



**WORK SESSION  
VIRTUAL MEETING HELD VIA WEBEX  
FEBRUARY 22, 2022  
6:00 PM**

Call to order

1. Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization (RBWMO) Annual Meeting. Attendees will take any necessary official actions as RBWMO Board Members and ask questions of staff or agency representatives.

Adjournment

**Auxiliary aids for individuals with disabilities are available upon request. Requests must be made at least 96 hours in advance to the City Clerk at 612-861-9738.**



## **WORK SESSION STAFF REPORT NO. 6**

### **WORK SESSION**

**2/22/2022**

REPORT PREPARED BY: Jordan Vennes, Water Resources Engineer

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REVIEW: Kristin Asher, Public Works Director  
2/15/2022

OTHER DEPARTMENT REVIEW:

CITY MANAGER REVIEW: Katie Rodriguez, City Manager  
2/16/2022

#### **ITEM FOR WORK SESSION:**

**Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization (RBWMO) Annual Meeting. Attendees will take any necessary official actions as RBWMO Board Members and ask questions of staff or agency representatives.**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The RBWMO will hold its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 virtually via WebEx. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:00 pm. The agenda packet will be sent in advance of the meeting.

#### **DIRECTION NEEDED:**

**Aside from taking any official actions as RBWMO Board Members, no direction is needed.**

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

##### **A. HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

- The Richfield-Bloomington Watershed covers a 7.55 square mile, contiguous area that comprises portions of eastern Bloomington and southeastern, central, and northwestern Richfield.
- A Board of Commissioners has been established as the governing body of the RBWMO. The Board of Commissioners is comprised of all City Council Members in the Cities of Richfield and Bloomington. The RBWMO holds at least one public meeting each year, at which time the Board elects officers and conducts necessary business.

##### **B. POLICIES (resolutions, ordinances, regulations, statutes, etc):**

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

##### **C. CRITICAL TIMING ISSUES:**

The RBWMO is required to hold an annual meeting to conduct official business each year.

##### **D. FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

- The RBWMO has no direct expenses but any one-off expenses that span city boundaries are split 50/50 between the two member cities (i.e., consultant fees, insurance).
- As identified in the Joint Powers Agreement, personnel of the Cities may be utilized, but no additional compensation will be paid by the RBWMO.

- Each city budgets and expends funds in their respective stormwater utility budgets to cover costs associated with watershed stormwater management.

E. **LEGAL CONSIDERATION:**

None

**ALTERNATIVE(S):**

None

**PRINCIPAL PARTIES EXPECTED AT MEETING:**

Bloomington City Council, RBWMO Executive Director Bryan Gruidl, Board of Water and Soil Resources Conservationist Steve Christopher

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Description	Type
▣ RBWMO Information	Backup Material
▣ RBWMO Meeting Packet	Backup Material
▣ 2022 RBWMO presentation	Presentation



## Information for New Board Members

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

### ABOUT THE RBWMO

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

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

\*See attachment for a RBWMO Boundary Map

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

### PURPOSE AND INTENT

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

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



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

#### DEVELOPMENT OF THE RBWMO

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

In 1990 Legislature enacted a number of revisions to the Surface Water Management Act including the requirement that the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) develop rules to help guide and coordinate a number of aspects of the Metro Watershed Plan development and implementation. These rules were codified under Chapter 8410 of State Rule. One aspect of the rules specifies that no plan is to be in effect for more than ten years. The most recent update the RBWMO plan was approved in March 2018.

#### STAFF CONTACTS

Bryan Gruidl, Bloomington – 952-563-4557

Jordan Vennes, Richfield – 612-861-9797



## ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday February 22, 2022; 6:00 p.m.  
Webex, Hosted by Richfield

1. Call to order and introductions
2. Approval of minutes of March 8, 2021 Annual Meeting
3. Review and approval of agenda
4. Election of Officers for 2022
  - a. Chair: Richfield
  - b. Vice-Chair: Bloomington
  - c. Secretary: Bloomington
  - d. Treasurer: Richfield
5. Approve 2021 staff appointments (1<sup>st</sup> year of 1-yr term)
  - a. Executive Director: Bryan Gruidl, Bloomington
  - b. Assistant Executive Director: Jordan Vennes, Richfield
6. 2021 Executive Director's Report (Gruidl)
7. Business Items
  - a. Watershed Based Funding
    - i. Hennepin County Chloride Initiative and Minnesota River Basin group update
    - ii. Youth Education program and partnership with Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends
    - iii. FY22-23 Watershed Based Implementation Funding
  - b. Education and Outreach
    - i. Continue and re-evaluate Education and Outreach Plan geared towards engaging with youth. Consideration of Clean Water Fund Policy change for educational activities
    - ii. Adopt-a-Drain
    - iii. Consideration of approval of 2021 Annual Report
    - iv. Public Notice; scheduled to be published March 3, 2022
8. Insurance – Estimated \$2,500.00 for July 2022 - June 2023 (each City pay half: \$1,250.00)
9. Adjournment

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

[www.RBWMO.org](http://www.RBWMO.org)



## RBWMO Meeting UNAPPROVED MINUTES

### RBWMO Meeting Tuesday, March 9, 2021 Cisco Webex Virtual Meeting

<b>CALL TO ORDER - 6:15 PM</b>	Chair Ben Whalen called the 2021 meeting of the Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization (RBWMO) to order at 6:15pm.
	<i>Bloomington Council Present:</i> Mayor T. Busse; Councilmembers N. Coulter, P. Martin, S. Nelson
	<i>Richfield Council Present:</i> Mayor M. Regan Gonzalez; Councilmembers S. Trautmann, M. Supple, S. Hayford Oleary, B. Whalen
	<i>Bloomington Staff Present:</i> Bryan Gruidl, Julie Long, Steve Segar, Karl Keel, Jamie Verbrugge
	<i>Richfield Staff Present:</i> Kristin Asher, Katie Rodriguez, Joe Powers, Patrick Martin, Michael Petersen, Blanca Martinez Gaviña, Kelly Wynn
	<i>Other:</i> Board Conservationist Steve Christopher
	<i>Absent:</i> J. Carter, J. Baloga, D. Lowman
<b>Approval of March 2, 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes</b>	Motion by Regan Gonzalez to approve the March 2, 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes, seconded by Martin. Motion carried unanimously.
<b>Review and Approval of Agenda</b>	Motion by Supple to approve Agenda, seconded by Coulter. Motion carried unanimously.
<b>Election of Officers for 2021</b>	Motion by Coulter to nominate of Patrick Martin(Bloomington) as Chair. Seconded by Busse. Motion carried unanimously.
	Motion by Supple to nominate Sean Hayford Oleary as Vice Chair. Seconded by Trautmann. Motion carried unanimously.
	Motion by Gonzalez to nominate Simon Trautmann as Secretary. Seconded by Supple. Motion carried unanimously.
	Motion by Martin (Bloomington) to nominate Nathan Coulter as Treasurer. Seconded by Nelson. Motion carried unanimously.
<b>Approve 2021 staff appointments</b>	Approve 2021 staff appointments for Executive Director Patrick Martin (Richfield). Motion by Trautmann. Seconded by Regan Gonzalez. Motion carried unanimously.
	Approve 2021 staff appointments for Assistant Director Bryan Gruidl. Motion by Trautmann. Seconded by Regan Gonzalez. Motion carried unanimously.

<b>Executive Director's Report</b>	Martin (Richfield) provided overview of RBWMO via PowerPoint. Report will go to BWSR. Explained Technical Advisory Committee; Community Advisory Commissions; monitoring program; Smith Park Pond; activities from 2020; 2020 permits and enforcements; 2021 work plan.
<b>Business Item A. Watershed Based Funding</b>	<p>Gruidl presented on Watershed based-funding initiatives, activities, and grants. RBWMO received grant funding to move forward with youth education program through Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends (MVRF).</p> <p>Gruidl spoke on the education and outreach goal, including an overview of partnership with MVRF, continued promotion of Adopt-a-Drain, and development of Education and Outreach Plan.</p>
<b>Consideration to Approve 2020 Annual Report</b>	Motion by Trautmann to approve the 2020 Annual Report. Seconded by Busse. Motion carried unanimously.
<b>Consideration to Approve 2021 Public Notice</b>	Motion by Supple to approve the 2021 Public Notice. Seconded by Hayford Oleary. Motion Carried unanimously.
<b>Insurance</b>	Insurance estimated at \$2,500.00 for July 2021 – June 2022. Consistent with past years each city will pay half the cost or \$1,250.00.
<b>ADJOURN</b>	Motion by Coulter to adjourn. Seconded by Martin (Bloomington). Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.



