

# elm creek

## Watershed Management Commission

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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
3235 Fernbrook Lane  
Plymouth, MN 55447

PH: 763.553.1144  
email: judie@jass.biz  
www.elmcreekwatershed.org

### MINUTES Regular Meeting March 8, 2023

I. A meeting of the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 8, 2023, in the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Avenue North, Plymouth, MN, by Chair Doug Baines.

Present were: Bill Walraven, Champlin; Tom Anderson, Corcoran; Doug Baines, Dayton; Dan Riggs, Maple Grove; Terry Sharp, Medina; Catherine Cesnik, Plymouth; and David Katzner, Rogers.

Also present: Heather Nelson, Champlin; Kevin Mattson, Corcoran; Derek Asche, Maple Grove; Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; Andrew Simmons, Rogers; Diane Spector and Erik Megow, Stantec; James Kujawa, Surface Water Solutions; Kris Guentzel and Kevin Ellis, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District; Judie Anderson, JASS; Mike Nielson, Sambatek, for Project 2022-012; and Todd McLouth, Loucks, Inc. for Project 2023-02

A. Motion by Walraven, second by T. Anderson to approve the **agenda**.*\* Motion carried unanimously.*

B. Motion by Walraven, second by Sharp to approve the Consent Agenda:

1. **Minutes\*** of the February 8, 2023, regular meeting.
2. **March Treasurer's Report and Claims\*** totaling \$56,354.82.

*Motion carried unanimously.*

### II. Open Forum.

*[Cesnik arrived 11:40 a.m.]*

### III. Action Items.

A. **Project Review 2022-012 Graco Building 2, Dayton.\*** Graco purchased this property that was the Liberty Industrial Center, approved by the Commission under project 2015-011. Graco is proposing to replat this site and construct a 515,400 SF distribution center. Additionally, mass grading on the remaining portion of Outlot H, and Outlots A and B will occur to accommodate two future buildings, regional ponding, and the construction of French Lake Road West. In total, 74 acres will be graded. The Commission's review covers Rules D and E on the 74 acre site. The site plan proposes to encroach into an existing conservation and preservation easement approved by the Commission for project 2015-011. At the July 2022 meeting the Commission reviewed this project and approved site plans for the area west of French Lake Road, contingent upon Staff recommendations found in their findings dated July 6, 2022: (1) final wetland buffer monumentation meeting Commission requirements, (2) an operations and maintenance agreement approved by the City that implements conditions that bind current and future owners of the project shall be recorded on this property and (3) the escrow balance reconciliation. A decision on the areas east of French Lake Road was tabled.

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CHAMPLIN - CORCORAN - DAYTON - MAPLE GROVE - MEDINA - PLYMOUTH - ROGERS

Revised plans for the West French Lake Road project area were submitted on November 23, 2022, January 6, 2023, and February 17, 2023. The applicant extended the decision deadline (per 15.99) to March 20, 2023. Updated plans for West French Lake Road were reviewed for erosion and sediment controls, buffers, and the conservation easement. Staff's findings and recommendation for approval dated February 24, 2023 are provided in the March meeting packet. The recommendations include the outstanding conditions from the original approval: (1) An operation and maintenance agreement approved by the city that implement conditions that bind current and future owners of the project shall be recorded on this property; (2) the City of Dayton must approve Conservation Easement abandonment and reestablishment; (3) final conservation easement documentation and title recordings must be provided to the Commission; and (4) the Commission escrow balance must be reconciled to the satisfaction of the Commission Administrator. Motion by Walraven, second by Riggs to approve Staff's recommendations. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**B. Project Review 2023-02 Lynde Greenhouse Fire Damage Repair, Maple Grove.\*** The project proposes to rebuild a greenhouse building lost to a fire in 2022. The project is located south of 93rd Avenue North, along Pineview Lane. The property is approximately 10.3 acres and this project will disturb approximately 1.6 acres, triggering Commission Rules D and E. Staff reviewed the initial application materials and sent the applicant comments for their stormwater management. As they address the stormwater management issues, Staff, along with the City of Maple Grove, have given the applicants approval to commence grading and erosion control activities at their own risk. In their review and findings dated March 1, 2023, Staff recommends approval with two conditions: (1) an operation and maintenance agreement approved by the City; and (2) the Commission escrow balance must be reconciled to the satisfaction of the Commission Administrator. Motion by Katzner, second by Sharp to approve Staff's recommendations. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**C. Hennepin County 2023 Services Agreement.\*** During the February 8 Commission meeting, Hennepin County staff requested feedback from the Commissioners and Staff regarding County priorities for technical services in 2023. To provide this feedback Commissioners requested two things:

1. A better understanding of the County's long-term goals in the Commission's jurisdictional areas; and
2. More detail regarding the County's priority work, including a breakdown of tasks completed by subwatershed or city.

