

PROJECTED 2020 WORK PLAN

TECHNICAL

- 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
- Continue to update the Special Flood Hazard Areas on the FEMA Floodplain maps located within the watershed into current modeling packages. The term of the contract extends through the end of year 2020.

MONITORING

- Continue to partner with the Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) to share in the costs of conducting lake and stream monitoring in the watershed. Under a five-year cooperative agreement approved in 2018 TRPD will be responsible for monitoring three of twelve sampling stations every year for continuous flow and monitor water quality nutrient data upon request from the Commission. TRPD will also be responsible for monitoring four of fifteen lakes in the Elm Creek watershed annually plus other specific lakes that have been approved for monitoring by the Commission. In addition, under the cooperative agreement, the Commission and the Park District will provide financial support to assist the monitoring efforts of the USGS stream gauging station on Elm Creek within the Elm Creek Park Reserve.
- Fund the monitoring of one lake through Metropolitan Council's Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP). Teal Lake in Maple Grove has been chosen as the lake to be monitored through CAMP. Teal Lake Conservation Association members will perform the monitoring.
- Continue to operate the monitoring station in Champlin in cooperation with the United States Geological Survey (USGS).
- Participate in the Minnesota Wetland Health Evaluation Program (WHEP) with four wetlands in 2020.

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

- Promote river stewardship through Hennepin County's RiverWatch program with three sites in 2020.
- Continue as a member of the West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA).
- Sponsor Rain Garden Workshops as part of the Commission's Education and Public Outreach Program. The workshops are presented by Metro Blooms. Champlin will host a Resilient Yard Workshop including the Lawns to Legumes program in 2020.
- Continue as a member of Blue Thumb and WaterShed Partners and a partner in the NEMO (Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials) program.

- Promote “Lawns to Legumes,” a program for residents to seed their lawns with a bee lawn mix, targeting habitat for the Rusty-patched bumblebee, an endangered species. The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will run the program with funding coming to Hennepin County serving as a Conservation District.
- Continue to work in partnership with the University of Minnesota’s agriculture specialist to help build relationships with the agricultural community in the watershed in order to achieve TMDL load reductions.
- Continue to populate and maintain the Commission’s website www.elmcreekwatershed.org to provide news to residents, students, developers and other individuals interested in the water resources of the watershed.

PROJECTS AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

- Send call out to member cities, requesting them to provide updates to the projects already included on the Commission’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP) as well as inform the Commission of new projects that they would like to have considered for inclusion on the CIP. Hold public meeting, adopt amendment to the Third Generation Watershed Management Plan.
- Continue to support City-sponsored projects using the ad valorem funding mechanism. Conduct public hearing for identified projects and certify levy to Hennepin County.
- For the 2020-2021 biennium of the Watershed-Based funding program BWSR decided to allocate the funds based on major watershed divides. Elm Creek is in the Mississippi West Major Watershed (MWW) which will be allocated \$874,153. A partnership must be developed consisting of at least one representative from each watershed district, watershed management organization, soil and water conservation district, county and at least two municipalities within the MWW. The partnership will coordinate development of a watershed-based budget for submittal to BWSR for approval. Funds will become available July 1, 2020. Grants from these funds expire December 31, 2023.
- Work with the Hennepin County Rural Conservation Specialist. Assist landowners in identifying BMPs for implementation as part of approved subwatershed assessments.
 - Undertake high priority projects identified in the Rush Creek Headwaters Subwatershed Assessment. Proposed activities could include grassed waterways, alternate/closed tile intakes, manure management projects, grazing plans and exclusion fencing.
 - Support the City of Maple Grove and its partners as they undertake a subwatershed assessment for Weaver Lake.
 - Support the City of Corcoran and its partners as they undertake a subwatershed assessment for the South Fork of Rush Creek. A small portion of the South Fork also flows through the cities of Maple Grove and Medina.
 - Support the City of Dayton and its partners to continue efforts for completion of the Diamond Lake subwatershed assessment.

- Minnesota's New Buffer Initiative requires public waters in the state - lakes, rivers and streams - to be surrounded by vegetated buffers 50-feet wide (on average) and public ditches to have 16.5-foot wide buffers. In 2020 buffer reviews will be completed for Champlin, Dayton, Maple Grove, and Plymouth.

Administrative

- Conduct the biennial solicitation of interest proposals for administrative, legal, technical and wetland consultants. This process will be repeated in January 2021.
- Adopt a 2021 operating budget.
- Publish an annual activity report summarizing the Commission's yearly activities and financial reporting.