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#### STAFF CONTACTS

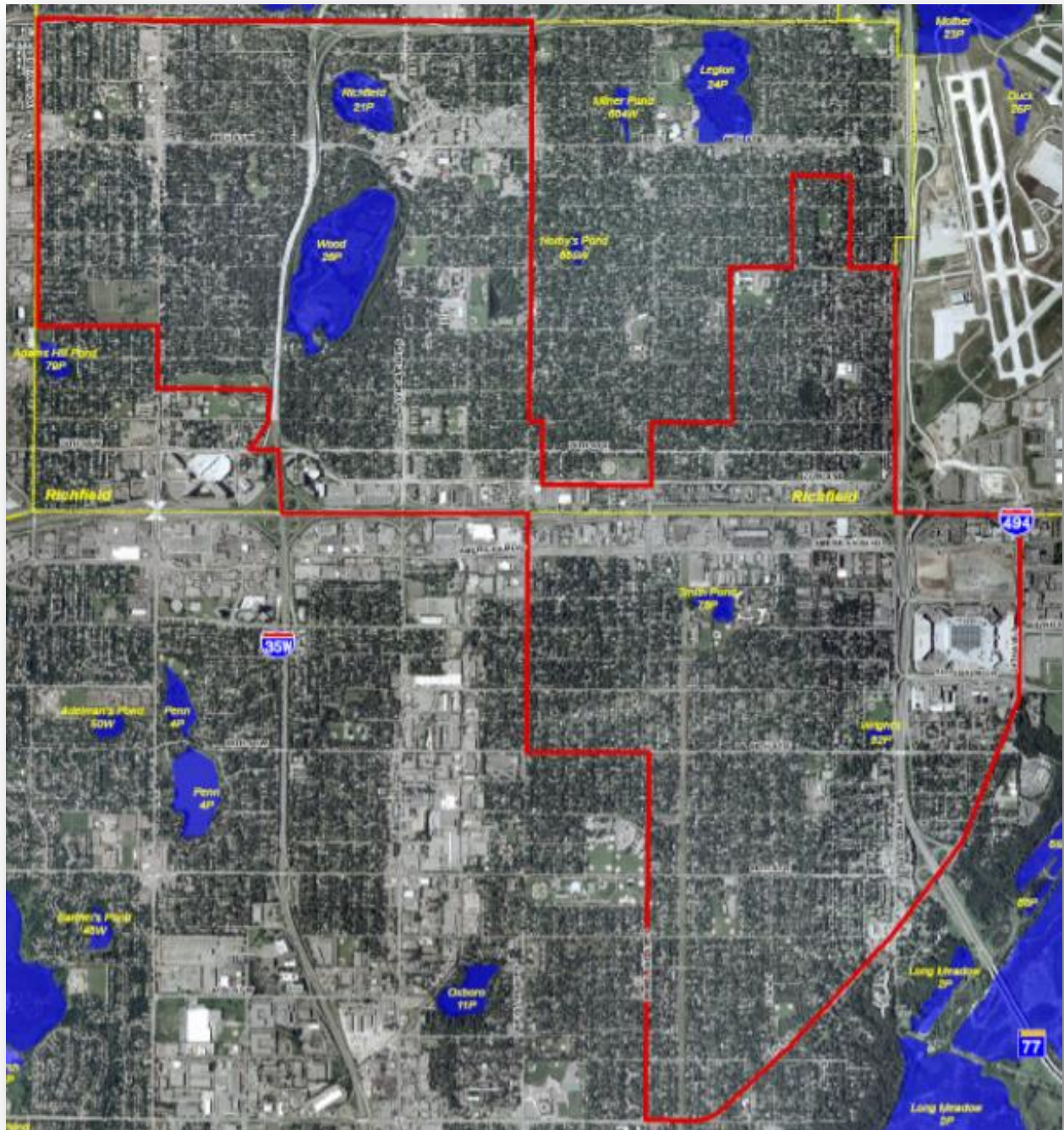
Bryan Gruidl, Bloomington – 952-563-4557

Jordan Vennes, Richfield – 612-861-9797





# RBWMO Boundary Map





## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

### I. Financial Report

### II. Activity Report

A. Membership

B. Staff

C. 2021 Activity

D. 2022 Work Plan

E. Permits, Variances, and Enforcement

F. Storm Water Pollution Prevention Programs

G. Local Surface Water Plans

H. Consultant Services

I. Information Program

J. Expenditures

Bloomington Public Works  
1700 West 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

[www.RBWMO.org](http://www.RBWMO.org)



## I. Financial Report

The RBWMO has not expended or accrued funds during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021. No financial audits are necessary. Richfield and Bloomington expended \$2.0M and \$5.3M respectively from their storm water utility funds in 2021 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. 2021 Membership

Name	Representing
Shawn Nelson	Bloomington
Tim Busse	Bloomington
Simon Trautmann	Richfield
Jack Baloga	Bloomington
Maria Regan Gonzalez	Richfield
Nathan Coulter	Bloomington
Dwayne Lowman	Bloomington
Ben Whalen	Richfield
Mary Supple	Richfield
Sean Hayford Oleary	Richfield
Patrick Martin	Bloomington
Jenna Carter	Bloomington

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

#### B. Staff

Executive Director: (March 2020-March 2021)	Patrick Martin City of Richfield Water Resources/GIS Specialist 1901 E. 66th Street Richfield, MN 55423 612-861-9797
Assistant Executive Director:	Bryan Gruidl City of Bloomington Water Resources Manager 1700 West 98 <sup>th</sup> Street Bloomington, MN 55431 952-563-4557

In 2021 Executive Director, Patrick Martin, left the City of Richfield. Executive Director responsibilities were carried out by the Assistant Executive Director, Bryan Gruidl, for the remainder of the year. Jordan Vennes was hired by the City of Richfield as the Water Resources Engineer in June of 2021 to fill the vacancy. Jordan was active in coordinating and supporting RMBWO related activities. City staff from both cities cooperate to provide necessary staff support for the RBWMO.

#### C. 2021 Activity

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

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

The RBWMO works collaboratively with its member cities to include and promote best management practices (BMPs) from both cities storm water programs. Richfield completed inspection and maintenance of all structural pollution control devices within the permitted MS4, and performed six 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.

Bloomington provided two annual sweepings of city streets in addition to targeted sweeping in priority watersheds 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 2021. Associated maintenance as identified by the inspections was either scheduled or completed at the time of inspection.

Hennepin County Chloride Initiative (HCCI) – Working together to develop a strategic plan to increase adoption of best management practices with private applicators.

In 2018 the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) piloted a watershed-based funding program allocating \$1,018,000 to Hennepin County. Through a series of meetings with eligible entities it was agreed to dedicate 10% of County's Watershed-based Funding (\$101,800) to countywide chloride programming. This effort has become known as the Hennepin County Chloride Initiative.

The overall purpose of the Hennepin County Chloride Initiative includes:

- Gain an understanding of what private applicators (and those that hire them) do and why they do it – knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, behaviors
- Develop a strategic plan, based on that understanding
- Act, to move the needle on reducing chloride use by private applicators, property managers, and property owners (commercial, institutional, multi-family)

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

In 2021 the group worked with a consultant to develop winter maintenance chloride management templates. The consultant worked with a broad group of technical advisors on the project that included members of the HCCI group as well as several commercial property management personnel responsible for coordinating winter maintenance activities. The winter maintenance templates were completed in

September 2021 and were being piloted in a few communities for the 2021-2022 winter season.

In May 2021 the group discussed options and ideas for developing educational materials and/or a media campaign for targeted audiences noting that property managers were likely the highest priority group. A sub-set of the HCCI group met several times over the summer discussing outreach to different audiences or sections of property managers and communication strategies. Ultimately an RFP was developed to hire a professional marketing firm to develop a media campaign. MP+G Marketing solutions was selected to develop the campaign and will be working on the project into 2022.

The HCCI group was also participating with the Parkers Lake Chloride Project Facilitation Plan being led by the City of Plymouth with their consultant Young Environmental Consulting Group. The results of this project will: 1) Compile available land use data and chloride concentrations, 2) Develop consensus on the chloride sources to Parkers Lake and potential projects to address these sources, 3) Develop a recommendation for a future pilot project to reduce chloride concentrations in Parkers Lake that could be replicated in other areas of Hennepin County, like Parkers Lake, and 4) Help target education and training needs by land use.

