

elm creek Watershed Management Commission

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
3235 Fernbrook Lane • Plymouth, MN 55447
PH: 763.553.1144 • email: judie@jass.biz
www.elmcreekwatershed.org

November 1, 2023

Representatives **and** Members
Elm Creek Watershed Management
Commission Hennepin County, MN

*The meeting packets for these meetings may
be found on the Commission's website:*
[http://www.elmcreekwatershed.org/minutes--
meeting-packets.html](http://www.elmcreekwatershed.org/minutes--meeting-packets.html)

A regular meeting of the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission will be held on
Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 11:30 a.m. in the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th
Avenue North, Plymouth MN.

The Technical Advisory Committee will **NOT MEET** in November.

Please email me at judie@jass.biz to confirm whether you or your Alternate will be attending the
regular meeting.

Thank you.



Judie A. Anderson
Administrator
JAA:tim

Encls: Meeting Packet

cc:	Alternates	Erik Megow	Rebecca Carlson	James Kujawa	Ed Matthiesen
	TAC Members	Karen Galles	Kris Guentzel	Kevin Ellis	Diane Spector
	James Monge	Brian Vlach	Grace Barcelow	Met Council	City Clerks
	Official Newspaper	DNR	MPCA	BWSR	

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AGENDA Regular Meeting November 8, 2023

The meeting packet may be found on the Commission's website: <http://elmcreekwatershed.org/minutes--meeting-packets.html>

Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Avenue North, Plymouth, MN.

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.*
5. Old Business.
6. New Business.
 - a. Proposed Scope of Work – Elm Creek TMDL 10-year Review.*
7. Communications.
 - a. Staff Report.*
 - b. Hennepin County Staff Report.*
 - c. Hennepin County Green Notes.*
8. Education.
 - a. WMWA - next meeting – November 14, 2023, at 8:30 a.m., via Zoom.
9. Grant Opportunities and Updates.
10. Project Reviews.

Enclosure	Action	Project No.	Project Name
		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.
		2020-009	Stetler Barn, Medina.
		2020-017	Meadow View Townhomes, Medina.
		2020-032	Enclave Rogers - Commerce Boulevard, Rogers.
		2020-033	Weston Woods, Medina.
		2021-020	Crew Carwash, Maple Grove.
		2021-029	Tri-Care Grocery / Retail, Maple Grove
		2021-034	BAPS Hindu Temple, Medina.
		2021-036	D & D Service, Corcoran.

*in meeting packet

**available at meeting or on website

		2021-044	Balsam II Apartments, Dayton.
		2021-052	Norbella Senior Living, Rogers.
		2022-006	Hamel Townhomes, Medina.
		2022-011	Arrowhead Drive Turn Lane Expansion, Medina.
		2022-013	Dayton 94 Industrial Site, Dayton.
		2022-016	Rogers Activity Center, Rogers.
		2022-017	City Center Drive, Corcoran.
		2022-018	Big Woods, Rogers.
		2022-020	Skye Meadows Extension, Rogers.
		2022-022	Cook Lake Highlands, Corcoran.
		2022-026	Archway Building, Rogers
		2022-028	Elsie Stephens Park, Dayton.
		2022-038	Tavera North Side, Corcoran.
		2022-040	Kariniemi Meadows, Corcoran.
		2022-043	Meander Park and Boardwalk, Medina.
		2022-049	Connexus Energy Subdivision, Dayton.
		2023-01	Chankahda Trail Reconstruction Phase 2, Plymouth.
		2023-04	Medina Industrial Site, Medina.
		2023-08	Rush Creek Boulevard Interchange, Maple Grove.
		2023-09	Magnifi Financial , Maple Grove.
		2023-10	Rogers New Fire Station.
		2023-11	Sundance Greens 9 th Addition, Dayton.
		2023-13	River Valley Church, Maple Grove.
		2023-14	Bottema Wetland Restoration, Corcoran.
		2023-15	South Fork Rush Creek Restoration at Evanswood, Maple Grove.
		2023-16	Rogers South Community Park
		2023-17	Veit Pit – Sand and Gravel Mine, Rogers.
		2023-018	Brayburn Trails II, Dayton.
		2023-019	23240 County Road 30, Corcoran.
		2023-020	Dunkirk Square, Maple Grove.
		2023-021	Parks Place Memory Care, Plymouth.
		2023-022	Shores of Sylvan Lake, Rogers.
E	A	2023-023	NORSQ, Maple Grove.
E	A	2023-024	Elm Creek Rest Area Sidewalk Reconstruction, Maple Grove.
		2023-025	Rogers Mixed-Use Improvements.

11. Other Business.

12. Adjournment.

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*in meeting packet

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MINUTES

Regular Meeting | October 11, 2023

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

Present: Bill Walraven, Champlin; Ken Guenthner, Corcoran; Doug Baines, Dayton; Joe Trainor, Maple Grove; and Terry Sharp, Medina. Not represented: Plymouth and Rogers.

Also present: Kevin Mattson, Corcoran; John Accola, Dayton; Derek Asche, Maple Grove; Rebecca Haug, WSB, Medina; Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; Andrew Simmons, Rogers; Erik Megow and Diane Spector, Stantec; Rebecca Carlson, Resilience Resources; Kris Guentzel and Kevin Ellis, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District; and Judie Anderson, JASS.

II. AGENDA. Motion by Walraven, second by Guenthner to approve the Agenda. *Motion carried unanimously.*

A. Motion by Guenthner, second by Sharp to approve the **Minutes* of the September 13, 2023, meeting and public hearing.** *Motion carried unanimously.*

B. Motion by Sharp, second by Guenthner to approve the **October Treasurer's Report and Claims*** totaling \$47,271.42. *Motion carried unanimously.*

III. OPEN FORUM.

IV. PROJECT REVIEWS.

A. 2023-018 Brayburn Trails II, Dayton.* The developer is proposing 145 single-family home lots and public roads on a 58.53-acre site. The project adds 15.52 acres of new impervious (a total of 16.25 acres of impervious including the 0.73 acres of existing impervious) and disturbs 55 acres. The site is located south of 117th Avenue North, on the west side of Fernbrook Lane, north of Rush Creek and southeast of French Lake. The project triggers Rules D and E and meets those requirements through NURP ponds with filtration benches and erosion control. Due to receipt of a significant revision of the project, action on this project was tabled at the September meeting and the review period extended sixty days to December 3, 2023. In their revised findings dated October 4, 2023, Staff recommends approval with five conditions: (1) escrow reconciliation; (2) receipt of a Stormwater Management Agreement acceptable to the City and the Commission within 90 days of plat recordation; and the applicant meeting (3) LFE standards and (4) volume standards; and (5) receipt of proof of the latter two conditions by October 6, 2023. Staff reported that conditions 3, 4 and 5 have been met. Motion by Trainor, second by Walraven to approve Staff's recommendation. *Motion carried unanimously.*

