



## 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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Bloomington Public Works  
1700 West 98<sup>th</sup> Street, Bloomington, MN 55431  
PH: 952-563-4870

Richfield Public Works  
1901 East 66<sup>th</sup> Street, Richfield, MN 55423  
PH: 612-861-9170

## I. Financial Report

The RBWMO has not expended or accrued funds during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018. No financial audits are necessary. Richfield and Bloomington expended \$790,000 and \$10M respectively from their storm water utility funds in 2018 to manage surface and stormwater.

## II. Activity Report

The RBWMO continues to function as an independent organization with Board membership consisting of the City Councils of both Richfield and Bloomington. The Staff of the RBWMO continues to be the staff of each City handling drainage and surface water issues within each municipality. Since each City addresses storm water/surface water issues on behalf of the RBWMO there is no official budget for the organization. Each municipality funds improvements and maintenance within the Watershed Management area within their City border via existing storm water utilities.

The 2018 Watershed Management Plan includes implementation of policies and programs that require financial resources from each member city. As in the past, costs to cover activities occurring in a particular city are borne by that city and activities transcending the municipal boundary will be shared equally.

Both Cities are permitted Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) operators under the NPDES permit program and implement Storm Water Pollution Prevention Programs (SWPPP) including education and maintenance programs.

### A. Membership

Name	Representing
Shawn Nelson	Bloomington
Tim Busse	Bloomington
Simon Trautmann	Richfield
Jack Baloga	Bloomington
Maria Regan Gonzalez	Richfield
Nathan Coulter	Bloomington
Dwayne Lowman	Bloomington
Ben Whalen	Richfield
Mary Supple	Richfield
Edwina Garcia	Richfield
Patrick Martin	Bloomington
Gene Winstead	Bloomington

Richfield members can be contacted at:	Richfield City Hall 6700 Portland Avenue South Richfield, MN 55423 612-861-9700
Bloomington members can be contacted at:	Bloomington City Hall 1800 West Old Shakopee Road Bloomington, MN 55431 952-563-8700

B. Staff

Executive Director:	Bryan Gruidl City of Bloomington Sr. Water Resources Manager 1700 West 98 <sup>th</sup> Street Bloomington, MN 55431 952-563-4557
Assistant Executive Director:	Jeff Pearson City of Richfield City Engineer 1901 E. 66 <sup>th</sup> Street Richfield, MN 55423 612-861-9791

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

C. 2018 Activity

Both cities perform the duties of the Local Government Unit (LGU) for BWSR for implementation of the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). Storm water utilities also are in place in both cities providing a reliable funding source for storm water and surface water resources management and improvement activities.

The fee structures for both cities storm water utility include a water quality component and a water quantity component. A credit/adjustment policy is in place providing incentive for property owners to incorporate storm water best management practices into their sites.

The RBWMO works collaboratively with its member cities to include and promote best management practices (BMPs) from both cities storm water programs. In 2018 the City of Richfield inspected 100% of the city's ponds, outfalls and sediment basins

and completed five city-wide street sweeping passes. Additionally, the City removed debris and sediment from 18 storm sewer pollution control structures.

Bloomington provided two annual sweepings of city streets and completed inspection and maintenance of 100% of the structural pollution control devices within the permitted MS4. Inspections of 20% of the city's MS4 outfalls, ponds and sediment basins were also ongoing in 2018. Associated maintenance as identified by the inspections was either scheduled or completed at the time of inspection.

Adoption of updated Watershed Management Plan – On November 28, 2017 staff presented the WMO's updated Watershed Management Plan at the Central Region Committee Meeting which recommended the plan for approval to the BWSR Board. At the December 2017 meeting the BWSR Board approved the updated Watershed Management Plan. The plan was officially adopted by the RBWMO Board at the annual meeting on March 5, 2018.

Master Water Stewards – Master Water Stewards is a program that certifies and supports community leaders to install pollution prevention projects that educate community members, reduce pollutants from runoff, and allow more water to soak into the ground. The program is a partnership between Freshwater and participating cities, counties, watershed management organizations. Stewards complete classes about everything from water governance to hydrology to community engagement. In 2018 Hennepin County supported 4 Stewards for the Master Watershed Stewards Program, including one in the RBWMO. RBWMO staff worked with Hennepin County and the Freshwater Society to assist the Steward in completing the required capstone project. The capstone project included the restoration of two failing rain gardens within the RBWMO. While the gardens had previously been constructed, adjacent construction activity had impacted the rain gardens. This project included performing extensive maintenance activity on the rain garden such as soil tilling, planting and mulching in order to restore a fully functioning rain garden.