The grant period was extended to December 31, 2022. A summary of activities is presented in the following table:

Original Budget	Grant \$101,800	Match: \$10,180
Task	Grant Funding Spent or Encumbered	Match Funding Spent
Qualitative research with private salt applicators, survey, and project report (2019 - 2020)	\$4,828	
Development of Smart Salting for Property Manager's Guidebook (Fortin Consulting, Oct 2019)	\$10,000	\$10,500 (RPBCWD, NMCWD, LMRWD)
Development of Winter Management Plan Template (Fortin Consulting, March 2021)	\$9,950	
Parker's Lake Chloride Project Facilitation Plan (BCWMC/Plymouth, March 2021)	Up to \$20,750	
Marketing Campaign targeting boards/committees with HOAs and faith based organizations	Up to \$48,000	
Total Spent/Encumbered to Date	\$93,528	\$10,500
Remaining Funds	\$8,272	-\$320

RBWMO has continued to work with the Minnesota River Basin group (Richfield-Bloomington WMO, Lower Minnesota River WD, Nine Mile Creek WD, and Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek WD) to further the chloride reduction efforts by developing a cost-share grant program. The program reduces chloride in the environment by providing cost-share grants to applicators to retrofit equipment with efficient technology to maintain sidewalks and roads.

In 2020 the group rolled out the Chloride Reduction Cost-Share Grant program to offer financial support and resources for businesses and local government units for tools and practices which reduce, directly or indirectly, chloride usage by that organization. Entities applying for a Chloride Reduction Grant must be currently Smart Salting certified through the MPCA. These are cost-share grants. That means the cost share grant covers part of the project cost, and the award recipient covers part. The grant amount is up to \$20,000 max, and up to 75% of the project cost.

While there were several inquiries about the grant opportunity in 2021 only one application was received and funded. As a result, the group began additional marketing of the grant opportunity in the fall of 2021. Currently two projects are in the process of being reviewed for funding. The Lower Minnesota River Basin Group grant period expires on December 31, 2022.

### 2020-21 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Program

In 2020 BWSR staff rolled out the FY20-21 Watershed-based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Program. Staff worked with BWSR and other agencies within the Lower Minnesota North basin through a series of meetings to ultimately determine a list of projects to receive funding from the 20-21 WBIF program.

The RBWMO submitted a youth education program for consideration and was awarded a grant of \$30,000 to implement the education program in early 2021. The RBWMO partnered with the Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends (MVRF) to develop a youth education program with curriculum focused around basic hydrologic and ecological principles. The funding covers materials, educator fees, and transportation costs for approximately 400 students. Each session is ended by a field trip to the Minnesota River at the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge Park. The goals of the program are to:

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

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

In 2021, the first session was successfully implemented. It was hosted in cooperation with a Bloomington summer school program. A total of 103 students took part in the programming though attendance fluctuated throughout the program. Pre and post assessments showed a marked increase in knowledge, ability, and confidence. The field trip was highly regarded.

Bloomington's summer school program cost was approximately \$12,000. In addition to the teaching costs, that number reflects one-time costs for materials and curriculum. Richfield Schools are currently implementing an online version of the course with a field trip planned for the spring of 2022. Bloomington is planning to

host another session at the 2022 summer school. Upon completion of the 2022 Bloomington summer school programming the grants funds along with the required matching funds will be expended. The BWSR grant period expires on December 31, 2023.

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 16, 2021. Minutes from that meeting are provided at the end of the report as Attachment 1.

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

- a. Education and Outreach Program – Continue providing educational opportunities through the use of the Wood Lake Nature Center and in partnering with other watershed districts and watershed management organizations.

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

*Adopt-a-Drain* - RBWMO was also active with the Adopt-a-Drain program within the watershed in 2021. 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 were 23 new participants who adopted 41 new drains. There are currently 103 total participants who have adopted a total of 183 drains in the RBWMO. Participants reported collecting 1,181 lbs of debris on 2021.

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

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



Health Evaluation Program (WHEP). However, Hennepin County did not offer the WHEP program in 2020 due to Covid-19 and the program is still being re-evaluated by the County and it is unknown if this program will continue in the future.

Staff completed autonomous sampling of conductivity, temperature and depth on Wrights Lake using a EnviroDIY monitoring unit. This comes after successfully piloting the project in 2020. 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. A mechanical duckweed skimmer was pilot tested on Running Park Pond. The goal of mechanical removal is to minimize community desire for chemical plant control for aesthetic purposes and pull nutrients out of a water body.

Monitoring records are available upon request.

- c. 2020-21 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Program  
The RBWMO submitted a youth education program for consideration and was awarded a grant of \$30,000 to implement the education program. The RBWMO partnered with the Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends to develop a youth education program with curriculum focused around basic hydrologic and ecological principles.

Richfield Schools are currently implementing an online version of the course with a field trip planned for the spring of 2022. Bloomington is planning to host another session at the 2022 summer school.

- d. Sheridan Pond Dredging Project – Richfield– A wetland boundary survey was completed in 2021 to help facilitate project design. Construction is anticipated in 2022.
- e. I-494: Airport to Highway 169 – Staff continued to work with MnDOT and other stakeholders on surface and stormwater management challenges and opportunities throughout the I-494 corridor.

#### Projects:

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

The project is currently ongoing and includes Construction of 4-lane divided road connecting 77th Street to realigned Longfellow Ave on East side of TH77, new bridge on TH77 carrying TH77 over 77th St. Reconstruction of southbound TH77 to westbound I-494 ramp, westbound I-494 to



northbound TH77 amp, and frontage road over new 77th St. Also includes rehabilitation and/or replacement of majority of city-owned utilities in project area. Stormwater management elements on the project include underground detention system beneath Washington Park. A SWPPP was developed for the project and MPCA Construction Stormwater Permit was obtained. Erosion control includes inlet protection, bioroll and silt fence perimeter control, stabilized construction exits, seed mix and sod.

- **Bloomington PMP Street Maintenance Project**  
As part of the 2021-101 PMP Street Maintenance Project Bloomington coordinated the reconstruction of Park Rd, E. 88<sup>th</sup> Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Ave, and 14<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Project included 3,950 feet of fully-reconstructed bituminous pavement. Curb and gutter total length 7,600 feet with typical street width of 32-feet. Stormwater management elements on the project included: A SWPPP was developed for the project. MPCA Construction Stormwater Permit was obtained. Erosion control included inlet protection, perimeter control, and sod. The new storm sewer construction allowed for providing a stub-out for future connection to McAndrews Playlot and two sump MH. The sumps include a SAFL Baffle and a Preserver for comparing performance on the similar-sized subwatersheds.

#### D. 2021 Work Plan

Watershed Based Funding – Staff will continue to work on the Hennepin County Chloride Initiative to finalize the media campaign and Parkers Lake Chloride Project Facilitation Plan. Staff will also continue working with the Minnesota River Basin group on the cost-share grants for applicators to retrofit equipment to use efficient technology to maintain sidewalks and roads. As part of the FY20-21 WBIF staff will continue to work with Richfield and Bloomington educators and Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends to implement the youth education program.

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

Education and Outreach Plan – One of goals of the WMO is to work more efficiently and effectively with public and private partners on engaging youth in area schools. This effort was initiated in 2020, but progress was impacted due to Covid-19 and limited work was completed in 2021. The WMO will use the experience with the Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends and Bloomington and Richfield schools' youth

education program to continue developing an education and outreach plan geared towards specifically engaging with students. The education and outreach plan will consider ways to engage with schools, public and private partners and youth in an effort to incorporate water resources educational programming.

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

Adopt-a-Drain – RBWMO Staff will continue to promote the Adopt-a-drain program for the area. This program is organized through Hamline University is now available to all interested entities in the metro area.

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

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

Projects – Sheridan Pond Dredging Project – A wetland boundary survey was completed in 2021 to help facilitate project design. Construction is anticipated in 2022.

#### E. Permits, Variances and Enforcement

Richfield had one wetland boundary approval for Sheridan Pond and Bloomington had zero actions relating to the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) within the RBWMO area in 2021. The WCA 2021 Annual Reporting Forms are available upon request.

In 2021, Bloomington staff completed erosion control inspections at four construction/redevelopment sites in Bloomington within the RBWMO.

