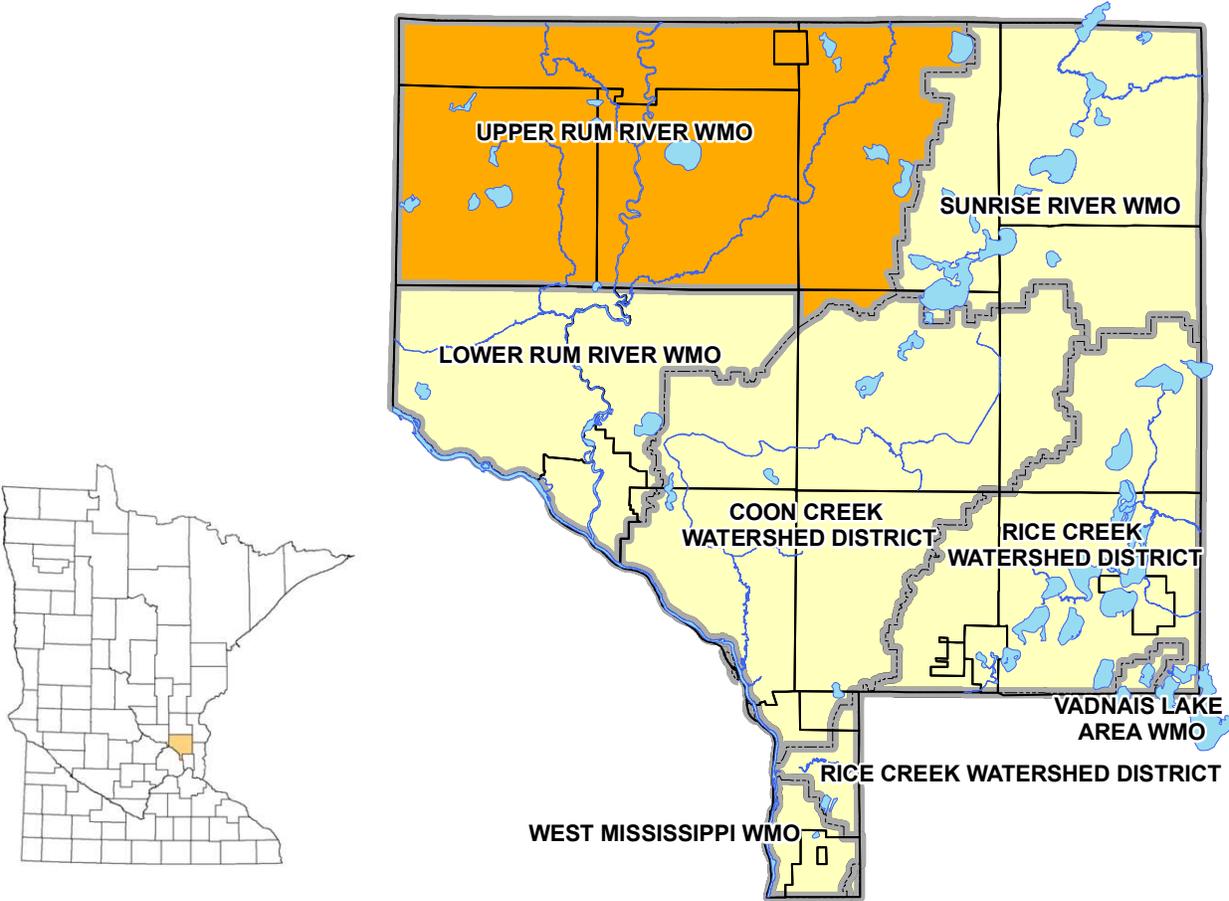


2022 Annual Report

Upper Rum River

Watershed Management Organization

Bethel - East Bethel – Ham Lake
Nowthen - Oak Grove – St. Francis



April 3, 2023

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Appendix A – 2022 Financial Report

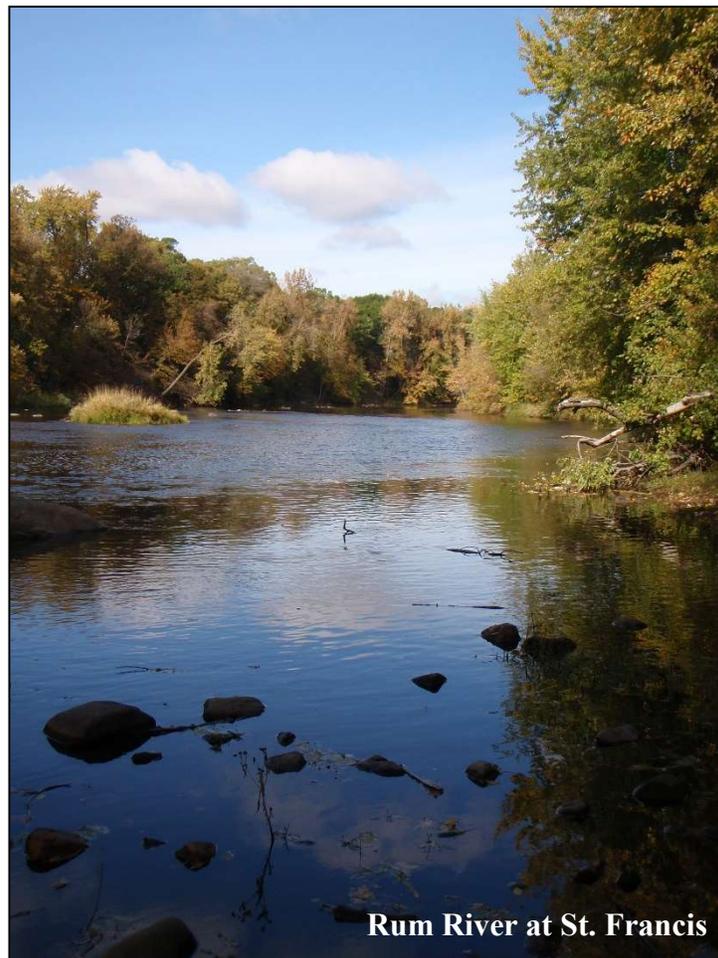
Appendix B – 2022 Water Monitoring and Management Work Results

Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization
9900 Nightingale Street NW
Oak Grove, MN 55011-9204

I. Introduction

This report has been prepared to meet the annual watershed management organization reporting requirements of Minnesota Rules 8410.0150. The report is intended to fulfill 2022 reporting requirements.

The Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization (URRWMO) is a joint powers organization under Minnesota Statutes, Section 471.59. It is comprised of the cities of Bethel, Oak Grove, Nowthen, and St. Francis, and portions of the cities of East Bethel and Ham Lake. Board members are appointed by the member cities. The organization's direction is laid out in its watershed management plan and the member municipalities' local water plans. The URRWMO meets approximately every other month on the first Tuesday at 6:30pm at Oak Grove City Hall, Minnesota.



II. Activity Report

a. Current Board Members

CITY OF BETHEL

Ryan Sequin
PO Box 63
Bethel, MN 55005
612-910-8385
rmsequin@gmail.com

Patrick Sullivan (Treasurer)
181 Broadway St
Bethel, MN 55005
612.747.6113
pbsgolfer@yahoo.com

CITY OF EAST BETHEL

Tim Harrington
2241 221st Ave NE
East Bethel, MN 55011
763.200.2581
tim.harrington@ci.east-bethel.mn.us

Radja Lohse
charlotteandre@usfamily.net

CITY OF HAM LAKE

Troy Wolens
17817 Oak Land Dr NE
Ham Lake, MN 55304
763.755.8871
denise@pioneercycle.com

Jeff Entsminger
14916 Central Ave NE
Ham Lake, MN 55304
612.669.4004
jeff@allseasonservices.com

CITY OF NOWTHEN

Dan Breyen (Vice Chair)
19093 St. Francis Blvd NW
Anoka, MN 55303
612.470.2234
dnbreyen@gmail.com

Shanni Fladebo
8188 199th Ave NW
Nowthen, MN 55330
763.772.8233
shanni2in2@gmail.com

CITY OF OAK GROVE

Paul Tradewell
990 192nd Ave NW
Oak Grove, MN 55011
612.470.2234
Dandenno1@gmail.com

John West (Chair)
19900 Nightingale St NW
Oak Grove, MN 55011
612.414.3513
jwest@ci.oak-grove.mn.us

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS

Andrew Wood
3419 236th Lane NW
St. Francis, MN 55070
217.414.9017
Ajwood600@gmail.com

Chris Beyett
23537 Eidelweiss St NW
St. Francis, MN 55070
906.203.1946
chris.beyett@gmail.com

b. Day to Day Contact

The day to day contact persons for the URRWMO who can answer questions about the organization are:

John West, Chair
 612.414.3513
 jwest@ci.oak-grove.mn.us

c. Employees and Consultants

The URRWMO does not employ staff, but does utilize consulting services and enters into cooperative agreements with other government agencies. A description of contracted services is listed below:

Consultant/Partner	Contact	Work Description
Anoka Conservation District	Jamie Schurbon Watershed Projects Manager 1318 McKay Drive NW, #300 Ham Lake, MN 55304 763-434-2030 ext. 210 jamie.schurbon@anokaswcd.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative assistance. • Water quality and hydrological monitoring, and special studies. • Website maintenance. • Public outreach/education. • Assistance preparing annual reports to BWSR. • Assistance reviewing local water plans.
Katie Kalland	Katie Kalland 13737 Underclift St NW Andover, MN 55304 763-218-5208 kkalland@ci.oak-grove.mn.us	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recording secretary for meetings. • Miscellaneous administrative assistance.

d. Solicitations for Services

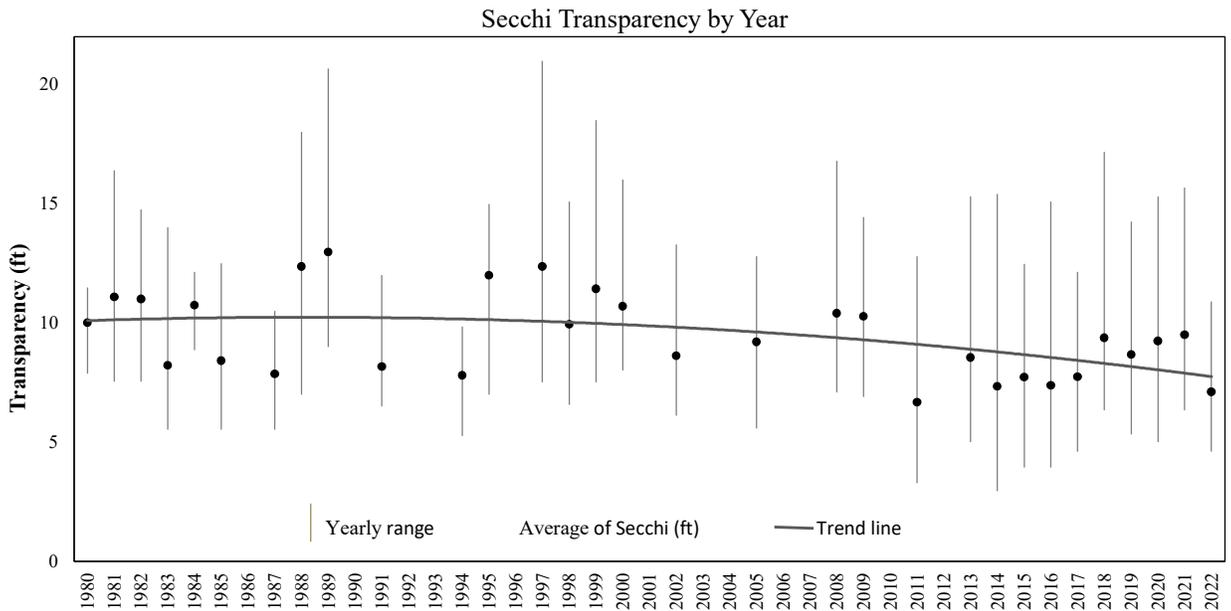
Minnesota Statutes 103B.227 require watershed management organizations to solicit bids for professional services at least once every two years. Most recently the URRWMO completed a proposal request for a watershed coordinator, water monitoring, and similar work in each 2021 & 2023. Requests for proposals were sent to consulting engineers for member communities and the Anoka Conservation District (ACD). One proposal was received in each year, from ACD. ACD was selected. Previous to these efforts, the URRWMO has requested similar proposals every two years.

e. Water Quality Trends

The URRWMO has a long term water quality monitoring program that includes most larger streams and recreational lakes in the watershed. Many waterbodies are monitored every 2-3 years. An important part of evaluating implementation of the watershed management plan is looking at water quality trends. Data for each waterbody monitored are provided in **Appendix B**.

