March 1, 2017

Representatives
Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission
Hennepin County, MN

The meeting packet for this meeting may be found on the Commission’s website, http://www.elmcreekwatershed.org/minutes--meeting-packets.html

Dear Representatives:

A regular meeting of the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission will be held on Wednesday, March 8, 2017, at 11:30 a.m. in the Mayor’s Conference Room at Maple Grove City Hall, 12800 Arbor Lakes Parkway, Maple Grove, MN.

The meeting will be preceded at 10:00 a.m. by a meeting of the Commission’s Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Materials for the TAC meeting will be emailed to the Members and uploaded to the Commission’s website on Monday, March 6, 2017.

Please email Kerstin at kerstin@jass.biz to confirm whether you or your Alternate will be attending the meeting.

Thank you.

Regards,

Judie A. Anderson
Administrator
JAA:tim

Encls: Meeting Packet

cc: Alternates HCEE BWSR MPCA
    Joel Jamnik TAC Met Council DNR
    TRPD Diane Spector Clerks Official Newspaper

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AGENDA
March 8, 2017

1. Call Regular Meeting to Order.
   a. Approve Agenda.*

2. Consent Agenda.
   a. Minutes last Meeting.*
   b. Treasurer’s Report and Claims.**

3. Open Forum.

4. Action Items.
   a. Project Reviews – also see Staff Report.*
   b. 2017 Draft Work Plan.*
      a. 2016 Final Work Plan.*
   c. Select CAMP sites for 2017. Cowley and Jubert were monitored in 2016. Two lakes are budgeted for in 2017.

   b. Updates to CIP.

6. Elm Creek Watershed-wide TMDL.

7. Grant Opportunities and Updates.
   a. Fish Lake Internal Phosphorus Loading Control.
   b. Rush Creek Headwaters Subwatershed Assessment.


10. Education.
    a. WMWA Update.

11. Grant Opportunities.

12. Other Business.
    a. Election of officers. Nominees are
       1) Doug Baines, Dayton, Chair
       2) Liz Weir, Medina, Vice Chair
       3) Bill Walraven, Champlin, Secretary
       4) Fred Moore, Plymouth, Treasurer.

*in meeting packet
**available at meeting
13. Project Updates – *see Staff Report.*


### Project Updates

**Project Reviews. (See Staff Report.*)**

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A = Action item   E = Enclosure provided   I = Informational update will be provided at meeting   RPFI - removed pending further information   R = Will be removed   RP= Information will be provided in revised meeting packet..... D = Project is denied   AR = awaiting recordation

*in meeting packet** available at meeting
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2017

I. A regular meeting of the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 11:37 a.m., Wednesday, February 8, 2017, in the Mayor’s Conference Room, Maple Grove City Hall, 12800 Arbor Lakes Parkway, Maple Grove, MN by Chairman Doug Baines.

Present were: Bill Walraven, Champlin; Doug Baines, Dayton; Joe Trainor, Maple Grove; Elizabeth Weir, Medina; Fred Moore, Plymouth; Kevin Jullie, Rogers; Ali Durgunoglu, James Kujawa and Karen Galles, Hennepin County Dept. of Environment and Energy (HCEE); Rich Brasch, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); and Judie Anderson, JASS.

Not represented: Corcoran.

Also present: Todd Tuominen, Champlin; Sharon Meister and Brad Martens, Corcoran; Susan Nelson, Wenck Associates, Corcoran; Mark Lahtinen, Maple Grove; Lisa Vertelney and Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; and Andrew Simmons, Rogers.

A. Motion by Jullie, second by Walraven to approve the revised agenda.* Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by Walraven, second by Weir to approve the minutes* of the January 11, 2017 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Motion by Moore, second by Weir to approve the February Treasurer’s Report and Claims* totaling $52,044.20. Motion carried unanimously.

II. Open Forum.

The members were introduced to Sharon Meister who will represent the City of Corcoran as Commissioner beginning at the March meeting. Meister is also a WMWA educator.

The members were also introduced to Karen Galles, the new Land and Water Unit Supervisor at HCEE.

III. Action Items.

2016 Work Plan in Review. The members reviewed Staff’s February 7, 2017 memo that summarized the work undertaken by the Commission in 2016 to meet the goals, objectives, and projected work plan outlined in the 2015 Annual Report. Staff will continue to work to complete some missing details, after which it will be incorporated into the 2016 Annual Report. Motion by Weir, second by Walraven to accept the 2016 Work Plan in Review. Motion carried unanimously. A draft 2017 Work Plan will be available at the March meeting.

IV. Watershed Management Plan.

A. The members received Table 4.5* of the Third Generation Plan. It is an updated version of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) as amended on May 11, 2016. Staff has contacted the cities requesting their updates and additions to the CIP. Form Exhibit A* was also included in the meeting packet for use by the
cities in submitting their updates/additions. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will consider projects scheduled for 2017 at their March meeting.

Also included in the meeting packet was a Staff memo* asking members to prioritize criteria for identifying capital projects. TAC members will review the responses at their March meeting.

B. Per the amended MN Rule 8410.0105, subp. 9, and 8410.0160, subp. 6, Local Water Plans must be prepared by metropolitan cities and towns and must become part of their local comprehensive plans. They must be revised essentially once every ten years in alignment with the local comprehensive plan schedule. A municipality has two years prior to its local comprehensive plan being due to adopt its local water plan. The next local comprehensive plans are due December 31, 2018; thus all cities and towns in the seven-country metropolitan area must complete and adopt their local plans between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2018. Thereafter, add ten years to each of the previous dates. Local water plans may be updated more frequently by a municipality at its discretion.

Staff will email reminders to the member communities regarding this requirement.

V. Elm Creek Watershedwide TMDL. Informal review of both the TMDL and the WRAPS is nearly completed, after which a 30-day informal Stakeholder review will begin. Both documents will be uploaded to the MPCA and Commission websites.

VI. Grant Opportunities and Updates.

A. The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) has approved Clean Water Grant funding for the Internal Phosphorus Loading Control in Fish Lake project in the amount of $200,000. The Commission’s share will be $75,000. The City and Lake Association portions will be determined in April. Motion by Weir, second by Jullie authorizing the Chair to sign the contract agreement and directing Staff to draft a cooperative agreement between the parties. Motion carried unanimously.

B. BSWR has also approved Accelerated Implementation Grant funding for the Rush Creek Headwaters Subwatershed Assessment project in the amount of $50,280. The local match will total $12,570. Motion by Walraven, second by Weir authorizing the Chair to sign the contract agreement and directing Staff to draft a cooperative agreement between the parties. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Kujawa noted a project in Dayton that has received a Hennepin County Good Steward Grant. The project includes 8,500 SF of streambank restoration work on three adjacent properties along Rush Creek. Restoration will consist of establishing a dense native vegetation buffer to control erosion and enhance the steam corridor for wildlife, aquatic and pollinator habitat.