- 8201 Old Cedar: Apartment Complex
- 8714 Portland Ave S: Portland Commons Ph. 2
- 1344 Park Rd: Single family home addition
- 1900 E 86<sup>th</sup> Street: Village Club

In 2021, Richfield staff completed erosion control inspections at five construction/redevelopment sites in Richfield within the RBWMO.

- Riley Apartments (600 West 64<sup>th</sup> Street)
- Chase Bank (66<sup>th</sup> and Lyndale Avenue South)

- Sheridan Hills Elementary School (6400 Sheridan Avenue South)
  - Novo Apartments (2400 66<sup>th</sup> Street West)
- Landsby on Penn Apartments (6228 Penn Avenue South)

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

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

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

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

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

### MCM 3 – Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

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

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

#### MCM 4 – Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control

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

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

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

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

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

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

Annually the City of Richfield 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

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 2021 was \$2,279.00.

**RICHFIELD-BLOOMINGTON WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION (RBWMO)**  
**2021 TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**DECEMBER 16, 2021**  
1:00p.m. | WebEx meeting

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**Technical Advisory Members:** Bryan Gruidl (Bloomington); Steve Gurney (Bloomington); Jack Distel (Bloomington); Jordan Vennes (Richfield); Joe Powers (Richfield);

**A. LOCAL PLAN ACTIVITIES AND RBWMO PLAN REVIEW (DUE IN EVEN YEARS)**

**B. 2021 PROJECT REVIEW**

**8012 OLD CEDAR APARTMENTS (PRIVATE - BLOOMINGTON)**

Use: Construction of a new 4 story apartment building consisting of 68 rental units with underground parking.

Size: 1.15 acre total site; Impervious Areas (Pre) 0.36 Acres (31%), (Post) 0.84 Acres (73%)

Stormwater Elements: The project included a 72" CMP underground infiltration system, with an isolator row for pretreatment, to provide rate control, water quality and the required volume reduction (3,356 CF provided > 3,344 CF req'd). Water quality treatment was provided for the entire site, including 91% TSS and 91% total phosphorus removal from the new/reconstructed impervious surface. A SWPPP and MPCA Construction Stormwater Permit were required. Temporary erosion control included rock construction entrance, inlet protection, silt fence and restoration with sod and landscaping materials. A stormwater maintenance plan was recorded with Hennepin County.

**2021-101 BLOOMINGTON PMP RECONSTRUCT PROJECT, PARK AREA (PARK RD, E. 88<sup>TH</sup> STREET, 13<sup>TH</sup> AVE, 14<sup>TH</sup> AVE) (PUBLIC - BLOOMINGTON)**

Use: Full reconstruction of residential street and storm sewer.

Size: (RBWMO only) 4.1 Acre total Site, 0.25 ac increase in impervious surface, including pavement and curb and gutter.

Description: Project included 3,950 feet of fully-reconstructed bituminous pavement. Curb and gutter total length 7,600 feet with typical street width of 32-feet.

Stormwater Elements: A SWPPP was developed for the project. MPCA Construction Stormwater Permit was obtained. Erosion control included inlet protection, perimeter control, and sod. The new storm sewer construction allowed for providing a stub-out for future connection to McAndrews Playlot and two sump MH. The sumps include a SAFL Baffle and a Preserver for comparing performance on the similar-sized subwatersheds.

**RILEY APARTMENTS (PRIVATE - RICHFIELD)**

Use: Reconstruction replacing existing single-family homes with 5-story, 82-unit apartment building with underground parking.

Size: 1.34 acre total site; Impervious Area (Pre) 0.68 Acres (51%), (Post) 1.05 Acres (78%)

Stormwater Elements: Project includes a filtration basin with sump manholes for upstream pretreatment to provide rate control, water quality, and required volume reduction. A SWPPP and MPCA Construction Stormwater Permit were required. Erosion control includes inlet protection, bioroll for perimeter control, and rock construction entrance.

**77<sup>TH</sup> ST UNDERPASS (PUBLIC - RICHFIELD)**

Use: Construction of underpass beneath TH77 connecting 77<sup>th</sup> St to the east and west of highway.

Size: 14.95 Acre total Site, 1.27 acre increase in impervious surface.

Description: Construction of 4-lane divided road connecting 77<sup>th</sup> Street to realigned Longfellow Ave on East side of TH77, new bridge on TH77 carrying TH77 over 77<sup>th</sup> St.

Reconstruction of southbound TH77 to westbound I-494 ramp, westbound I-494 to northbound TH77 amp, and frontage road over new 77<sup>th</sup> St. Also includes rehabilitation and/or replacement of majority of city-owned utilities in project area.

Stormwater Elements: Project includes underground detention system beneath Washington Park. A SWPPP was developed for the project and MPCA Construction Stormwater Permit was obtained. Erosion control includes inlet protection, bioroll and silt fence perimeter control, stabilized construction exits, seed mix and sod.

### **C. 2020 NPDES ANNUAL REPORT REVIEW**

- TMDL'S
  - I. SOUTH METRO MISSISSIPPI
  - II. TCMA CHLORIDE
  - III. PENN LAKE NUTRIENTS
- MS4 PERMIT RE-ISSUANCE AND SWPPP UPDATING

### **D. COMPLIANCE CONCERNS**

- WCA action – Sheridan Pond
  - I. Barr Engineering performed a wetland delineation to determine the extent of the area that may be potentially regulated for Sheridan Pond Maintenance Project.
  - II. LGU (Richfield) issued approval via Notice of Decision following 21 day TEP review and field review (Ben Carlson, BWSR, and Brian Burgner, Barr Eng.)
  - III. Further WCA review to be completed following completion of final plans
- Other compliance concerns

### **E. 2022 RBWMO ANNUAL MEETING**

- Bloomington hosting, will be remote
  - Possible dates: *Bryan will verify if February 22 works for Bloomington Council*
- Sun Current Public Notices – *submitted by Richfield*
- Agenda
  - Annual Report
  - Business items

### **F. OTHER ITEMS**

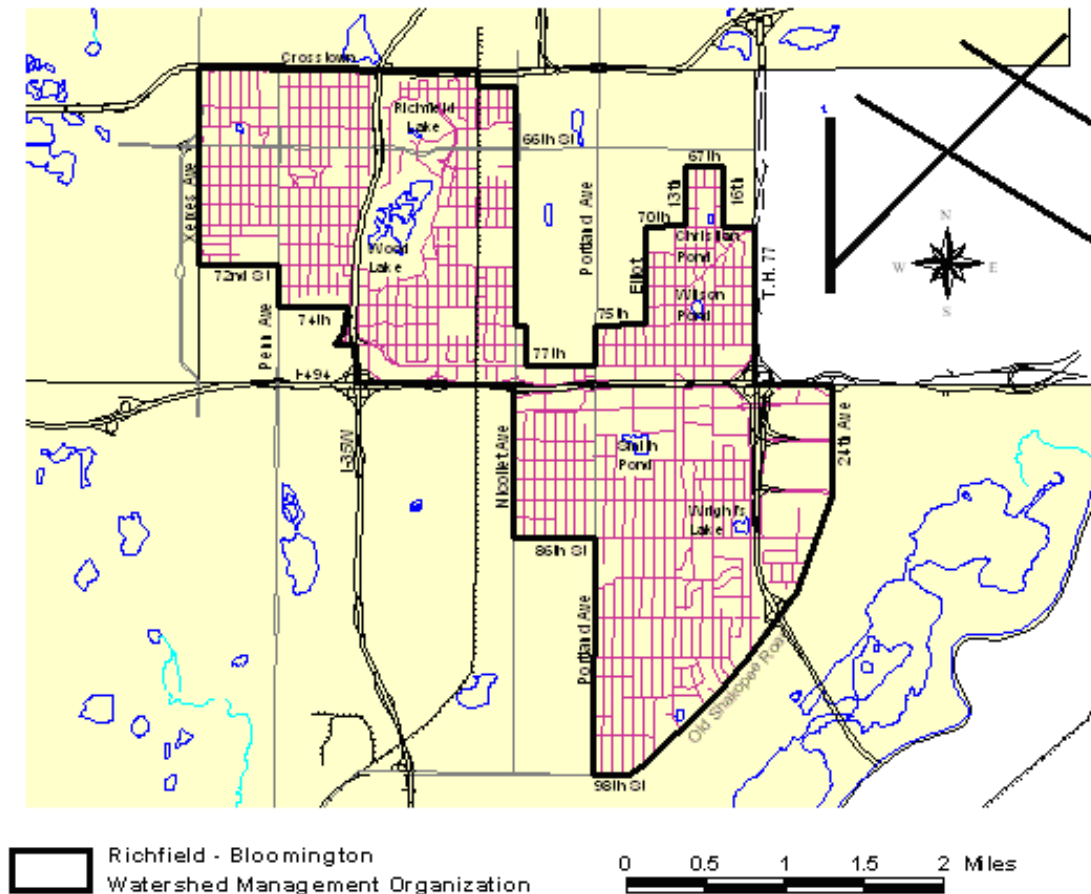
- 2021 Work Plan Review and Update
  - Hennepin County Chloride Initiative & MN River Basin Group - Bryan
  - FY 2021-2022 Watershed Based Implementation Funding – Received \$30k grant for partnership with Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends – Jack
    - RPS hoping to begin programming in January
  - Website Maintenance and updates
  - Christian Pond Dredging Project- Jordan
  - Education and Outreach Plan – update and development
  - Invasive species management- *Wood Lake received permit and funding to stock bluegill in 2021 and 2022*
  - I-494: Airport to Highway 169- Joe
- 2022 Work Plan Items
  - Education and Outreach Plan
  - Sheridan Pond Dredging Project
  - Education program partnership with Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends
  - I-494: Airport to Highway 169
- Discussion
  - Review of implementation section of Watershed Plan for any additional projects to be completed
  - Clean Water Fund Policy has changed with respect to education activities.