City Surface Water Plan Review – In 2018, both the City of Bloomington and City of Richfield updated their local watershed management plans per the requirements of the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act (Chapter 103B) and Board of Water and Soil Resources Rules 8410. RBWMO staff provided review and comments of each cities local watershed management plan for conformance with the RBWMO Watershed Management Plan which was adopted by the Board in March 2018.

Watershed Based Funding – In early 2018 the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) began piloting a watershed-based funding program that allocated \$1,018,000 to Hennepin County for FY18/19. BWSR tasked eligible entities with deciding on and describing a collaborative approach to spend that money by June 30, 2018. Eligible entities in Hennepin County include watershed districts, watershed management organizations, and cities. Hennepin County lead the effort to develop a

collaborative approach with input from the county’s 11 watershed entities, and 35 eligible cities.

Hennepin County held a series of three “pre-meetings” with the eleven watershed districts and management organizations to discuss options for allocating the funds – from opting for competitive grants to more meaningful, truly integrated collaboration on shared resource concerns. At the conclusion of the series of meetings it was decided that a formula-based allocation of the funds based on land area and taxable market value was the preferred method to distribute the funds to eligible entities within Hennepin County.

Following the pre-meetings, Hennepin County invited the eleven watershed organizations and representatives from 35 Cities to participate in the Convening meeting on May 16, 2018. At that meeting the group agreed to dedicate 10% of the County’s Watershed-based Funding (\$101,800) to countywide chloride programming and distribute the remainder to watershed districts and watershed management organizations according to a formula that takes into account land area (50% of consideration) and taxable market value (50% of consideration) as detailed in the table below.

	Allocation
Lower Minnesota River Watershed District*	\$31,200
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District	\$249,151
Nine Mile Creek Watershed District*	\$91,890
Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District*	\$55,901
Bassett Creek Watershed Management Organization	\$68,573
Elm Creek Watershed Management Organization	\$134,486
Mississippi Watershed Management Organization	\$104,893
Pioneer Sarah Creek Watershed Management Organization	\$58,317
Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization*	\$18,218
Shingle Creek Watershed Management Organization	\$68,129
West Mississippi Watershed Management Organization	\$35,442

Watershed Districts and Management Organizations in the Minnesota River Basin (asterisks in table above) elected to pool their allocations to invest in a common resource concern, chloride pollution.

Watershed Districts and Management Organizations in other major river basins elected to dedicate Watershed-Based Funding allocations to projects already existing and shovel-ready (or nearly shovel-ready) in their Watershed Management Plans. Each watershed intending to complete projects with the Watershed-based Funding Pilot Program grants selected their own projects.

RBWMO has continued to work with Lower Minnesota River WD, Nine Mile Creek WD, and Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek WD in developing programming to reduce chloride by providing grants to applicators to retrofit equipment to use efficient technology to maintain sidewalks and roads with the expectation of about 8-15 grants being awarded. The Minnesota River Basin group will use 2019 to develop programming and promote the program with the intention of offering grants in late 2019 and early 2020.

Website Maintenance – The website is updated with the current watershed management plan, contact information, and resource links for residents, the general public and other agencies.

Technical Advisory Commission – In accordance with the 2018 Approved Watershed Management Plan, the RBWMO Technical Advisory Committee met on December 19, 2019. Minutes from that meeting are provided at the end of the report as Attachment 1.

#### Section V Implementation Studies and Programs Activities:

- a. Education and Outreach Program – Continue providing educational opportunities through the use of the Wood Lake Nature Center and in partnering with other watershed districts and watershed management organizations. RBWMO has been working with a local church to provide watershed maps to a Sunday school class and make other educational material available upon request.

On June 28, 2018 RBWMO partnered with Nine Mile Creek Watershed District and Lower Minnesota River Watershed District to provide a Level 2 Smart Salting Workshop. The workshop provided attendees an opportunity to learn how to use a new web-based Winter Maintenance Assessment tool. Using the tool provides a review of winter maintenance practices and helps organizations be more efficient with salt application.

- b. Storm Water Monitoring Program – Identified as a high priority in the RBWMO both Richfield and Bloomington continue to conduct regular water quality monitoring as outlined in Section 5.4 of the approved watershed management plan. The monitoring is intended to establish long-term water quality data for Wood Lake, Richfield Lake, Smith Pond, and Wrights Lake.

Monitoring has been on-going at Wood Lake, Richfield, Lake, and Smith Pond since 2010. Monitoring began on Wrights Lake in 2013 including being monitored as part of the Hennepin County Wetland Health Evaluation Program from 2013-2015. The RBWMO is committed to monitoring at least one waterbody each year has part of the Hennepin County Wetland Health Evaluation Program. Smith Park Pond is currently being monitored as part

of the County's program, in addition to monitoring activity conducted by staff. Monitoring records are available upon request.