VII. Education.

A. Two Metro Blooms workshops* are scheduled in the Elm Creek watershed in 2017 – April 6 at Champlin City Hall and April 11 at St. Barnabas Lutheran Church in Plymouth. This year’s workshops are entitled, “Learn How to Create a Weather Resilient Yard.”

B. The City of Plymouth and Fortin Consulting are partnering to host a “Turfgrass Maintenance and Reduced Environmental Impacts” Workshop on March 2 at Plymouth City Hall.

C. The next WMWA meeting is scheduled for 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, February 14, 2017, at Plymouth City Hall. Commissioners are encouraged to attend.

VIII. New Business.

IX. Communications.

*in meeting packet
X. Other Business.

A. Commissioner/Alternate appointments have been received from Champlin, Medina, Plymouth and Rogers.

B. Election of officers will occur at the March 8 meeting. The current officers have been nominated for re-election.

C. The biennial solicitation of interest proposals for administrative, legal, technical and wetland consultants was published in the January 17 edition of the State Register. Two technical, four wetland, one legal, and one administrative consultant responded to the solicitation. Motion by Moore, second by Walraven to retain the current consultants for the 2017-2018 term. Motion carried unanimously. They are HCEE, technical; Barr Engineering, wetland; Campbell Knutson PA, legal; and Judie Anderson’s Secretarial Service, Inc., administration.

D. Motion by Weir, second by Jullie to make the following annual appointments:

3. Deputy Treasurer - Judie Anderson.
4. Auditor - Johnson & Company, Ltd.

Motion carried unanimously.

E. The following projects are discussed in the February Staff Report.* ("W" denotes wetland project.)

2. 2014-015 Rogers Drive Extension, Rogers.
3. 2015-004 Kinghorn Outlet A, Rogers.
5. 2015-013 Wayzata High School, Plymouth.
6. 2015-020 Strehler Estates, Corcoran.
7. 2015-030 Kiddiegarten Child Care Center, Maple Grove.
8. 2016-002 The Markets at Rush Creek, Maple Grove.
9. 2016-004 Park Place Storage Site Plans, Corcoran.
10. 2016-005W Ravinia Wetland Bank, Corcoran.
11. 2016-014 Balsam Apartments, Dayton.
15. 2016-022 AutoZone, Maple Grove.
16. 2016-026 Faithbrook Church, Dayton.
17. 2016-038 AutoMotorPlex, Medina.
18. 2016-039 Fields at Meadow Ridge, Plymouth.
20. 2016-041 Bartus Subdivision, Plymouth.
22. 2016-047 Hy-Vee Maple Grove #1, Maple Grove.
23. 2016-049 Medina Senior Living, Medina.
24. 2016-052 The Woods at Rush Creek, Maple Grove.
25. 2017-001 Sundance Road Pond Excavation, Corcoran.

*in meeting packet
26. 2017-002 RDO Site Plan, Dayton.
27. 2017-003 Brayburn Trail EAW, Dayton.

F. **Adjournment.** There being no further business, motion by Jullie, second by Walraven to adjourn. *Motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Recording Secretary
JAA:tim
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*in meeting packet*
STAFF REPORT
March 1, 2017

2013-046 Woods of Medina. Medina. This is two parcels totaling 9.5 acres located east of CR 116 and south of Hackamore Road. The site is proposed to be developed into 16 single-family residential lots. On January 13, 2015, the Commission approved this project with two conditions: 1) a pond operations and maintenance agreement must be provided, approved by the City and the Commission, and recorded on the title to the property. The recording must be done within 90 days of the final plat approval; and 2) a copy of the approved wetland replacement plan must also be provided. Final platting will be done when the landowner sells the property or decides to develop it himself. Although this project has not been constructed, it is still active with the City of Medina and remains approved by the Commission until it becomes inactive with the City.

2014-015 Rogers Drive Extension, Rogers. This project involves improvements along Rogers Drive from Vevea Lane to Brockton Lane. The project is located east of I-94, south of the Cabela development. The total project area is 8.0 acres; proposed impervious surfaces total 5.6 acres. Site plans received July 1, 2014 meet the requirements of the Commission with the exception of the nutrient control. Due to limited options to treat the nutrient loads on the east 1.7 acre portion of Rogers Drive, the Commission approved the site plan contingent upon the City deferring 4.6 lbs. of phosphorus for treatment in future ponding opportunities as the easterly corridor of Rogers Drive develops. 2.3 lbs. will be accounted for in the Kinghorn Spec. Building site plan with 2.3 lbs. still outstanding. This item will remain on the report until the total deferral is accounted for.

2015-004 Kinghorn Outlot A, Rogers. This is a 31 acre site located between the Clam and Fed Ex sites in Rogers on the west side of Brockton Road and I-94. The proposed site will have two warehouse buildings, 275,000 and 26,000 SF in size, with associated parking and loading facilities. The Commission standards require review of stormwater management, grading and erosion controls and buffers. At their June 2015 meeting the Commission approved this project with three conditions. Numerous revised plans have been received for Staff review. Once Rogers has authorized Staff to proceed, Staff will provide updated findings when the conditions are met.

2016-002 The Markets at Rush Creek, Maple Grove. This is a proposal to develop 40 acres of a 123 acre planned unit development located in the southwest quadrant of the intersection of CSAH 101 and CSAH 10. County Ditch 16 (Maple Creek) runs along the south property line on this project. The 40-acre project area includes a Hy-Vee grocery store (16.8 acres), a Hy-Vee gas station (2.5 acres) and 11 outlots (18.76 acres). Right-of-way accounts for 2.3 acres. The remaining acreage (83 acres) consists of 5 outlots and right-of-way. The additional outlot areas are not part of the stormwater review for this project but will be reviewed for compliance with the Commission’s buffer and floodplain requirements. At their May 2016 meeting, the Commission granted Staff authority to administratively approve the project and report any updates. This project has been placed on hold by Hy-Vee. As long as it remains active with the City, the Commission’s approval with conditions remains in place.

2016-004 Park Place Storage Site Plans, Corcoran. The applicant is proposing to develop a 22-acre site in the southwest portion of the city into a multi-unit storage facility with associated access roads, utilities, and stormwater features. This will be an addition to the existing storage facility located west of the proposed project. New wetland permit revisions were approved by the Commission at their July 2016 meeting contingent upon final escrow and easement establishment for the wetlands during the site plan review process. New site plan information has been received but still does not meet the Commission standards. The applicant extended the 15.99 deadline to December 7, 2016. Revised plans were received September 29. Additional information on the filtration basins/benches was requested. Site plan information dated September 15, 2016 was approved by the Commission at their October meeting. Conditions of approval were: 1) Prior to any grading the Commission must receive either: a) BWSR certification of wetland banking withdrawals for...
0.24 acres from bank account #1560 and 0.24 acres from bank account #1183 (BWSR certification received for account #1183), or b) A wetland replacement plan escrow for $45,000, which will be released upon providing the information from item 1a. [Escrow received November 10, 2016] 2) An operations and maintenance agreement, acceptable to the City and the Commission must be provided for review and approval to the Commission [Commission staff approved November 23, 2016]. The O&M agreement must be recorded on the land title and a copy of the recorded document provided to the Commission. 3) Final drainage tile pipe details, elevations and connections to the outlet control structures must be provided for final review and approval [approved by Commission staff October 26, 2016] and 4) Final erosion and sediment control plans must be approved by Commission Staff [approved by Commission staff October 26, 2016]. No further information has been received to date.