The only waterbody with a statistically significant water quality trend in the watershed is Lake George. Long term (1980-present) the lake has a trend of reduced transparency but no trend for other parameters. The trend is slow and modest. Within the record, there are period of time, such as 2011-2022 when water quality is improving but nonetheless the longer term picture is of overall gradual decline in transparency. Detail of this trend analysis is contained in **Appendix B** and the Rum River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies Report (see MPCA website). Research by the Anoka Conservation District has found that consecutive years of high precipitation result in decreased clarity, and those wet years have become more frequent. Lake George was most recently monitored in 2022.

Lake George Secchi Transparency. Includes years with partial datasets not covering all open water months. Those years are excluded from ACD’s statistical trend analysis found in the appendix of this graph.

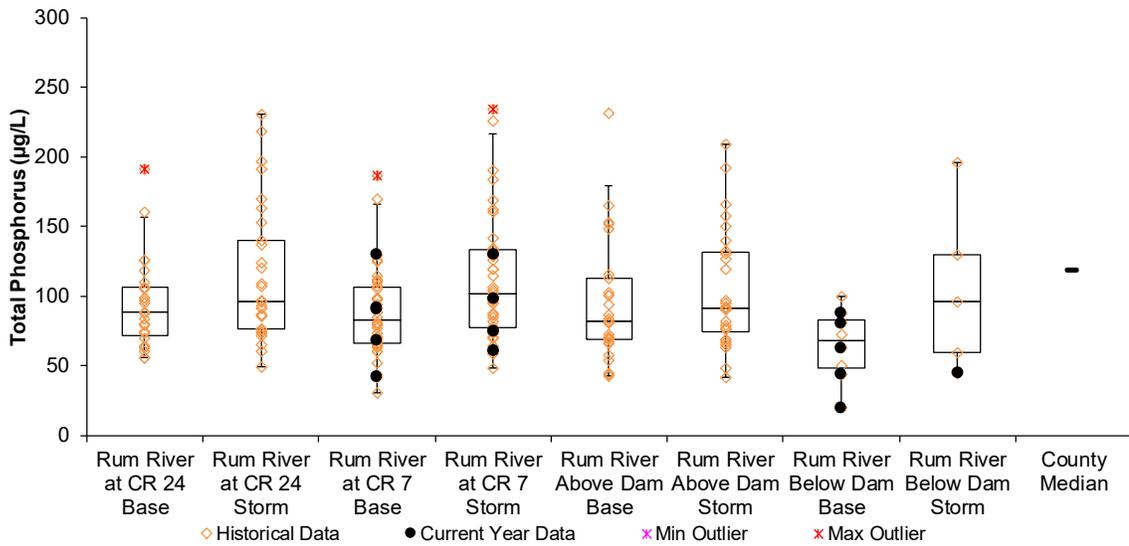


The URRWMO also is interested in how the Rum River’s water quality changes longitudinally, particularly within its jurisdictional boundary. The Rum River is monitored periodically approximately where it enters and exits the URRWMO. The figures below summarize annual average phosphorus and suspended solids including the most recent monitoring in 2022. Overall, these key pollutant concentrations are

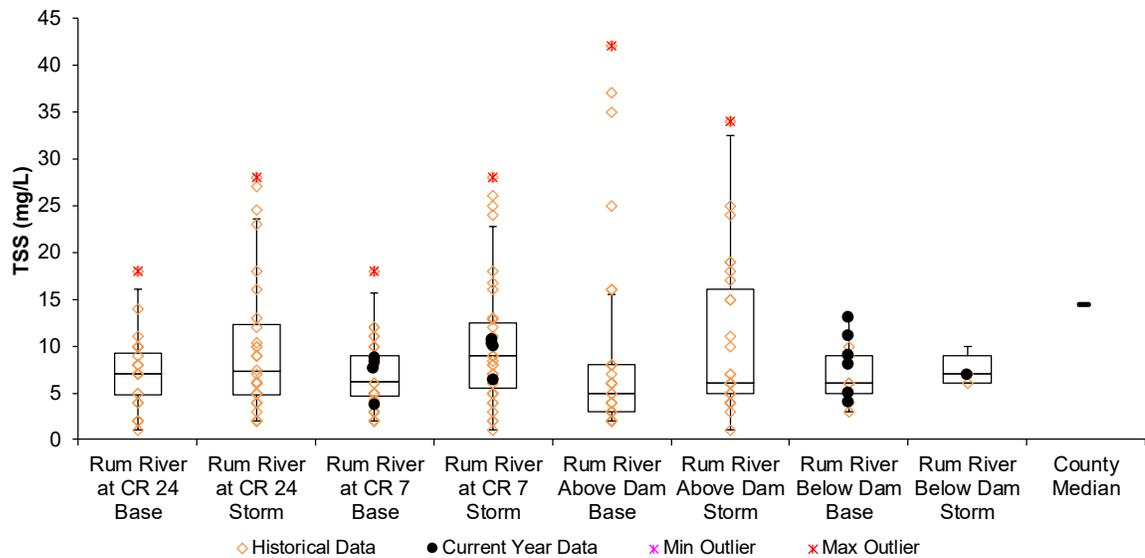
the same in the river when it enters and exits the URRWMO. Suspended solids are well below state water quality standards. Phosphorus is near, but below, state water quality standards. For example, at County Road 7 the average TP across all years monitored is 87.5 µg/L during base flow and 108.1 µg/L during storms. The state standard is 100 µg/L. Phosphorus reductions remain an important goal of the URRWMO and other partners throughout the greater Rum River watershed.

