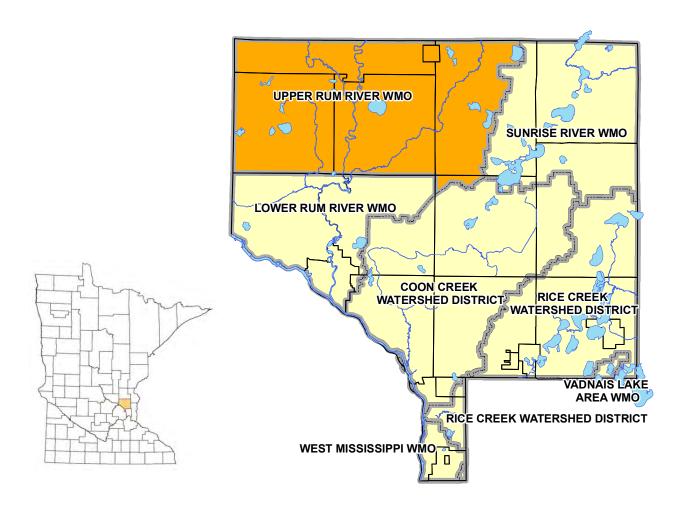
2024 Annual Report

Upper Rum River

Watershed Management Organization

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



able of o	Contents	
I. Introd	luction	3
	ity Report	
a.	Current Board Members	4
b.	Day to Day Contact	5
c.	Employees and Consultants	5
d.	Solicitations for Services	5
	Water Quality Trends	
f.	Evaluation of Watershed Management Plan Implementation	8
g.		13
h.	Public Outreach	16
i.	Permits, Variances, and Enforcement Actions	17
III. Finan	cial and Audit Report	
a.	2024 Financial Summary	17
b.	Financial Audit	17
c.	2025 Budget	17

Appendix A – 2024 Financial Report

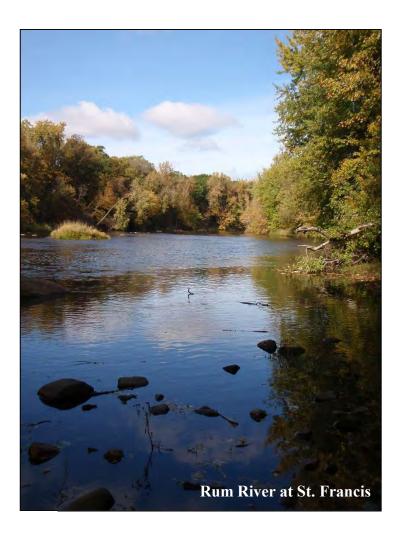
Appendix B – 2024 Water Monitoring and Management Work Results

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 2024 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
Patrick Sullivan
181 Broadway St
Bethel, MN 55005
Bethel, MN 55005
612-910-8385
612.747.6113

rmsequin@gmail.com pbsgolfer@yahoo.com

CITY OF EAST BETHEL

Tim Miller Radja Lohse

2241 221st Ave NE East Bethel, MN 55011

612.387.6600

tim.harrington@ci.east-bethel.mn.us charlotteandre@usfamily.net

CITY OF HAM LAKE

Brian Kirkham Jeff Entsminger 15544 Central Ave NE 14916 Central Ave NE Ham Lake, MN 55304 Ham Lake, MN 55304

612.978.2764 612.669.4004

bkirkham@ci.ham-lake.mn.us jeff@allseasonservices.com

CITY OF NOWTHEN

Dan Breyen (Vice Chair) 19093 St. Francis Blvd NW Nowthen, MN 55303 612.470.2234

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Vacant

CITY OF OAK GROVE

Paul Tradewell (Treasurer) John West (Chair)

990 192nd Ave NW 19900 Nightingale St NW Oak Grove, MN 55011 Oak Grove, MN 55011

612.910.7577 612.414.3513

pault@ci.oak-grove.mn.us jwest@ci.oak-grove.mn.us

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS

Andrew Wood Sara Udvig

3419 236th Lane NW 3750 Bridge St NW St. Francis, MN 55070 St. Francis, MN 55070

217.414.9017 763.735.2311

Ajwood600@gmail.com sudvig@stfrancismn.gov

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	 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.
TimeSaver Offsite Secretarial	Carla Wirth PO Box 588 Excelsior, MN 55331 612-251-8999 Timesaver.secretarial@gmail.com	Recording secretary for meetings.

