



MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

RCWD BOARD OF MANAGERS WORKSHOP

Monday, May 6, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

**Rice Creek Watershed District Conference Room
4325 Pheasant Ridge Drive NE, Suite 611, Blaine, Minnesota**

or via Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83788461213?pwd=N8RDUCqUQXHDiCy7alzjh9NUa014xK.1>

Meeting ID: 837 8846 1213

Passcode: 740026

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 837 8846 1213

Passcode: 740026

Agenda

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION (times are estimates only)

- 9:00 Manager Wagamon “Property Ponds” Statement
- 9:30 2025 Budget Planning Schedule
- 9:45 Communications & Outreach Program Annual Review & Forecast
- 10:15 RCWD Employee Benefits
- 10:30 2024 Rule Revision and Regulatory Program Update

Administrator Updates (If Any)

9:30 2025 Budget Planning Schedule

MEMORANDUM
Rice Creek Watershed District



Date: April 29, 2024
To: RCWD Board of Managers
From: Nick Tomczik, Administrator
Subject: 2025 Budget Planning Schedule

Annually the District must propose its budget and accordingly certify the amount to the representative counties. Staff have developed the following schedule for the 2025 budget process.

District programs provide an annual program review and forecast 2025 program and projected implications to the budget. These presentations take place at the District workshops in April, May, June, and July.

- April – Public Drainage & Facilities
- May – Communication & Outreach
- June – Regulatory
- July – Lake & Stream

Draft 2025 budget provided in the July 8 workshop packet.

If necessary, notice and hold an additional workshop on July 15 to address the Board’s interests in the draft 2025 budget and finalize for public hearing notification.

On or about July 29, staff notice budget public hearing.

Hold the Budget Public Hearing at regular Board Meeting of August 14 (District calendar update).

If necessary, there should be an additional Board discussion at the August 19th workshop to address any notable comments the Board wants to address.

The Board’s certification of budget/levy at the September 11 regular board meeting.

The District’s December 11 regular meeting to include the truth-in-taxation public meeting, and again certify the budget/levy.

(The budget will also include any proposed and previously approved Water Management District (WMD) certification of charges to the counties.)

9:45 Communications & Outreach Program Annual
Review & Forecast



MEMORANDUM
Rice Creek Watershed District

Date: April 29, 2024
To: RCWD Board of Managers
From: Kendra Sommerfeld, Communications & Outreach Manager
Subject: Outreach and Communications Annual Review and Forecast

Introduction

District staff will present to the Board a review of the program's past year's accomplishments, highlighted activities, and forecasted 2025 goals and budget needs.

Background

The Rice Creek Watershed District is dedicated to enhancing its outreach and communication efforts to increase the utilization of grant programs and mobilize private and public entities to take actionable steps toward improving the watershed district and protecting water resources. Through targeted outreach initiatives and clear communication channels, the District aims to facilitate partnerships with stakeholders to implement impactful projects.

Staff have increased existing partnerships with private and public entities, increased technology capabilities, increased collaboration with all District programs, and enhanced the District's website which have all improved the program and increased work efforts.

Staff forecast a slight increase in next year's budget to address the increase in opportunities within the program. The increases are specifically for partnership and contracted services as well as utilizing more technical services like GIS and graphic design. Staff also forecast a change to the Water Steward program and will reallocate those funds to a different fund to be utilized more effectively.

Attachment

Outreach and Communications Annual Review Presentation PDF

Communications & Outreach Program Update 2024-2025

**Kendra Sommerfeld
Communications & Outreach Manager**

Presentation Outline

- What are we doing and planning for this year (2024)?
- What do we see upcoming in the new year (2025)?





2023-2024 Recap

- **New Website**
- **Social Media Improvements**
- **Presentations**
- **Events/Workshops – NEW ones added**
- **Targeted Outreach- More efforts**
- **New Resources created- project sheets, grant flyers, event handouts**
- **New and better tools- GoPro, website, Canva, Mail Chimp, StoryMaps**
- **Project Signs creation and installations**
- **Project specific outreach plans and initiatives- Johanna Creek Carp Barrier, Centerville Lake, Moore Lake, etc.**
- **New Partnerships- Growing Green Hearts, White Bear Lake Art Center, cities, etc.**

MN Watersheds Conference: Presentations

Speakers

Presentation Topic:
RCWD's Climate Change and Floodplain Resiliency Building Project

Presentation Topic:
Results from an Innovative Multi-Year Carp Management Program at RCWD



Kendra Sommerfeld
(Rice Creek Watershed District)

Co Speaker with Houston Engineering, Inc.