The URRWMO further investigates the impact of their jurisdictional area on water quality by monitoring Rum River tributaries: Seelye Brook, Cedar Creek, and Ford Brook. Monitoring, most recently in 2022, found that these tributaries all have slightly higher than desired phosphorus. In 2022 across all conditions (storms and baseflow) at the farthest downstream monitoring sites averaged 104.0 µg/L at Cedar Creek, Seelye Brook 135 µg/L, and Ford Brook 177 µg/L. Looking across all years, the average at each stream has been Cedar Creek 146 µg/L, Seelye Brook 134 µg/L, and Ford Brook 174 µg/L.

Average total phosphorus for the Rum River. Baseflow and storm conditions are shown for each of three monitoring sites from upstream to downstream. The upstream (left) and middle sites approximate the top and bottom of the URRWMO.



Average suspended solids for the Rum River. Baseflow and storm conditions are shown for each of three monitoring sites from upstream to downstream. The upstream (left) and middle sites approximate the top and bottom of the URRWMO.



Additional water quality data is available online. Annual watershed monitoring reports are available on the URRWMO website (www.URRWMO.org). All water quality data collected by the URRWMO is on the MN Pollution Control Agency's EQUIS database, which is accessible through their website.

f. Evaluation of Watershed Management Plan Implementation and 2022 Work Plan

The current URRWMO Watershed Management Plan was approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) in 2019. The watershed plan contains goals, policies a detailed water monitoring schedule, and a project implementation schedule. The tables on the following page compare planned work to accomplished work for the most recent two years plus list planned work for the upcoming year. There are separate tables for URRWMO work and member community work.

URRWMO Implementation - URRWMO work planned and accomplished by the URRWMO to fulfill the 3rd Generation URRWMO Watershed Management Plan.

URRWMO TASK CHECKLIST										
Task	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	Planned	Accomplished	Planned	Accomplished	Planned	Accomplished	Planned	Accomplished	Planned	Underway
Water Condition Monitoring										
Lake Levels - George, East Twin, Coopers, Minard	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Lake Water Quality - George	1	1	0	1	0	1-by lake group		By Met Council	1	1
Lake Water Quality - East Twin					1	1				
Stream Water Quality - Rum R at CR 7, Rum R at CR 24, Seelye Br at CR7, Cedar Cr at CR9, Ford Br at CR63. Monitored 4x/yr.							5	5	5	5
Reference Wetland Hydrology - 5 sites. % listed is % to be paid by URRWMO.	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%
River Biomonitoring with St Francis High School classes. Dependent upon American Legion.	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Regulatory and Oversight										
Review and approve 6 city local water plans for consistency with URRWMO Plan	0	6	1	0-done in 2019						
Update URRWMO Stormwater standards			1	Delayed to 2021 when new MS4 permit issued	1	1				
Update URRWMO Wetland standards			1	1	1	1				
Ditch authorities - One URRWMO meeting focused on ditches and reassigning county ditch jurisdiction					1	1				
Education and Outreach										
AWROC - Support Anoka Co Water Outreach Collaborative	1	\$250 groundwater video contribution	1	\$1K for 4th qtr 2020 staffing	1	\$1K	1	\$1,250	1	\$1,250
Annual newsletter article for city newsletters	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
AIS prevention info to URRWMO website			1	1		maintained		maintained		
Website overhaul	1	1								1
Website operation and maint	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Studies										
Subwatershed Assessments in drainage areas recommended by TAC				requesting WBIF grant	1	WBIF secured for Middle Ford Brook study. \$1,537.50 match provided.		Ford Brook subwatershed study 95% done. E Twin and Pickerel Lakes SWAs review; SWA abandoned due to lack of projects.	1	Ford Brook subwatershed study. \$2,000 to wetland restoration outreach

Upper Rum River WMO Annual Report 2022

Task	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	Planned	Accomplished	Planned	Underway	Planned	Accomplished	Planned	Underway	Planned	Accomplished
Projects										
Lake George water quality projects - 20 lb/yr TP reduction. Complete 1 project, start another by 2028.			projects over 10 yrs		projects over 10 yrs	1 constructed - 20 lf. 0.48 lb/yr TP.	projects over 10 yrs	6 sites - 463 lf, 5.4 lb/yr TP.	projects over 10 yrs	
Rum Riverbank stabilizations - 180 tons/yr sediment reduction and 250 lbs/yr TP reduction. 2 projects min by 2028.		Committed match for grant pursuit	projects over 10 yrs	Provided grant matching funds. Two grants secured.	projects over 10 yrs	Miller site - 400 lf, 140 T sediment, 119 lb/yr TP Cedar tree revetments - 4 sites, 2,080 lf, 156 T sediment, 132.6 lb TP. In collaboration with ACD.	projects over 10 yrs	Design - Dellwood Park in St. Francis - 750 In ft. Installed - Rum Central Park 90 lf 13.8 lb/yr TP. Cedar Cr Cons Area revetment 1,130 lf.	projects over 10 yrs	Dellwood Park in St. Francis - 750 In ft. Maybe Martz/Hanson in Oak Grove In collaboration with ACD.
Rum River Stormwater Retrofits - 3 lbs/yr TP reduction and 500 lbs/yr sediment reduction. 2 projects min by 2028.			projects over 10 yrs		projects over 10 yrs		projects over 10 yrs	Design for St. Francis HS swale check dams and proj devel for 225/226 Ave rain gardens. WBIF secured & matched.	projects over 10 yrs	St. Francis HS swale check dams and 225/226 Ave rain gardens.
Funding for the above projects	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,366	\$15,366 grant match provided for \$1.1M in grants by ACD	\$15,375	\$15,375 grant match provided for metro Rum WBIF grant held by ACD	\$15,759	\$15,759 grant match provided for metro Rum WBIF grant held by ACD	\$16,153	\$16,153
Administrative										
Hire watershed coordinator	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grant applications (5 over 10 yrs)				WBIF for multiple projects. LSOHC, CWF and CPL for riverbank stabilizations. >\$1M total secured.		WBIF for multiple projects		Rum metro WBIF. LSOHC Rum riverbanks request by ACD.		
Audit or agreed upon procedures engagement			1	1						
Planning and Plan Updates										
Amend URRWMO Plan with TAC prioritized projects, etc.					1	1				
Review Rum River WRAPS. Revisit/revise water quality goals during 2 URRWMO meetings.							1	1		
Prepare 5th Generation URRWMO Plan										