d. Solicitations for Services

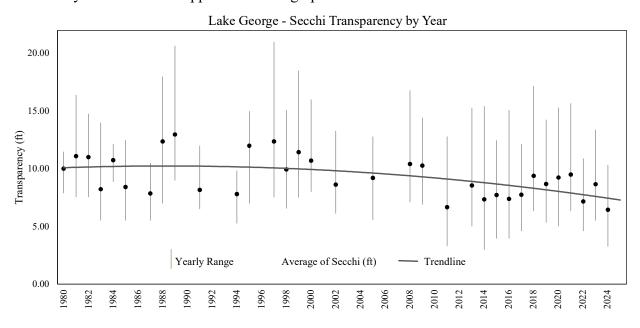
Minnesota Statutes 103B.227 require watershed management organizations to solicit bids for professional services at least once every two years. Most recently the URRWMO completed a proposal request for a watershed coordinator, water monitoring, and similar work in each 2021 & 2023. Requests for proposals 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. Also in 2023, a process was conducted to solicit bids for secretarial services, and Timesaver 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 periods of time, such as 2011-2021 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 2024.

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 2024. 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 is 96.1 μ g/L during 2004-2023 and 117.3 μ g/L during 2024. The state standard is 100 μ g/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: Seeyle Brook, Cedar Creek, and Ford Brook. Monitoring, most recently in 2024 in collaboration with the MN Pollution Control Agency, found that these tributaries all have slightly higher than desired phosphorus and reasonable low total suspended solids (TSS). Data are in the tables below. Note that Ford Brook was last monitored in 2023 with four samples.

Water quality for Rum River and tributaries.

Rum River @ Hwy 7					
Parameter	2024 Average	Historical Average (2004-2023)			
рН	7.76	7.84			
Sp. Cond (mS/cm)	0.309	0.252			
Turbidity (NTU)	6.4	9.4			
DO (mg/L)	7.64	8.91			
TP (ug/L)	117.3	96.1			
Chloride (mg.L)	13.9	13.0			
TSS (mg/L)	15.0	8.2			

Cedar Creek @ Hwv 9

Parameter	2024 Average	Historical Average (1998- 2023)
рН	7.56	7.88
Sp. Cond (mS/cm)	0.41	0.41
Turbidity (NTU)	7.19	11.90
DO (mg/L)	6.56	9.00
TP (ug/L)	161.89	150.67
Chloride (mg.L)	29.40	22.61
TSS (mg/L)	17.40	15.81
Chl-a (mg/L)	3.42	N/A
E. coli	299.40	216.24
Hardness (mg/L CaCO3)	177.00	171.99
Sulfate (mg/L)	N/A	19.59

Seelye Brook @ Hwy 7

Parameter	2024 Average	Historical Average (1998- 2023)
рН	7.67	7.84
Sp. Cond (mS/cm)	0.28	0.44
Turbidity (NTU)	5.03	6.74
DO (mg/L)	7.45	8.11
TP (ug/L)	107.20	138.05
Chloride (mg.L)	11.90	26.89
TSS (mg/L)	12.00	7.28
Chl-a (mg/L)	N/A	N/A
E. coli	102.27	357.69
Hardness (mg/L CaCO3)	106.00	175.28
Sulfate (mg/L)	N/A	15.43

Ford Brook @ Hwy 63

Parameter	2023 Average	Historical Average (1998- 2023)
рН	7.56	7.69
Sp. Cond (mS/cm)	0.61	0.60
Turbidity (NTU)	10.28	11.34
DO (mg/L)	7.28	7.15
TP (ug/L)	160.50	154.15
TSS (mg/L)	10.75	14.87

Rum River @ Hwy 24

Parameter	2024 Average	Historical Average (2001- 2023)
рН	7.57	7.84
Sp. Cond (mS/cm)	0.41	0.31
Turbidity (NTU)	3.51	13.75
DO (mg/L)	6.02	8.92
TP (ug/L)	124.00	99.71
Chloride (mg.L)	26.60	11.06
TSS (mg/L)	8.60	8.53
Chl-a (mg/L)	N/A	N/A
E. coli	344.65	N/A
Hardness (mg/L CaCO3)	172.00	126.00
Sulfate (mg/L)	N/A	11.51

Additional water quality data is available in Appendix B. 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 2025 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. Last 3 years only are shown; others available upon request.

