Stormwater Utility to fund stormwater maintenance and functions. No formal budget exists for the RBWMO, and that no funds were expended or accrued during the fiscal year in 2014. Expenses such as insurance, consultants are split 50 / 50. Both cities combined spent approximately \$3.5 million to manage stormwater in 2014.
- **Technical Advisory Committee:**  
Staff from both cities met for the mandatory Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting on Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Members of the TAC review public and private development construction projects of each city for compliance with the RBWMO Plan. Every other year there is a compliance check on each individual city's local surface water management plan, it was last done in 2013, so it was not done in 2014. There was a review of each city's SWPPP for compliance.
- **Community Advisory Commissions:**  
Each city has commissions to review and approve projects that impact the WMO. Richfield holds its annual SWPPP meeting at Community Services Commission meeting to get more people involved. Bloomington to hold their annual SWPPP meeting with the Planning Commission to gather more public input.
- **Monitoring Program:**  
Since 2010, five lakes have water quality monitoring programs to monitor trend analysis for phosphorus and total solids; Wood Lake, Richfield Lake, Augsburg Pond, Wright's Lake, Smith Park Pond. They are required to be monitored every three years, we have been monitoring them annually.

2014 Activity

- **Minor plan amendment to clarify section 5.** No comments, amendment incorporated into comp plan.
- **Work in Bloomington:** Lindau Lane grade separation project roadway work completed, work on plaza expected to be complete in August this year.
- **Work in Richfield:** Woodlake Nature Center Parking lot reconstruction, project included pervious pavers, rain garden, interpretive signing, sealing an unused well, and turtle friendly curb.
- **2014 Permits – Variances – Enforcement:**  
Zero WCA actions occurred in Richfield and Bloomington. Richfield monitored two sites and Bloomington monitored four for erosion control. Richfield had two tear down and reconstruction of single family homes.
- **2015 Work Plan:**

Projects

- **66<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstruction** – Richfield  
Hennepin County, in cooperation with the City of Richfield, will be completing the final design for the upcoming reconstruction of 66<sup>th</sup> Street from Washburn Avenue to 16<sup>th</sup>

Avenue. As part of the project it is anticipated that water quantity issues may be addressed near the intersection of 66<sup>th</sup> Street and Newton Avenue. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2017.

- Inter-City Regional Trail Project – Bloomington and Richfield  
Three Rivers Park District is expected to commence construction soon. New pedestrian bridge across I-494.
- Park Avenue Reconstruction - Bloomington  
As part of the 2015-101 Street Reconstruction Project, approximately 1,100 feet of Park Avenue will be reconstructed between Bischoff Lane and East 90<sup>th</sup> Street. The project includes storm sewer, curb and gutter, grading, bituminous pavement and sod restoration. A project SWPPP will be implemented and the project slightly reduces the street width resulting in less impervious area.
- Strategic assessment of the WMO mission and purpose – Richfield and Bloomington  
Complete a strategic assessment of the WMO in 2015 ahead of the development of the next generation Watershed Management Plan.

Mayor Winstead asked about Richfield's Community Services Commission; Asher described the Commission's function.

## Business Items Item 6

The following business items were reviewed:

### A. SWPPP and MS4 Permits (Gruidl)

In 2013 MPCA reissued the NPDES permit for MS4, cities had to work on updates to come into compliance with new permit. Both cities applied for reauthorization in 2013. The RBWMO focuses on stormwater management since there are no creeks in the district.

Major Changes:

- More training opportunities for staff and the general public on illicit discharge
- Requires volume reduction on 1 acre projects

In Bloomington, post construction stormwater is contained in the CSWMP, working on updating. In Richfield, it is contained in ordinance.

Pond evaluation, identify stormwater ponds and develop schedule of when they will be evaluated.

Goettel asked about outreach and public education.

### B. PRAP Follow up (Asher)

In September a meeting was held where we received feedback, overall the WMO is meeting its requirements. Conduct a strategic assessment of the mission and purpose, and move towards a watershed perspective, two options include:

Increasing the scope of projects, receive feedback outside of the WMO

Explore merger with Nine Mile Creek – this was rejected in our comments.

#### i. Branding

People don't know about the RBWMO, having a logo helps people to identify with the WMO. Now comments to other watersheds will be on RBWMO letterhead instead of City letterhead.

#### ii. Mission / Purpose

Moving forward with the strategic assessment makes sense. BWSR has PRAP grant up to \$10,000 with a 50% match to facilitate mission vision exercise, help host open houses to get outreach.

#### iii. Board Size

Handout describes changing the size of the board, Asher commented that it's sometimes difficult to pull all 12 Council Members together for meetings and there will be more meeting scheduled for the

strategic assessment and plan amendment. Asher compared number of board members from other watershed districts, most have around 5. Baloga commented that having all Council Members from each City allows a quorum to vote on issues that affect each City. Fitzhenry commented that there should be alternates. Elliot commented he is not fond of large committees, but Council Members, not Commission Members are a better choice for continuity. Decision was made to keep board size the same and have smaller committee to serve on strategic assessment and plan amendment. Asher asked if the board wants to go ahead with the strategic assessment, and if so, to select a Committee tonight of two from each City plus an alternate. Richfield nominated Howard and Goettel with Elliot as an alternate, Bloomington nominated Abrams and Oleson with an alternate to be determined.

**Election of Officers  
for 2015  
Item 7**

Chair (Bloomington)

Motion was made by Busse to nominate Carlson as Chair of the 2015 RBWMO.

Vice Chair (Richfield)

Motion was made by Goettel to nominate Howard as Vice Chair of the 2015 RBWMO.

Secretary (Richfield)

Motion was made by Goettel to nominate Garcia as Secretary of the 2015 RBWMO.

Treasurer (Bloomington)

Motion was made by Abrams to nominate Lowman as Treasurer of the 2015 RBWMO.

Motion was made by Goettel, seconded by Abrams, and all voting aye, to approve the 2015 Staff Appointments.

**Approval of 2014  
Annual Report  
Item 8.**

Motion was made by Abrams, seconded by Elliot, and all voting aye, to approve the 2014 Annual Report.

**Public Notice  
Item 9**

Motion was made by Goettel, seconded by Abrams and all voting aye, to publish the Public Notice in the April 2, 2015 editions of the Bloomington and Richfield Sun-Current Newspapers.

**Insurance  
Item 10**

Motion was made by Winstead and Goettel, seconded by Elliot and Abrams, and all voting aye, to approve each city's payment of \$1,250 to cover its half of the insurance premium for the period of July 2015 – June 2016.

**Adjournment**

The RBWMO meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Derick Anderson  
*Engineering Technician*