The County's March 2, 2023, memo addresses those requests.

Since the dissolution of the Hennepin Conservation District (HCD) in 2014, Hennepin County's Environment and Energy Department has been serving the role of soil and water conservation district in the county. This role, among others, includes working with private residents to address erosion and nutrient runoff on their property(ies) to protect downstream waterbodies. This aligns well with the Commission's mission and allows the County to work parallel to city staff, assisting residents to implement conservation on private lands/properties.

**Goals.** Hennepin County is in the process of [updating its Natural Resources Strategic Plan](#), which is also expected to serve as the soil and water conservation district comprehensive plan. This plan will describe each of the County's goals in protecting and restoring natural and water resources in Hennepin County and will outline the strategies and actions the County intends to complete over the next 10 years to reach those goals, as staffing and resources allow.

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Although plan content is not yet available publicly in draft form, its anticipated the plan will include goals and strategies to strengthen the relationship with the Commission, cities, and private residents in the Commission’s jurisdiction, including continuing staff resources and technical assistance for implementing conservation activities on private lands in western Hennepin County, expanding partnerships at the federal, state, and local levels to achieve improved natural resources outcomes, and tailoring programming to better consider both disparity reduction and climate action mitigation and adaptation.

**2022 Projects.** County staff, primarily Kevin Ellis, worked across the Elm Creek watershed in 2022. As per the Watershed Services Agreement, work was primarily focused on conservation practice implementation in the headwaters of Rush Creek subwatershed. This led to implementation of five grassed waterways, one water and sediment control basin, two livestock exclusion fences, two livestock watering facilities and upgrades to a single barn drainage system. These practices are estimated to reduce 47.2 tons total suspended solids (TSS) and 110.9-pounds total phosphorus (TP) from reaching Rush Creek annually. Installed BMPs from this work are identified on a map attached to Staff’s memo.

Hennepin County staff track time based on project codes. A code is established for a project or significant work with a specific partner. In the Elm Creek watershed, the following codes were used.

1. **General Elm Creek Commission work** (82 hours from Kevin, 113 hours from other staff): Preparation of staff reports, agreements, and other deliverables, as well as attendance of TAC and general meetings.
2. **Rush Creek project** (417 hours from Kevin, 304 hours from other staff): Work related to the Rush Creek Clean Water Fund grant including development of outreach materials, landowner correspondence, site visits, best management practice (BMP) design, implementation assistance, inspections, and contracting.
3. **Conservation outreach and implementation** (141 hours from Kevin, 108 hours from other staff): Activities in the Elm Creek watershed related to the development of BMP projects utilizing state cost share funding, but not within Rush Creek subwatershed. This includes outreach, landowner correspondence, site visits, BMP design, implementation assistance, inspections, and contracting. Also shown above is the amount of time billed to each code. Although these are not split by city, work was generally focused in the cities of Rogers and Corcoran in the Rush Creek headwaters subwatershed.

**Work with Cities.** Hennepin County Staff began working directly with the city of Corcoran to develop livestock ordinances that will better reflect the proper management required to ensure that water resources are protected. Staff hope that this work will continue and that they are able to work more closely with cities across the watershed and county to propose land management activities that protect soil and water resources, and to provide services directly to residents. As a result of the Rush Creek Clean Water Fund grant, staff have been able to work closely with residents on issues related to water quality. During the implementation period, staff were able to reach 241 landowners with targeted outreach related to the type of land use they are engaged in. This outreach has led to 12 site visits where staff were able to provide technical assistance and, in some cases, propose projects that could have an impact on water quality while meeting landowner needs. In addition to currently implemented projects, two water and sediment control basins, one manure bunker, one wetland restoration, and one barn drainage upgrade are currently in the design phase.

**2024 Budget.** County staff, primarily Ellis, have been increasing the County’s commitment to working with western Hennepin County landowners to address erosion issues and implement conservation.