2016-005W Ravinia Wetland Bank, Corcoran. In February 2016, Lennar Corporation submitted a Wetland Banking Concept Plan for Phase II of the Ravinia Development. This plan was withdrawn in favor of an onsite wetland replacement plan. At their December 2016 meeting the Commission approved Staff’s findings and recommendations dated January 10, 2017. Final wetland impacts will be 1.22 acres. Wetland credits created on site will be 4.01 acres. Approval is contingent upon; a) Final compliance with ACOE requirements. b) Cash or renewable letter of credit escrow submittals for wetland replacement ($292,000) and wetland monitoring ($30,000) to the Commission. c) No impacts to wetlands can take place until wetland replacement and monitoring escrows are received by the LGU. d) Performance goals for vegetation establishment must meet 70% overall coverage of native vegetation. e) A minimum of 4” topsoil shall be placed or remain in all wetland and buffer areas. Scaping plans to eliminate reed canary grass must identify areas to be scraped, depth of scraping and amount of topsoil remaining or needed to meet this criteria. The applicant has since requested, and Staff has approved alternatives to scraping the reed canary grass. All other items are still outstanding.

2016-038 AutoMotorPlex, Medina. This 22.17 site is located on the northeast corner of County Roads 115 and 118. The site will be re-platted into two lots, 19.17 acres and 3 acres. For the phase I only the northern 19.17 acres will be developed into commercial automobile condominiums and retail area. At its October 12, 2016 meeting, the Commission granted administrative approval authority to Staff. Final revisions were received on October 24. Staff reviewed the plans and issued an administrative approval on October 31, 2016, with the following conditions: a) show Erosion and Sediment Control, Rule E, requirements on the final plan set; b) submit a final plan set signed by a Professional Engineer; c) submit a copy of the O&M plan for the stormwater management basins and devices (ponds and filter benches, biofiltration basins, dynamic separators, etc.) within 90 days following the final plat approval, if required by the City; and submit a copy of the proposed final plat, showing the drainage easements on both lots. City has approved of the project at the end of the year. There have been a number of plan submittals to the City after October 31, but they are still awaiting final construction plans and plat.

2016-040 Kinghorn 4th Addition, Rogers. This is a 13.7-acre parcel located in the northwest corner of the intersection of Brockton Lane and Rogers Drive. An industrial warehouse with 8.8 acres of new impervious area is proposed for the site. The plan includes the use of a NURP pond and a biofiltration basin to meet Commission requirements for rates, water quality and abstraction. The adjacent site is likely to be developed in the near future and some of the stormwater features were oversized to accommodate future development. At their November 2016 meeting the Commission approved the project with the following conditions: 1) approval of only this phase; future phases will need additional review and approval; 2) final modifications to the hydrologic modeling; 3) additional details are provided for a proposed water re-use system; 4) an O&M Plan for the pond and biofiltration basin is completed and recorded on the final plat; 5) modification of the storm sewer system to maximize the area draining to the NURP pond; and 6) receipt and review of any wetland-related documentation if wetlands are present. Condition #1 required no action, so the condition has been met. Condition #2 has been met for the current design; however, any future modifications to the design will require additional review. Conditions #3-6 remain outstanding and are expected to be addressed during final design in Spring 2017.

2016-041 Bartus Subdivision, Plymouth. This site is approximately 10 acres located on the northwest side of the intersection of CR 47 and Troy Lane, just west of the Sands parcel (2016-039). The stormwater management plan was reviewed with the Sands parcel. At its October 12, 2016 meeting, the Commission approved this project with the
following conditions: a) issues outlined in Staff findings memorandum dated October 5, 2016 must be incorporated into the plans; and b) a copy of the O&M plan must be submitted within three months following the final plat approval. The Applicant’s agent requested to extend the review deadline to June 1st 2017. They are working on the comments from the Commission but will not seek wetland approvals until the developer is ready to move forward.

2016-047 Hy-Vee North Maple Grove. The applicant is proposing to disturb 13 acres of a 20.4-acre site located at the northeast corner of Maple Grove Parkway and 99th Ave (just south of the future Highway 610) for the purpose of constructing a grocery store, fuel station, convenience store and parking facilities. The applicant’s engineer was present at the November meeting to request interpretation from the Commission on their 25’ average and 10’ minimum standard for a buffer when a retaining wall is used to minimize wetland impacts. The Commission felt there had to be some type of mitigating compensation for such a scenario. A revised plan was submitted on December 1, 2016. Staff sent preliminary review comments and requested revisions on December 14. In their findings dated January 10, 2017, Staff recommended approval of this project subject to a) receipt, approval, and recordation of an Operations and Maintenance Plan for the pond and the iron-enhanced filtration system, b) revisions for items relating to buffer requirements and erosion and sediment control as enumerated in the findings, and c) receipt of a signed and dated final plan set. The Commission approved Staff’s recommendations at their January 11, 2017 meeting with the additional requirement that the Commission receive and comment on a WCA impact notice.

2016-049 Medina Senior Living, Medina. This is a preliminary plan and requires no action at this time.

2016-052 The Woods at Rush Creek, Maple Grove. This project combines five parcels (40 acres total) into 73, single family residential lots. It is located on CR 101 south of the Rush Creek Golf Course and north of the Lord of Life Lutheran Church. The majority of the site drains into Cook Lake which is located immediately west of this development. The Commission’s review will be for compliance with the Commission’s rules D (stormwater management), E (erosion control), G (wetland alteration) and I (buffer strips). Findings and recommendations are provided in this month’s packet. ACTION: Staff recommends acceptance of their findings dated February 15, 2017 and approval of the project contingent upon; a) Biofiltration pond approval in lieu of abstraction or abstraction credit alternatives b) The Biofiltration pond must have an operation and maintenance plan developed, approved by the Commission and City and recorded on land title and c) A buffer monument location plan must be provided and approved.

2017-001 9715 Sundance Road, Corcoran, Pond Excavation Permit. Staff is reviewing this application and will issue the permit once the wetland information is verified. The applicant is proposing to excavate two small ponds. Total size will be approximately 1,700 SF and be 2 feet deep. Excavation will be in an existing type 1-2 wetland area on this residential property. This is allowed under WCA and Commission rules. This item will be removed from the report.

2017-002 RDO Dayton Site Plan. This is a commercial development proposal on a 25.6± acre plot located between I94 and Holly Lane. The project will develop the south 16 acres, to create about 7.6 acres of impervious cover. Staff recommends the approval of the project with minor revisions. Staff findings are included in the meeting packet.