URRWMO TASK CHECKLIST		·				-	-	
		2022		2023		2024		2025
Task	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
Lake Water Quality - George		By Met Council	1	1		By LGID		By Met Counci
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		4 - MPCA SWAG program		5 - MPCA SWAG program
Reference Wetland Hydrology - 5 sites. % listed is % to be paid by URRWMO.	60%	60%	60%	60%	68%	68%	100%	100%
River Biomonitoring with St Francis High School classes. Dependent upon American Legion.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Regulatory and Oversight								
Review and approve 6 city local water plans for consistency with URRWMO Plan								
Update URRWMO Stormwater standards								
Update URRWMO Wetland standards								
Ditch authorities - One URRWMO meeting focused on ditches and reassigning county ditch jurisdication								
Education and Outreach								
AWROC - Support Anoka Co Water Outreach Collaborative	1	\$1,250	1	\$1,250	1	\$1,500	1	\$1,500
Annual newsletter article for city newsletters	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1
AIS prevention info to URRWMO website		maintained						
Website overhaul				1				
Website operation and maint	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Studies								
Subwatershed Assessments in drainage areas recommended by TAC		Ford Brook subwatershed study. E Twin and Pickerel Lakes SWAs.	1	Ford Brook subwatershed study. E Twin and Pickerel Lakes SWAs.		Ford Brook subwatershed study. E Twin and Pickerel Lakes SWAs.	1	\$2500 + WBIF grant for street sweep studies

Upper Rum River WMO Annual Report 2024

		2022		2023	2024		2025	
Task	Planned	Underway	Planned	Accomplished	Planned	Accomplished	Planned	Underway
Projects								
Lake George water quality projects - 20 lb/yr TP reduction. Complete 1 project, start another by 2028.	projects over 10 yrs	6 sites - 463 lf, 5.4 lb/yr TP.	projects over 10 yrs	2 sites - 96 lf, 1.6 lb/yr TP.	projects over 10 yrs	0 sites	projects over 10 yrs	WBIF & WBIF grants for shoreline projects
Rum Riverbank stabilizations - 180 tons/yr sediment reduction and 250 lbs/yr TP reduction. 2 projects min by 2028.	projects over 10 yrs	Design - Dellwood Park in St. Francis - 750 In ft. Installed - Rum Central Park 90 If 13.8 lb/yr TP. Cedar Cr Cons Area revetment 1,130 If.		Installed - Dellwood Park in St. Francis - 630 In ft and 51.4 lbs/yr TP. Installed - Cedar Dr Cons Area revetment 1175 If and 24.99 lb/yr TP. Design - 221st Ave Rum Riverbank project in collaboration with ACD.	projects over 10 yrs	Installed - 221st Ave Rum Riverbank project 935 If in collaboration with ACD. Rum River Woods Park Rum Riverbank 345 If - St. Francis.		OHF grant for Riverbank stabilizations by ACD, but no projects anticipated in URRWMO.
Rum River Stormwater Retrofits - 3 lbs/yr TP reduction and 500 lbs/yr sediment reduction. 2 projects min by 2028.	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	Installed - St. Francis HS swale stabilization. 10 ac drainage, 460 lf, 2.33 lbs/yr TP. Design - 225th Ave city outlot rain garden.	projects over 10 yrs	Installed - 225th Av outlot rain garden.	projects over 10 yrs	WBIF grant - ag practices, wetland restorations, Rum N Co Park ravine study.
Funding for the above projects	\$15,759	\$15,759 grant match provided for metro Rum WBIF grant held by ACD	\$16,153	\$16,153	\$16,557	\$16,557	\$16,971	\$5K match for OHF grant match - Rum River corridor projects
Administrative								
Hire watershed coordinator	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grant applications (5 over 10 yrs)		Rum metro WBIF. LSOHC Rum riverbanks request by ACD.		LSOHC Rum riverbanks request by ACD.		Rum metro WBIF FY25 LSOHC Rum River corridor phase 3 request by ACD.		1
Audit or agreed upon procedures engagement							1	1
Planning and Plan Updates								
Amend URRWMO Plan with TAC prioritized projects, etc. Review Rum River WRAPS. Revisit/revise water	1	1				1		
quality goals during 2 URRWMO meetings.								
Prepare 5th Generation URRWMO Plan								

		2022		2023		2024	2025	
Task	Planned	Accomplished	Planned	Accomplished	Planned	Accomplished	Planned	Underway
Watershed Coordinator Tasks								
Annual financial report	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Annual report to BWSR	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mini-report to cities	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Facilitate board mtgs, meeting packets, etc	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Facilitate TAC meetings	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Review local water plans								
Grant applications		WBIF, LSOHC		1	1	WIBF metro FY25, LSOHC		
Request biomonitoring funding from American Legion	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Seeking 2 funding sources
Update form for city reporting to WMO								
Remind cities to review and update ordinances.		1		1				
Track progress								
Pontoon tour meeting with Lake George groups		1 - Lake tour		1 - Projects tour		1 - Projects tour		
Technical Advisory Committee Tasks								
Update form for city reporting to WMO								
URRWMO projects prioritization								
Update URRWMO wetland standards								
Update stormwater runoff control ordinance								
Develop land locked basin standards								
Develop culvert inventory methods		Inventories done in Nowthen, HL, EB. Not done in St. F. Underway in OG.						
Develop stormwater BMP inspection method/form								
Project prioritization								
Prioritize future subwatershed assessment studies								