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This has fostered an increased level of partnership between county, city, and Commission staff that has resulted in greater conservation results and improved customer service for our residents. In the Elm Creek watershed alone, County Environment and Energy staff spent at least 1,165 hours of staff time in 2022. A breakdown of that time is shown above. The County sees this investment as benefiting both organization's missions. To help meet budget needs, the County is requesting an increased investment from the Commission for future year's efforts to help meet our shared priorities.

The County is proposing increasing the 2024 conservation promotion not-to-exceed amount to \$22,000, a 10% increase from the 2023 amount (\$20,000; as shown in Exhibit A Task 2 of the 2023 Watershed Services Agreement). This includes time towards public engagement, answering landowner's general land and water resource management questions, and BMP project development, design, and construction. The County projects department costs for this work will be over \$50,000.00.

In addition, in 2023 neither RiverWatch nor the Wetland Health Evaluation Program (WHEP) will invoice the Commission for services rendered. RiverWatch brought back some services in 2022 as COVID protocols allowed, but any services performed within the Elm Creek watershed will not be billed to the Commission. The County plans to revisit partner cost share in the RiverWatch program in 2024. Unfortunately, Hennepin County Environment and Energy discontinued the WHEP program in 2022.

County Staff will return to the April meeting with the revised 2023 agreement. At the February meeting, the County was requested to include in the agreement a map of the subwatershed assessments and where they are work-wise.

**IV. Old Business.**

**V. New Business.**

**A. Election of Officers.** Hearing no further nominations, motion by Sharp, second by T. Anderson to elect the following officers for 2023: Baines, Chair; Cesnik, Vice Chair; Walraven, Secretary; Ken Guenther, Corcoran, Treasurer. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**B. Annual Appointments.** Motion by Walraven, second by Riggs to appoint the following for 2023: Official Newspaper, *Osseo-Maple Grove Press*; Official Depositories, US Bank and the 4M fund; Deputy Treasurer, Judie Anderson; and Auditor, Johnson & Co., Ltd. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**C.** Included in the meeting packet was information regarding the reauthorization of the **Minnesota Lottery dedication to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.\*** The ENRTF is requesting the Commission's support in asking the State Legislature to put this funding source back on the ballot as a constitutional amendment in 2024 which, in part, would reauthorize the use of net lottery funds for the ENRTF until the year 2050. Since its first appropriation in 1991, the ENRTF has provided over \$900 million in stable long-term funding for innovative projects in natural resource management. Motion by Walraven, second by Sharp to authorize Staff to draft a letter of support for the chair's signature. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**VI. Water Quality.**

**A. Watershed TMDL 10-Year Review.\*** The Commission and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) are interested in reviewing progress toward achieving the goals of the Elm Creek Watershed TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) study. Staff's March 1, 2023 memo provides a summary of the TMDL findings and introduces a framework for potential approaches to such a review. The goals of this meeting are to: 1) familiarize TAC and Commissioners with the TMDL and the recommended actions; 2) consider options for

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inclusion in the proposed review of progress; and 3) obtain input and 2023 guidance from the TAC and Commissioners on how to proceed with a more defined proposal at the April meeting.

A TMDL is a diagnostic study undertaken when waters do not meet one or more water quality standards. The federal Clean Water Act requires the states to establish such standards and to assess their waters to determine which comply. Those that do not meet standards are added to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) List of Impaired Waters, known as the 303(d) List after the relevant section of the law, and a TMDL must be prepared to evaluate the sources of pollutants and causes of the impairment, estimate the amount of pollutant reduction necessary (called *load reduction*), and identify potential actions that could be taken to improve conditions in the waters.

The Elm Creek Watershed-wide TMDL process was completed in phases over several years, starting with additional monitoring and data gathering in 2009-2010, analysis and development of the TMDL in 2012-2014, and completion of the TMDL document and accompanying Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) document in 2015. The final reports were approved by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and EPA in 2016.

The Elm Creek TMDL study addresses multiple impairments, including:

1. Fish, Rice, Diamond, Goose, Cowley, Sylvan, and Henry Lakes, which are all impaired by excess *nutrients (total phosphorus, or TP)*.
2. S Fork Rush Creek, Rush Creek main stem, Diamond Creek, and Elm Creek, which are impaired by high levels of *E. coli bacteria*.
3. Rush Creek main stem, Diamond Creek, and Elm Creek, impaired by *low dissolved oxygen (DO)* concentrations necessary to support aquatic life.
4. The upper and lower reaches of S Fork Rush Creek, Rush Creek main stem, Diamond Creek, and Elm Creek, where the fish and macroinvertebrate communities are impaired for *biotic integrity*.