- Ineligible Activities - 4.8 Development and delivery of educational activities and curriculum that do not support or lead to the implementation of prioritized and targeted water quality practices
- Full FY22 policy here: [https://bwsr.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2021-09/FY22\\_CWF\\_Competitive%20Grant%20Policy.pdf](https://bwsr.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2021-09/FY22_CWF_Competitive%20Grant%20Policy.pdf)
- Potential concern for education activities listed in the RBWMO plan



## PUBLIC NOTICE CONCERNING THE RICHFIELD-BLOOMINGTON WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

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



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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Shawn Nelson	Bloomington
Tim Busse	Bloomington
Simon Trautmann	Richfield
Maria Regan Gonzalez	Richfield
Lona Dallessandro	Bloomington
Mary Supple	Richfield
Nathan Coulter	Bloomington
Patrick Martin	Bloomington
Ben Whalen	Richfield
Sean Hayford Oleary	Richfield
Dwayne Lowman	Bloomington
Jenna Carter	Bloomington

Bryan Gruidl, Water Resources Manager for the City of Bloomington, is the current (2022) Executive Director of the RBWMO. Jordan Vennes, Water Resources Engineer for the City of Richfield, is the Assistant Executive Director.

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

The RBWMO's revised Watershed Management Plan was approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) in 2017 and adopted by the RBWMO Board on March 5, 2018. The plan discusses the physical environment, land use and development in the RBWMO area; discusses geologic and hydrologic features of the watershed district; sets forth a management plan for the district, including the water qualities that will be sought and opportunities for improvement; describes the objectives and policies of the RBWMO; and sets forth an implementation program consistent with the management plan. More information can be found at [www.rbwmo.org](http://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](http://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 3, 2022



**RBWMO**

**RICHFIELD & BLOOMINGTON**  
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

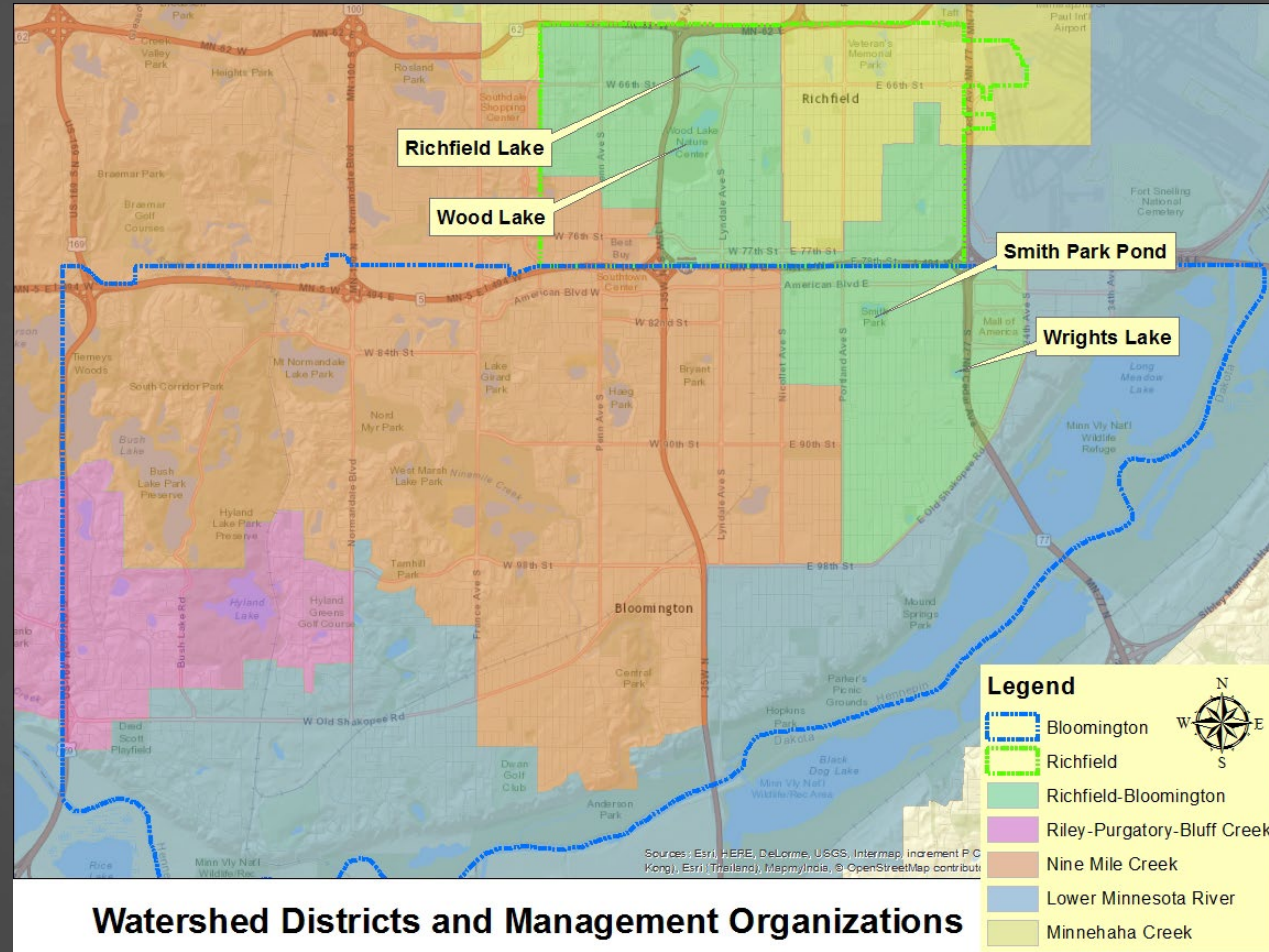
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# Annual Meeting