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								
		2022		2023		2024		2025
Task	Planned	Accomplished	Planned	Accomplished	Planned	Accomplished	Planned	Underway
Ordinance Reviews								
Construction site erosion control ordinance	6	All except Bethel	6	Bethel	6	6	6	6
Post-construction stormwater mgmt ordinance			6	6	6	6	6	6
Floodplain ordinance	6	All except Bethel	6	Bethel	6	6	6	6
Wetland ordinance or mgmt plan	6	All except Bethel	6	Bethel	6	6	6	6
Shoreland ordinance	6	All except Bethel	6	Bethel	6	6	6	6
Wellhead protection plan	6	All with public water supplies	6	All with public water supplies	6	All with public water supplies	6	All with publi supplies
Erosion control ordinance	6	All except Bethel	6	Bethel	6	6	6	6
Landlocked basins discharge standards	6	6	6	6	6	6	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	6						
Reporting								
Annual report to URRWMO	6	5	6	5	6	5	6	6
Other								
Ratify URRWMO budget	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Update local water plan for consistency with								
URRWMO Plan								
Participate in URRWMO Technical Advisory			_	_	_	6 - update of JPA &	_	
Committee	6	6	6	6		plan amendment	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 December 2023, all ordinances have been found consistent except Bethel. Bethel finalized their ordinance updates in January 2024. All are now complete.

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 2024 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 2024 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 an 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	 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. Sweep all streets draining to Coon Lake and Crooked Brook in spring and fall. Educational efforts by website and newsletters reaching 4,550 residents about wetland buffers, groundwater protection, water conservation, hazardous waste disposal, yard waste management, and the URRWMO. 	
City of Ham Lak	e	
Submitted 2024 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	 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 6,458 households about hazardous waste disposal, water quality improvement, 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. Franci		
Submitted 2024 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	 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 8,300 residents about water conservation, shoreline management, aquatic invasive species, water quality improvement, and the URRWMO.
City of Nowthen	
Submitted 2024 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	• Culvert inventory, a requirement of the 3 rd Generation URRWMO plan, was completed in 2008 and updated in 2022. It was recently 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 2,300 residents about hazardous
	waste disposal and the URRWMO.
City of Oak Grov	ve T
Submitted 2024 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	 2023 inspections of 33 of their 128 ponds and all 18 stormwater outfalls. A culvert inventory was completed in 2023. Educational efforts by website & newsletters reaching 3,238 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.

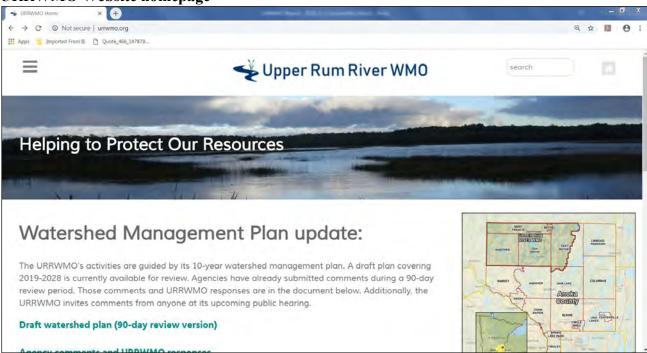
h. Public Outreach

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.

Other outreach work is detailed in Appendix B.

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. 2024 Financial Summary

See Appendix A – 2024 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. 2025 Budget

In February 2024 the URRWMO Board approved their 2025 budget as presented below.



2025 ADOPTED Budget Detail

Notes:

Budget was developed 2020-2029 SRWMO Watershed Management Plan.

