

# elm creek Watershed Management Commission

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## Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes | January 10, 2024

I. A meeting of the **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** of the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 10:02 a.m., Wednesday, January 10, 2024, in the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Avenue North, Plymouth, MN, by Chair Derek Asche.

Present: Heather Nelson, Champlin; Kent Torve, Stantec, Corcoran; Josh Accola, Stantec, Dayton; Derek Asche, Maple Grove; Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; Andrew Simmons, Rogers; Diane Spector and Erik Megow, Stantec; Kevin Ellis, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); and Judie Anderson, JASS.

Not represented: Medina.

Also present: Doug Baines, Dayton.

II. Motion by Scharenbroich, second by Nelson to approve the **Agenda** as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

III. Motion by Scharenbroich, second by Simmons to approve the **Minutes** of the October 11, 2023, meeting. *Motion carried unanimously.*

IV. **RULES UPDATE FOR SMALL REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.\*** This item is a continuation of the TAC's review of how the Commission is interpreting 'land disturbing activity' relating to stormwater for small redevelopment projects near the 1.0-acre threshold for land disturbing activity that may trigger the Commission's Stormwater Management Rule (Rule N). Recent small redevelopment projects prompted this discussion when Commission staff and City staff interpreted the rules in slightly different ways. Staff discussed these projects and their interpretation at the October TAC meeting, where the consensus was that the Commission's definition of land disturbing activity was consistent with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) General Permit requirements.

For sites/projects where applicants are proposing to disturb near, or just under 1 acre, there was some Staff concern that the Commission's permit review thresholds and the definition of Land Disturbing Activity may lead to inconsistent application. The TAC discussed options for addressing the potential for inconsistencies, as well as the complicating factor of small projects that may be part of a future Common Plan of Development or Sale, which are also regulated by the MS4 and construction permits.

After considerable discussion, it was agreed by consensus that no revising language would be recommended at this time, and that small projects that fall at or near the 1 acre threshold would be referred to the member city for a determination of how the rules/permit requirements should be applied.

**V. 2024 WORK PLAN.\*** The Commission's Third Generation Plan identifies issues, priorities and goals for the ten-year period 2015-2024. The Annual Work Plan is a more detailed set of actions the Commission undertakes toward meeting those goals. Attached to Staff's January 4, 2024, memo\* is the proposed work plan for 2024. Many of the items on this list are routine, but some are special projects or studies. Highlights include:

- Initiate development of the Fourth Generation Watershed Management Plan. Typically, it takes about 18 months to go through the planning and review process, so the Commission and cities should expect to begin this process this Spring.
- The Watershed Wide TMDL Ten Year Review, authorized for completion this year, will wrap into the Fourth Generation Plan in the same manner as the original TMDL and WRAPS. Implementation strategies and actions from those studies were incorporated into the Third Generation Plan.
- The BWSR Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) for FY2024/25 for Elm Creek will provide about double the amount of funding (\$373,590) received during the previous biennium. The eligible entities (Commission, County, and cities) should plan to complete the Convene process this Spring so the funds can be contracted by July 1. This funding can be used on projects, studies, or management activities that result in a load reduction.
- Partnering with WMWA and Hennepin County on enhanced education and outreach, with leadership and assistance from the shared outreach coordinator. Chloride management is a priority topic, and the work plan includes the development of a chloride education and outreach plan that includes identifying the different stakeholders and messages and options for implementation. The Commission will also sponsor one or more shoreline restoration/resilient yards workshops with the shared coordinator and Metro Blooms as part of the WBIF funding.

An online forum will be uploaded to the website in order to receive additional input regarding the 2024 Work Plan.

**VI.** The next Technical Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2024.

**VII.** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Judie A. Anderson  
Recording Secretary  
JAA:tim