Upper Rum River WMO Annual Report 2022

Task	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	Planned	Accomplished	Planned	Underway	Planned	Accomplished	Planned	Underway	Planned	Accomplished
Watershed Coordinator Tasks										
Annual financial report	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Annual report to BWSR	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mini-report to cities	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Facilitate board mtgs, meeting packets, etc	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Facilitate TAC meetings	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Review local water plans	0	6	6	done in 2019						
Grant applications	1	3 for Rum Riverbank stabilizations	1	WBIF		WBIF		WBIF		1
Request biomonitoring funding from American Legion	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Update form for city reporting to WMO	1	1								
Remind cities to review and update ordinances. Track progress			1	1		1				
Pontoon tour meeting with Lake George groups	1	1				Attempted		1		
Technical Advisory Committee Tasks										
Update form for city reporting to WMO			1	1						
URRWMO projects prioritization	1	1								
Update URRWMO wetland standards			1	underway	1	1				
Update stormwater runoff control ordinance			1	Delayed to 2021 when new MS4 permit issued	1	1				
Develop land locked basin standards			1	1						
Develop culvert inventory methods			1	1				Inventories done in Nowthen, HI, EB. Not done in St. F. Underway in OG.		
Develop stormwater BMP inspection method/form			1	1						
Project prioritization			1	1						
Prioritize future subwatershed assessment studies			1	1						

Member City Implementation - URRWMO work planned and accomplished by the member cities to fulfill the 3rd Generation URRWMO Watershed Management Plan.

URRWMO MEMBER CITIES TASK CHECKLIST	2020		2021		2022		2023	
	Planned	Accomplished	Planned	Accomplished	Planned	Accomplished	Planned	Underway
Ordinance Reviews								
Construction site erosion control ordinance	6	EB, HL, SF, Nowthen	6	All except Bethel	6	All except Bethel	6	Bethel
Post-construction stormwater mgmt ordinance	6	Delayed to 2021 when new MS4 permit issued						
Floodplain ordinance	6	EB, HL, SF, Nowthen	6	All except Bethel	6	All except Bethel	6	Bethel
Wetland ordinance or mgmt plan	6	EB, HL, SF, Nowthen	6	All except Bethel	6	All except Bethel	6	Bethel
Shoreland ordinance	6	EB, HL, SF, Nowthen	6	All except Bethel	6	All except Bethel	6	Bethel
Wellhead protection plan	6	EB, HL, SF, Nowthen	6	All with public water supplies	6	All with public water supplies	6	
Erosion control ordinance	6	EB, HL, SF, Nowthen	6	All except Bethel	6	All except Bethel	6	Bethel
Landlocked basins discharge standards			6	6				
Inspections and Inventories								
Stormwater BMP assessments/inspections (due 2026)		per MS4 schedule		per MS4 schedule		per MS4 schedule		per MS4 schedule
Culvert inventory (due end of 2022)	6	EB, HL, SF, Nowthen	6	6	6	6	0	all previously done
Reporting								
Annual report to URRWMO	6	All except Bethel	6	All except Bethel & East Bethel	6	6		
Other								
Ratify URRWMO budget	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	
Update local water plan for consistency with URRWMO Plan	6	4 in 2019, 1 in 2020, 1 incomplete	6	4 in 2019, 1 in 2020, 1 in 2021				
Participate in URRWMO Technical Advisory Committee	6	6			6	6	6	6

Numbers listed are number of cities.

Note: List includes only tasks with tangible deliverables.

g. Status of Local Ordinances, Plan Adoption and Implementation

All URRWMO member cities have updated their local water plans for consistency with the 3rd Generation URRWMO Watershed Management Plan. The URRWMO approved those city plans during 2019-2021.

Similarly, the URRWMO has reviewed local ordinances to ensure they are consistent with URRWMO minimum standards. As of March 2023, all ordinances have been found consistent except Bethel. Work with Bethel is ongoing to update ordinances.

To track member cities’ progress on local plan implementation, the URRWMO requires a brief annual report from each city and provides a template for this report. In addition to serving as a reporting tool, the template serves as a “to do” list for our cities. These reports are available upon request, and are summarized in the table below.

Status of city local water plans and some recent accomplishments toward plan implementation.

City of Bethel	
Submitted 2022 annual report to URRWMO?	No
Local Water Plan Status	Bethel’s local water plan was approved by the URRWMO in 2019.
Ordinances Status	The City was asked to review ordinances in 2020 for compliance with local, state and federal minimum requirements. That task is ongoing in 2023.
Some Recent Implementation Accomplishments	No reporting to the URRWMO has been submitted since 2015.
City of East Bethel	
Submitted 2022 annual report to URRWMO?	Yes
Local Water Plan Status	East Bethel’s Local Water Plan was approved by the URRWMO in November 2020.
Ordinances Status	The City has reviewed URRWMO-required ordinances for compliance with local, state and federal minimum requirements. The city has all required ordinances at or above minimums. Ordinances include construction site erosion control, post-construction stormwater management, floodplain, wetlands, shoreland and wellhead. Review date: 2/2020.
Some Recent Implementation Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culvert inventory, a requirement of the 3rd Generation URRWMO plan, is complete and stored on the Anoka County online Water Resources Mapping tool. • Annual inspection of all outfalls and skimmers and 1/5th of stormwater ponds. • Compliance with MPCA NPDES rules. • Work to complete BMP’s in the City’s Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan. • Educational efforts by website and thee newsletter articles reaching 4,550 residents about wetland buffers, groundwater protection, water conservation, hazardous waste disposal, habitat, and activities of the URRWMO.

