



Elm Creek
Watershed Management Commission
2009 Annual Activity Report

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by JASS.

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Annual Activity Report.

This annual report has been prepared by the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission in accordance with the annual reporting requirements of Minnesota Rules Chapter 8410.0150, Subp. 2 and 3. It summarizes the activities undertaken by the Commission during calendar year 2009.

The Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission was established to protect and manage the natural resources of the Elm Creek watershed. A Board of Commissioners comprised of representatives appointed by the member communities was established as the governing body of the Commission. Its current members are the cities of Champlin, Corcoran, Dayton, Maple Grove, Medina, Plymouth, and Rogers and the Township of Hassan. The table in *Appendix 1* shows the names of the Commissioners appointed to serve in 2009.

Meetings. The Commissioners meet monthly on the second Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. at Maple Grove City Hall, 12800 Arbor Lakes Parkway. These meetings are open to the public and visitors are welcome. Meeting notices, agendas and approved minutes are posted on the Commission's website, www.elmcreekwatershed.org.

Consultants. Also listed in *Appendix 1* are the individuals/firms serving as the Commission's administrative, legal and technical support staff along with the members of the Commission's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The Commission has no employees.

The Elm Creek Watershed covers approximately 130.68 square miles and lies wholly within the north central part of Hennepin County, Minnesota. The Crow and Mississippi Rivers demarcate the northern boundary. Although some areas in the north drain to the Crow and Mississippi Rivers, they are within the legal boundaries of the Elm Creek watershed. Table 1 shows the area share of the member communities in the watershed. A map of the watershed can be viewed on the Commission's website.

**Table 1:
Area of Members within the Elm Creek Watershed**

Local Government Unit	Area (Square Miles)	%age of Watershed
Champlin	3.08	2%
Corcoran	36.09	28%
Dayton	25.06	19%
Hassan	18.17	14%
Maple Grove	26.37	20%
Medina	9.35	7%
Plymouth	4.45	3%
Rogers	8.10	6%

Watershed Management Plan. The Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission adopted its second generation *Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan* on December 8, 2004. The plan is

available at <http://www.elmcreekwatershed.org/mgmtplan.shtml>. In 2008, the Commission adopted a Minor Plan Amendment revising its Water Quality standards.

The second generation Management Plan includes a section that identifies a number of goals and policies that conform to the overall purpose specified in Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.201. These goals and policies were developed to preserve and use natural water storage and retention systems. They address issues related to water quantity, water quality, recreation, fish and wildlife, enhancement of public participation, information and education, and management of the public ditch system, groundwater, shorelands, wetlands, and soil erosion.

Local Watershed Management Plans. Every member community must prepare and adopt its own water management plan. Local plans must comply with MN Statutes, Sec. 103B.235 and MN Rules 8410.0160 and 8410.0170 regarding local plan content and the requirements of the Commission’s Watershed Management Plan. The status of member communities’ local plans at December 31, 2009, is shown below.

**Table 2:
Status of Local Plans**

Community	Date Submitted	Commission Actions	Status
Champlin	28-Oct-08	10-Jun-09	Approved.
Corcoran	2-Mar-09	10-Jun-09	Approved.
Dayton	7-Feb-07	11-Dec-07	Approved.
Hassan	8-Oct-07	9-Dec-09	Contingent approval.
Maple Grove	30-Sep-08	7-Jan-09	Approved.
Medina	15-Oct-08	12-Aug-09	Approved.
Plymouth	28-Jul-08	01-Dec-08	Approved.
Rogers	17-Apr-06	13-May-09	Approved.

Status of 2009 Objectives. Following is a summary of the work undertaken by the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission in 2009 to meet the goals, objectives, and projected work plan outlined in its *2008 Annual Report*.

§ Reviewed local development/redevelopment plans for conformance with the standards outlined in the second generation Watershed Management Plan. Projects are reviewed for erosion and sediment control, wetland, floodplain and stormwater management, as well as Department of Natural Resources (DNR) permits. The Commission’s technical staff performed 33 project reviews in 2009. Staff also reviewed a local water management plan from one city. A list of each project, its location, and the critical areas reviewed is attached as *Appendix 2*.

§ Served as the local government unit (LGU) for administering the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) for the cities of Champlin and Corcoran and the Township of Hassan. In 2009 the Commission reviewed 12 plans involving wetlands and received no new wetland banking applications. They also participated in four TEPs. Two new potential Wetland Conservation Act violations within the watershed in 2009 were investigated.