In addition, during the development of the TMDL for the fish and macroinvertebrate impairments, the following factors were identified as probable stressors to the biotic community, and TMDLs:

5. Upper and lower reaches of S Fork Rush Creek, Rush Creek main stem, Diamond Creek, and Elm Creek, excessive *nutrients (total phosphorus, or TP)*.
6. Elm Creek and Diamond Creek, excessive *total suspended sediment (TSS)*.

Since completion of the Watershed TMDL, additional impairments have been designated or are pending in the watershed:

7. Elm Creek and the lower reach of S Fork Rush Creek are impaired for excess *chloride*. TMDLs for the streams were completed as part of the Twin Cities Metro Chloride TMDL.
8. Fish Lake and Weaver Lake are impaired for *mercury* in fish tissue. TMDLs were completed as part of the statewide mercury TMDL.
9. The MPCA is processing two new impairments: *TSS* in Elm Creek and *fish biotic integrity (F-IBI)* in Fish Lake.
10. The nutrient impairment for Fish Lake is proposed for "delisting" as the lake now meets state standards.

The MPCA does not have a formal process or guidance for undertaking reviews of progress

toward meeting TMDLs. Entities such as cities and counties that are MS4s are required to annually report certain TMDL implementation activities that they take in the watershed, but that is not a comprehensive assessment, and does not include actions taken within the waterbodies such as stream restorations, lake alum treatments, or rough fish management. When they have undertaken other TMDL reviews of progress, Staff have considered the following analytical steps:

1. Update watershed runoff and pollutant loading and lake response modeling to reflect most current land use information and monitoring data.
2. Collect new monitoring and other data to fill data gaps.
3. Collect data on BMPs undertaken since the TMDL baseline year(s) to estimate progress toward meeting the identified pollutant load reductions and non-numeric requirements.
4. Evaluate monitoring data to determine water quality trends and progress toward meeting the standards.
5. Review implementation strategies and recommend any course corrections for the coming period.

**Updating the various models** used to quantify pollutant loading can range from simple to very detailed. Generally, this step is considered only when there has been significant land use change or where new data is available; for example, updating a lake response model to use measured sediment phosphorus release rates rather than literature values. While there has been development in the watershed, Staff don't think it is significant enough to warrant the expense and effort to update the watershed pollutant loading models. Following review of the lake water quality and BMP data, there may be some lakes where lake response modeling might be helpful, such as Laura Lake, which was not included in the original TMDL.

**1. Lakes.** The Commission has been annually monitoring four sentinel lakes – Fish, Weaver, Diamond, and Rice – and occasionally monitoring other lakes on a rotating basis. While the sentinel lakes have a good set of data available, it would be helpful to obtain more data on Henry, Jubert, Dubai, Laura, and French, where there is very little data. The cost of monitoring those lakes for two consecutive years would be about \$8,000 per year. The 2023 budget includes \$12,617 for lake monitoring, including the sentinel lakes and two additional lakes, which in 2023 will likely be Sylvan and either Henry or Cowley. If two of the “additional” lakes were completed as part of the annual lake monitoring budget, then the additional cost would be about \$4,500 per year.

**2. Streams.** In addition to the partnership with the USGS to monitor flow and water quality on Elm Creek in the regional park, the Commission currently routinely monitors flow and water quality at three sites in the watershed: Elm Creek at its crossing of the Medicine Lake Regional Trail in Maple Grove; Rush Creek at Territorial Road; and Diamond Creek. Some data is available at other sites in the watershed. It may be helpful to collect additional data to help with the trend analysis. The Commission currently budgets \$10,020 annually for stream monitoring; adding another site would be an estimated \$3,500 annually.

The estimated cost to add two additional lakes and one additional stream site in 2024-2025 would be about \$8,000 per year, or \$16,000 total.

**3. Biological.** The Commission has completed a minimal amount of biological (fish and macroinvertebrates) monitoring in the streams. There is some data at a few sites completed by the MPCA, and the 2023 budget includes funding to undertake sampling at a few sites. It is Staff's recommendation that the Commission focus this review on quantifying chemical parameters and in the review develop a plan for more systematically undertaking biological monitoring for evaluation during the next progress review.