RULE D - STORMWATER MANAGEMENT
RULE E - EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL
RULE F - FLOODPLAIN ALTERATION

RULE G - WETLAND ALTERATION
RULE H - BRIDGE AND CULVERT CROSSINGS
RULE I - BUFFERS

*indicates enclosure

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B. 2023-022 Shores of Sylvan Lake, Rogers.* This project consists of the redevelopment of an existing farmstead into five large lots on Sylvan Lake and will disturb 2.32 acres of a 9.27-acre single-family parcel located west of the intersection between Territorial Road and Sylvan Lake Road. The project triggers Commission rules D, E and I. This item has been reviewed by Staff and a finding of fact memo dated October 3, 2023, is included in the meeting packet. Staff recommends approval of the project conditioned on (1) escrow reconciliation and (2) provision of a Stormwater Maintenance Agreement acceptable to the City and the Commission. Motion by Guenther, second by Trainor to approve Staff's recommendation. *Motion carried unanimously.*

V. OLD BUSINESS.

VI. NEW BUSINESS.

VII. EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH.

A. Potential Education and Outreach Options. Staff have begun brainstorming options for education and outreach initiatives for focus in 2024 and beyond, both within the Elm Creek watershed and joint efforts with WMWA and Hennepin County. Planning for the next round of Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) grants will start after the first of the year, and that is a possible source of funding for these initiatives.

Staff will have more to discuss after the October 10 WMWA meeting and some additional discussion, but here are some ideas they are considering. They are seeking Commission review and discussion and ideas for other topics that are not on this list, with the intention not to make a decision about which to pursue or not pursue, but more to brainstorm and establish priorities for further development.

1. Working with as many of the Hennepin County WMOs as possible, continue the work of the Hennepin County Chloride Initiative (HCCI), with a focus on more broadly raising awareness of the Low Salt No Salt campaign, such as a coordinated media campaign.

2. Hosting property manager workshops to educate them about developing and implementing chloride management plans on their properties. Grace Barcelow, the Hennepin County outreach coordinator, is also reaching out to faith-based communities regarding this topic .

3. Making more small grants available to property owners for small nutrient/sediment BMPs.

4. Outreach to small business owners (for example, storefront owners/tenants at small strip malls) to focus on proper chloride use. Participants would get an ice scraper and environmentally friendly ice melt/bucket/scoop.

The discussion at this meeting is intended to provide some guidance to Staff and the TAC so they can bring back tangible programs.

B. WMWA Educator Special Project Follow-up. At last month's meeting Staff introduced some ideas for an initial discussion regarding development of potential outreach ideas

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with the joint WMWA coordinator. The Watershed-Based Implementation Funding grant workplan supporting the shared coordinator calls for implementing at least four “special projects” across the five participating WMOs. Examples cited in the work plan were workshops for residents/property owners/business owners, perhaps with follow-up small grants and/or onsite consultation; or multi-family housing equitable engagement projects, likely in partnership with Metro Blooms, similar to projects undertaken in the Shingle Creek watershed at multi-family housing sites that include updated stormwater management as well as other site improvements.

Barcelow has asked each WMO to express a preference for what type of special project might be a good fit for their watershed. Staff are not aware of potential multi-family projects currently, so they are focused on workshop ideas. Regardless of which option the Commission prefers, it is likely that implementation would not occur until spring 2024. Some ideas from Staff include:

1. Customizing the existing Blue Thumb Resilient Yards workshop ([Workshops & Events – Blue Thumb](#)), offering free on-site consultation and planting stipends to participants.
2. As suggested by the City of Corcoran, developing a new workshop and online resource targeted at HOA members regarding strategies for maintaining their green spaces and understanding how to manage and maintain their on-site BMPs.
3. Develop a new workshop based on other ideas the Commissioners might have. This may require an additional financial commitment from the Commission depending on how much customization or workshop development would be required.

Based on discussions with Barcelow, Staff are inclined to recommend idea #2, for the following reasons.

a. The Elm Creek Watershed TMDL identified land use change as an important component of the TMDL implementation plan. In the upper watershed, 50-70% of the land was expected to experience land use change over the life of the TMDL. Adopting more stringent development rules, which the Commission did with the Third Generation Plan, is a key factor in meeting the required load reductions as land converts from untreated uses to uses with infiltration and treatment BMPs. Proper and timely maintenance is required to maintain those load reductions, and many HOAs that are now responsible for that work are not prepared for that burden. *Educating and assisting the HOAs with this work prevents the cities from having to construct additional BMPs to make up for that loss of effectiveness.*

b. Nearly all the available online education and training resources are targeted toward MS4s and their permit obligations. There are a few guides nationally targeted toward HOAs ([City of Boulder](#), [Hampton Roads, VA](#), and [San Diego County](#) are some examples), but they are still more technical and intimidating with detail than the average layperson is used to working with. [WMWA developed a booklet](#) years ago, and while it is more user-friendly, it is still a bit overwhelming. This would be an opportunity to fill an information gap and reach out to a growing population.

c. Technology makes it easier to present information than the traditional booklet or flier. Putting together an interactive website with a variety of tools, graphics, videos, and in-person training provides plenty of opportunities for users to learn at their own pace and in their own time and go back and refer to information to refresh their memories. This makes it much more likely that the tools and resources will be used. Staff are especially interested in hearing more from cities about the types of conversations they have with HOAs and staff perceptions of education and outreach needs. Should you wish to go forward with this option, part of the planning process prior to developing the tools and workshops would be additional extended meetings with city staffs to better define the needs, objectives, and desired outcomes.

Should members wish to pursue a different type of workshop or outreach topic, Staff will work with Barcelow to develop, needs, objectives, and desired outcomes before formally developing work products.

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

VIII. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES.

Applications are being accepted through November 14, 2023, for Hennepin County **Good Steward Grants**.* Good Steward Grants are primarily for smaller projects that improve water quality, enhance natural areas and promote environmental stewardship to the community. A typical grant amount is \$10,000 to \$20,000, with a maximum amount of \$25,000. All landowners are eligible to apply, including individuals, nonprofit and non-governmental organizations, local government agencies, and businesses.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS. The following communications have been received:

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 6 of these minutes are discussed in the October 4, 2023, report.

B. Hennepin County Staff Report.*

1. **Bottema Wetland Restoration Update, Corcoran.** Wetland restoration activities were completed in September. Upland prairie work is moving to the management phase with continued mowings this fall and next year and another seeding possible this fall or in 2024. Drone video captured in September, and following significant rains in late September, found an estimated 250-500 ducks utilizing the newly hydrated wetlands. County staff are working on reimbursing the landowner for grant-eligible costs in October.

