

elm creek

Watershed Management Commission

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

3235 Fernbrook Lane
Plymouth, MN 55447
PH: 763.553.1144
FAX: 763.553.9326
Email: judie@jass.biz
www.elmcreekwatershed.org

TECHNICAL OFFICE

Hennepin County
Dept. of Environment and Energy
701 Fourth Ave S Suite 700
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1600
PH: 612.596.1171
FAX: 612.348.8532
Email: Ali.Durgunoglu@co.hennepin.mn

Regular and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2015

I. A meeting of the **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** for the **Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission's Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS)** was called to order at 10:01 a.m., Wednesday, April 8, 2015 in the Mayor's Conference Room, Maple Grove City Hall, 12800 Arbor Lakes Parkway, Maple Grove, MN by Chair Doug Baines.

Present were: Todd Touminen, Champlin; Mark Lahtinen, Maple Grove; Becky Wozney, Hakanson Anderson, Medina; Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; Zach Guttormson and Jennifer Edison, WSB, Rogers; Steve Christopher, BWSR; Kate Drewry, DNR; Ali Durgunoglu and James Kujawa, Hennepin County Department of Environment and Energy (HCEE); Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); Diane Spector, Wenck Associates; and Judie Anderson and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

Not represented: Corcoran and Dayton

Also present: Bill Walraven, Champlin; Jon Bottema, Corcoran; Doug Baines, Dayton; Liz Weir, Medina; and Fred Moore, Plymouth.

II. **Revised Implementation Plan.*** The revised CIP table incorporates elements from the WRAPS, the Elm Creek channel study completed in the 1990s, projects identified from that study, prioritized projects that achieve multiple benefits, studies to provide more detailed assessments for proposed projects, and creation of a cost-share program for projects on private property. The intent is to strike individual projects listed and replace with generic projects that can be tailored based on completed subwatershed assessments and identified stream needs utilizing the minor plan amendment process.

A. **WRAPS strategies** incorporated into the plan include vegetation management plans for curlyleaf pondweed (CLPW) in Rice, Diamond, Cowley, Sylvan and Henry Lakes, along with additional internal load reduction projects in Rice, Diamond, Goose, Cowley, Sylvan and Henry Lakes. Whole-lake treatments for CLPW require unanimous approval by lakeshore owners.

The WRAPS implementation plan will identify priority projects among these lakes. Lake projects are prioritized based on whether they have public access, lakeshed population, whether they have an active lake association, overall morphology, and cost.

B. **Subwatershed assessments** in areas with the highest loading potential may be prioritized. Areas with the highest loads are also more likely to be developed over the next 20 years and BMPs incorporated during development to reduce loads are generally most cost-effective. Staff has identified the area west of CSAHs 116 and 30 as high priority. A structured process for identifying areas for assessment must be established.

C. **Stream siltation** is also caused by over-wooded areas on stream banks, not allowing for a stabilizing understory. Priority actions to correct this include systematically going through wooded areas to thin trees and seed understory. A two-step process was proposed: a walk-through of the stream corridor to identify segments for thinning and seeding, and creation of an ongoing cost-share for public and private properties to thin and seed, with the Commission providing technical assistance while the landowner pays for improvements.

D. Four potential **studies** were added to the Implementation Plan. Stream segment prioritization is required and could be done by HCEE and TRPD. Corridor study projects will be replaced with generic high-priority stream restoration projects. Part of the prioritization will include understanding where the highest value is, such

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as knowing where thinning/seeding will make a large improvement vs. areas where structural improvement is also needed.

Spector recommended that the budgeted \$35,000 for CIP project identification be split with \$10,000 for the stream segment walk-through for prioritization and \$25,000 on subwatershed assessments. A budget line item for special studies, including subwatershed assessments, internal loading studies, infiltration potential and stream segment prioritization should be in the budget. The Commission would pay for 50% of subwatershed assessments with the member city funding the remainder.

Motion by Scharenbroich, second by Wozney to recommend the Commission insert the revised implementation plan as proposed into the draft Third Generation Plan. *Motion carried unanimously.*

III. Revised Project Review Fee Schedule.* The revised fee schedule was presented in tabular and graph format. The past rule on trails that states that “any trails up to 12ft wide with 5 feet of natural vegetation to either side will not be reviewed” should be added to the revised rules.