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**4. BMP Data.** This task is compiling information about the BMPs undertaken in the watershed and estimating the pollutant load reductions achieved by each. Cities have been collecting and reporting watershed load reductions, including any structural BMPs or nonstructurals such as enhanced street sweeping. In addition, load reduction data is estimated for development and redevelopment activity that requires a Commission project review. This data could be collected, assembled, and geolocated to document and summarize load reductions by receiving water. For example, the TMDL established TP load reductions for the entire length of Elm Creek; the individual cities through which Elm Creek flows are reporting data just for what occurs in their city.

There are also other types of actions taken that the cities are not required to report on in the NPDES permit annual reports. These may include lake internal load reductions from an alum treatment, or habitat improvements achieved through stream restoration. These should also be documented as progress toward achieving the goals established in the TMDL.

Depending on how much data is available and how it is organized, and the number of BMPs for which removals would need to be calculated, this could be a simple GIS exercise, or it may be more extensive. Staff estimate the level of effort to be in the \$5,000-8,000 range.

**5. Evaluating Monitoring Data.** Three Rivers Park District has been collecting and maintaining data for many years, and the annual report includes figures and tables showing water quality by year. It may be interesting to run some trend analysis statistics where there is a good data set to determine if there are any statistically significant trends. This might be a \$2,000-3,000 effort.

**6. Review Implementation Strategies and Report.** This task would include compiling the information developed in the previous tasks to provide an overall summary of actions taken and progress made to date. The WRAPS report, which is the “implementation plan” of the TMDL, identified a universe of potential actions the various stakeholders could take to make progress toward the TMDL. This task would identify what has been successful and what not so successful and develop a prioritized action plan for the next several years. This then could be rolled into the Commission’s Fourth Generation Watershed Management Plan that will be underway at about the same time. Due to that timing, this progress review would become an appendix to the Watershed Plan. It is likely that this would be an \$8,000-10,000 effort.

**7. Summary.** It is likely that this TMDL 10-year Progress Review would be a \$35,000-40,000 effort, depending on how much additional monitoring is desired. Discussion and input from the TAC and Commission will be helpful in further defining the scope of work.

The TAC and the Commission will discuss this review process with an anticipation, if they decide to proceed, of budgeting for the 10-year review as part of the upcoming 2024 budgeting process.

**B. Preliminary Scope – South Fork Rush Creek SWA.\***

Staff have been working to define the proposed scope of work for the three studies proposed for potential funding from the Watershed-Based Implementation Funding grant. The Commission allocated \$92,774 for “Priority Assessments,” identifying the (1) South Fork Rush Creek Subwatershed assessment requested by the City of Corcoran, (2) the North Fork Rush Creek Remeander Feasibility Assessment for the reach adjacent to Stieg Woods in Rogers, and (3) a remeander feasibility study for the Diamond Lake outlet channel to Diamond Creek in Dayton.

Staff propose to proceed in a similar manner to the Rush Creek Headwaters SWA. The general items of work include:

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**1. Data Collection and Review.** This task includes identifying collecting, and compiling available data and information including but not limited to:

- a. Land cover and land use
- b. Sites of ecological diversity or significance
- c. Soils and topography
- d. NWI Wetlands, probable wetlands, and drained wetlands
- e. Individual Sewage Treatment System locations
- f. Registered feedlots and allowable animal units
- g. Nonregistered animal operations and estimated animal units

**2. Summarize Existing Conditions.** Like the Headwaters SWA, this data will be used to create a series of maps that will depict:

- a. Location and extent of intact natural cover (forest/wetland)
- b. Hydrologic soil group, soil erodibility, and estimated soil loss rate
- c. Mean slope
- d. Location and extent of potentially tiled drained agricultural land
- e. Location and relative impact of failing septic systems, where applicable
- f. Location of feedlots and other animal operations

**3. BMP Identification.** Using the Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework (ACPF) toolbox, Stantec will identify up to ten potential projects that could yield the greatest benefit toward reducing sediment and phosphorus input to the South Fork Rush Creek. As in the Diamond Lake SWA, Staff will work with Hennepin County conservationists and City staff to “ground truth” those locations, ruling out those that may seem on paper to be feasible, but which may be difficult to actually implement.