Thursday
November 30

Uniting for a Resilient Future: Rice Creek Watershed District Completes Climate Change Planning Project

8/22/23 | PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

The Rice Creek Watershed Climate Change & Floodplain Resiliency project has reached a successful conclusion, thanks to the collaborative efforts of the Freshwater Society, Houston Engineering Inc. (HEI), and the Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD). This undertaking, funded by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), aimed to reinforce the community against the threats of climate change and flooding. This project was one of the projects in the first round of applications in the MPCA Stormwater, Wastewater, and Community Resiliency program.



Stakeholders, including community members, local organizations, and government agencies, joined forces to identify vulnerabilities and strengths related to climate change across the watershed in Community Resiliency Building Workshops, led by the Freshwater Society. In these workshops, participants completed mapping exercises and were empowered to understand climate-related hazards and their potential impact on the community. Over 50 community members across the watershed attended these workshops.

ONEKA RIDGE-STORMWATER REUSE



Partners: City of Hugo, Oneka Ridge Golf Course, RCWD
Cost: \$689,000
Funding: \$497,100 from Clean Water Fund, RCWD, City of Hugo
Completed: 2014

ABOUT PROJECT

In 2002 Bald Eagle Lake was placed on the MN's List of Impaired Water for impaired aquatic recreation due to high phosphorus levels which caused harmful algae blooms.

To help address this, RCWD installed a stormwater reuse project at Oneka Ridge Golf Course. It collects stormwater runoff from a 915 acre watershed upstream of Bald Eagle Lake to irrigate Oneka Ridge Golf Course.

RESULTS

Reduces the golf course's groundwater usage

Reduces Phosphorus (P) loads to Bald Eagle Lake since completion

Reduces the amount of stormwater that could be treated at the golf course

Reduces the amount of additional water

(763) 398-3070

2023-2024 Recap

MPCA Smart Salting for Community Leaders

Did you know that chloride from de-icing salt is toxic to freshwater wildlife and damaging to our infrastructure? About 50 lakes and streams in Minnesota are currently impaired by chloride, but you can be a part of the solution.

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization, Rice Creek Watershed District and We Are Water MN are partnering with the MPCA to offer a free virtual 2-hour Smart Salting for Community Leaders workshop. Learn about the impacts of chloride and find out specific action steps for policy changes that reduce salt pollution in your community.



Who should attend:

- City council members and other elected officials
- Members of sustainability and environmental commissions
- Board members of housing associations, neighborhood associations, or watershed districts
- Other community decision makers

HELP IMPROVE LOST LAKE'S WATER QUALITY

Rain Gardens and Native Plant Landscaping for Lost Lake

Join your neighbors in protecting and improving Lost Lake's water quality by installing a rain garden at your home! A study showed your property has the potential to improve Lost Lake's water quality.

Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) has funding available for rain gardens to help offset the costs.

Request a site visit with Washington County Conservation District to start your rain garden application for funding through RCWD.

Schedule Site Visit Here!



Apply Here!



Contact Molly Neilson for grant application help
mneilson@ricecreek.org
Contact Lori Tella for project help
ltella@mnwcd.org

Full details here! www.ricecreek.org/costshare (763) 398-3083

Conference: Presentation

RICE CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT AND HOUSTON ENGINEERING INC.

Presentation Topic:
RCWD's Climate Change and Floodplain Resiliency Building Project



Kendra Sommerfeld
(Rice Creek Watershed District)



Bret Zimmerman
(Houston Engineering Inc.)

Speakers

Track D
Tuesday
October 17
2023
11 AM

The Watershed Public Drainage Projects Permits

Preserving the Rice Creek Watershed for the future.