2. **Mattila Manure Bunker, Corcoran.** Manure bunker was inspected by staff with no issues observed. Currently working to reimburse landowner for completed work.

3. **Christian Settling Basin, Dayton.** Sediment basin designs were developed by Mike Candler of Wright County SWCD, Hennepin County staff met with the potential contractor to walk through the design, test soils, and answer questions. Contractor and landowner both approved the plans to move forward with minimal edits. Hennepin County staff

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will delineate the wetland to ensure that work will not cause any disturbance. A TEP will also be formed to review the workplan.

4. Welcome Ranch, Dayton. County staff met with the manager on site to discuss plans for BMP projects with NRCS staff. It was determined that the first BMPs to be designed and implemented will be the manure bunker and the barn gutters and drainage system. The manure bunker is currently in development.

5. Other County Programming.

a. Hennepin County was recently awarded a \$10 million [Urban and Community Forestry grant](#) from the U.S. Forest Service to remove diseased trees, plant trees, educate residents, and support businesses and workforce development. The project will improve resilience to climate change, pests, storms, and extreme heat events. This grant is part of more than \$1 billion awarded to 385 projects nationwide, including \$33 million in Minnesota. This historic funding from the Inflation Reduction Act will support projects that increase tree cover in disadvantaged communities, as identified in the [White House Council on Environmental Quality's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#).

With the grant funding, Hennepin County forestry will help low-income homeowners remove and replace diseased trees and educate residents about tree care and the benefits of trees. This funding addresses a significant need identified by community members as the [emerald ash borer](#) has swept through the County. County foresters have heard from residents about the overwhelming financial burden of removing a diseased tree. Without help, some residents could be at risk of losing their home to tax forfeiture if the property is assessed for the removal of a tree. Many other residents are not likely to be able to afford to replace the removed tree, which furthers the disparities in the urban tree canopy. The County will prioritize contracting with small, women-and-minority-owned tree removal businesses and community-based organizations to conduct education and expand county and community-based workforce development programs to employ teens and young adults to plant and maintain trees.

Cities and other entities within the County that also received Urban and Community Forestry grants include the cities of Minneapolis and Richfield, Great River Greening, and the University of Minnesota. Together, these grants represent a transformative opportunity to increase equity in the urban tree canopy, reduce the heat island effect, and sequester carbon. For more information, contact Dustin Ellis at dustin.ellis@hennepin.us.

b. Funding is available for businesses, cities, multifamily properties, nonprofit organizations, and institutions in Hennepin County to establish organics recycling drop-off sites. Up to \$15,000 is available for each drop-off site. Funding can be used for hauling and disposal costs, construction, dumpsters or carts, and promotions. Priority will be given to drop-off sites that increase access to organics recycling for residents in multifamily properties without access to city service and in cities with limited organics recycling options. Applications are due October 10. To earn more: [organics recycling drop-off funding guidelines \(PDF\)](#); to access the application materials: [Hennepin County supplier portal](#). For more information, contact Amy Maas,

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Regular Meeting Minutes | October 11, 2023

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amy.maas@hennepin.us.

X. Other Business.

XI. **Adjournment.** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

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.
2020-009	Stetler Barn, Medina.
2020-017	Meadow View Townhomes, Medina.
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2021-035	Mister Car Wash, Rogers.
2021-036	D & D Service, Corcoran.
2021-044	Balsam II Apartments, Dayton.
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2021-052	Norbella Senior Living, Rogers.
2022-002	Summerwell, Maple Grove.
2022-003	Fox Briar Ridge East, Maple Grove.
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2022-012	Graco Building 2, Dayton.
2022-013	Dayton 94 Industrial Site, Dayton.
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2022-017	City Center Drive, Corcoran.
2022-018	Big Woods, Rogers.
2022-019	Grass Lake Preserve, Dayton.

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2022-022	Cook Lake Highlands, Corcoran.
2022-026	Archway Building, Rogers
2022-028	Elsie Stephens Park, Dayton.
2022-029	Hayden Hills Park, Dayton.
2022-033	Pet Suites, Maple Grove.
2022-035	Rush Hollow, Maple Grove.
2022-038	Tavera North Side, Corcoran.
2022-040	Karinieimi Meadows, Corcoran.
2022-042	Walcott Glen, Corcoran.
2022-043	Meander Park and Boardwalk, Medina.
2022-045	Corcoran Water Treatment Plant.
2022-047	Suite Living of Maple Grove.
2022-049	Connexus Energy South Dayton Substation.
2023-001	Chankahda Trail Reconstruction Phase 2, Plymouth.
2023-002	Lynde Greenhouse Fire Damage Repair, Maple Grove.
2023-004	Medina Industrial Site, Medina.
2023-006	Sota Shine, Maple Grove.
2023-008	Rush Creek Boulevard Interchange, Maple Grove.
2023-009	Magnifi Financial, Maple Grove.
2023-010	Rogers New Fire Station.
2023-011	Sundance Greens 9th, Dayton.
2023-012	Hope Community Mixed Use, Corcoran.
2023-013	River Valley Church, Maple Grove.
2023-014	Bottema Wetland, Corcoran.
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2023-017	Veit Pit, Rogers.

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Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission Treasurer's Report

		2023 Budget	Oct 2023	Nov 2023	2023 Budget YTD
EXPENSES					
Administrative		100,000	8,875.79	8,373.07	101,216.28
Grant Writing		0			0.00
Website		2,000	18.75	18.75	1,277.16
Legal		2,000			465.00
Audit		6,500			6,800.00
Insurance		4,000			3,784.00
Miscellaneous/Contingency		0			0.00
Technical Support - HCEE		20,000			4,531.26
HUC-8 Floodplain Mapping		0			0.00
Technical - Project Review		184,000	12,180.50		82,497.28
Technical - Other		70,000	3,744.50		70,744.97
Project Review - Admin Support		16,000	890.78	1,004.00	15,176.02
Stream Monitoring USGS		24,000	5,775.00		32,400.00
Stream Monitoring TRPD		10,020			0.00
Biological Monitoring		4,500			0.00
DO Longitudinal Survey		2,400			0.00
Partnership Biomonitoring Project (Comm shar		2,000			0.00
Rain Gauge		440	34.85	33.44	322.93
Lakes Monitoring - CAMP		840			0.00
TRPD Monitoring - Sentinel Lakes/Addn'l Lake		10,412			0.00
Aquatic Vegetation Surveys		1,365			0.00
Wetland Monitoring (WHEP)		0			0.00
Education		2,000	0.50	0.75	842.87
WMWA General Activities		5,000			3,000.00
WMWA Implementation/Watershed Prep		4,500			2,000.00
Rain Garden Wkshops/Intensive BMPs/Special Proje		2,000			4,000.00
Macroinvertebrate Monitoring-River Watch		0			0.00
Studies / Project ID / SWA		0			14,750.00
CIPs General		3,000	51.75	1.50	1,523.37
Rush Creek SWA Implementation		106,050			0.00
Plan Amendment		2,000			580.12
Contribution to 4th Gen Plan		12,500			0.00
Transfer to (from) Capital Projects (see CIP Tra		291,638	558.00		131,430.57
Transfer to (from) Cash Sureties (see below)			-	-	0.00
Transfer to (from) Grants (see below)		125,000	15,141.00	-	138,203.20
To Fund Balance					0.00
TOTAL - Month			47,271.42	9,431.51	612,544.28
TOTAL Paid in 2023, incl late 2022 Expenses		1,014,165.00	633,789.78	643,221.29	2023 Paid

Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission Treasurer's Report

		2023 Budget	Oct 2023	Nov 2023	2023 Budget YTD
INCOME					
Project Review Fee		184,000	13,963.00		125,706.25
Refund Project Fee			(1,146.00)		(13,445.00)
Project Review Base Fee			500.00		2,000.00
Nonrefundable Admin		16,000	500.00		5,953.00
Nonrefundable Technical		17,000	800.00		8,985.00
Water Monitoring - TRPD Co-op Agmt		6,500			0.00
Member Dues		250,000			250,000.00
Interest/Dividends Earned		750	8,113.87		69,448.42
Transfer to (from) Capital Projects (see CIP Tr		291,638			308,587.38
Transfer to (from) Grants (see below)		125,000	-	-	249,965.50
Rush Creek SWA Implementation		79,537			0.00
Transfer from Assigned Fund Balance		26,513			
Misc Income / Contingency		0			
From Unrestricted Cash Reserves		17,227			
Total - Month			22,730.87	0.00	1,007,200.55
TOTAL Rec'd 2023, incl late 2022 Income		1,014,165.00	1,027,228.70	1,027,228.70	2023 Received
CASH SUMMARY		Balance Fwd			
Checking		0.00			
4M Fund		1,399,787.64	1,793,226.56	1,783,795.05	
Cash on Hand			1,793,226.56	1,783,795.05	
Claims Presented		General Ledger Account No	October	November	TOTAL
Campbell Knutson - Legal		521000			0.00
Connexus - Rain Gauge		551100		33.44	33.44
Stantec					0.00
Technical - Project Review		578050			
Technical - Other		578050			
South Fork Rush Creek SWA (23 WBIF)		584006			
N Fork Rush Creek Remeander Feasibility		584006			
JASS					9,398.07
Administration		511000		7,386.07	
TAC Support		511000		987.00	
Website		581000		18.75	
Project Review Admin Support		578100		326.00	
Project Reviews - Project Specific Admin		578100		678.00	
Education		590000		0.75	
CIPs General		563001		1.50	
TOTAL CLAIMS					9,431.51



Account Number:
481113-238425

ELM CREEK WATERSHED MGMT ORG

Monthly Statement

Service Address
ELM CREEK RD
DAYTON MN

Billing Summary

Billing Date: Oct 17, 2023

Previous Balance	\$34.85
Payments - Thank You!	\$34.85
Balance Forward	\$0.00
New Charges	\$33.44

Total Amount Due **\$33.44**

Payment must be received on or before November 13, 2023

Total Amount Due

\$33.44

Due Date

November 13, 2023

Message Center

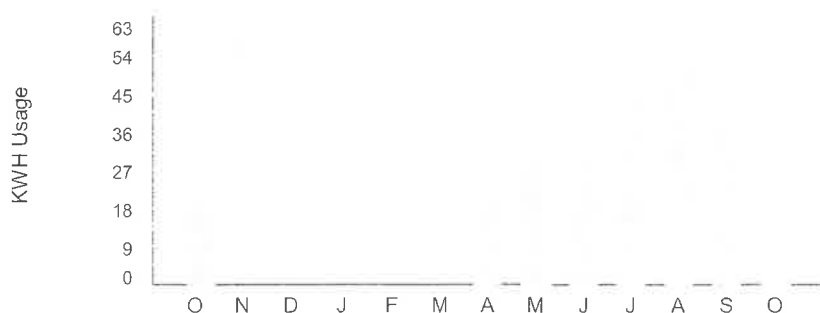
VFD or VSD \$60/HP Promo Rebate

For a limited time, get a \$60/hp rebate when you add a variable frequency drive (VFD) or variable speed drive (VSD) to improve the efficiency of your motor operations. More details and application available at connexusenergy.com. Offer expires December 15, 2023.

Energy Comparison

Previous Months' Usage

Current Month's Usage



How to contact us

Member Services / Moving - 763-323-2650
Outages and Emergencies - 763-323-2660
Hearing/Speech Impaired Call - 711 or 800-627-3529
Email: info@connexusenergy.com
www.connexusenergy.com
Gopher State One Call - 811
14601 Ramsey Boulevard, Ramsey, MN 55303

▼ Please detach at perforation and return this portion with a check or money order made payable to Connexus Energy ▼

TRA3-D-006R30/005993 VG30NI S1-ET-M11-C06002 1



Account Number:

481113-238425

Total Amount Due

\$33.44

Payment Due By

November 13, 2023

006830 1 AB 0.534 002839/006830/005993 023 02 VG30NI
ELM CREEK WATERSHED MGMT ORG
3235 FERNBROOK LN N
PLYMOUTH MN 55447-5325



Connexus Energy

PO Box 1808
Minneapolis, MN 55480-1808



3235 Fernbrook Lane
Plymouth MN 55447

Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission
3235 Fernbrook Lane
Plymouth, MN 55447