- c. Hydrologic and Hydraulic (H&H) Model Update – This study includes updating stormwater models to reflect the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) revised precipitation frequency estimates (referred to as Atlas 14). This work was initially started with watershed areas in Bloomington in 2017. During 2018 associated reports for Bloomington watersheds were completed and reviewed. Additionally in 2018 watershed areas in Richfield began the H&H modeling update process. Modeling of the entire Richfield watershed areas is nearly complete and updated with Atlas -14 precipitation data. Associated reports are anticipated to be completed and reviewed in 2019.

#### Projects:

- 66<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstruction – Richfield  
Construction was completed on the second year phase of 66<sup>th</sup> Street to Lyndale Avenue. In the 2018 construction area, the existing 66<sup>th</sup> Street was a 4-lane divided street design which was also the new design. This resulted in pre and post impervious areas that were largely the same with no additional impervious area added. Sanitary sewer, watermain, and storm sewer utilities were reconstructed as part of the project. The project also includes landscaped medians and boulevards within the right-of-way. Within the RBWMO, critical stormwater capacity issues west of I-35W (West Richfield Stormwater Improvement Project) were addressed as part of the project in previous years of construction.
- Curb and Gutter, Manhole and Catch Basin Replacement – Richfield  
Concrete and storm sewer repairs were conducted on 15 miles of residential roads in advance of a 2019 Mill and Overlay project.
- Street Reconstruction - Bloomington  
As part of the 2018-101 Street Reconstruction Project Bloomington reconstructed portions of the following streets:
  - E. 83<sup>rd</sup> Street from Portland Ave S. to Columbus Ave S.
  - Columbus Ave S. from E. 84<sup>th</sup> St. to E. 83<sup>rd</sup> St.
  - E. 87½ St. from Oakland Ave S. to Park Ave S.
  - Oakland Ave S. from E. 87½ St. to 150-ft north
  - 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. S from E. 82<sup>nd</sup> St. to north terminusThe project included repairs to existing storm sewer, curb and gutter, sidewalk, and reconstructing the existing bituminous street pavement and sod restoration. A project SWPPP and NPDES permit for construction activities

were included. Post construction activity included turf restoration and there was no net change in impervious surface.

## D. 2019 Work Plan

Watershed Based Funding – Staff will continue to work on the watershed based funding program with other watershed districts and water management organizations. Work is anticipated to include the countywide chloride collaborative program development and planning as well as the Minnesota River Basin chloride BMP implementation program.

Education and Outreach – Staff will look to partner with adjacent watershed districts to promote and sponsor educational opportunities such as Smart Salting and Summer Turf Maintenance workshops. Additionally staff will look for opportunities to continue the goal of engaging with and educating youth about water and natural resources using the Wood Lake Nature Center and through partnerships with other watershed districts and water management organizations.

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

Adopt-a-Drain – Staff will evaluate rolling out the Adopt-a-drain program for the RBWMO area. This program is organized through Hamline University is now available to all interested entities in the metro area. RBWMO may choose to participate in an effort to offset some associated costs and help promote improved runoff water quality.

Hydrologic and Hydraulic (H&H) Model Update – Staff will complete the Atlas-14 H&H model update for the Richfield watersheds. Upon completion, all of the RBWMO models to reflect the Atlas-14 precipitation frequency data.

Ongoing Items – Staff will continue to implement ongoing studies and programs as outlined in the 2018 Watershed Management Plan, including:

- Website maintenance for distribution of education and WMO related information
- Water quality monitoring
- Continued TAC coordination

## Projects

### Christian Pond Dredging Project – Richfield

City of Richfield staff anticipate being able to move forward with the dredging of Christian Pond to restore the intended characteristics of the pond. This work will allow the pond to provide the wide range of functions and value that it has the potential to support. Staff has tested the sediments for PAH contamination and will now begin developing the plan and timeline for dredging work.

#### E. Permits, Variances and Enforcement

Both Richfield and Bloomington had zero actions relating to the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) within the RBWMO area in 2018. The WCA 2018 Annual Reporting Forms are available upon request.

In 2018, Bloomington staff completed erosion control inspections at six construction/redevelopment sites in Bloomington within the RBWMO.

- 7801 12th Ave S: Holiday Inn Express
- 9517 Elliot Ave S: Twinhome
- 751 E 86th St: Twinhome
- 9101 Old Cedar Ave S: Apartment building
- 8801 Portland Ave S: Oxboro Library Remodel
- 7936 Portland Ave S: Aspen Dental

In 2018, Richfield staff completed erosion control inspections at the following sites in Richfield within the RBWMO undergoing construction/redevelopment activity subject to an NPDES permit.