City of Ham Lake	
Submitted 2022 annual report to URRWMO?	Yes
Local Water Plan Status	The URRWMO approved the City of Ham Lake Local Water Plan September 14, 2021.
Ordinances Status	The City has reviewed URRWMO-required ordinances for compliance with local, state and federal minimum requirements. The city has all required ordinances at or above minimums, primarily by referencing URRWMO standards. Ordinances include construction site erosion control, post-construction stormwater management, floodplain, wetlands, shoreland and wellhead. Review date: 2019.
Some Recent Implementation Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culvert inventory, a requirement of the 3rd Generation URRWMO plan, is complete. However, the inventory is not stored on the Anoka County online Water Resources Mapping tool as recommended by the URRWMO technical advisory committee and required by the URRWMO. • Annual inspection of 20% of all ponds and outfalls and 100% of structural BMPs. • Educational efforts by website, newsletters, and workshops reaching 6,629 households about hazardous waste disposal and water conservation. • Routine inspection of land disturbance activities and requiring erosion and sediment control plans. • Street sweeping twice per year, minimum. • Ongoing work to complete BMP's in the City's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.
City of St. Francis	
Submitted 2022 annual report to URRWMO?	Yes
Local Water Plan Status	St. Francis' Local Water Plan was approved by the URRWMO in 2020.
Ordinances Status	The City has reviewed URRWMO-required ordinances for compliance with local, state and federal minimum requirements. The city has all required ordinances at or above minimums. Ordinances include construction site erosion control, post-construction stormwater management, floodplain, wetlands, shoreland and wellhead. Review date: 2/2020.
Some Recent Implementation Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culvert inventory, a requirement of the 3rd Generation URRWMO plan, was completed in 2017 and updated in 2022. The inventory has been added to the Anoka County online Water Resources Mapping tool as recommended by the URRWMO technical advisory committee and required by the URRWMO. • Annual inspection of all outfalls and skimmers and 1/5th of all ponds. No IDDE issues were found; some regular maintenance issues were identified. • Educational efforts by website and newsletters reaching 7,200 residents about AIS, water conservation, hazardous waste disposal, yard waste, pet waste, and the URRWMO.
City of Nowthen	
Submitted 2022 annual report to URRWMO?	Yes

Local Water Plan Status	The URRWMO approved Nowthen’s local water plan in 2019.
Ordinances Status	The City has reviewed URRWMO-required ordinances for compliance with local, state and federal minimum requirements. The city has all required ordinances at or above minimums. Ordinances include construction site erosion control, post-construction stormwater management, floodplain, wetlands, shoreland and wellhead. Review date: 2/2020.
Some Recent Implementation Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culvert inventory, a requirement of the 3rd Generation URRWMO plan, was completed in 2008. However, the inventory is not stored on the Anoka County online Water Resources Mapping tool as recommended by the URRWMO technical advisory committee and required by the URRWMO. • Annual inspection of all outfalls and skimmers and 1/5th of all ponds. No IDDE issues were found; some regular maintenance issues were identified. • Educational efforts by website and newsletters reaching 2,300 residents about hazardous waste disposal and the URRWMO.
City of Oak Grove	
Submitted 2022 annual report to URRWMO?	Yes
Local Water Plan Status	The URRWMO approved Oak Grove’s local water plan in 2019.
Ordinances Status	The City reported in November 2020 that city ordinances had been reviewed and were consistent with URRWMO minimums.
Some Recent Implementation Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspections of 23 of their 128 ponds and all 18 stormwater outfalls. • Progress toward a culvert inventory. Some invert elevations need to be verified or obtained, which will be done in 2023. • Educational efforts by website & newsletters reaching 2,000 households about hazardous waste disposal, water quality improvement, MS4 programs, and the URRWMO. • Reviewed erosion and construction ordinances in 2022 for compliance with new MS4 permit.

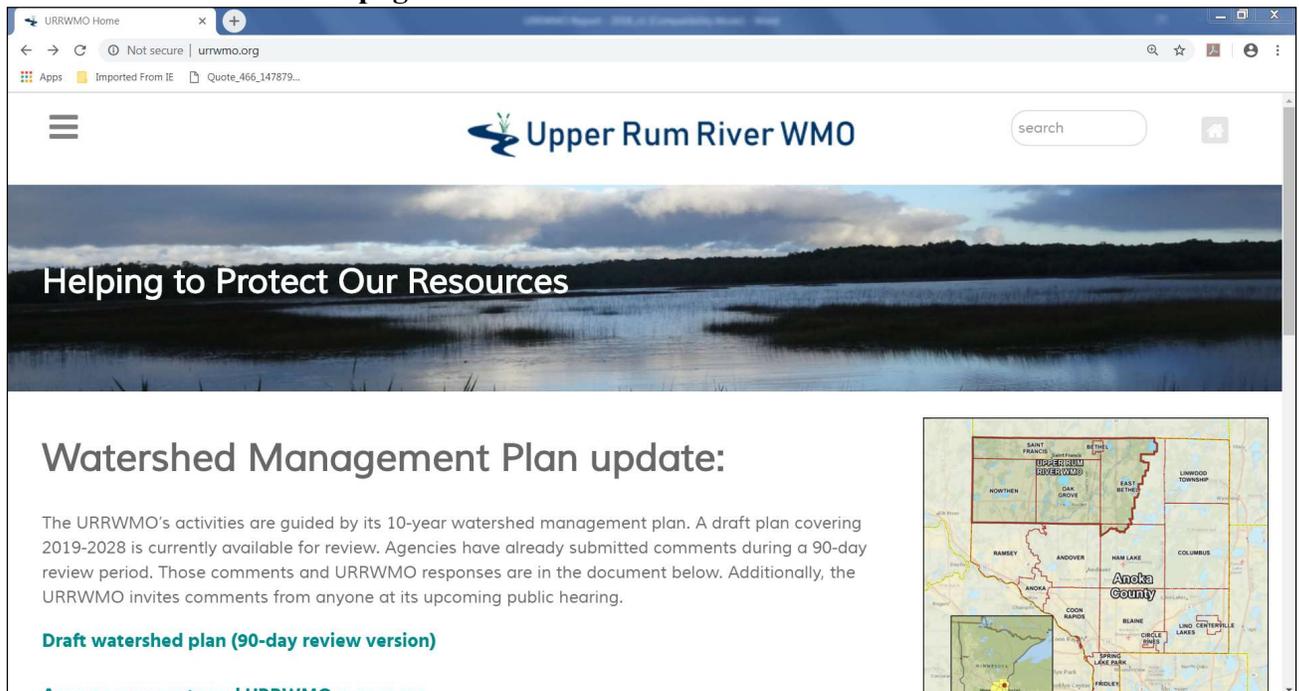
h. Public Outreach

The URRWMO and its member cities do periodic public outreach and education projects. The URRWMO’s website serves as the primary, continuous public outreach tool while other outreach is more targeted. Website contents include general information about the organization, the watershed management plan, meeting agendas and minutes, water monitoring results, profiles of WMO projects, access to mapping and data access tools, and others.