2017-003 Brayburn Trail EAW, Dayton. The Excelsior Group is proposing to develop up to 300 single-family, unattached residential units on approximately 153 acres just north and west of the Sundance Golf Course. The development will be considered a Planned Unit Development (PUD), which will include a trail system, common open space, and greenway corridor preservation. Sewer and water extensions to the project site are also planned. Staff reviewed the plan and commented on the Commission’s rules and standards as they pertain to the project. This item will be removed from the report.

2017-004 Cartway Trail Wetland Replacement Plan, Champlin Park and Recreation Dept. This project application was received on February 2, 2017, and determined to be incomplete. Additional floodplain and wetland information is necessary before it will be considered complete. The applicant was so notified on February 6. No additional information has been received since that time.

2017-005 Creekside Hills, Plymouth. This is a 69-acre residential lot located east of CR 101 and north of MN State Highway 55. The applicant proposes to develop 156 single-family residential lots, associated streets, utilities and three onsite wet stormwater detention ponds with filtration bench and filter strip to provide stormwater treatment and rate control. The existing site is a combination of golf course, wetlands and woodland. This project will create 17.7 acres of
new impervious surface. The project will be reviewed for compliance with the Commission’s requirements for stormwater management, erosion and sediment controls, buffer strips and floodplain.

2017-006 Summers Edge, Plymouth. This project is located on the east site of Brockton Lane and north of Medina Road. The site plans include all or portion of three PID's and a ROW area that is proposed to be abandoned totaling 46.2 acres. The actual areas being grading total 30.9 acres. The current land use is cropland, woodland, wetlands and grassland. Proposed land use will be 52 single-family residential lots on approximately 22 acres. The Commission’s standards require review of Rule D, Stormwater Management, Rule E, Erosion and Sediment Controls, and Rule I, Buffer Strips. Erosion and sediment control plans were reviewed and approved by Staff on February 23, 2017. The stormwater review determined that the plan is not ready for the Commission to approve at this time.

2017-007W Downtown Corcoran and Cimarron Circle Ditch Maintenance. The City of Corcoran requested a no-loss/exemption for ditch and outlet cleaning on two wetlands in the community. Staff determined these were historic drainage systems that can be maintained by the City. This will be noticed per MN WCA requirements.

2017-008 TH169 Reconstruction, Champlin. The stormwater review will be done by the West Mississippi WMO because over three-fourths of the work will be done in that watershed. This Commission’s review will be for floodplain impacts and mitigation. No WCA jurisdictional wetlands will be impacted by this project. Staff expects to have recommendations at the meeting.

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**FINAL RECORDINGS ARE DUE ON THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:**

2015-006 Veit Building and Parking Lot Addition, Rogers. Approved on May 13, 2015, pending the SAFL-Baffle weir being covered by an easement and the appropriate operation and maintenance agreement being obtained and recorded with the property.


2015-020 Strehler Estates, Corcoran. Approved on January 10, 2015 contingent upon a conservation easement being recorded on the property title.

2015-030 Kiddiegarten Child Care Center, Maple Grove. This project was approved by the Commission at their December 9, 2015 meeting. If the City of Maple Grove does not take over the operation and maintenance of the underground system and the sump catch basins, an O&M agreement for the underground trench/pond system must be approved by the Commission and the City and recorded with the title.

2016-014 Balsam Apartments, Dayton. Approved April 13, 2016, pending recordation of an Operation and Maintenance agreement with an O&M plan.

2016-018 Cambridge Park, Maple Grove. Approved on July 13, 2016, subject to recorded preservation easements and pond maintenance provided by the City or through an approved operation and maintenance agreement recorded on the property title. Preliminary easements and operation and maintenance agreements for the ponds and preservation areas were received and approved by Commission Staff. Final proof of recording of the documents is still needed.


2016-021 Diamond View Estates, Dayton. Approved June 8, 2016, contingent that, if the City of Dayton/homeowners are to maintain the ponds and the bio-filtration basin, an operation and maintenance plan agreement must be submitted for approval to the City and the Commission and recorded within 90 days of the final plat approval.

2016-022 AutoZone, Maple Grove. At their June 8, 2016 meeting, the Commission approved Staff’s findings dated June 1, 2016, with the condition of recording an approved O & M Plan within 90 days of the final plat approval.
2016-026 Faithbrook Church, Dayton. Approved August 10, 2016, with the stipulation that an approved O&M plan be recorded with the property within 90 days following final plat approval.

2016-039 Sands Parcel (The Fields at Meadow Ridge), Plymouth. This is a 20.5-acre site located on the northeast side of the intersection of CR 47 and Troy Lane North. The site is proposed for a 46 single-family residential home development. The plans were submitted together with the adjacent 2016-041 Bartus site. At its October 12, 2016 meeting, the Commission approved the project conditioned that an O&M plan be recorded within 90 days following the final plat approval.
The Woods at Rush Creek  
Maple Grove, Project #2016-052

**Project Overview:** This project splits five rural residential parcels (40 acres total) into 73, single family residential lots. It is located on CR 101 south of the Rush Creek Golf Course and north of the Lord of Life Lutheran Church. The majority of the site drains into Cook Lake which is located immediately west of this development. Cook Lake drains into Rush Creek. This review will be for compliance with the Commission’s rules D (stormwater management), E (erosion control), G (wetland alteration) and I (buffer strips).

**Applicant:** Woods at Rush Creek Inc., Justin Bannwarth, 10850 Old County Road 15, Suite 200, Plymouth, MN 55441. Phone: 763-205-3961. Email: justin@goneacompany.com

**Engineer/Agent:** Sathre-Bergquist Inc., Eric Johnson, 150 Broadway Ave. S., Wayzata, MN 55391. Phone: 952-476-6000. Email: ejohnson@sathre.com

**Exhibits:**
1) Elm Creek WMC Request for Plan Review and Approval, received December 16, 2016.
   a. ECWMC notice of incomplete application email dated December 21, 2016.
   b. Complete application submittal December 22, 2016. Revised plans were received February 2, 2017 and January 13, 2017.
   c. Fees based on 40.4 acres for a new low density residential development, $2,070.
2) The Woods at Rush Creek Plat, 3 of 3 sheets.
5) The Woods at Rush Creek SWPPP by Sathre-Bergquist, last revision date of November 17, 2016.

**Findings:**
1) A complete application was received December 22, 2016. The initial 60-day review period per MN Statute 15.99 expires on February 20, 2017.

2) Existing land use consists of 8 acres of cropland, 6 acres of grassland, 1.5 acres of hard surface, and 24.8 acres of woodland and wetland areas.

3) Proposed land use will consist of approximately 5 acres of woodland and wetland areas and the other 35 acres will be developed into homes/yards/streets and ponds.

4) The site plans call for four onsite detentions ponds. One of them will have a biofiltration bench.

5) Pre-development phosphorus loads are estimated at 16.0 lbs/year. Post development loads were estimated at 14.3 lbs/year from the pond-net model. This meets the Commission standards for post development loads being equal to or less than pre-development loads.

6) Pre-development TSS is estimated at 2075 lbs/year. Post development loads were estimated at 1,275 lbs/year. This meets the Commission standards for post development loads being equal to or less than pre-development loads.