		Sum of 2025 Budget
1	Non-operating	
2	Collaboration/Planning	
3	Aerial photos	\$0.00
4		
5	Education and Public Outreach	
6	Anoka Co Outreach Coordinator Position	\$1,500.00
7	Website operations/maintenance	\$1,030.00
8	Rum River biomonitoring with St. Francis High School	\$0.00
9	Website platform update	\$0.00
10	URRWMO public education and outreach	\$1,160.00
11	·	
12	Non-Operating General	
13	Watershed Coordinator - Facilitate Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	\$1,856.00
14	Watershed Coordinator - WRAPS review	\$0.00
15	Watershed Coordinator - Grant applications	\$1,300.00
16	5-year Watershed Plan Amendment per BWSR Requirement	\$0.00
17	URRWMO JPA Update	\$0.00
18	or it trime or it opaule	\$0.00
19	Water Quality Improvement Projects	+
20	Projects as detailed in the URRWMO 10-year Plan	\$16,971.00
21	1 rojecto do detalled in the Ortityvino To year Flair	\$10,071.00
22	Water Monitoring	
23	Lake Level Monitoring	\$1,440.00
24	Lake Water Quality Monitoring	\$0.00
25	Reference Wetland Hydrology Monitoring	\$3,750.00
26	Stream Water Quality Monitoring	\$2,700.00
27	Water Monitoring Fund	-\$390.00
28	Water Monitoring Fulld	-\$390.00
29	Studies	1
30	Subwatershed Assessment Studies (SWAs) for priority waterbodies	\$2,500.00
31	Subwatershed Assessment Studies (SWAS) for priority waterbodies	\$2,500.00
32	Operating	4
33	Operating Expenses	
34	Advertise Bids for Pro Services (req'd in odd yrs)	\$0.00
35	Liability Insurance	
36		\$2,667.00
37	Recording Secretary services	\$1,225.00
	Watershed Coordinator - Facilitate regular URRWMO mtgs	\$3,711.00
38	Watershed Coordinator - Annual Report to State Auditor	\$742.00
39	Watershed Coordinator - Annual Report to BWSR	\$1,484.00
40	Watershed Coordinator - Other - see desc.	\$2,300.00
41		
42	Reserve Spend Down	
43	Undesignated Reserve Spend Down	\$0.00
44		
45	Grand Total	\$45,946.00

Appendix A:

2024 Financial Report

UPPER RUM RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 2024

To the Chairperson, John West, of the Upper Rum River Watershed 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.

April 4, 2025

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

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES

For: year beginning January 1, 2024 and Ending December 31, 2024

Expenditures	Amount
Operating	
Insurance - League of MN Cities Insurance Trust	\$2,287.00
Secretarial services	\$866.50
Watershed Coordinator operating expenditures including required reporting, mtg facilitation, and other - Anoka Conservation District (ACD)	\$7,603.00
Legal	\$110.00
SUBTOTAL	\$10,866.50
Non-Operting	
Water monitoring - ACD	\$6,265.00
Water quality improvement grant projects - ACD	\$16,557.00
Public education and outreach – ACD	\$3,531.00
Watershed coordinator non-operating expenses	\$3,098.00
Other	
Other	
SUBTOTAL	\$29,451.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$40,317.50
Revenues	Amount
City of Bethel - 2023 contributions	\$2,173.80
City of Nowthen - 2023 contributions	\$8,854.14
City of East Bethel - 2023 contributions	\$9,173.28
City of Ham Lake - 2023 contributions	\$2,370.19
City of Oak Grove - 2023 contributions	\$11,207.76
City of St. Francis - 2023 contributions	\$8,034.83
LMCIT insurance dividends	\$0.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$41,814.00
Retained Cash Reserves	\$1,496.50
Total Cash Reserves	\$21,071.70

BALANCE SHEET

For the year beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024

Assets	
Cash	\$21,071.70
Accounts Receivable	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
Total Assets	\$21,071.70
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable - TimeSaver Offsite Secretarial for Nov 2024 services	\$167.00
Other	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
Total Liabilities	\$167.00

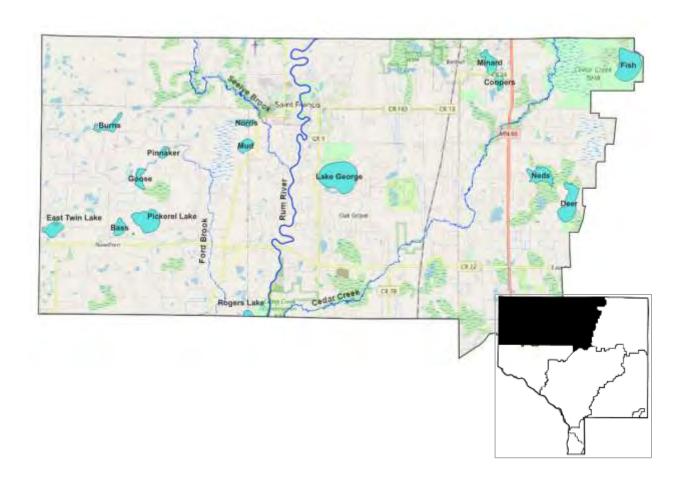
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Appendix B:

2024 Water Monitoring and Management Work Results

Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization

2024 Report of Contracted Work



Submitted by: Anoka Conservation District

Date: February 24, 2025

Table of Contents

Administrative	
Watershed Coordinator - Facilitate Regular URRWMO Meetings	
Watershed Coordinator - Annual Reports to MN Board of Water & Soil Resources and S	tate Auditor3
Watershed Coordinator - Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)	3
Watershed Coordinator - Grant Applications	3
Watershed Coordinator - Other	
Water Monitoring Lake Water Quality	
Lake Level Monitoring	5
Wetland Hydrology	5
Stream Water Quality Monitoring	θ
Rum River Biomonitoring with St. Francis High School	θ
Monitoring Summary Sheets	7
Education & Public Outreach	
Newsletters	8
Anoka County Coordinated Outreach	g
2024 Upper Rum River Watershed Projects Projects Detailed in the URRWMO Plan	
Rum Riverbank Stabilization Projects	10
Rain Gardens	11
Wetland Restoration & Enhancement	11
Prairie Restorations	11
Woodland/Oak Savanna Restorations	11

Administrative

Watershed Coordinator - Facilitate Regular URRWMO Meetings

Description: Develop agenda & meeting packet. Meeting facilitation, including an introductory presentation for each

agenda item, as directed by the Chair. Review minutes.

Purpose: To help facilitate regular meetings of the URRWMO.

Results: 83.5 hours for board meeting coordination including packets & scheduling, budget preparation, daily

operations, and others.

Watershed Coordinator - Annual Reports to MN Board of Water & Soil Resources and State Auditor

Description: Two reports: 1. Annual reporting to the State Auditor including a financial statement and financial report.

2. Annual activity and financial report to BWSR meeting MN Rules 8410.0150.

Purpose: To provide transparency of government operations and document progress toward implementing the

URRWMO Watershed Management Plan.

Results: Completed reporting to the State Auditor and MN Board of Water and Soil Resources.

Watershed Coordinator - Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Description: One annual TAC meeting as required in the URRWMO plan. In 2024 work was to coordinate an in-

person TAC meeting, if a need arises, or work with the member cities to update the URRWMO JPA.

Purpose: To engage stakeholders and experts in the operations of the URRWMO.

Results: The six URRWMO member cities were engaged to update the URRWMO joint powers agreement.

Watershed Coordinator - Grant Applications

Description: Prepare one grant application, typically to BWSR or DNR grant programs, or participate in Watershed

Based Funding (metro or whole watershed).

Purpose: To provide funding for high-priority projects that benefit water resources within the Lower Rum River

WMO watershed.

Results: Represented URRWMO interests in the metro WBIF convene process, along with one URRWMO board

member. The group decided on use of \$569,378 of grant funds, with 35.8% exclusively in the

URRWMO and 15.8% in both the URRWMO and LRRWMO. The projects will directly accomplish goals

of the URRWMO plan.

Watershed Coordinator - Other

Description: Tasks: (1) Prepare URRWMO annual summary report for board members to use when meeting with

their city councils, (2) Request biomonitoring funding from the American Legion, (3) Facilitate board review of the new SRWMO JPA to consider adoption of it for the URRWMO. Then prepare the revised

URRWMO JPA and forward it to the cities for consideration.

Purpose: To complete specific administrative tasks that vary by year.

Results: (1) Prepared URRWMO annual summary report to city councils,

(2) Requested and received biomonitoring funding from the American Legion,

(3) Facilitated update of the URRWMO joint powers agreement.

Water Monitoring

Lake Water Quality

Description: Each lake was monitored bi-weekly, from May through September, for 10 occasions. Parameters

monitored included total phosphorus, chlorophyll-a, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, temperature, conductivity, pH, salinity, and transparency. Subjective ranking of recreational suitability and physical conditions were also noted. Reporting will include a summary of water quality throughout the year, a trend analysis, a comparison to any water quality standards, and recommendations. Data was

submitted to the MPCA's database.

Purpose: Provide a comprehensive view of the lake's water quality and overall health.

Results: Lake water quality monitoring was conducted on East Twin Lake. The associated hyperlink will redirect

to that respective ACD 2024 Summary Sheet. These summary sheets provide information on current and historical lake grades, trend analysis of specific parameters, and general discussion of lake water quality. Data visualization for all lakes and water quality parameters can also be found through ACD's

Tableau Graph for Lake Water Quality.

Lake Level Monitoring

Description: Volunteers take weekly lake level readings during ice-out conditions. ACD work includes

installing/removing the lake gauges, coordinating & training volunteers, addressing issues such as moving gauges in low or high water conditions, receiving and providing quality assurance of the data, and submitting data to the MNDNR database. All data is available through the MNDNR website.