§ Conducted lake and stream monitoring programs to track water quality and quantity conditions. The Commission began monitoring Elm Creek and its tributaries in 1975 and the lakes in the watershed in 1980. The Commission conducts chemical, physical and biological monitoring of the streams and physical and chemical monitoring of lakes.

§ Monitored Diamond, Fish, French and Weaver Lakes and the Champlin Mill Pond in cooperation with Three Rivers Park District. The Park District's 2009 lake sampling results will be inserted into this report as *Appendix 3* when they become available. Historical trend data will also be included.

§ Funded the monitoring of Cowley, Henry, and Rice Lakes through Metropolitan Council's Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP). Excerpts from the 2009 CAMP Report regarding these three lakes will also be included in *Appendix 3* when they are available. The full report can be requested by contacting Brian Johnson of the Metropolitan Council, brian.johnson@metc.state.mn.us, or (651) 602-8743. A table in *Appendix 3* shows the Commission's lake monitoring schedule. As the Commission continues to implement its second generation Management Plan, goals for these lakes will be constantly evaluated.

§ Continued to operate the monitoring station in Champlin in cooperation with the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Located at the Elm Creek Road crossing in the Elm Creek Park Reserve, the station collects continuous flow data and periodic event and base water quality data. Real time data from the station may be viewed at http://waterdata.usgs.gov/mn/nwis/uv/?site_no=05287890&PARAMeter_cd=00065,00060. Additional stream monitoring data is included in *Appendix 4*.

§ Promoted river stewardship through the River Watch program. Under the guidance of the Hennepin County Department of Environmental Services (HCDES), students from Champlin High School, Kaleidoscope Charter School, Maple Grove High School, and Wayzata High School monitored five sites on Elm and Rush Creeks. *River Watch 2009*, available from HCDES, includes results from all the Hennepin County monitoring sites. Excerpts from the report on the sites in the Elm Creek watershed are included in *Appendix 5*. The complete report is available at <http://www.co.hennepin.mn.us>, keyword River Watch.

§ Participated in the Minnesota Wetland Health Evaluation Program (WHEP). Six wetlands were monitored in the Elm Creek watershed – three in Maple Grove, two in Dayton and one in Corcoran. More information about the Elm Creek watershed WHEP sites is found in *Appendix 6*. The 2009 *Wetland Health Evaluation Report* includes results from all the Hennepin County monitoring sites. The complete report can be requested from mary.karius@co.hennepin.mn.us.

§ Partnered with the Hennepin County Department of Environmental Services (HCDES) in the Stream Health Evaluation Program (SHEP). When available, data from the sites in the Elm Creek watershed will be found in *Appendix 7*. The 2009 Stream Health Evaluation Program Report includes results from all the monitoring sites and is also available from mary.karius@co.hennepin.mn.us.

§ Completed the Elm, Rush and Diamond Creek Stream Monitoring Project. The goal of this project, funded by a Clean Water Legacy Act Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG) awarded by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in 2007, was to assess the current condition of Elm Creek and identify possible pollution sources that may be contributing to the range of water quality impairments throughout the watershed. The final report is available on the Commission's website.

§ Began development of a watershed-wide TMDL and Implementation Plan. (*Appendix 8*) Assessment work in the subwatersheds will be completed in approximately two years. Results from the modeling and assessment work will be summarized to describe multi-stressor Wasteload Allocations (WLAs), Load Allocations (Las) and load reduction goals for various stakeholder groups on a subwatershed basis. The watershed-wide Implementation plan will address management activities for all the surface waters, both

impaired and unimpaired, in the watershed. Completion of the TMDL study and Implementation Plan is projected in the year 2014. The TMDL work plan can be viewed on the Commission website. The Elm Creek project web page is located on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) website at: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl/project-elm-creek-watershed.html>.

§ Continued as a member of the joint watershed Education and Public Outreach Committee (EPOC). Comprised of members from the Bassett Creek, Elm Creek, Shingle Creek, and West Mississippi watershed management organizations and representatives from Hennepin County Department of Environmental Services and Three Rivers Park District, EPOC's goal is to coordinate and collaborate in education and outreach activities in the northwestern Hennepin County watersheds.

§ Based on results of the watershed survey conducted in 2007, developed and distributed the brochure, *Ten Things You Can Do to Improve Minnesota's Lakes and Streams*. An intended outcome of the survey is a joint educational program for citizens, municipal employees and educators. Development of the program began in 2009 with the formation of the West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA) and creation of mission and vision statements.