Motion by Wozney, second by Touminen to recommend the Commission approve the revised fee schedule including the linear project addition as presented to become effective at a future date. *Motion carried unanimously.*

IV. Minor Plan Amendment.* The TAC previously agreed to move forward with the Plymouth stream stabilization CIP, but had not actually approved by motion. Motion by Kujawa, second by Scharenbroich to recommend the Commission move forward with the minor plan amendment to include the Plymouth stream stabilization CIP. *Motion carried unanimously.*

V. The meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

I. A regular meeting of the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 11:41 a.m., Wednesday, April 8, 2015, in the Mayor’s Conference Room, Maple Grove City Hall, 12800 Arbor Lakes Parkway, Maple Grove, MN by Chair Doug Baines.

Present were: Bill Walraven, Champlin; Jon Bottema, Corcoran; Doug Baines, Dayton; Joe Trainor, Maple Grove; Elizabeth Weir, Medina; Fred Moore, Plymouth; Ali Durgunoğlu and James Kujawa, Hennepin County Department of Environment and Energy (HCEE); Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); Diane Spector, Wenck Associates; and Judie Anderson and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

Not represented: Rogers.

Also present: Todd Touminen, Champlin; Bill Kidder and Mark Lahtinen, Maple Grove; Becky Wozney, Hakanson Anderson, Medina; Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; Zach Guttormson and Jennifer Edison, WSB, Rogers; Steve Christopher, BWSR; Kate Drewry, DNR; Jeff Weiss, Barr Engineering; and Andrew Mack, Aldi, and Andy Brandel, IS Group, for project 2015-009.

II. Motion by Walraven, second by Moore to approve the **agenda.*** *Motion carried unanimously.*

III. Motion by Weir, second by Walraven to approve the **minutes*** of the March 11, 2015 regular meeting with the correction that Moore moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report. *Motion carried unanimously.*

IV. Motion by Moore, second by Walraven to approve the **April Treasurer’s Report and Claims*** totaling \$13,915.28. *Motion carried unanimously.*

V. Open Forum.

A. Brandel and Mack, appearing for **Project Review 2015-009, Aldi**, appealed to the Commission to grant a variance to remove trees along Elm Creek to allow better visibility from Highway 55 for their retail location. TAC members noted that while the amount of trees and undergrowth in the area is good for stability of the stream bank, there are a few areas with steep slopes and exposed vertical soil that could benefit from grading and bank restoration as a trade-off for removing some trees, as well as buckthorn in the area that should be removed. However, Aldi is looking to clear many trees to achieve a sightline to the intersection. Current rules specifically

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state that native vegetation established for at least five years in buffer areas must not be disturbed and a variance would be required for any removal.

Staff recommended Aldi planners work with Staff and come back to the Commission with a specific plan that includes a recommendation from an arborist for thinning trees and stream bank improvements. They also need to address what specific hardship applies in order to receive a variance for removing vegetation in the buffer, and create a workable plan with the City regarding maintenance of the area. The Commission will not accept a proposal to clear cut along Elm Creek.

B. It was noted that the Mill Pond is treated as part of Elm Creek in the TMDL and doesn't take internal loading into account as a lot of sediment settles in Hayden Lake and Mill Pond. Recent borings indicate 4-5 feet of sediment has built-up in Mill Pond over the past 40 years.

VI. Action Items.

A. Project Review 2014-027 The Reserve at Elm Creek, Champlin. The Commission approved this project in January 2015. Since then the developer has submitted revised plans. Staff has not reviewed the plans for updated hydrology and water quality yet, but preliminary review shows a further reduction in peak flow from the originally approved plans. Administrative approval by Staff is requested if the new plans show improved water quality. If Staff discovers that the changes will not result in improvements or will degrade quality, Staff will bring the project back to the Commission for full review and approval. Motion by Trainor, second by Moore to authorize administrative approval as requested. *Motion carried unanimously.*

B. Revised Implementation Plan.* Changes from the previously presented Plan include high priority special studies to be funded at \$25,000. This includes special studies with watershedwide benefits for high infiltration areas and stream segment prioritization that will be funded 100% by the Commission. Costs for subwatershed assessments, internal loading studies, and other studies that benefit a specific member city will be split 50% by the Commission and 50% by the member city. Specific projects from the Second Generation Plan have been struck and replaced with general projects with more detailed descriptions in the project narrative. Minor plan amendments will be required to define projects as they are specifically identified. The TAC also discussed how to identify and prioritize water bodies based on public access, population, and other factors, determining Diamond and Rice Lakes as the highest priorities. The CIP will be revisited annually to adjust the scheduling of CIP projects. The TAC recommended that the revised implementation plan table replace the current table in the Plan.