7) The proposed permanent stormwater outlet control between Pond 2 and Cook Lake, will encroach into the property west of this site. Permission and easements for this pipe system must be obtained from the adjoining landowner prior to construction.

8) Biofiltration is proposed in lieu the Commission’s volume abstraction or abstraction credit requirement for this site. The biofiltration system will be located on Pond 2 in the northwest corner of the project. A bio-filter bench with drain tile will be constructed around this pond.

   a. The amount of water volume that will drain through the sand filter bench and into drain tile, (volume of water between the bench and the primary outlet on pond 2) is approximately 45,000 cubic feet.

   b. Abstraction requirements for 9.65 acres of new impervious area on this site is 38,532 cubic feet.

   c. No actual abstraction or credits for abstraction are proposed.
i. We recommend the applicant pursue additional buffer or preservation credits for the undisturbed wooded area on the west edge of this property. This would be approximately 2.75 acres or 5,000 cubic feet of credits.

9) The City of Maple Grove does not maintain biofiltration filter pond systems. This pond will need an operation and maintenance plan and agreement approved by the ECWMC and the City and said agreement must be recorded on the property title.

10) The City of Maple Grove is the LGU in charge of administering the MN WCA. 0.14 acres of wetland impacts are proposed on the site plans. Replacement plans propose 0.28 acres of credits are purchased from the wetland bank account 1518 in Dayton. The City will make their decision on March 24, 2017 on this application.

11) Remaining wetlands will have 25’ minimum buffer.
   a. Buffer monument locations must be shown on the plans.

12) Erosion and sediment controls are adequate. They meet the Commission’s standard.

13) A small sliver of FEMA flood zone A encroaches into this property near the common lot line of lots 12 and 24. The applicant should utilize FEMA and DNR procedures to eliminate this area from the floodplain to avoid any potential issues with future mortgages.

**Recommendation:** Approval with the following comments/conditions;

- Abstraction or abstraction credit alternatives not considered or provided.
  - Buffer or preservation credits are a partial option for abstraction on this site.
- The Biofiltration pond must have an operation and maintenance plan developed, approved by the Commission and City and recorded on land title.
- A buffer monument locations plan must be provided and approved.

Hennepin County
Department of Environmental Services

James C. Kujawa
Advisor to the Commission
Overall Grading Plan
Project Overview: The 25.6-acre commercial project site is located north of Interstate 94 and southwest of the intersection of Holly Ln N and Territory Road in Dayton. A farmstead is located at the center of the site, while the remaining area is agricultural row crops. The proposed project is 16.00 acres, with 7.61 acres of impervious surface and will include a new building structure, paved parking, and new gravel areas adjacent to the buildings. The remaining approximately 10 acres on the north side of the site will be platted for future development and is not subject to the Elm Creek Watershed Commission review now. Our review will be for compliance to the Commission’s 3rd generation standards and rules.

Applicant: Proffutt Limited Partnership. – c/o Ted Sanders, 700 South 7th Street, Fargo, ND 58103. Phone: 701-551-0534. Email: tsanders@rdoffutt.com.

Agent/Engineer: Houston Engineering, Inc. – c/o Stan Hanson, P.E., 1401 21st Ave N, Fargo, ND 58102. Phone: 701-237-5065. Email: sthanson@houstoneng.com

Exhibits:
1) ECWMC Request for Plan Review and Approval received January 12, 2017 (City authorization is Jan 11, 2017).
3) Complete plan was received on February 14, 2017.
4) RDO Addition Preliminary Plat.
   1. Cover Sheet
   2. Legend
   3. Existing Conditions
   4. Preliminary Grading Plan
   5. Preliminary Paving Plan
   6. Preliminary Utility Plan
   7 - 9 Preliminary Planting Plan
   10 - 14 Erosion Control Plan
   15 – 19 Details
6) Stormwater Design Report, dated February 10, 2017 and signed by Stan Hanson, P.E.
7) Preliminary comments from staff to Stan Hanson, dated January 18, 2017.
8) Response from Stan Hanson to staff preliminary comments, dated February 13, 2017.

Findings:

10) A complete application was received on February 14, 2017. The initial 60-day review period expires April 16, 2107.

11) The entire site will be routed to the proposed pond at the south side of the property. The pond will outlet with a culvert under I-94, flow south along the I-94 ditch and discharge into the large wetland complex east of the Hindu Temple (confluence of North and South Fork Rush Creeks).

12) Rule F. Floodplain Alteration does not pertain to this project. There are no established FEMA or ECWMC flood plains within the project corridor.

13) Rule G. Wetland Alteration. City of Dayton is the Local Government Unit administering the Wetland Conservation Act of Minnesota. No wetlands were observed on the site.

14) Rule I. Buffer requirements. The site has no wetlands and therefore Rule I is not applicable.

15) Rule E. Erosion and Sediment Control will meet the Commission’s requirements with minor revisions:
   a) Please specify on the plans that the soil amendment mix shall be mix of %25 compost and %75 sand.
   b) Please clarify what type of storm sewer line is running along the center line of the swale (solid or perforated)?
   c) A final plan, dated and signed by a Professional Engineer licensed in Minnesota, must be submitted to the Commission and the City of Dayton.

16) Rule D. Stormwater Management will be provided by the proposed pond and the 850-ft long soil amended swale along the west side of the development. The pond is designed to treat runoff from the entire 16 acres. Runoff from the rooftops and the north driveway will be directed to the swale. The swale will be constructed with amended soils and will have 4 rock check dams, 1.5 feet deep, located at every 150 feet, to increase the runoff retention in the swale.

17) The pond outlet will be equipped with a 10” orifice at 920.0’ and a weir opening at 922.5’ inverts. The entire 2-year runoff volume is contained below the weir, and passes through the 10” orifice.

18) Stormwater rate control.
   a) The post-development stormwater runoff rates for the 2-, 10- and 100-year events meet the standards and are shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Storm Event</th>
<th>Existing Discharge Rate (cfs)</th>
<th>Proposed Discharge Rate (cfs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-year</td>
<td>18.29</td>
<td>3.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-year</td>
<td>33.40</td>
<td>6.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100-year</td>
<td>66.09</td>
<td>26.26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
19) Volume analysis:

The volume abstraction requirement for 1.1” of runoff from 7.28 acres of new impervious surface (7.608 acres total minus 0.328 existing farmstead) is about 29,000 cubic feet. Soils are not conducive for infiltration. The applicant is proposing to build an 850-foot swale with soil amendment. The surface area of the soil amendment is 19,214 square feet. This provides 9,607 cubic feet of abstraction credit (0.5 inch credit over the soil amendment area). The applicant also is proposing a 14-inch deep amended soil (standard is 8 inches). Additional 1.5’ high check dams will help retain the runoff in the swale longer and facilitate filtration. It is estimated that the amount of water retained in the swale system is approximately 28,900 cubic feet. Staff believes that the applicant has done a good faith effort in addressing volume controls with the constraints of the site.