**4. BMP Prioritization.** Using the ground-truthed ACPF outputs, Staff will estimate the cost of each BMP using unit prices and rank them by magnitude and cost-effectiveness of the estimated load reductions.

**5. Technical Summary.** The Rush Creek Headwaters SWA broke down the subwatershed into six smaller Management Units. Staff would expect to do something similar for the South Fork Rush Creek SWA. The final report will present individual prioritized lists of BMPs by Management Unit. In addition, they will compile all the geospatial data, including the prioritized BMP locations, into an interactive online map for ease of use.

**6. Meetings.** Staff would expect to have at least three “small group” meetings with the affected cities: Corcoran, Medina, and Maple Grove, and potentially one Open House with the public.

At this time the estimated cost to undertake this project is \$60,400. An open question that may add to that cost is whether a recent windshield or aerial survey of small animal operations has been completed or whether that would need to be added to this cost. The grant requires a 10% match, or about \$5,600. Under the Commission’s SWA policy, the Commission would contribute 75% of that, about \$4,200, from its budget, and the local participants the other 25%. When they finalize the cost, Staff will present the breakdown by funding partner and confirm that the participants have agreed to their shares.

**C. Preliminary Scope – North Fork Rush Creek Remeander.\***

This scope of work is less advanced than the SWA. Based on a scope Stantec recently completed for a feasibility study and conceptual design of a natural channel restoration of similar length in

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Brooklyn Park, Staff estimate the cost to be about \$28,000 for data collection, review and field work, and alternatives development, with an additional \$11,000 for 30% design.

**1. Data Collection and Review.** This task would start with assembling previous studies, planning documents, and publicly available soils, hydrology, wetland, vegetation, and historical aerial imagery of the creek area, available utility information, and modelling, water quality, and flow data. Staff would also review existing hydraulic model data, features, and results. In this task they would visit the site to note potential constraints, current channel conditions, eroded banks, hydrogeologic factors like springs and seeps, vegetation quality, storm sewer outfalls and infrastructure, and opportunities for habitat improvement. Staff will also perform a site topological survey and a tree survey.

**2. Alternatives Assessment and Basis of Design.** Staff will work with the city of Rogers, Hennepin County, and Three Rivers Park District to refine design alternatives that meet Commission goals for water quality and ecological improvements, and which will work with the Stieg Woods Master Plan, upcoming extension of CR 117 and the future extension of the Rush Creek Regional Trail. These alternative designs will address bank stabilization, erosion and sediment control practices, water control practices, infrastructure impacts, visual quality and 'fit' within the surrounding area. The conceptual design alternative work will be presented in a Basis of Design memo describing and summarizing the desktop and field data collection and analysis, design alternative elements and impacts to the surrounding areas, project cost estimates, pollutant reduction estimates, and a comparison table of each alternative focusing on cost and pollutant reduction/water quality improvement potential.

**3. 30% Preliminary Design of Selected Alternative.** Should the stakeholders be able to select and commit to a design alternative, Staff will prepare preliminary plans and opinion of probable cost and the final basis of design memorandum.

Staff plan to bring the final scopes back in April for formal consideration. Based on their initial scoping work, the \$92,774 may not be sufficient to undertake all three identified assessments.

## VII. Communications.

**A. Staff Report.\*** Staff reports provide updates on the development projects currently under review by Staff. The projects listed in the table beginning on page 11 of these minutes are discussed in the March 1, 2023, report.

**B. Hennepin County Staff Report.\***

The draft [Hennepin County Zero Waste Plan \(PDF\)](#) is available for the public to review and provide comments. The plan outlines how the County will accomplish its goals of creating a system where all materials are designed to become resources for others to use and preventing 90% or more of all discarded materials from being landfilled or incinerated. Comments can be provided in the following ways:

**1. Take the survey.** The survey walks through the plan's goal, aims, and key actions, gathers feedback on level of support for these items, and provides opportunities to offer specific comments.

**2. Attend an online community meeting,** Thursday, March 9 at 6:30 p.m. County staff and the consultant who helped develop the plan will briefly present the plan's goal, aims, and key proposed actions. Participants will have the opportunity to provide feedback on their level of support for the aims and actions as well as ask questions of the presenters and make verbal or written comments. [Register to attend.](#) The presentation will also be recorded and posted online at [BeHeardHennepin.org](#).