§ Co-sponsored a series of Metro Blooms Rain Garden Workshops in conjunction with its Education and Public Outreach Program. Workshops were conducted for residents in Champlin, Maple Grove, and Plymouth.

§ Maintained a website www.elmcreekwatershed.org to provide news to residents of the watershed and beyond. The Watershed Management Plan, monthly meeting materials, project reviews, Annual Reports, water monitoring results, and other watershed-related information are posted there. In addition, from time to time, news releases are provided to the member cities and their official newspapers for publication. At year-end accepted a bid to redesign the website to incorporate the latest technologies and interactive capabilities.

§ At their August 12, 2009 meeting the Commissioners adopted a revised 2010 operating budget totaling \$380,200, with total member assessments of \$180,000.

§ Published an annual report summarizing the Commission's yearly activities and financial reporting. The *2008 Annual Report* was approved by the Commission at their August 12, 2009 meeting.

2010 Work Plan. The Commission has identified the following activities in 2010.

§ Continue to review local development/redevelopment plans for conformance with the standards outlined in the Commission's second generation Watershed Management Plan.

§ Serve as the local government unit (LGU) for administering the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) for the cities of Champlin and Corcoran and the Township of Hassan.

§ Conduct lake and stream monitoring programs to track water quality and quantity conditions.

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

§ Promote river stewardship through the River Watch program. Encourage participation by local school students and their teachers.

§ Participate in the Minnesota Wetland Health Evaluation Program (WHEP).

§ Partner with the Hennepin County Department of Environmental Services (HCDES) in the Stream Health Evaluation Program (SHEP).

§ Continue development of a watershed-wide TMDL and Implementation Plan.

§ Continue as a member of the West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA). The group will be formalized in 2010 and elements of the program will be identified and budgeted for 2011 and beyond. Help to create joint educational program for citizens, municipal employees and educators.

§ Co-sponsor Rain Garden Workshops in conjunction with the Commission's Education and Public Outreach Program.

§ Redesign and maintain the Commission's website www.elmcreekwatershed.org to provide news to residents of the watershed and beyond.

§ Adopt a 2011 operating budget.

§ Publish an annual activities report summarizing the Commission's yearly activities and financial reporting.

Interest Proposals. The required biennial solicitation for interest proposals for administrative, legal, technical and wetland consulting services was published in the December 22, 2008 edition of the *State Register*. After reviewing the responses, the Commissioners approved the individuals and companies named in *Appendix 1*. This process will be repeated in 2011.

Financial Reporting. *Appendix 9* includes the Commission's approved budget for 2009, a report of revenues and expenditures for 2009, and the 2009 Audit Report prepared by Johnson & Company, Ltd., Certified Public Accountants. The Commission's Joint Powers Agreement provides that each member community contributes toward the annual operating budget based on its share of the total market value of all property within the watershed. The 2009 cost allocations to the members are shown as part of the Operating Budget found in *Appendix 9*.

Of the \$276,310 operating budget approved by the Commission for 2009, revenue of \$46,000 was projected as proceeds from application fees, \$2,600 from partnership revenue, and \$12,000 from interest income, resulting in assessments to members totaling \$180,000. \$35,710 was projected as coming from reserves.

The Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission maintains a checking account at US Bank for current expenses and rolls uncommitted monies to its account in the 4M Fund, the Minnesota Municipal Money Market Fund. Amounts paid by the Commission per the 2009 Audit (*Appendix 9*) are as follows:

General engineering	\$ 53,927
General administration	\$ 91,685
Education	\$ 21,852
Programs	\$ 36,895
Projects	<u>\$ 12,559</u>
Total	\$216,918

General engineering work includes review of local plans, review of development/redevelopment projects, attendance at meetings and other technical services.

General administration includes support to technical staff, attendance at meetings, insurance premiums, annual audit, legal counsel, tracking grant opportunities, and other non-engineering services.

Wetland Banking. The Elm Creek Commission does not have a wetland banking program.

Appendices.

Appendix 1 – Commissioners, Staff and Consultants.

Appendix 2 – Project Reviews.

Appendix 3 – Lake Monitoring.

Appendix 4 – Stream Monitoring.

Appendix 5 – River Watch.

Appendix 6 – Wetland Health Evaluation Program (WHEP).

Appendix 7 - Stream Health Evaluation Program (SHEP).

Appendix 8 – Watershed-wide Total Maximum daily Load (TMDL)

Appendix 9 - Financial Reporting.

For more information about this report, contact
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