20) Water quality and nutrient analysis:

a) The existing nutrient analysis for the 16.0 acres is 15.52 pounds of phosphorus per year. This is estimated based on the following current land use:
   cropland = 15.424 acres; grassland = 0.232 acres.

b) The post-development nutrient load is 41.36 pounds/year, before BMPs.

c) Based on the PondNet model, the NURP pond will remove 27.3 lbs./year of phosphorus. Post-development phosphorus discharge will be 14.06 lbs./year. This meets the nutrient reduction standard.

d) The existing TSS estimates were not provided at the time this report was written. The post-development TSS before the BMPs were estimated by P8 as 4,780 lbs./year. The BMPs will provide about 60% of reduction. The post-development TSS loads with the proposed BMPs will be 1,978 lbs./year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water Quality (Nutrient and TSS) and Runoff Volume Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Development Name: ....................................... RDO, Dayton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Parcel Area: ........................................... South 16 acres of the entire 25.6 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Impervious Area: ................................... 7.6 Acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review Month/Year: ....................................... February 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nearest Downstream Surface Water: ............................ North Fork and South Fork Rush Creek confluence within 0.5 miles southeast.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-development (baseline) Load</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-development Without Mitigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-development With Mitigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Change (“baseline” compared to “post-development with mitigation”)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) Average annual values
\(^2\) With 14” soil amendment and rock check dams.
21) The City of Dayton has taken the operation and maintenance responsibility of the stormwater management facilities that are placed under drainage and utility easements.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the approval of the project with the following conditions:

- **The revisions for the following items must be submitted for review and approval:**
  - a) Items under 15. a. - c. (Rule E) must be incorporated into the plans.

Hennepin County
Department of Environment and Energy

[Signature]

February 28, 2017

Ali Durgunoglu, P.E., Ph.D.
Technical Advisor to the Commission
SITE LOCATION
AERIAL PHOTO
Brayburn Trails Development EAW

City of Dayton, 2017-003

Project Review: Excelsior Group prepared an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for a proposed project to construct up to 300 single-family, unattached residential units and their required infrastructure. The proposed site is 153 acres and located in the southern portion of Dayton near the border of the City of Maple Grove, approximately one mile north of Interstate 94. Currently, the land is vacant and made up of cropland, wetlands and woods. This project has potential stormwater, wetland and floodplain impacts. The EAW is reviewed for compliance with Commission’s third generation stormwater management plan, Appendix O Rules and Standards. The site development plans must be submitted by the City of Dayton to the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission (ECWMC) for review and approval. Staff have the following comments:

1. Commission’s volume control rules require the site to infiltrate/abstract 1” of runoff from new impervious area within 48 hours. The project proposes 43.67 acres of impervious surface the residential development and roads. This amount of impervious surface requires the abstraction of 174,374 cu-ft. (about 4.0 ac-ft). Currently, there is no stormwater management onsite. The applicant proposes that stormwater management will occur through the use of six stormwater basins that utilize wet detention and infiltration or stormwater reuse to treat surface water runoff. This project will require Commission’s volume control review and will be subject to meeting the Rules and Standards in place at the time of application.

2. Commission rules requires that the runoff leaving the site be limited to predevelopment rates for the 2-, 10-, and 100-year storm events. NOAA Atlas 14 must be used for the rainfall amount for this site.

3. To comply with the Commission’s water quality treatment requirement, the post-development nutrient loads (total phosphorus-TP, and total suspended sediments-TSS) must be lower than the existing conditions. Ponds proposed for stormwater treatment must be designed to NURP standards or better with dead storage volume equal to or greater than the volume of runoff from a 2.5” storm event or BMPs providing a similar level of treatment- 80-85% TSS removal and 60% TP removal. This 153-acre site drains to the surrounding wetlands and partially run offsite to downstream receiving water bodies, including Rush Creek, a MPCA 303 (d) impaired water,
located one-half mile south of the project site. Treatment provided by the various ponds and stormwater basins should provide the amount of treatment necessary to comply with Commission’s standard. The Commission requests that calculations be provided to show the treatment capacity of the stormwater ponds when development occurs.

4. The Commission requests that Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) narratives and site plan address NPDES and minimum Commission erosion and sediment control requirements be developed for the project.

5. There are four wetlands located within the project area. The City of Dayton is the LGU in charge of administering the Wetland Conservation Act. The EAW shows that all the wetlands were delineated by Wenck Associates in September, 2015 and approximately 21,000 sf (0.48 acres) of wetlands will be impacted during the development. The ECWMC requires an average of 25 feet of buffer (minimum of 10-ft) around all the wetlands. The site must meet the Commission’s buffer standard (rule I) when developed.

6. Commission requests to have an opportunity to comment on WCA-related process (e.g. wetland replacement plan, etc.)

7. There are several FEMA flood Zone A on the southwest and east of the project area. There are no ECWMC or FEMA designated base flood elevations on this site. We recommend the applicant or City of Dayton undertake a hydrology study of this area and establish base flood elevations. These in turn should be used to obtain a FEMA Letter of Map Amendment. This will eliminate the need for individual LOMAs for the proposed properties as it is developed.

Hennepin County
Department of Environmental Services

[Signature]
Said Matan
Graduate Water Resource Engineer
Technical Advisor to the Commission

Feb 14, 2017
Location Map
March 1, 2017

To: Elm Creek Commissioners
Fr: Judie Anderson
Re: Draft 2017 Work Plan

Minnesota Rule 8410.0150 requires the Commission to submit to the Board of Water and Soil Resources a financial report, activity report and audit report for the preceding fiscal year. 8410.0150 Subp. 3 outlines the required content of the annual activity report. It includes an assessment of the previous year’s annual work plan and development of a projected work plan for the following year. The 2016 Work Plan accomplishments were accepted at the February 8, 2017 meeting.

The Commission’s Third Generation Watershed Management Plan identifies issues, priorities and goals for the ten-year period 2015-2024. As a reminder, they are enumerated on the last page of this memo.

Following is a projected work plan for 2017. Please review and be prepared to make modifications at the March meeting.

2017 Work Plan

1. Continue to review local development/redevelopment plans for conformance with the standards outlined in the Commission’s Third Generation Watershed Management Plan. Review the current project review fee schedule for fiscal conformity.

2. Continue to serve as the local government unit (LGU) for administering the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) for the cities of Champlin and Corcoran.

3. Conduct lake and stream monitoring programs to track water quality and quantity conditions. The Commission will undertake stream monitoring (continuous flow only) at monitoring sites DC on Diamond Creek, RT on Rush Creek main stem, and EC77 on Elm Creek above Rice Lake and conduct a dissolved oxygen (DO) longitudinal survey for Diamond Creek. In addition, four sentinel lakes (Fish, Weaver, Diamond, and Rice Lake-main basin) and one additional water body will be monitored. Finally, longitudinal surveys in upper Rush Creek will be conducted at 4-5 locations and at different flow conditions to support the Upper Rush Creek subwatershed assessment. All monitoring outlined in this section will be conducted in cooperation with Three Rivers Park District.