## February 22, 2022

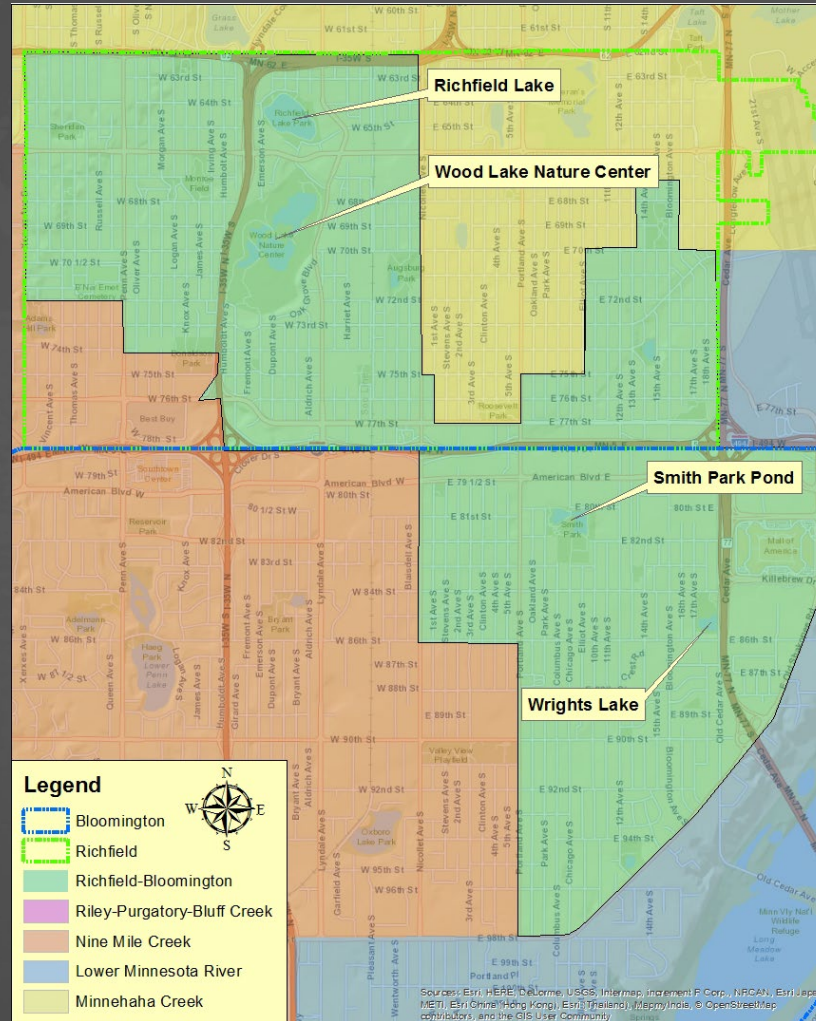
Bryan Gruidl, RBWMO Executive Director  
Jordan Vennes, Richfield Water Resources Engineer

# Richfield-Bloomington WMO





# Richfield-Bloomington WMO



# Directors Report

## RBWMO Facts and Function

- Member cities share equal responsibilities
  - Staff from each member city
  - Both cities act as Local Government Unit (LGU)
  - Storm Water Utility for funding
- Annual Reporting to MN Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR)

# Technical Advisory Committee

## Purpose:

Complete a peer review of the member cities local plan activities, NPDES compliance, site development plan review processes, and preparation of annual report.

- Met on December 16, 2021
- 2121 Project Review, MS4 Permit update, WCA action, Work Plan review and update
- 2021 TAC Members
  - Bryan Gruidl (Bloomington)
  - Steve Gurney (Bloomington)
  - Jack Distel (Bloomington)
  - Jordan Vennes (Richfield)
  - Joe Powers (Richfield)

# Community Advisory Commissions

**Purpose:** To educate and involve the public on pertinent water resource management issues and increase public participation in water management activities.

- Community Services Commission (Richfield)
- Planning Commission (Bloomington)