The URRWMO ensures visibility of its website by asking member cities and townships to post the URRWMO website address in their newsletters. Links to the URRWMO website are also provided through other websites including the Anoka Conservation District and member municipality websites.

The website address is <http://www.urrwmo.org>

URRWMO Website homepage



In recent years the URRWMO contributed to a partnership that has produced animated videos to educate the public about water resources issues. The videos were produced by the Anoka County Water Resource Outreach Collaborative. The videos are available on the AnokaSWCD YouTube channel include:

- Part One: “Our Groundwater Connection”
- Part Two: “Our Groundwater Connection: Contamination”
- Our Lakeshore Connection
- Our River Connection
- Rain Gardens 101

Additional public outreach is accomplished through annual newsletter articles. The articles are distributed to member communities for distribution in their newsletters. In 2022 the URRWMO’s newsletter articles included promoting riverbank stabilization cost share, smart salting, and an article about the URRWMO. Articles were printed in city newsletters. Articles are shown below.

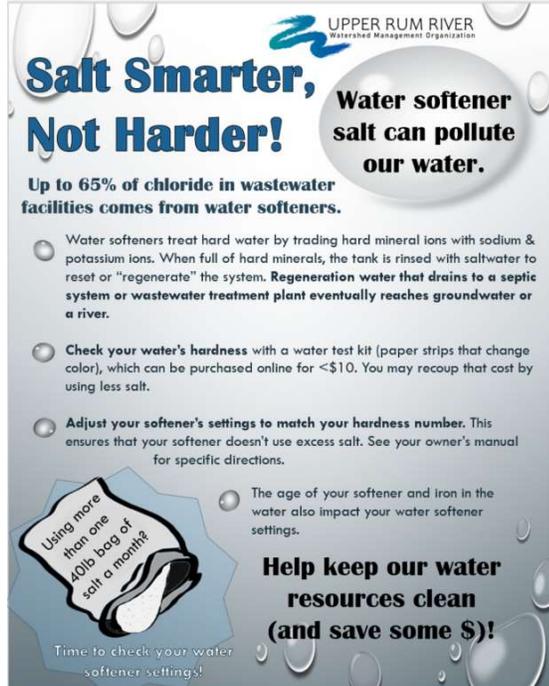
2022 Newsletter Articles



The Upper Rum River WMO manages lakes, streams and other water resources across the cities of St. Francis, Bethel, Nowthen, Oak Grove, and portions of East Bethel, and Ham Lake. Activities include:

- Monitoring water quality.
- Installing projects to improve water quality, including shoreline stabilization, stormwater practices, and others.
- Coordinating management of water that flows across municipal boundaries.

The URRWMO is a joint powers organization made up of six member cities. For more information or assistance, contact Jamie Schurbon at jamie.schurbon@anokaswcd.org or 763-434-2030 ext. 210. www.URRWMO.org



Salt Smarter, Not Harder! Water softener salt can pollute our water.

Up to 65% of chloride in wastewater facilities comes from water softeners.

- Water softeners treat hard water by trading hard mineral ions with sodium & potassium ions. When full of hard minerals, the tank is rinsed with saltwater to reset or “regenerate” the system. **Regeneration water that drains to a septic system or wastewater treatment plant eventually reaches groundwater or a river.**
- **Check your water’s hardness** with a water test kit (paper strips that change color), which can be purchased online for <\$10. You may recoup that cost by using less salt.
- **Adjust your softener’s settings to match your hardness number.** This ensures that your softener doesn’t use excess salt. See your owner’s manual for specific directions.

Using more than one 40lb bag of salt a month!

The age of your softener and iron in the water also impact your water softener settings.

Help keep our water resources clean (and save some \$)!

Time to check your water softener settings!

Rum Riverbank Stabilization Grants Available

Grant funds are available to landowners for addressing shoreline erosion on the Rum River. If your shoreline is falling into the river, migrating back over time, or the bottom has washed out leaving an overhang, the funds can pay a substantial portion of design and construction of a solution. Funding available to address erosion issues of all sizes, with landowners typically paying 15-25% of the project cost. Shoreline restoration does more than just protect your property. It also protects the water resource you live on and enhances river habitat!

Those interested can schedule a site visit with Anoka Conservation District (ACD) staff to discuss options and see if your shoreline might fit into one of our various grant programs for financial assistance. Because the design and construction bidding take months, starting in spring is recommended. Contact Jared Wagner at the ACD at 763-434-2030 x200 or jared.wagner@anokaswcd.org.

Rum Riverbank stabilization projects are a partnership of the ACD, Anoka County, and Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization (URRWMO). The URRWMO is a joint organization of the cities of Bethel, East Bethel, Ham Lake, Nowthen, Oak Grove, and St. Francis. Its purpose is to manage local water issues.



A recent shoreline stabilization project on the Rum River



Before



After Construction

i. Permits

The URRWMO does not issue permits, variances, or take enforcement actions. These responsibilities are held by the member municipalities.

III. Financial and Audit Report

a. 2022 Financial Summary

See Appendix A – 2022 Financial Report.

b. Financial Audit

The URRWMO is required to have an audit or agreed upon procedures engagement only once every five years in accordance with MN Statutes, section 6.756. The URRWMO last underwent an audit in 2020 for 2019 finances.

c. 2023 Budget

In May 2022 the URRWMO Board approved their 2023 budget as presented below.