4. Fund the monitoring of two lakes through Metropolitan Council’s Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP).

5. Continue to operate the monitoring station in Champlin in cooperation with the United States Geological Survey (USGS).

6. Promote river stewardship through the River Watch program with six sites in 2017.

8. Assist member communities in preparing and adopting their local water management plans. Advise the member cities of the revised requirements under Rule 8410.0160, subp. 6, regarding local water plans and local comprehensive plans.

9. Conduct the biennial solicitation of interest proposals for administrative, legal, technical and wetland consultants.

10. Complete both informal and formal reviews of the Elm Creek TMDL and WRAPs reports and obtain MPCA and USEPA approval of the TMDL document and MPCA approval of the WRAPs report. The informal Stakeholder 30-day review will begin in early 2017. It is anticipated these reviews will be completed in 2017.

11. Continue as a member of the West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA). Continue to support the WMWA Educator Program and contribute to its e-newsletter Water Links. Promote the Watershed PREP program to reach every 4th grade science class in the watershed. Participate in the Planting for Clean Water project. Conduct native plant sales at various city events around the watershed including the Plymouth Home Expo and the Maple Grove Farmers Market.

12. Participate as an exhibitor in the Plymouth Home Expo. The Commission will share booth space with the other members of WMWA at the Expo, April 7-8, 2017.

13. Continue as a member of Blue Thumb and WaterShed Partners and a partner in the NEMO (Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials) program. The Commission will continue to participate as member/partner in these organizations.

14. Co-sponsor Rain Garden Workshops in conjunction with the Commission’s Education and Public Outreach Program. Two Metro Blooms workshops are scheduled in the Elm Creek watershed in 2017 – April 6 at Champlin City Hall and April 11 at St. Barnabas Lutheran Church in Plymouth. This year’s workshops are entitled, “Learn How to Create a Weather Resilient Yard.”

15. Work in partnership with Hennepin County’s agriculture specialist to help build relationships with the agricultural community in the watershed in order to encourage TMDL implementation. In 2016 Hennepin County hired a Rural Conservation Specialist. The Commission has obtained MN Buffer Law updates from her work and will encourage and assist, if necessary, with the law’s implementation throughout the watershed in 2017. Additional contacts and assistance by the Extension Specialist with rural landowners will also continue in 2017.

16. Develop a model manure management ordinance regulating the placement of new small nonfood animal operations using the City of Medina ordinance as a reference. Require member cities to adopt that ordinance or other ordinances and practices that will accomplish its objectives. The Technical Advisory Committee will continue to work on development of this ordinance.

17. Seek grant funding to assist with the costs associated with projects identified on the Commission’s CIP. A call for CIPs went out to the cities in December 2016. Proposed CIPs and CIP updates will be reviewed for inclusion on the Commission’s CIP by the Technical Advisory Committee at their March meeting. The TAC’s recommendations will be forwarded to the Commission. This activity will most likely require a Minor Plan Amendment.

18. Undertake the Internal Phosphorus Loading Control Project on Fish Lake. This project was awarded a Board of Water and Soil Resources Competitive Grant (Projects and Practices) in the amount of $200,000 in December 2016.

19. Undertake the Rush Creek Headwaters Subwatershed Assessment Project. This project was also awarded a Board of Water and Soil Resources Competitive Grant (Accelerated Implementation Grant) in the amount of $50,280 in December 2016.
20. Continue to support City-sponsored projects using the ad valorem funding mechanism. *A call for CIPs went out to the cities in December 2016. Proposed CIPs and CIP updates will be considered for ad valorem funding recommendation by the Technical Advisory Committee at their March meeting.*


22. Continue to populate and maintain the Commission’s website [www.elmcreekwatershed.org](http://www.elmcreekwatershed.org) to provide news to residents, students, developers and other individuals interested in the water resources of the watershed. *Using the tool Weebly, Staff will continue to update and enhance the website, adding links to other websites as well as other useful information.*

23. Publish an annual activities report summarizing the Commission’s yearly activities and financial reporting. *The 2016 Annual Activity Report will be available at the Commission’s April 12, 2017 meeting.*

24. Others?
### Priorities

Through the identification of these issues, the Commission developed the following priorities to guide water resources planning and management functions:

- **Begin implementing priority projects** in 2015, providing cost-share to member cities to undertake projects to help achieve WRAPS lake and stream goals.
- **Use results of WRAPS study to establish priority areas**, complete subwatershed assessments to identify specific BMPs that feasibly and cost-effectively reduce nutrient and sediment loading to impaired water resources.
- **Develop model manure management ordinance** to regulate placement of new small non-food animal operations using the City of Medina ordinance as a guide; require member cities to adopt that or other ordinances and practices to accomplish its objectives.
- **Partner with other organizations to complete pilot project** for targeted fertilizer application, increase and focus outreach to agricultural operators.
- **Continue participating in joint education and outreach activities** with WMWA and other partners.

### Goals

#### Water Quantity

- Maintain post-development 2-year, 10-year, and 100-year **peak rate of runoff** at pre-development level for the critical duration precipitation event.
- Maintain post-development **annual runoff volume** at pre-development volume.
- Prevent **loss of floodplain storage** below the established 100-year elevation.
- Reduce **peak flow rates** in Elm, Diamond, and Rush Creeks and tributary streams to the Crow and Mississippi and preserve conveyance capacity.

#### Water Quality

- Improve **Total Phosphorus concentration** in the impaired lakes by 10% over the 2004-2013 average by 2024.
- Maintain or improve **water quality** in the lakes and streams with no identified impairments.
- Conduct a **TMDL/WRAPS progress review** every five years following approval of the TMDLs and WRAPS studies.
- Use information in the WRAPS to identify **high priority areas** where the Commission will partner with cities and other agencies to provide technical and financial assistance.

#### Groundwater

- Promote **groundwater recharge** by requiring abstraction/infiltration of runoff from new development/redevelopment.
- Protect **groundwater quality** by incorporating wellhead protection study results into development and redevelopment Rules and Standards.

#### Wetlands

- Preserve the existing **functions and values** of wetlands within the watershed.
- Promote the **enhancement or restoration** of wetlands in the watershed.

#### Drainage Systems

- Continue current Hennepin County jurisdiction over **county ditches** in the watershed.

#### Operations and Programming

- Identify and operate within a **sustainable funding level** that is reasonable to member cities.
- Foster **implementation of priority TMDL and other implementation projects** by sharing in their cost and proactively seeking grant funds.
- Operate a **public education and outreach program** to supplement NPDES Phase II education requirements for member cities.
- Operate a **monitoring program** sufficient to characterize water quantity, water quality, and biotic integrity in the watersheds and to evaluate progress toward meeting goals.
- Maintain rules and standards for development and redevelopment consistent with local and regional TMDLs, federal guidelines, source water and wellhead protection requirements, nondegradation, and ecosystem management goals.
- **Serve as a technical resource** for member cities.
March 1, 2017

To: Elm Creek Commissioners

Fr: Judie Anderson

Re: Status of 2016 Work Plan

Minnesota Rule 8410.0150 requires the Commission to submit to the Board of Water and Soil Resources a financial report, activity report and audit report for the preceding fiscal year. 8410.0150 Subp. 3 outlines the content of the annual activity report. It includes an assessment of the previous year’s annual work plan and development of a projected work plan for the following year.