31-Oct-23

Total by
Project Area

Administrative		70.00	0.00	
Administrative	29.730	75.00	2,229.75	
Admin - offsite	2.150	80.00	172.00	
Handbook		75.00	0.00	
Office Support	22.00	200.00	4,400.00	
Storage Unit - .47	1.00	183.77	183.77	
Data Processing/File Mgmt		75.00	0.00	
Drop Box Subscription		120.00	0.00	
Archiving		70.00	0.00	
Reimbursables	400.55	1.00	400.55	7,386.070
Administrative - TAC support		70.00	0.00	
Administrative - TAC Support	10.74	75.00	805.50	
Admin - TAC support	2.05	80.00	164.00	
TAC support - reimbursables	17.50	1.00	17.50	987.000
Website		70.00	0.00	
Website	0.25	75.00	18.75	
Web Domain, hosting		1.00	0.00	
Website - Zoom		1.00	0.00	18.750
Project Reviews - Secre		70.00	0.00	
Project Reviews - Admin	3.93	75.00	294.75	
Project Reviews - Admin Project Specific	9.04	75.00	678.00	678.00
Project Reviews - Admin offsite		80.00	0.00	
Project Reviews - Admin - File Mgmt		75.00	0.00	
Project Reviews - reimbursables	31.25	1.00	31.25	326.000
Education - Secretarial		70.00	0.00	
Education - Admin		75.00	0.00	
Education - Admin virtual		80.00	0.00	
Education - reimbursables	0.75	1.00	0.75	0.750
CIPs -General		70.00	0.00	
CIPs - Administrative		75.00	0.00	
CIPs- Offsite Admin		80.00	0.00	
CIPs - reimbursables	1.50	1.00	1.50	1.500
				9,398.070

elm creek Watershed Management Commission

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
3235 Fernbrook Lane
Plymouth, MN 55447
PH: 763.553.1144
email: judie@jass.biz
www.elmcreekwatershed.org

NORSQ Maple Grove Maple Grove Project #2023-023

Project Overview:

Location: The project is located on a 78.9-acre parcel on Garland Ln. N, east of Lawndale Ln N and north of 95th Ave N.

Purpose: The proposed development is 23.15 acres and will consist of an apartment building, a commercial building, and townhomes. In addition to the buildings, there will be amenities and associated street and utility infrastructure.

WMC Rules	X	Rule D	Stormwater Management
Triggered:	X	Rule E	Erosion and Sediment Control
		Rule F	Floodplain Alterations
	X	Rule G	Wetland Alteration
		Rule H	Bridge and Culvert Crossings
	X	Rule I	Buffer Strips
		Rule K	Variance

Applicant: NORSQ Companies

Address: 210 Queensland Lane North
Plymouth, MN 55447

Attention: Jeff Koch

Phone: (952) 221-0712

Email: jeffkoch@norsqcompanies.com

Agent: Westwood Professional Services

Address: 733 Marquette Ave. S, Ste 700
Minnetonka, MN 55343

Attention: Ryan Bluhm

Phone: (952) 873-9300

Email: ryan.bluhm@westwoodps.com

Exhibits:	Description	Date Received
Application	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complete ECWMC Application	September 1, 2023
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECWMC Request for Review and Approval	September 5, 2023
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City authorization: Maple Grove, MN	August 29, 2023
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review fee: \$7,030	August 30, 2023
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Documents (site plans, reports, models, etc.)	October 23, 2023

Submittals

1. Final Stormwater Management Plan, dated September 23rd, 2023, prepared by Westwood.
 - a. Stormwater Narrative.
 - b. Existing and Proposed Drainage Maps.
 - c. Existing and Proposed HydroCAD model results.
 - d. Geotechnical Evaluation Report, dated August 4, 2023, prepared by Braun Intertec Corporation.
2. Final Grading and Erosion Control Drawings, dated October 23, 2023, prepared by Westwood.

Findings

General

1. A complete application was received September 6, 2023. The initial 60-day decision period per MN Statute 15.99 expires November 5, 2023. The application was extended 60 days to January 4, 2024.
2. The existing 78.9-acre property consists primarily of agricultural land (row crops) with a large wetland (18.6 acres) bordering the southern portion of the property. The site currently drains to two general areas:
 - a. To the northwest intersection which ultimately drains to the South Fork of Rush Creek
 - b. To the south to the existing wetland.
3. The proposed site consists of three proposed developments: one current and two future developments (Outlot C and Outlot D). The current phase of construction includes 155 townhome units with a clubhouse and amenities, along with associated parking. The future Outlot C includes a multi-level apartment complex with 200 apartment units and associated parking and future Outlot D includes a commercial building with drive thru and associated parking.
4. The total proposed connected impervious surface from proposed roadways, driveways, buildings, and sidewalks is 14.03 acres, all of which is new impervious surface.
5. The project will include the construction of four new filtration basins which will provide rate, volume, and water quality for the development.
6. Due to the presence of type D soils, volume control cannot be achieved via infiltration.
7. There are no Elm Creek Watershed jurisdictional floodplains or stream crossings that will be disturbed by the project.

Rule D – Stormwater Management

General

1. The total proposed connected impervious surface from proposed roadways, driveways, buildings, and sidewalks is 14.03 acres, all of which is new impervious.
2. Based on the geotechnical report, the hydrologic soil group was determined to be "D". These underlying soils have very low infiltration capacity.
3. The project will include the construction of four new filtration basins, one iron enhanced filtration basin and the other three being typical filtration basins without iron filings.
4. Stormwater runoff from the new roadways, building roofs, yards, and parking areas will be collected by storm sewer and piped to the proposed stormwater treatment BMPs. The runoff collected and routed to the Northwest (Filtration Basin 4) ultimately drains to the South Fork of

Rush Creek and the runoff collect and routed to Filtration Basins 1, 2, and 3 drains to the wetland located directly south of the project site.

Rate Controls

1. Rate control at each discharge location of the project does not meet Commission requirements.
 - a. The proposed West discharge rates to Lawndale Lane exceed existing rates. The drainage area contributing to this discharge location consists of a small portion of the driveway entrance to the site and is unable to be captured due to grading constraints.
 - b. Despite this discharge location not meeting rate control requirements the site overall **meets** commission requirements.
2. The proposed basins were sized to draw down within 48 hours.
3. The applicant provided HydroCAD model output for the 2-year, 10-year, and 100-year events total outflow from each drainage from the site. The rates are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1 Rate of Discharge Leaving Site

Direction	Condition	2-year (cfs)	10-year (cfs)	100-year (cfs)
South <i>To Wetland</i>	Pre-Project	51.44	97.27	198.24
	Proposed	51.10	96.63	161.36
	Change	-0.34	-0.64	-36.88
Northwest <i>South Fork of Rush Creek</i>	Pre-Project	11.39	19.95	38.17
	Proposed	4.34	16.23	29.10
	Change	-7.05	-3.72	-9.07
TOTAL	Pre-Project	62.83	117.22	236.41
	Proposed	55.44	112.86	190.46
	Change	-7.39	-4.36	-45.95

Low Floor Elevations

1. Low floors **meet** Commission requirements.
2. The low floor elevations must be at least two feet above the 100-yr high water level (HWL) and at least one foot above the EOF for the stormwater pond.

Operation and Maintenance

The applicant will need to enter a stormwater maintenance agreement with the City of Maple Grove.