About the Watershed

Public Drainage

Permits

EARTH DAY EVENTS

RITE Spring Event: City of Mahtomedi and Wildwood Elementary School
10am-1pm

Earth Day Celebration/ECO Fair: Wargo Nature Center
1pm-4pm

2024



2024 Plan

- Re-evaluating existing partnerships. How can we get more from our partnerships?
- Create new partnerships- FMR, White Bear Lake Art Center, city volunteer programs
- Educational/Interpretive Sign Creation- More Signs
- Art Project
- More website outreach and communications tools
- 3D Animations/Enhanced Visuals
- Grantee Kits/Welcome Kits
- City one on one meetings
- More planning meetings
- More presentations and in-person events
- Targeted Outreach and Projects Initiative



2024

- Outreach=More projects, more/better partnerships, more results, better watershed



Rain Gardens for Clean Water



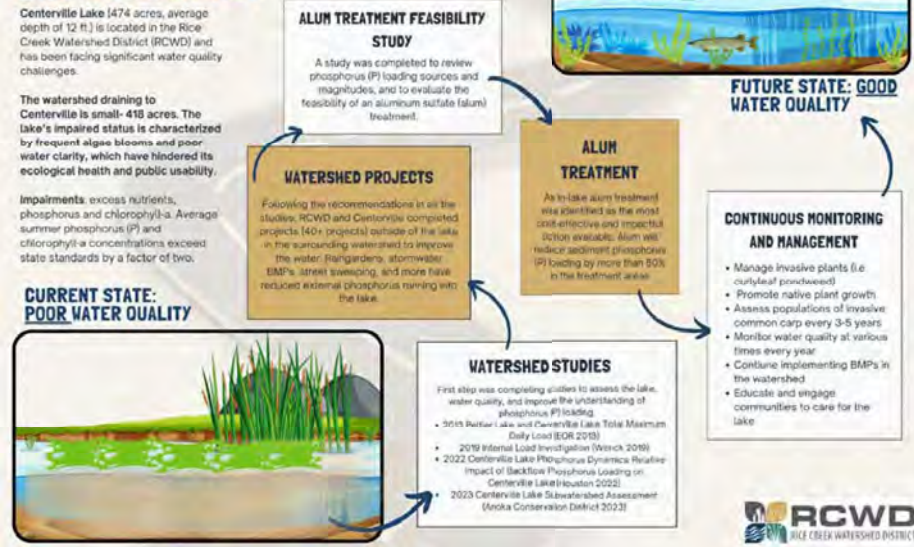
Find the Native Plants in Our Rain Garden



Beauty and Habitat

In addition to water quality benefits. This rain garden is a buzzing hub of life! With a colorful array of native plants, this garden provides homes and food for our important pollinators like bees, butterflies, frogs, and birds.

THE ROAD TO IMPROVING CENTERVILLE LAKE'S WATER QUALITY



FRIDLEY PUBLIC ART PLAN Summary Report and Final Recommendations

Submitted by Gretchen Nicholls, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Twin November 2023

Hosted by: City of Fridley
City of Fridley
Friendly, Responsive & Driven

Convened by LISC Twin Cities/
Development Initiative (CDI)
Corridor Development Initiative
LISC TWIN CITIES

Reducing Flood Risks, Protecting Communities

This project is part of RCWD's I-35W Corridor Flood Mitigation Initiative, comprised of multiple project sites that address flooding issues in the I-35W corridor. RCWD, New Brighton, and St. Anthony Village completed the first phase by increasing stormwater capacity and water quality treatment at Hansen Park and Mirror Pond in 2017. The next phase, Jones Lake, is pending completion after additional funding is secured.

Support Bonding Bill:
Bill: SF 4337, HF 4944
Authored and Support by: Senator Kunesch, Representative Feist

State Funding Needed:
The cost is beyond the capacity of RCWD and City partners alone.



PROJECT COSTS
Est. \$7 Million

- REDUCES FLOOD RISKS**
Reduces flood elevation over I-35W by approx. 2 feet
- WATER QUALITY BENEFITS**
Reduces downstream sediment delivery by 20,000 lbs/year and phosphorus delivery by 78 lbs/year
- MORE STORMWATER STORAGE**
Creates approx. 6.4 million cubic ft. of new stormwater storage. That's about 73 Olympic-size swimming pools of water!
- AREA AFFECTED**
Benefits an area of 7,000 acres which includes an at-risk population greater than 40,000 people

www.ricocreek.org Phone: 763-398-3020 Email: ntomezik@ricocreek.org

LAKE FRIENDLY LAWN CARE

Reduce your impact on Johanna Lake by using good lawn care practices to protect the water

2024-2025 Looking Ahead

- Targeted Initiative- More targeted efforts
- Project Specific Outreach and Promotion
- Sign Fund- create more and better signs
- 3D Visuals/New Graphic Projects- new and better graphics to communicate
- GIS Upgrades and Improvements
- New/more partnerships- increase reach and capacity
- Art Fund- support art projects within communities
- Increase outreach/edu aspects in grant programs
- More grantee support with resources/materials
- Anticipate an increase in budget needs for 2025



10:15 RCWD Employee Benefits

MEMORANDUM
Rice Creek Watershed District



Date: April 30, 2024
To: RCWD Board of Managers
From: Nick Tomczik, Administrator
Subject: RCWD Employee Benefits

Introduction

Managers inquired on the competitiveness and cost of the District’s offered employee benefits for a holistic view of employee compensation.