Weir suggested that Spector prioritize the CIP list and move projects to years in which they will more likely be completed. This was done by the Members. Cities may choose to move projects forward and be reimbursed in following years as well.

Motion by Moore, second by Weir to approve the revised implementation plan per discussion. *Motion carried unanimously.*

C. Third Generation Plan. Motion by Weir, second by Trainor authorizing Staff to initiate the 60-day review process. *Motion carried unanimously.*

D. Revised Project Review Fee Schedule.* The fee schedule was presented at the March meeting in graph format and at this meeting also in tabular format. There are no changes. A simple formula will be posted on the website. Staff proposed adding existing rules for linear projects including a waiver for trails less than 12 feet in width with at least 5 feet of undisturbed vegetation to either side. Motion by Weir, second by Trainor to accept the revised project review fee schedule as discussed, effective June 1, 2015. *Motion carried unanimously.*

E. Nutrient Loading Reporting.* Staff will create an average pounds per acre of loading report based on current land cover to track load reductions achieved through development/redevelopment. The intent is to incorporate reduction reporting into the engineer's report. No action necessary.

F. 2014 Annual Activity and Audit Report.* The reports were provided last month for review. No comments were received. Motion by Walraven, second by Weir to accept both reports. *Motion carried unanimously.*

[Trainor departed at 1:06 p.m.]

G. Official Newspaper. The Commission uses five official newspapers and some were acquired by

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another company. Since that time, the cost of public noticing has increased from \$300 to \$1,800 to publish in all five papers. Staff recommended changing to one single newspaper for the purpose of public notices. Motion by Moore, second by Weir to use the Osseo Maple Grove Press to publish public notices. *Motion carried unanimously.*

H. Watershed Management Plan Minor Plan Amendment.* Motion by Weir, second by Moore to move forward with the minor plan amendment regarding the Plymouth Stream Improvement capital improvement project. *Motion carried unanimously.*

VII. Elm Creek WRAPS. See Staff Report.

VIII. New Business. Weir requested a Community Clean up handbook for a planned cleanup along Elm Creek from Sioux Drive to Highway 55 Rental. Staff will email a copy to Weir.

IX. Communications. Information regarding the MN Green Corps Host Site* application was provided.

X. Education. The next **WMWA** meeting will be held Tuesday, May 12, at Plymouth City Hall.

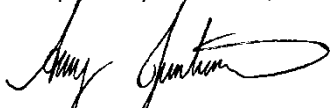
XI. Grant Opportunities.

XII. The following **projects** are also discussed in the April Staff Report.* ("W" denotes wetland project.)

1. 2012-021W Kreps Wetland Violation, Corcoran.
2. 2013-038 River Hills, Dayton.
3. 2013-040 Rush Creek Landing, Dayton.
4. 2013-041 Jomico, Corcoran.*
5. 2013-046 Woods of Medina, Medina.
6. 2014-006 Elm Creek Dam Reconstruction, Champlin.
7. 2014-007 Launch Park, Rogers.
8. 2014-015 Rogers Drive Extension, Rogers.
9. 2014-016 Villas at Medina Country Club, Medina.
10. 2014-017 Biolife Plasma Services, Maple Grove.
11. 2014-026 Woodland Hill Preserve, Medina.
12. 2014-029 Creative Lawn and Landscapers, Rogers.
13. 2014-031 Stonegate at Rush Creek, Maple Gove.
14. 2014-033 Kinghorn Industrial Park Spec Building, Rogers.
15. 2014-038 Sawgrass, Corcoran.
16. 2014-040W Sawgrass Wetland Replacement Plan, Corcoran.
17. 2014-041 Launch Park 2nd Addition (Lot 1, Block 1), Rogers.
18. 2014-042 Launch Park Addition (Outlot B), Rogers.
19. 2015-001 Hwy 47/Troy Lane School and Development Site, Plymouth.
20. 2015-003 Ebert potential wetland and floodplain violation, Corcoran.
21. 2015-004 Kinghorn Outlot A, Rogers.
22. 2015-005 Proehl Farm Wetland Delineation, Corcoran.
23. 2015-006 Veit Building and Parking Lot Addition, Rogers.
24. 2015-007 Parkway Preserve, Rogers.
25. 2015-008 Hamel Station, Lot 3, Medina.
26. 2015-010 Mill Pond Dam Construction, Champlin.

XIII. Adjournment. There being no further business, motion by Walraven, second by Weir to adjourn. *Motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy A. Juntunen
Recording Secretary
AAJ:tim