Abstraction Controls and Water Quality

1. Abstraction and Water Quality controls **meet** Commission requirements
2. Infiltration from 1.1 inches of runoff from impervious areas is not feasible due to the presence of Type D Soils.
3. The applicant proposes to use filtration to meet the Commission's requirement for abstraction.
4. The total proposed impervious is 14.03 acres (611,147 sf). The 1.1" abstraction volume is 56,021 cf.
5. The abstraction volume provided is 60,947 through biofiltration.
6. The applicant provided existing and proposed MIDS calculations for the development showing conformance with the water quality requirements.
7. Stantec re-ran existing MIDS model with a phosphorus EMC of 0.533 mg/l to represent the existing row crop land cover condition of the site more accurately. The row crop condition of the existing site was deemed to be appropriate as aerial photography shows this condition has been in place for at least 10 years.
8. The proposed model was also re-ran by Stantec to include the area of the development that was not captured by the proposed BMPs.

Table 2 Water Quality Summary

	Annual Runoff Vol. (ac-ft)	Abstraction Vol. (cubic feet)	TP* (lbs/year)	TSS* (lbs/year)
Pre-Project	14.1	N/A	20.4	2,081.0
Proposed (w/ BMP's)	36.0	56,021 (required) 60,947 (provided)	12.8	1,403.2
Change	21.9	+ 4,926 (excess)	-7.6	-677.8

Rule E – Erosion and Sediment Control (plans)

1. Plans **meet** Commission requirements for erosion and sediment control.
2. The erosion and sediment control plans are consistent with current best management practices, including:
 - a. Rock construction entrance
 - b. Silt fence
 - c. Catch basin inlet protection
 - d. Permanent erosion control devices
 - e. Stabilization of disturbed soil areas

Rule I – Buffer Strips

1. Buffer strips **meet** the Commission's requirements as follows:
 - a. The wetland buffer vegetation will meet the Commission requirements for native vegetation establishment and maintenance.
 - b. Wetland buffer monumentation does meet the Commission's requirements.

- c. The buffer strip is at least 25-feet wide in all locations with a slopes shallower than 6:1 (horizontal: vertical) to 4:1 and meets the Commission's minimum (10 feet) and average (25 feet) standard.

Recommendation

Approval

Conditions for Approval

1. Approval is contingent upon final application escrow fee balance. Additional payment or refund of the fees will be determined when all conditions for approval are met.
2. Approval is contingent upon an operation and maintenance plan that is approved by the City of Maple Grove.

On Behalf of Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
Advisor to the Commission



Date 10/31/2023

Attachments

- | | |
|----------|------------------------|
| Figure 1 | Project Location |
| Figure 2 | Existing Drainage Map |
| Figure 3 | Proposed Drainage Plan |

Figure 1 Project Location



Figure 2 Existing Drainage Map

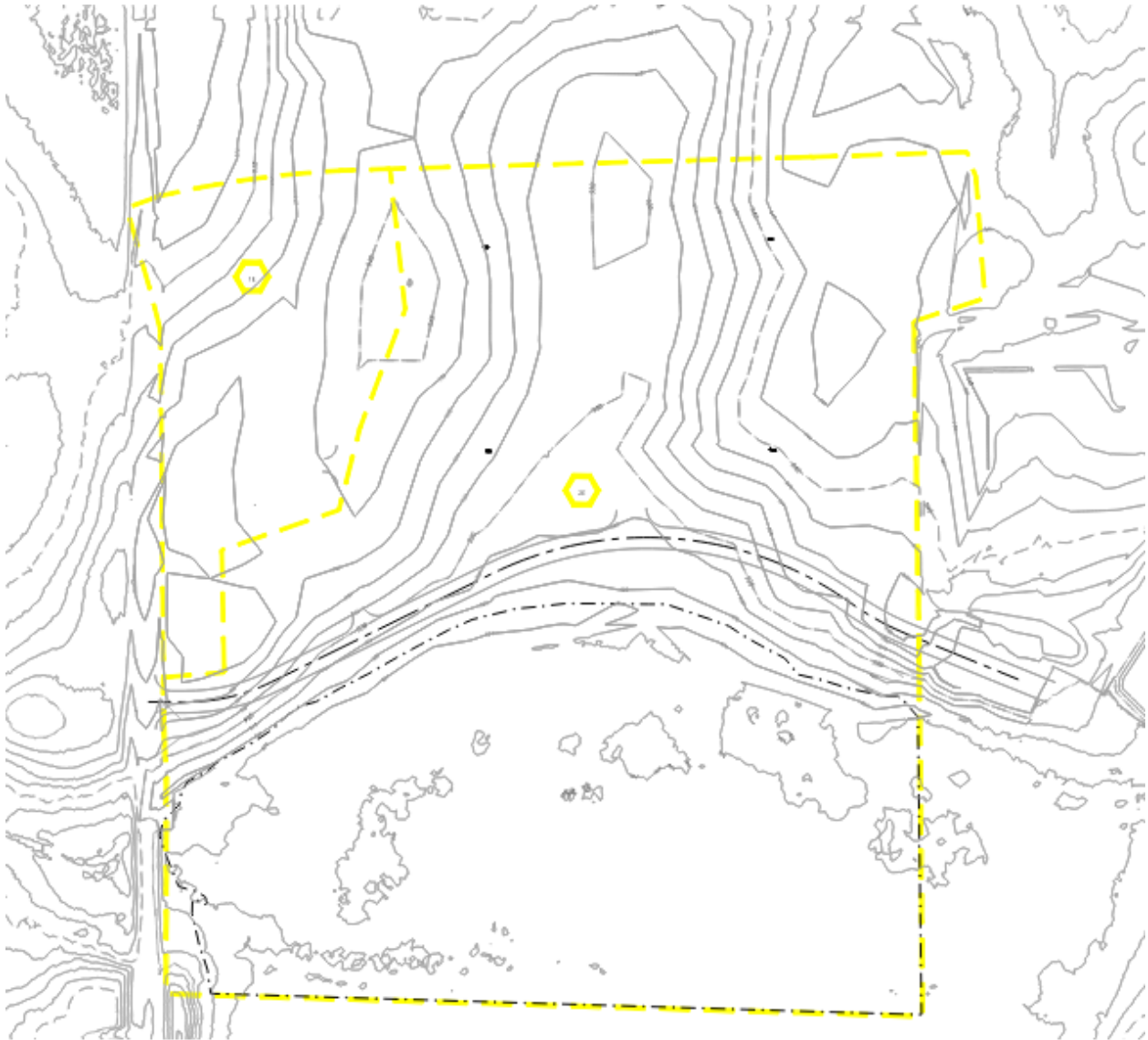


Figure 3 Proposed Drainage Plan



elm creek

Watershed Management Commission

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
3235 Fernbrook Lane
Plymouth, MN 55447
PH: 763.553.1144
email: judie@jass.biz
www.elmcreekwatershed.org

Elm Creek Rest Area Sidewalk Reconstruction Maple Grove Project #2023-024

Project Overview:

Location: The proposed project is located at the Elm Creek Rest Stop along I-94, directly west of Rice Lake in Maple Grove.