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**3. Share ideas and get questions answered online.** Join the conversation and provide input at your convenience on [BeHeardHennepin.org](https://BeHeardHennepin.org). You can post ideas or ask questions that will be answered by the Zero Waste Plan team.

The County welcomes your thoughts on the plan. Comments submitted by March 20 will be considered by the Zero Waste Plan team as the plan is finalized. In addition, a summary of the survey and verbatim comments will be shared with commissioners and back to the public when the final plan is shared with commissioners.

**VIII. Education and Public Outreach.**

**A.** The **Conservation Education and Implementation Partnership Program** will be coordinated by a new limited-duration education and outreach coordinator shared with Hennepin County and the Richfield-Bloomington WMO. Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) to help fund the program has been approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). The Hennepin County Board has approved the new position and the County is in the process of finalizing the job description and working through the hiring process. The position will be posted by mid-March and the coordinator is proposed to be in place by Earth Day.

**B.** A copy of a **letter of support\*** from the Commission and other watershed organizations to members of the Minnesota House and Senate is included in the packet. It requests their support in passing the **Smart Salting Bill** during the 2023 legislative session. The Commission is a signatory to this letter.

**C. Chloride Management Plan.\*** Two of the streams in the watershed – Elm Creek and the lower reach of the South Fork Rush Creek – are impaired for excess chloride and have established TMDLs. Cities in the watershed are also under a requirement of their NPDES permits to implement chloride-reduction efforts and provide education and outreach to stakeholders about chloride pollution. The Commission has expressed concern over chloride use at new developments and is interested in using that review as an opportunity to promote Chloride Management Plans with watershed approval. However, as discussed previously, there is often a disconnect between project applicants, project owners, and building maintenance staff and this may not be the most effective way to get people to use less salt. The Commission has included in its 2023 Workplan an activity to develop a chloride management plan for the watershed that includes an education and outreach component.

As discussed previously, the Hennepin County Chloride Initiative (HCCI) has been working on a campaign called *Low Salt No Salt Minnesota* for local government unit (LGU) staff to communicate chloride issues and management strategies to the community. The campaign targets property managers, communities of faith, and homeowners associations. The *Low Salt No Salt* campaign is now live and resources are available on the website at <https://rpbcwd.org/low-salt-no-salt>.

The website hosts a toolbox for LGUs to use to start conversations about chloride use with the community, including videos, presentations, conversation starter ideas, pledge forms, and more. The website also has model winter maintenance contracts for properties and links to other resources such as Smart Salting Training and water quality data.

The purpose of Staff’s March 2, 2023, memo is to initiate a discussion among the Commissioners and city staff on what a chloride management plan for the watershed should look like. Below is a draft matrix to start the discussion of how the Commission could start to approach a chloride management plan, including what messages should be conveyed to various stakeholders, who is responsible for

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relaying those messages, and what existing resources can be used. Ahead of this meeting, Commissioners were asked to review the draft matrix and come ready to discuss. The matrix was filled out interactively at the meeting. Using a comprehensive set of potential messages and actions, in April the Commissioners will refine the matrix actions that are measurable and achievable in the next few years.

Stakeholder	Message	Responsible Communicator	Resources for Communicator/Stakeholder
General public		Watershed Education and Outreach Coordinator, City staff	
Property Owners (single-family homes, HOAs, etc.)		City staff	Low Salt No Salt website Train the Trainer workshops
Property Managers		City staff	Low Salt No Salt website Train the Trainer workshops
City Maintenance Staff		City staff	Smart Salting Training
Developers/Redevelopers	Optimize site design for low salt use	Project review staff (Stantec); Commissions	??