Background

The District offers a suite of benefits to its full-time employees. Staff completed an email survey of other metro watershed districts receiving 11 responses which are summarized in the below table. While there is some variation across the benefit offerings, the District appears competitive in the employment marketplace. The table below provides a comparison of District benefits to survey peer organization benefit offerings.

Full-Time Employee Benefit Comparison*

Benefit	RCWD	Survey Range**
Health Ins.		
Employee	100% Premium	85-100% Premium
Dependents	50% Premium	50-100% Premium
Health Savings Acct (HSA)	No Contribution	0-100% of out-of-pocket max (\$2600/\$5200)
Dental Ins.		
Employee	100% Premium	85-100% Premium
Dependent	50% Premium	50-100% Premium
Vision	Annual Preventive visit	0-100% Premium
Short/Long Term Disability	100% Premium	100% Premium
Basic Life Ins.	100% Premium (\$50K)	100% Premium (up to \$150K)
Time Off	Progressive based on Years of Service	Progressive based on Years of Service
Cell Phone	Some positions issued phone	0-100%
Holidays	13	11-14

*Benefits such as tuition reimbursement, time off, field clothing, and similar are challenging to capture.

**Respondents to survey Mississippi WMO, Minnehaha Creek WD, Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek WD, Nine Mile Creek WD, Prior Lake – Spring Lake WD, Capital Region WD, Ramsey-Washington Metro WD, Coon Creek WD, Browns Creek WD, Washington Conservation District, Comfort Lake Forest Lake WD

MEMORANDUM
Rice Creek Watershed District



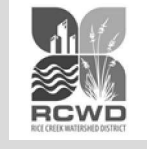
The following table represents some of RCWD’s benefit costs. Consistent with the table’s footnote, these costs are fluid as the premium changes with staff demographics (age, gender, ectara).

RCWD Benefit	2023 Total Premium*	2023 Average Monthly Cost Per Employee**
Health Ins. – HealthPartners	\$115,921	\$644
Dental Ins. – Delta Dental	\$9,570	\$53
Short/Long Term Disability & Life Ins. - Unum	\$9,816	\$55
TOTAL		\$752

*Variable as premium dependent on employee roster in age, gender, etcetera.

**Variable as number of employees and hire date, used 15 employees.

10:30 2024 Rule Revision and Regulatory Program Update



MEMORANDUM

Rice Creek Watershed District

Date: May 1, 2024
To: RCWD Board of Managers
From: Patrick Hughes, Regulatory Manager
Subject: 2024 Rule Revision and Regulatory Program Update

Introduction

The agenda item is an update on the 2024 rule revision and regulatory program efforts. The work to date includes review of potential rule modifications and an assessment of the current permit administrative procedures.

Background

At the March Workshop, staff and engineer gave a presentation summarizing the goals of rule revision, the successes of the 2020 rule revision effort, the 2024 rule revision priorities, a sample of the anticipated rule considerations, and the proposed timeline for implementation. Further, at the March 27th board meeting, the Board of Managers approved the task order from HEI for rule revision assistance. Since March, staff have met twice with HEI and Smith Partners to review the list of potential rule modifications and started drafting rule language. Additionally, staff provided an email to our public partners seeking input on topics/considerations they'd like us to explore during the 2024 rulemaking effort. This "comment period" began on April 15th and will close on May 15th.

Staff have also begun an assessment of the current permit administrative procedures that exist under Rule K (Enforcement), various Board Resolutions, guidance documents, and otherwise. A fundamental focus of the regulatory program is to work with permit holders to achieve compliance with their approved plan and have their permit closed within the permit term. The purpose of revisiting the administrative procedures is to improve our practices, provide clarity to the permittee, provide equity in the program, and efficiently achieve compliance for permit closure. Any program modifications will be timed consistently with the rule revision for a January 1, 2025 implementation.

Staff will provide a quick presentation regarding the above topics and solicit board feedback on adjustments to administrative practices.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend continued support from the Board of Managers for the rule revision and program update efforts.