Purpose: The proposed development will disturb 4.3 acres and consists of the reconfiguration/replacement of concrete walkways, parking area, and deck area. The project also includes the construction/relocation of a pet exercise area as well as various picnic areas.

WMC Rules Triggered:

X	Rule D	Stormwater Management
X	Rule E	Erosion and Sediment Control
	Rule F	Floodplain Alterations
	Rule G	Wetland Alteration
	Rule H	Bridge and Culvert Crossings
	Rule I	Buffer Strips
	Rule K	Variance

Applicant: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Address: 395 John Ireland Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

Attention: Jennifer Krantz

Phone: (651) 238-8977

Email: jennifer.krantz@state.mn.us

Agent: HZ United LLC.

Address: 3340-A Annapolis Lane North
Plymouth, MN 55447

Attention: Tim DeCesare

Phone: (612) 750-6502

Email: tim.decesare@hzunited.com

Exhibits:	Description	Date Received
Application	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complete ECWMC Application	October 9, 2023
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECWMC Request for Review and Approval	October 9, 2023
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City authorization: Maple Grove, MN	September 9, 2023
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review fee: \$5,900	October 9, 2023
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Documents (site plans, reports, models, etc.)	October 9, 2023

Submittals

1. MIDS Water Quality Models, dated September 11th, 2023, prepared by MnDOT.
2. Construction Plans, dated June 26, 2023, prepared by MnDOT.

Findings

General

1. A complete application was received October 9, 2023. The initial 60-day decision period per MN Statute 15.99 expires December 8, 2023.
2. The existing 4.3-acre site is an interstate rest stop area that consists primarily of mowed grass to the west and south with an existing bituminous trail winding through the area. The central and northeast part of the site consists of parking areas with sidewalks and picnic areas. Elm Creek is located directly to the south/southwest of the project area and drainage from the site ultimately drains to the Creek.
 - a. Trail and picnic areas drain via overland flow to Elm Creek.
 - b. Parking areas drain to existing storm sewer that then drains to Elm Creek.
3. The proposed development of the site consists of reconfiguration/replacement of concrete walkways, parking area, and deck area. The project also includes the construction/relocation of a pet exercise area as well as various picnic areas.
 - a. The proposed impervious portions of the site are considered as a linear project.
 - b. General drainage patterns of the site will remain the same as the existing condition.
4. The project is proposing to reconstruct/create approximately 0.5 acres of impervious surface, which is a decrease of 0.2 acres of impervious surface from the existing condition (0.7 acres).
5. No stormwater BMPs are proposed as part of the project.
 - a. It is assumed that because there is an overall decrease in impervious surface in the proposed condition, rate control for the site will be met.
 - b. Because the proposed project is a linear project that does not create more than one acre of impervious the project is exempt from infiltration/abstraction requirements.
6. There are no Elm Creek Watershed jurisdictional floodplains or stream crossings that will be disturbed by the project.

Rule D – Stormwater Management

General

1. The total proposed constructed/reconstructed impervious surface from proposed walkways, parking area, picnic areas, and sidewalks is 0.5 acres, of which, 0.08 acres is directly connected impervious.
2. The proposed project does not change existing drainage patterns.
3. There will be no increase in impervious surface that is directly connect to the existing storm sewer that drains to Elm Creek.
4. All constructed/reconstructed walkways will drain via overland flow to Elm Creek, maintain the existing drainage patterns.

Rate Controls

1. Rate control **meets** Commission requirements.
2. The proposed total impervious surface (0.5 acres) is decreased from existing (0.7 acres) by 0.2 acres.
3. Rate control is met via the decrease in impervious surface while maintain existing drainage patterns.

Low Floor Elevations

1. Low floors **meet** Commission requirements.
2. No buildings are proposed as part of this project.

Abstraction Controls and Water Quality

1. Abstraction and Water Quality requirements do not apply to this project.
 - a. The proposed project is considered a linear project that creates less than one acre of new or fully reconstructed impervious surface.
 - b. The proposed project will decrease the amount of impervious surface on site by 0.2 acres.
 - c. Approximately 84% of the proposed impervious surface will drain and be treated via overland flow before it is discharged to Elm Creek.

Rule E – Erosion and Sediment Control (plans)

1. Plans **meet** the Commission requirements for erosion and sediment control.
2. Construction entrances were not identified on the plan sheets, however, they are included in the SWPPP and the specifications. The applicant and engineer will allow the selected contractor to best locate the installation of the construction entrances.
3. The erosion and sediment control plans are consistent with current best management practices, including:
 - a. Silt fence
 - b. Storm drain inlet protection
 - c. Stabilization of disturbed soil areas

Rule I – Buffer Strips

1. Buffer strips **meet** the Commission's requirements as follows:
 - a. The wetland buffer vegetation will meet the Commission requirements for native vegetation establishment and maintenance.
 - b. Wetland buffer monumentation does meet the Commission's requirements.
 - c. The buffer strip is at least 25-feet wide in all locations with a slope shallower than 6:1 (horizontal: vertical) and meets the Commission's minimum (10 feet) and average (25 feet) standard.

Recommendation

Approval with one condition.

Conditions for Approval

1. Approval is contingent upon final application escrow fee balance. Additional payment or refund of the fees will be determined when all conditions for approval are met.