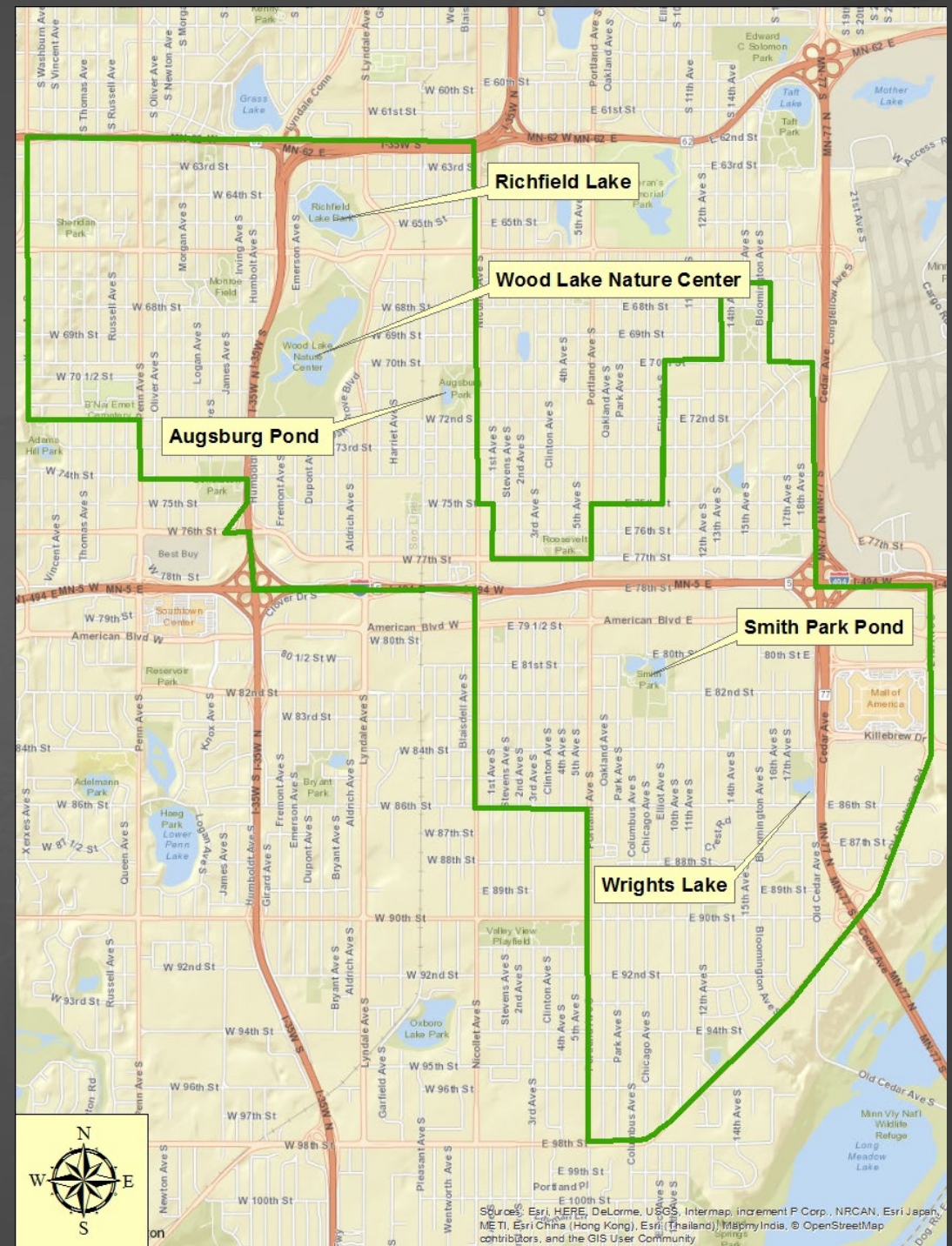




## Monitoring Program

### Water Quality Parameters:

- Total Phosphorus
- Total Suspended Solids
- Ortho-Phosphorus

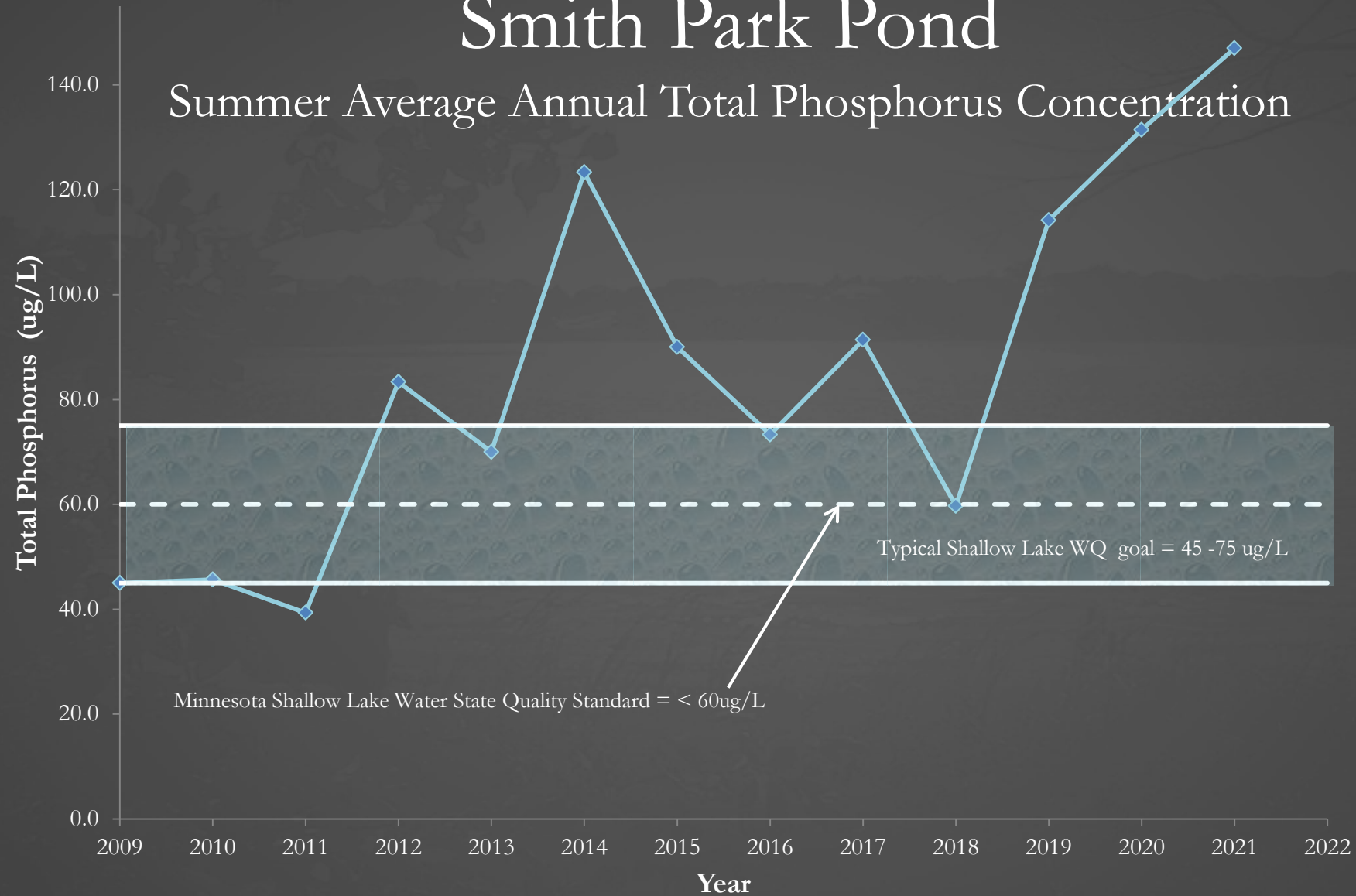


# 2021 Activity

- Watershed Based Implementation Funding
  - FY18/19
    - Hennepin County Chloride Initiative
    - Minnesota River Basin group
  - FY20/21
    - Youth Education Program
- Education and Outreach
  - Adopt-a-Drain
- Storm and surface water quality monitoring

# Smith Park Pond

## Summer Average Annual Total Phosphorus Concentration





# 2021 Activity Continued

- Website maintenance and updates
- I-494: Airport to Highway 169
- Christian Pond Dredging Project

# 2020 Permit – Variances - Enforcement

- Perform duties of the Local Government Unit (LGU) for implementation of the Wetland Conservation Act
  - One WCA action within WMO
- 9 Erosion control inspection sites

# 2022 Work Plan

- Watershed Based Implementation Funding
  - Hennepin County Chloride Initiative (HCCI)
  - Mn River Basin Group,
  - Youth Education Program
  - FY22-23 process
- Website maintenance and updates
- Water quality monitoring
- Education and Outreach
  - Update and re-evaluate Education and Outreach Plan geared towards engaging with youth
- I-494: Airport to Highway 169
- Sheridan Pond Dredging Project



**RBWMO**

**RICHFIELD & BLOOMINGTON  
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION**

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Business Items



# Watershed-based Funding

- BWSR allocated \$1,018,000 to Hennepin County for FY18/19
- 10% of the County's Watershed-based Funding (\$101,800) to countywide chloride programming
- Remainder to watershed districts and watershed management organizations
  - Minnesota River Basin Group (\$197,209)

# Watershed-based Funding - HCCL

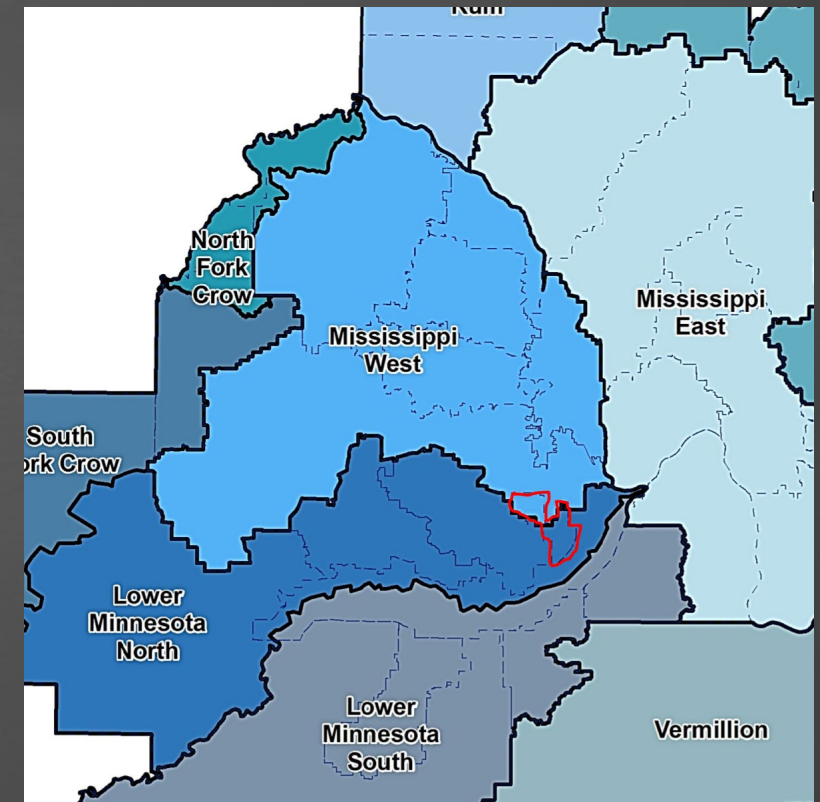
- Grant Activities to date:
  - Outreach and research efforts
  - Smart salting and property management workshops
  - Development of Chloride Mgmt. Templates for property owners
- On going and Upcoming Activities
  - Parkers Lake Chloride Reduction Project
  - Media campaign development
- Grant extended. Work completed and grant funds expended by December 31, 2022

# Watershed-based Funding – MN River Basin Group

- Providing cost-share grants for public and private applicators
  - \$200,000 available for cost-share grants
  - 75% (grant) / 25% (applicator) max grant \$20K
  - Grant program launched summer 2020
  - One project awarded funding in 2021.
- Schedule:
  - Three applications currently under review
  - December 2022: Project Completion

# FY 2020/2021 Watershed-based Implementation Funding Program

- Purpose: Accelerate clean water work through prioritized and targeted actions for improved water quality
- Watershed based allocation of funds
  - \$6.0M allocated for 7-County metro
  - Lower Minnesota North - \$673,699
  - Mississippi West \$874,153
- RBWMO Awarded \$30,000 grant



# RBWMO Youth Education Program

In partnership with the Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends





# RBWMO Youth Education Program

- Background
  - Grant received from BWSR for 30K with 5% required local match
  - Budget for approximately 400 students
  - Contract with Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends to carry out program
- Program Goals
  - Increased knowledge on hydrologic and ecological principles
    - 1) Basic understanding of a watershed
    - 2) Understanding of how water interacts with environment
    - 3) Understanding of water stewardship

# RBWMO Youth Education Program

- 2021 Activity
  - Curriculum created for watershed-based education
  - Supplies purchased
  - 2021 session conducted in partnership with Bloomington Summer school serving 103 students
  - Total cost to date \$12K



# RBWMO Youth Education Program

Program goals: Increased knowledge on hydrologic and ecological principles

- 1) Basic understanding of a watershed
- 2) Understanding of how water interacts with the environment
- 3) Understanding of water stewardship