Following is a summary of the work undertaken by the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission in 2016 to meet the goals, objectives, and projected work plan outlined in its 2015 Annual Report. The Commission identified the following activities in 2016:

☑ Continue to review local development/redevelopment plans for conformance with the standards outlined in the Commission’s third generation Watershed Management Plan. Fifty-two projects were reviewed by the Commission in 2016. The Commission does not have a permit program.

☑ Serve as the local government unit (LGU) for administering the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) for the cities of Champlin and Corcoran. The Commission continues to serve as the LGU for Champlin and Corcoran. In 2016 Technical staff assisted approximately 50 landowners/agency/developer contacts with wetland-related questions. On behalf of the Commission they reviewed the following types of wetland applications: six wetland boundary/type; three no-loss; two exemptions; three sequencing; and three wetland replacement plans. Wetland impacts totaled 67,809 SF; wetland replacement totaled 204,419 SF. Two WCA violations were investigated and resolved; two others were determined to not be WCA/Commission violations. The Commission was involved in 17 Technical Evaluation Panels (TEPs) throughout the watershed. The Elm Creek Commission does not have a wetland banking program.

☑ Conduct lake and stream monitoring programs to track water quality and quantity conditions. The Commission monitored Diamond, Fish, and Weaver Lakes, and Rice Lake Main Basin in cooperation with Three Rivers Park District. The Commission also funded the monitoring of Cowley and Jubert lakes through Metropolitan Council’s Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP).

☑ Continue to operate the monitoring station in Champlin in cooperation with the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Stream monitoring continued at the Champlin monitoring station where both grab samples and storm runoff samples were collected and analyzed for various parameters. The Commission also monitored lower Rush Creek, lower Diamond Creek and a site on Elm Creek above Rice Lake in cooperation with Three Rivers Park District.

☑ Promote river stewardship through the River Watch program. Three sites on Elm and Rush Creeks were monitored in 2016.

☑ Participate in the Minnesota Wetland Health Evaluation Program (WHEP). Four wetlands located in the Crow Hassan Park Reserve and the Elm Creek Park Reserve were monitored in 2016.
Partner with the Hennepin County Department of Environmental Services (HCES) in the Stream Health Evaluation Program (SHEP). This program was discontinued in 2016.

Assist member communities in preparing and adopting their local water management plans. No local plans were received in 2016. It is anticipated most communities will submit their local plans for approval in 2017.

Complete informal and formal reviews of the Elm Creek TMDL and WRAPS reports. Obtain US EPA approval of the TMDL document and MPCA approval of the WRAPS report. At year-end the MPCA had completed its informal review of both the TMDL and the WRAPS. The TMDL was still being reviewed by the EPA. The informal Stakeholder review will begin early in 2017 and extend for a period of 30 days. Both documents will be uploaded to the MPCA and Commission websites.

Use results of WRAPS study to establish priority areas and complete subwatershed assessments to identify specific BMPs that feasibly and cost-effectively reduce nutrient and sediment loading to impaired water resources. The Commission submitted a grant application to the Clean Water Fund (CW) Accelerated Implementation Program to complete a subwatershed assessment in four key subwatersheds in the headwaters of Rush Creek and North Fork Rush Creek. Much of the land in those subwatersheds is in the City of Corcoran. The Commission was awarded a $50,280 grant to complete this project.

Develop model manure management ordinance to regulate placement of new small non-food animal operations, require member cities to adopt that or other ordinances and practices to accomplish its objectives. This task is being undertaken by the Technical Advisory Committee and is a priority in 2017.

Continue as a member of the West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA). The Commission continued to support the WMWA Educator Program and contribute articles to its e-newsletter Water Links. The Commission promoted the Watershed PREP (Protection, Restoration, Education, and Prevention) program to reach every 4th grade science class in the watershed. 878 students in nine schools in the Elm Creek watershed participated in Lesson 1: What is a Watershed and Why do we Care? and Lesson 2: The Incredible Journey.

The Watershed Prep educators also presented at the Basswood Science Night, the Fernbrook Nature Night, the Plymouth Home Expo and the Plymouth Kids Fest.

In 2016 the Commission also collaborated on the Pledge to Plant for Pollinators and Clean Water project and creation of the new WMWA website.


Continue as a member of Blue Thumb and WaterShed Partners and a partner in the NEMO (Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials) program. The Commission continues to support these organizations/programs with their financial and in-kind contributions.

Co-sponsor Rain Garden Workshops in conjunction with the Commission’s Education and Public Outreach Program. Raingarden workshops were conducted in the cities of Champlin and Plymouth.

Work in partnership with Hennepin County’s agriculture specialist to help build relationships with the agricultural community in the watershed in order to encourage TMDL implementation. The Commission will continue to seek opportunities to use the resources of the Ag Specialist.

Seek grant funding to assist with the costs associated with projects identified on the Commission’s CIP. Five CIP projects, the Fox Creek Streambank Stabilization Project in Rogers; the Mississippi River Shoreline Repair and Stabilization and the Elm Creek Dam at the Mill Pond projects in Champlin; and the Rush Creek Main Stem Restoration and the Fish Lake Alum Treatment Phase 1 projects in Maple Grove were certified through the ad valorem taxing process for funding by Hennepin County.

In conjunction with this effort, the Commission adopted two resolutions in 2016. Resolution 2016-01 adopted a Minor Amendment to the Third Generation Watershed Management Plan to add five projects to the Commission’s CIP and revise the scope of one project and shift the timing of five others on the CIP. Resolution
2016-02 ordered the five projects certified above, designated the members responsible for construction, and designated the Commission cost-share funding.

☐ Continue to support City-sponsored projects as they are identified. The Commission continues to identify projects on its CIP for funding either though the Commission’s CIP budget or grant funding. In 2016 the Commission applied for, and received, a Board of Water and Soil Resources Competitive Grant (Projects and Practices) in the amount of $200,000 for the Internal Phosphorus Loading Control Project on Fish Lake and a Board of Water and Soil Resources Competitive Grant (Accelerated Implementation Grant) in the amount of $50,280 for the Rush Creek Headwaters Subwatershed Assessment Project.

☐ Adopt a 2017 operating budget. At its June 8, 2016 regular meeting, the Commission approved a 2017 operating budget totaling $421,614, with assessments to the member cities totaling $219,700

☐ Continue to populate and maintain the Commission’s website www.elmcreekwatershed.org to provide news to residents of the watershed. In 2016 the Commission transferred its current website to a new mobile-ready platform and continued to populate and maintain the website to provide news to residents, students, developers and other individuals interested in the water resources of the watershed.

☐ Publish an annual activities report summarizing the Commission’s yearly activities and financial reporting. The 2015 Annual Activity Report was accepted by the Commission at its April 13, 2016 meeting.