Purpose: Understand how changes in hydrology affect lake ecosystems, communities, and regulatory practices.

Results: Lake-level monitoring was conducted on <u>East Twin Lake</u>, <u>Coopers Lake</u>, <u>Minard Lake</u>, and <u>Lake</u>

<u>George</u>. The associated hyperlinks will redirect to that lake's respective MNDNR LakeFinder water level page, where current and historical data can be accessed. Additional information can be found on our

2024 Summary Sheet for Lake Levels.

Wetland Hydrology

Description: Install and maintain water level dataloggers at reference wetlands within the watershed. Fee shall

cover: equipment, installation/removal of equipment removal, data downloads, data management, and

reporting.

Purpose: To provide an understanding of wetland hydrology, including the impacts of climate and land use

change. These data aid in the delineation of nearby wetlands by documenting hydrologic trends

including the timing, frequency, and duration of saturation.

Results: Reference wetland monitoring was completed at East Twin Wetland, Lake George Wetland, Cedar

<u>Creek Wetland, Viking Wetland</u>, and <u>Alliant Tech Wetland</u>. The associated hyperlinks will redirect to that respective **ACD's Tableau Graph**. Additional information can be found on our <u>2024 Summary</u> Sheet for Reference Wetlands. These summary sheets provide information **on ACD's reference wetland**

monitoring program.

Stream Water Quality Monitoring

Description: Grab samples were collected at each site on eight occasions; generally, in April-Oct. Parameters

monitored included total phosphorus, total suspended solids, pH, conductivity, turbidity, salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and water level. Reporting will include an analysis of water quality, graphs, comparisons to state standards, and recommendations. Data was **submitted to the MPCA's**

database.

Purpose: To detect water quality trends.

Results: Stream water quality monitoring was funded with two programs. The Lower Rum River WMO funded

monitoring of the Rum River at Hwy 7, which is also the bottom of the Upper Rum River WMO. The following sites were monitored by ACD through the MPCA's SWAG program: Rum River at Hwy 24, Rum River at Bunker Lake Blvd, Seeyle Brook at Hwy 7, and Cedar Creek at Hwy 9. The associated hyperlink will redirect to the Rum River's respective ACD 2024 Summary Sheet. These summary sheets provide a general discussion of stream water quality and a comparison of recent data to the historical average. Data visualization for all streams and water quality parameters can also be found

through ACD's Tableau Graph for Stream Water Quality Data.

Rum River Biomonitoring with St. Francis High School

Description: With funding support from the St. Francis American Legion, ACD staff monitor aquatic invertebrates in

the Rum River and track river health. ACD provides instruction in the field and classroom, equipment, and data analysis. Outcomes include a report of river health metrics based on the pollution sensitivity of

the invertebrates found in the river. The work occurs at Rum River North County Park.

Purpose: To detect water quality trends.

Results: In 2024, 12 classes (350 students) from St. Francis High School participated in the Rum River

biomonitoring. Overall, they found the river's health was good. They added to a more than 20-year-long

record of monitoring by this school. Since 2001, more than 1950 students from the school have

participated in this activity. The associated hyperlink will redirect to that school's biomonitoring results in

the ACD 2024 Summary Sheet.

Monitoring Summary Sheets

The Anoka Conservation District has developed monitoring sheets that summarize the results of a specific monitoring program for the current year. The images below are hyperlinks and will redirect to that respective summary sheet.



This symbol notes that work related to that Summary Sheet occurred within the Upper Rum River WMO Watershed.

Lake Water Quality



Reference Wetlands



Biomonitoring



Stream Water Quality



Lake Levels



Groundwater Monitoring



Education & Public Outreach

Website

Description: Maintain the existing URRWMO.org website, pay domain registration and hosting fees, and post up to

eight meeting minutes and agendas. 2024 fees (and subsequent years.) include an SSL security

certificate.

Purpose: To increase awareness of the URRWMO and its programs.

Location: <u>www.urrwmo.org</u>

Results: ACD operated and maintained the URRWMO website.

Newsletters

Description: Tasks include at least two of the following: (a) Prepare at least one URRWMO newsletter and distribute

it to member communities for publication in city newsletters. (b) Annual presentation or event with Lake George Conservation Club or Improvement District. (c) Promote cost-share grants for water quality

projects or septic system fixes to target audiences.

Purpose: To provide information and education to the public, especially information that will result in behavioral

changes beneficial to natural resources.