# RBWMO Youth Education Program

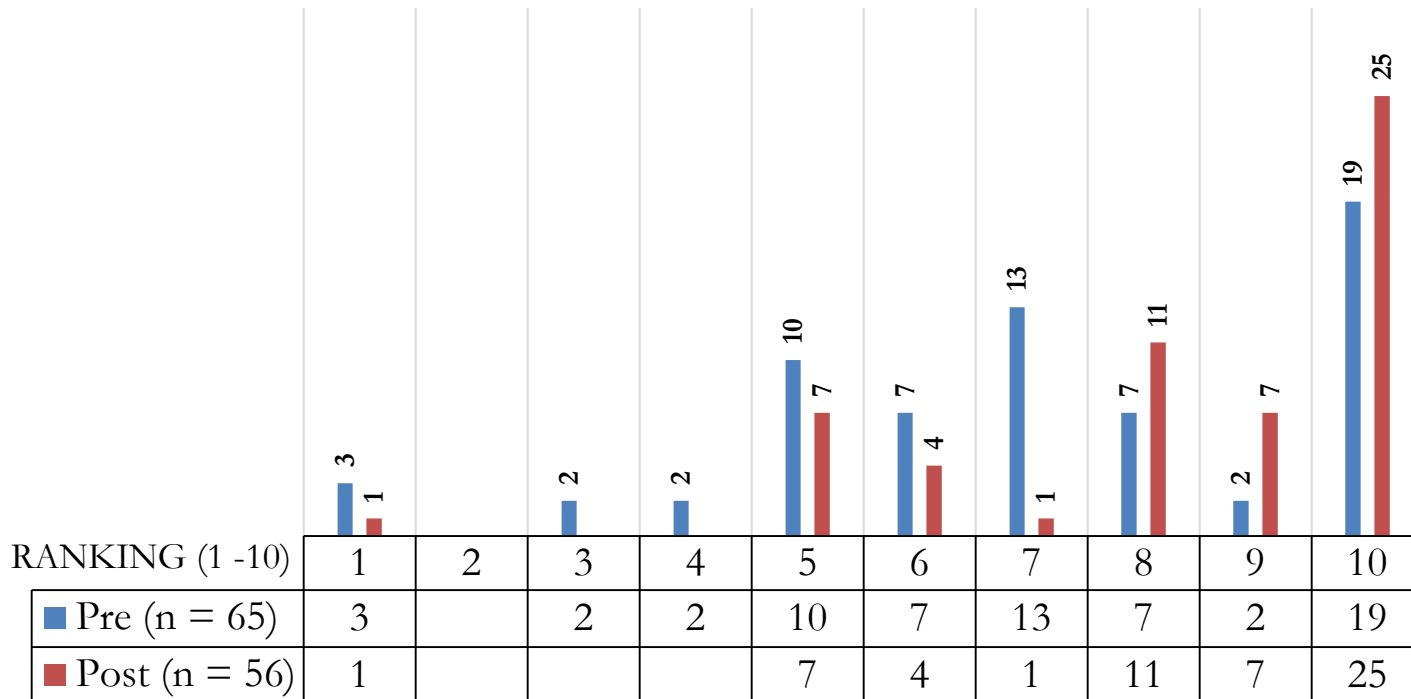
Students improved for every question but one – a tricky question on non-point source pollution

	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		Q5		Q6	
	PRE	POST	PRE	POST	PRE	POST	PRE	POST	PRE	POST	PRE	POST
A	14%	8%	46%	11%	51%	73%	28%	22%	41%	41%	61%	81%
B	3%	6%	37%	63%	20%	6%	33%	22%	31%	31%	23%	9%
C	83%	86%	17%	25%	29%	19%	39%	54%	28%	28%	15%	9%

# RBWMO Youth Education Program

Increase ability to positively impact water resources & Increase confidence to be a water steward

**QUESTION 7: SELF REPORTED CONFIDENCE LEVEL**



**QUESTION 8: HOW TO BE A WATER STEWARD**

Listed Items	
PRE	POST
40	75

Example of items listed:

- Don't put unhealthy things in water
- Take 5-minute Showers
- Do not throw garbage in lakes
- Don't put your fingers in it
- Do not pee in water

# RBWMO Youth Education Program

## Next Steps

- Richfield currently conducting an online version of the program – field trip to occur in spring 2022
- Bloomington planning to partner with 2022 summer school
- BWSR grant period expires on December 31, 2023.
- Clean Water Fund policy change – This program may no longer qualify for grant funding





# Education and Outreach

- Goal – Work efficiently and effectively with partners to engage residents and youth in area schools
  - Partner with other agencies to promote and sponsor educational opportunities
  - Continue to implement Adopt-a-drain
  - Continue and re-evaluate Education and Outreach Plan geared towards engaging with youth

# Education and Outreach

## Adopt-a-Drain

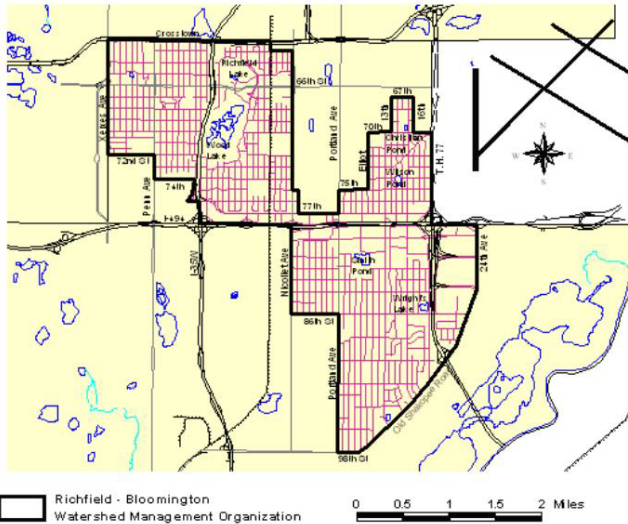
- 2021 Results
  - 23 New participants
  - 41 New storm drains adopted
- Current Status
  - 103 Total participants
  - 183 Total drains adopted in RBWMO
  - Participants reported 1,181 lbs. of debris collected in 2021





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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.

# Public Notice

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Bryan Gruidl, Water Resources Manager for the City of Bloomington, is the current (2022) Executive Director of the RBWMO. Jordan Vennes, Water Resources Engineer for the City of Richfield, is the Assistant Executive Director.

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

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

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Partnerships



Construction



Public Education & Involvement



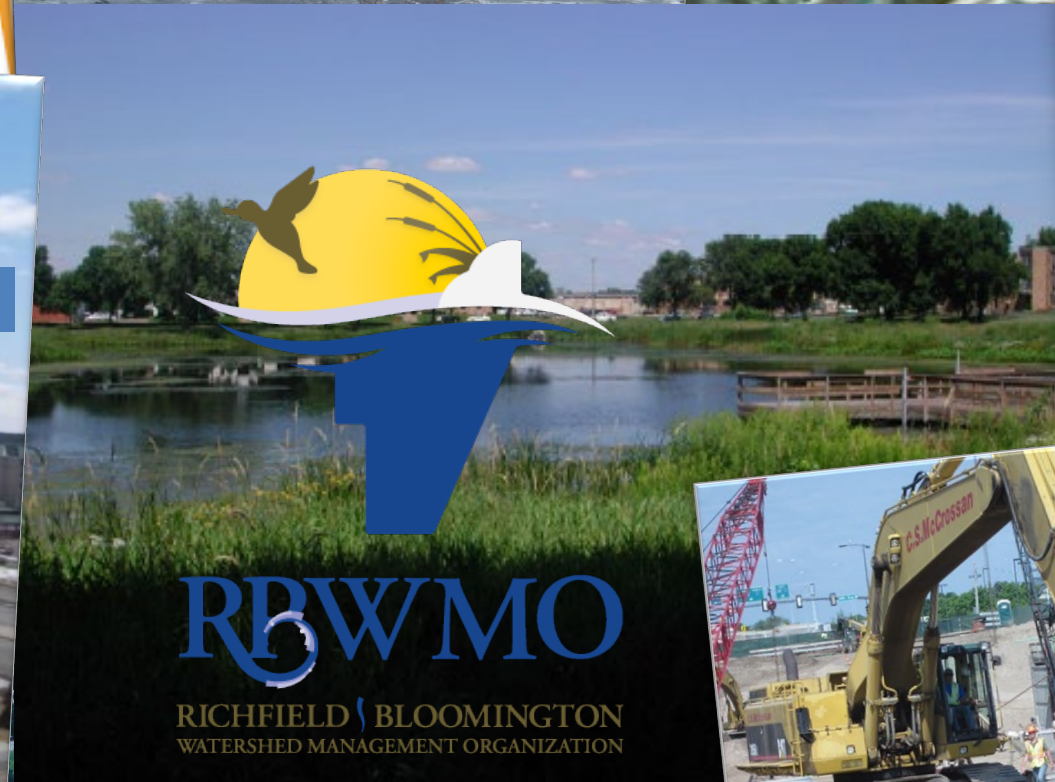
Restoration



Sustainability



Maintenance



**RBWMO**  
RICHFIELD | BLOOMINGTON  
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION



Water Quality



Water Quality Structures



Storm Sewer



Planning