#	NON-OPERATING (WORK PLAN) EXPENSES	Cost	Bethel 1.08%	East Bethel 23.45%	Ham Lake 1.62%	Nowthen 23.83%	Oak Grove 29.52%	St. Francis 20.50%
1	Water Monitoring Fund*	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2	Lake Level Monitoring - Lake George, East Twin Lake, Coopers Lake, Minard Lake	\$1,400.00	\$15.12	\$328.30	\$22.68	\$333.62	\$413.28	\$287.00
3	Lake Water Quality Monitoring: Lake George	\$2,060.00	\$22.25	\$483.07	\$33.37	\$490.90	\$608.11	\$422.30
4	Stream Water Quality Monitoring - Rum R at CR 24, Rum R at CR 7, Seelye Br at CR 7, Cedar Cr at CR 9, Ford Br at CR 63	\$4,650.00	\$50.22	\$1,090.43	\$75.33	\$1,108.10	\$1,372.68	\$953.25
5	Reference Wetland Hydrology Monitoring - 5 sites	\$2,100.00	\$22.68	\$492.45	\$34.02	\$500.43	\$619.92	\$430.50
6	Biomonitoring - Rum River by St. Francis High School. URRWMO to request funds from American Legion	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
7	Website - Annual Operations	\$745.00	\$8.05	\$174.70	\$12.07	\$177.53	\$219.92	\$152.73
8	URRWMO public education and outreach	\$1,104.00	\$11.92	\$258.89	\$17.88	\$263.08	\$325.90	\$226.32
9	Anoka Co Water Resource Outreach Collaborative	\$1,250.00	\$13.50	\$293.13	\$20.25	\$297.88	\$369.00	\$256.25
10	Projects as detailed in the 10-year Plan	\$16,153.00	\$174.45	\$3,787.88	\$261.68	\$3,849.26	\$4,768.37	\$3,311.37
11	Subwatershed Assessment Studies (SWAs) for priority waterbodies. Match for grants	\$2,000.00	\$21.60	\$469.00	\$32.40	\$476.60	\$590.40	\$410.00
12	Watershed Coordinator, component activities/costs listed below							
13	Facilitate technical advisory committee (TAC) meetings	\$425.00	\$4.59	\$99.66	\$6.89	\$101.28	\$125.46	\$87.13
14	WRAPS review	\$500.00	\$5.40	\$117.25	\$8.10	\$119.15	\$147.60	\$102.50
15	Grant applications	\$1,071.00	\$11.57	\$251.15	\$17.35	\$255.22	\$316.16	\$219.56
16	TOTAL	\$33,458.00	\$361.35	\$7,845.90	\$542.02	\$7,973.04	\$9,876.80	\$6,858.89

#	OPERATING EXPENSES	Cost	Bethel 16.67%	East Bethel 16.67%	Ham Lake 16.67%	Nowthen 16.67%	Oak Grove 16.67%	St. Francis 16.67%
17	Copies & Postage	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
18	Recording secretary	\$1,400.00	\$233.33	\$233.33	\$233.33	\$233.33	\$233.33	\$233.33
19	Insurance-League of MN Cities Insurance Trust	\$2,539.00	\$423.17	\$423.17	\$423.17	\$423.17	\$423.17	\$423.17
20	Administrative fee charged to member communities - for Watershed Coordinator, component activities/costs listed below							
21	Annual financial report to State Auditor	\$706.00	\$117.67	\$117.67	\$117.67	\$117.67	\$117.67	\$117.67
22	Annual activity report to MN Board of Water and Soil Resources	\$1,413.00	\$235.50	\$235.50	\$235.50	\$235.50	\$235.50	\$235.50
23	Facilitate regular URRWMO meetings	\$3,532.00	\$588.67	\$588.67	\$588.67	\$588.67	\$588.67	\$588.67
24	Administrative fee - misc other tasks in WMO plan	\$1,766.00	\$294.33	\$294.33	\$294.33	\$294.33	\$294.33	\$294.33
25	TOTAL	\$11,356.00	\$1,892.67	\$1,892.67	\$1,892.67	\$1,892.67	\$1,892.67	\$1,892.67

Appendix A:

2022 Financial Report

UPPER RUM RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

To the Chairperson, John West, of Upper Rum River Water Management Organization

The enclosed statement has been prepared after review of the organization's financial records for 2020. I have not audited the organization's records and do not express an opinion. The enclosed information fairly reflects the Upper Rum River WMO's financial position for the stated year.

March 10, 2023

Prepared by:
Jamie Schurbon, Anoka Conservation District
1318 McKay Drive NE, suite 300
Ham Lake, MN 55304
763-434-2030

UPPER RUM RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

**9900 Nightingale Street NW
Oak Grove, MN 55011-9204**

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES

For: year beginning January 1, 2021 and Ending December 31, 2021

Expenditures	Amount
Administrative	
Insurance – League of MN Cities Insurance Trust	\$2,279.00
Secretarial services	\$875.00
Watershed coordinator operating expenditures including required reporting, mtg facilitation, and other - Anoka Conservation District (ACD)	\$7,486.00
Other	\$0.00
SUBTOTAL	\$10,640.00
Non-Administrative	
Water monitoring - ACD	\$7,965.00
Water quality improvement grant projects - ACD	\$16,759.00
Public education and outreach – ACD	\$1,792.00
Watershed coordinator non-operating expenses	\$724.00
Other	
Other	
SUBTOTAL	\$27,240.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$37,880.00
Revenues	Amount
City of Bethel - 2022 contributions	\$2,176.00
City of Nowthen - 2022 contributions	\$9,376.60
City of East Bethel - 2022 contributions	\$9,256.33
City of Ham Lake - 2022 contributions	\$2,346.93
City of Oak Grove - 2022 contributions	\$11,177.54
City of St. Francis - 2022 contributions	\$8,322.62
LMCIT insurance dividends	\$1,507.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$44,163.02
Retained Cash Reserves	\$6,283.02
Total Cash Reserves	\$18,091.18

UPPER RUM RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

BALANCE SHEET

For the year beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022

Assets	
Cash	\$18,091.18
Accounts Receivable	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
Total Assets	\$18,091.18
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
Total Liabilities	\$0.00

Intentionally Blank

Appendix B:

2022 Water Monitoring and Management Work Results