D. The **West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA)** will meet via Zoom at 8:30 a.m., March 14, 2023.

**IX. Grant Opportunities and Project Updates.**

**X. Other Business.**

**XI. Adjournment.** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Judie A. Anderson  
Recording Secretary

JAA:tim

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Project No.	Project Name
W=wetland	
2014-015	Rogers Drive Extension, Rogers.
2015-030	Kiddiegarten Child Care Center, Maple Grove.
2016-005W	Ravinia Wetland Bank Plan, Corcoran.
2017-014	Laurel Creek, Rogers.
2017-050W	Ernie Mayers Wetland/floodplain violation, Corcoran.
2018-046	Graco, Rogers.
2019-021	Brenly Meadows, Rogers.
2019-026	Interstate Power Systems, Rogers.
2020-009	Stetler Barn, Medina.
2020-017	Meadow View Townhomes, Medina.
2020-032	Enclave Rogers - Commerce Boulevard, Rogers.
2020-033	Weston Woods, Medina.
2020-036	Balsam Pointe, Dayton.
2021-007	Birchwood 2nd Addition, Rogers

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2021-016	Territorial Lofts, Rogers.
2021-020	Crew Carwash, Maple Grove.
2021-021	Territorial Triangle, Dayton.
2021-023	Maple Grove Medial Office Building (MOB).
2021-024	Riverwalk, Dayton
2021-025	Hackamore Road Reconstruction, Medina/Corcoran.
2021-027	Xcel Energy Elm Creek Substation, Maple Grove
2021-029	Tri-Care Grocery / Retail, Maple Grove
2021-031	Cook Lake Edgewater, Maple Grove
2021-034	BAPS Hindu Temple, Medina.
2021-035	Mister Car Wash - Rogers
2021-036	D & D Service, Corcoran.
2021-037	Marsh Pointe, Medina.
2021-039	1-94 Logistics Center, Rogers.
2021-040	Napa Auto, Corcoran.
2021-041	Carlson Ridge, Plymouth.
2021-043	Northwood Community Church Maple Grove.
2021-044	Balsam II Apartments, Dayton.
2021-047	CR 10 Box Culvert Replacement, Corcoran
2021-050	Evanswood, Maple Grove.
2021-051	Fields of Nanterre Drainage Improvements, Plymouth.
2021-052	Norbella Senior Living, Rogers.
2021-053	Towns at Fox Creek, Rogers.
2021-055	Morningside Estates 6th Addition, Champlin.
2022-002	Summerwell, Maple Grove.
2022-003	Fox Briar Ridge East, Maple Grove.
2022-006	Hamel Townhomes, Medina.
2022-008	Bechtold Farm, Corcoran.
2022-009	Dunkirk Lane Development, Plymouth.
2022-011	Arrowhead Drive turn Lane expansion,
2022-012	Graco Building 2, Dayton.
2022-013	Dayton 94 Industrial Site, Dayton.
2022-014	Aster Mill, Rogers.
2022-015	County Road 47 Phase I Reconstruction, Plymouth.
2022-016	Rogers Activity Center, Rogers.
2022-017	City Center Drive, Corcoran.
2022-018	Big Woods, Rogers.
2022-019	Grass Lake Preserve, Dayton.
2022-020	Skye Meadows Extension, Rogers.
2022-022	Cook Lake Highlands, Corcoran.
2022-023	Asguard, Rogers.
2022-024	Bridge No. 27J70, Maple Grove.
2022-025	Harvest View, Rogers.
2022-026	Archway Building, Rogers
2022-027	Edison at Maple Grove Apartments.
2022-028	Elsie Stephens Park, Dayton.
2022-029	Hayden Hills Park, Dayton.

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2022-030	Garages Too, Corcoran.
2022-031	Corcoran II Substation.
2022-033	Pet Suites, Maple Grove.
2022-034	CSAH 101 Improvements, Maple Grove.
2022-035	Rush Hollow, Maple Grove.
2022-036	West French Lake Road Improvements, Maple Grove.
2022-037	CSAH13 CR203 Culvert Replacement, Dayton.
2022-038	Tavera North Side, Corcoran.
2022-039	Garland Commons, Maple Grove.
2022-040	Karinieimi Meadows, Corcoran.
2022-041	Elm Creek Swim Pond Culvert, Maple Grove.
2022-042	Walcott Glen, Corcoran.
2022-043	Meander Park and Boardwalk, Medina.
2022-044	Trail Haven Road Bridge Replacement, Corcoran.
2022-045	Corcoran Water Treatment Plant.
2022-046	CSAH12 Culvert and Guardrail Replacement, Dayton.
2022-047	Suite Living of Maple Grove.
2022-048	Hassan Elementary Pavement Renovation, Rogers.
2022-049	Connexus Energy South Dayton Substation.
2023-001	Chankahda Trail Reconstruction Phase 2, Plymouth.
2023-002	Lynde Greenhouse Fire Damage Repair, Maple Grove.

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