Results: Four newsletter infographics or articles were printed in six cities' newsletters, two of which were about

cost-share grants.









Anoka County Coordinated Outreach

Description: This funding supports consistent, reusable outreach throughout the county and especially in the

URRWMO that benefits URRWMO water resources and reduces work that would otherwise be required of the URRWMO and cities. This funding will support regional or watershed-level staff that serve multiple areas. The scope of work will follow a work plan developed by the metro WBIF grant convene group (including a URRWMO rep) and/or the Rum River Watershed Partnership. URRWMO funds may be used to match WBIF grant funds, provided proportionate amounts of the grant activities are in the

URRWMO area.

Purpose: Supports consistent, reusable outreach throughout the county and especially in the URRWMO that

benefits URRWMO water resources and reduces work that would otherwise be required of the

URRWMO and cities.

Results: ACD promoted Anoka County's Well Water Testing Program, hosted a public officials tour of projects,

supported and promoted a "Buying Lakeshore 101" workshop, 45+ blog and social media postings to

celebrate projects or encourage good practices by residents, a planting event at Cedar Creek Conservation Area, presenting at a joint meeting of the Lake George Conservation Club and Lake Improvement District, and producing a video about the 2024 installation of the 225th Lane rain garden in

St. Francis.

2024 Upper Rum River Watershed Projects

ACD maintains interactive dashboards that allow users to explore the combined benefits produced by the hundreds of projects that have been installed with support from ACD's programs and staff. The <u>Water Projects Dashboard</u> summarizes water quality improvements achieved through projects such as rain gardens, streambank and lakeshore stabilizations, and stormwater pond enhancements. The <u>Ecological Projects Dashboard</u> summarizes habitat restorations achieved across different ecosystem types through techniques such as prescribed burns, invasive species control, and native plantings.

In both dashboards, users can apply filters based on location, year(s), and project type by selecting the drop-downs at the top of the page. Users can also pan throughout the map and click on the points to learn more about individual projects; many contain a link to a profile sheet with additional details and photos. The gauges will adjust to summarize the benefits produced by the projects the user is viewing.

Projects Detailed in the URRWMO Plan

Description: The URRWMO will provide funding toward projects identified in the URRWMO Plan and prioritized in

Appendix G. This funding will be the match for grants, and can be used for any activity in a WBIF grant work plan. Work may include securing project sites, survey, design, construction, subwatershed study,

grant reporting, bookkeeping, and project coordination.

Purpose: To improve water quality in area lakes, streams, and rivers.

Results: The URRWMO provided \$16,557 that is being utilized to meet the 10% match requirement for the FY25

Rum metro Watershed Based Implementation Funding grant. That grant supports many activities including enhanced street sweeping studies, a ravine stabilization feasibility work in Rum North County Park, shoreline stabilizations, wetland restorations, and others. The grant is active through 2027.

Rum Riverbank Stabilization Projects

Three Rum Riverbank stabilization projects were completed. Erosion at two sites (Plaisted & Martz/Hanson/Heath) were stabilized using re-grading, rock riprap, and native vegetation. At the third site (Rum River Woods Park) a cedar tree revetment was used. Funding sources included the Clean Water Fund, Outdoor Heritage Fund, Upper Rum River WMO, Anoka County, and landowner contributions.

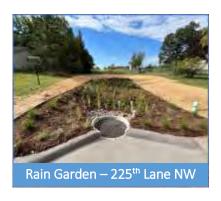






Rain Gardens

A curb-cut rain garden was constructed in the City of St. Francis on 225th Lane. The purpose of the project is to treat stormwater runoff that would otherwise drain untreated to the Rum River. The project site was selected as a demonstration to promote rain gardens throughout the neighborhood. An underdrain with a water control structure is included as a safeguard allowing basin drawdown if the water table is occasionally high; however, the underdrain is anticipated to be in the closed position nearly all the time. The rain garden is planted with native shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers. The City of St. Francis will provide project maintenance throughout the project life.



Wetland Restoration & Enhancement

In 2024, 16.4 acres of wetland was restored or enhanced within the Upper Rum River WMO watershed. These restorations included habitat enhancement, invasive species control, wood removal, prescribed burns, and native seeding, native aquatic and wetland vegetation, and installing a ditch plug.







Prairie Restorations

In 2024, 8.5 acres of prairie was restored within the Upper Rum River WMO watershed.

Woodland/Oak Savanna Restorations

In 2024, 15.5 acres of Woodland/Oak Savanna was restored within the Upper Rum River WMO watershed. These restorations included invasive species control, mechanical clearing, prescribed burns, and native seeding to restore oak savanna habitat.