#### Inspection Continuation/New Permits Issued:

- Morries Jaguar Land Rover (1525 77<sup>th</sup> St E)
- Havenwood Senior Housing (245 76<sup>th</sup> St W)
- Lyndale Gardens Multi-Family Housing (6324-6360 Lyndale Ave S)
- Partnership Academy (6500 Nicollet Ave S)

#### Single Family Home Construction Projects Approved/Inspected

- 7441 Humboldt Ave                      Richfield
- 7432 Bryant Ave                         Richfield
- 7324 Girard Ave                         Richfield
- 6929 Oliver Ave                         Richfield
- 7324 Girard Ave                         Richfield

## F. Storm Water Pollution Prevention Programs (SWPPPs)

The RBWMO works collaboratively with its member cities to include and promote best management practices (BMPs) from both cities storm water programs consistent with the requirements of the MPCA Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Storm Water Program and the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP). The Richfield and Bloomington SWPPPs address all of the six Minimum Control Measures (MCM) outlined in the permit and BMPs have been prepared for each measure as follows:

### MCM 1 & 2 – Public Education, Participation, Outreach and Involvement

The RBWMO, through its member cities, has an established education and outreach program that focuses on illicit discharge recognition and reporting, as well as other specifically selected storm water-related issues such as chloride management. In addition, both cities continue to solicit public input on the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program. The RBWMO offers opportunities to learn how storm water can impact streams, rivers, and wetlands, and the steps people can take to reduce pollutants in the storm water runoff. These opportunities are offered on a continual basis at the Wood Lake Nature Center where the center receives 75,000 visitors per year (on average). In addition to educating various grades of student classrooms annually, additional education opportunities are provided through quarterly utility bill mailing inserts, Bloomington's Green Room (which is part of the City's biennial Home Improvement Fair), and Public Works Open House. Information is available on city websites, the RBWMO website, in city newsletters, and through employee training programs.

Public participation and involvement is solicited through public meetings and specific storm water project meetings, or open houses.

### MCM 3 – Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

Both cities implement and enforce an illicit discharge program. Richfield's and Bloomington's staff keep up-to-date records of the storm sewer system identifying all ponds, lakes, streams, storm sewer pipes, conveyances, and outfalls leaving the RBWMO. Public Works staff annually inspects sanitary and storm sewer mainline pipes checking for defects such as fractures, cracks, open joints, or other defects that could lead to illicit discharges. Once identified, pipe distresses can be scheduled for repair or maintenance.

Bloomington continues to administer the curb-side-cleanup resulting in the proper handling and disposal waste and problem items helping to keep these items from entering stormwater and surface waters. Continued promotion of the Hennepin County Hazardous Waste disposal facility provides residents a resource for proper disposal of hazardous wastes.

## MCM 4 – Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control

Both cities require site specific storm water management plans and erosion control plans for new development and redevelopment that meet the NPDES requirements. The required erosion control BMPs are monitored and inspected as the work progresses. Existing erosion control ordinances and development plan review procedures provide the mechanisms to help prevent soil erosion into the MS4.

## MCM 5 – Post Construction Storm Water Management for New Development and Redevelopment

Storm water runoff rate control continues to be a critical component in Richfield and Bloomington development/redevelopment.

The current MS4 permit was approved in August, 2013. Post-Construction stormwater management requirements contain multiple components including: storm water volume reduction requirements for new development and redevelopment, regulating areas allowed for infiltration, allowable exceptions, mitigation provisions, long-term maintenance requirements of structural BMPs, and site plan review.

Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and TMDL reporting are a substantial portion of the MS4 permit. Entities not only need to identify impaired waters and review the adequacy that their program to address TMDLs, but need to identify specific BMPs to reduce the pollutant load to the receiving water.

## MCM 6 – Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

Both cities continue to implement education and conduct inspection measure to ensure that good housekeeping practices are in place at their respective facilities.

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

Bloomington provides two annual sweepings of city streets and completes inspection and maintenance of 100% of the structural pollution control devices within the permitted MS4. Inspections of 20% of the city's MS4 outfalls, ponds and sediment basins are also completed annually. Associated maintenance as identified by the inspections is either scheduled or completed at the time of inspection.

## G. Local Surface Water Plans

Bloomington's LSWMP received RBWMO approval on May 16, 2018.  
Richfield's SWMP received RBWMO approval on August 23, 2018.

Subsequent to the March 5, 2018 approval of the RBWMO Plan, staff has reviewed each city's plan to ensure conformance with new policies and procedures.

## H. Consultant Services

None

## I. Information Program

A copy of the publication for the Bloomington Sun and Richfield Sun is included.  
(Attachment 2)

The RBWMO website provides a location for the public and other agencies to view the Watershed Management Plan as well as find general contact information, and links to other water resources-related information. The website address is [www.RBWMO.org](http://www.RBWMO.org)

## J. Expenditures

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

Insurance for 2018 was \$2,275.00.