On Behalf of Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
Advisor to the Commission



Date 11/1/2023

Attachments

Figure 1	Project Location
Figure 2	Existing Drainage Map
Figure 3	Proposed Drainage Plan

Figure 1 Project Location

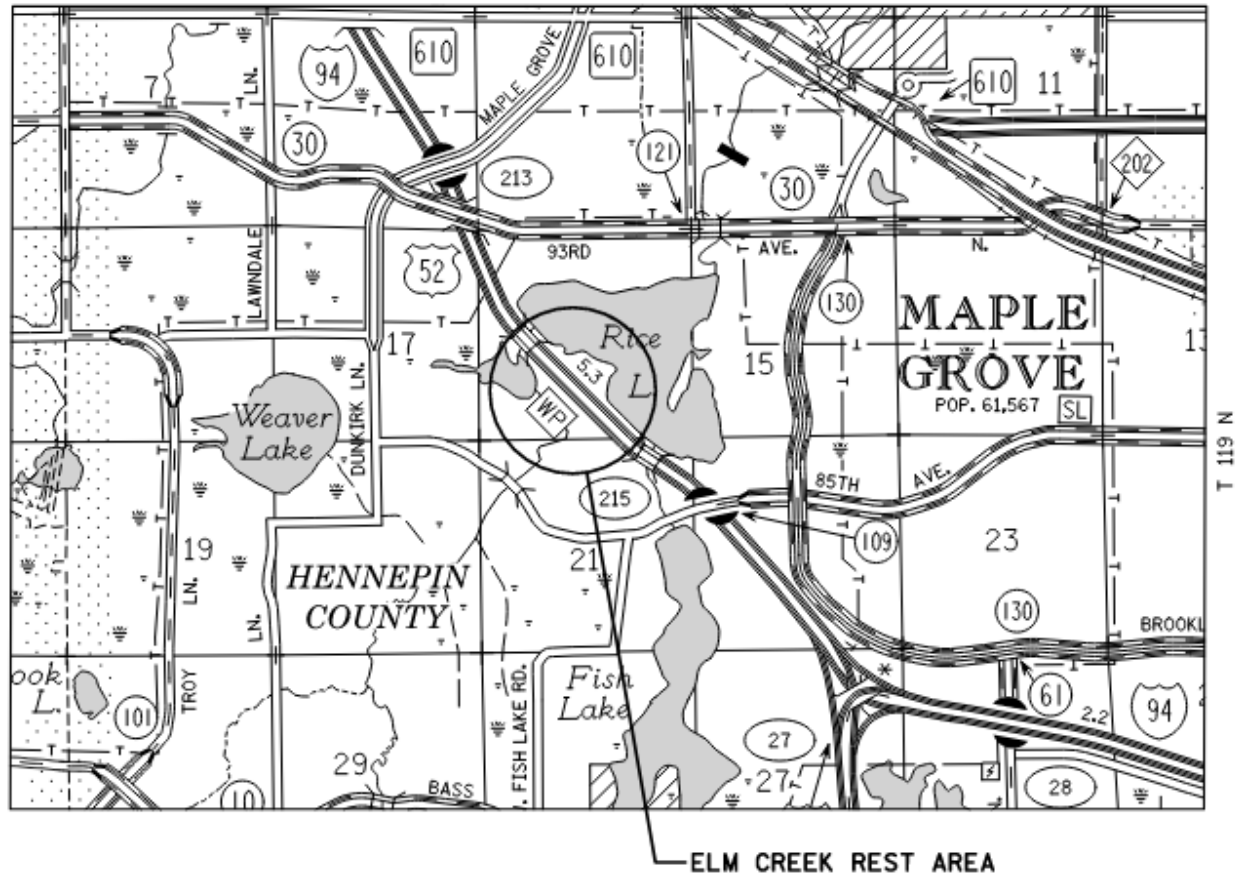


Figure 2 Existing Drainage Map

Figure 3 Proposed Drainage Plan

To: Elm Creek WMO Commissioners/TAC

From: Erik Megow, PE
Brian Vlach
Diane Spector

Date: November 2, 2023

Subject: Elm Creek Watershed TMDL 10-Year Review Proposed Scope of Work

**Recommended
Commission Action**

Approve the scope of work at \$49,468 from the fund balance assigned to be used for projects or studies. Authorize staff to prepare an amendment to the contract with Three Rivers to add \$11,270 to the 2024 services for additional lake and stream monitoring.

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. At your March and April meetings you reviewed the TMDL findings and a framework for potential approaches to such a progress review. Based on discussions at those meetings and subsequent staff discussions, we have prepared this proposed Scope of Work. We have also been in contact with the local TMDL project coordinator at the MPCA, and that agency is interested in participating in this analysis.

BACKGROUND

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

The Elm Creek TMDL study addresses

- Seven lake *nutrient* impairments (Cowley, Sylvan, Henry, Rice, Fish, Diamond, Goose)
- Four stream *E. coli* impairments.
- Three stream *DO* impairments.
- Four stream *fish and macroinvertebrate* impairments, with primary stressors *total phosphorus (TP)* and *total suspended solids (TSS)*.

Since completion of the Watershed TMDL, there are new or pending impairments:

- Elm Creek and the lower reach of S Fork Rush Creek are impaired for excess *chloride*.
- Two new impairments are pending: *TSS* in Elm Creek and *fish biotic integrity (F-IBI)* in Fish Lake.
- The Fish Lake nutrient impairment 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 we have undertaken other TMDL reviews of progress, we have considered the following 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 goals.
5. Review implementation strategies and recommend any course corrections.

Update Models

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. While there has been development in the watershed, we don't think it is significant enough to warrant updating the watershed pollutant loading models.

Monitoring Data

Lakes. The Commission has been annually monitoring four sentinel lakes – Fish, Weaver, Diamond, and Rice – and monitoring two other lakes per year on a rotating basis. Three Rivers is monitoring Sylvan and Cowley in 2023 as the “other” lakes. While the sentinel lakes have a good set of data available, it would be helpful to obtain more data on the non-sentinel impaired and other priority lakes: Sylvan, Cowley, Henry, Jubert, Dubay, Laura, and French, where there is very little data (see Table 1).

Streams. In addition to the partnership with the USGS to monitor flow and water quality on Elm Creek, the Commission currently routinely monitors flow and water quality at three sites on Elm, Rush, and Diamond Creeks (see Figure 1). Some additional data is available at other sites in the watershed, most of it collected during the development of the TMDL or by the MPCA or DNR. There is also a good data set at Elm Creek at Hamel and Elm Creek at Elm Road in Plymouth.

Stream Biology. There is limited fish and macroinvertebrate data in the streams, mainly 2010 and 2020 data at a few sites on each stream completed by the MPCA and/or the DNR. We recommend 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.

Load Reductions in the Watershed

Cities and others undertake actions such as structural BMPs (infiltration practices, stream restoration, alum treatments, salt pre-wetting) or nonstructural actions (enhanced street sweeping, carp management, education and outreach). When land use conversion as part of development and

redevelopment requires a Commission project review, that review includes an estimate of likely load reduction from adding new treatment and abstraction of runoff. Hennepin County assists property owners in undertaking ag and animal management practices and estimates the resulting pollutant loading. All this data can be collected, assembled, and geolocated to document and summarize load reductions by receiving water.

Table 1. Lake monitoring history since 2009.

Year	Cook	Cowley	Diamond	Dubay	Fish	French	Goose	Henry	Jubert	Laura	Medina	Mill Pond	Mud	Rice	Sylvan	Teal	Weaver
2025			T	RB	T	RO		RO	RO	RB				T			T
2024		RB	T		T	RO		RO	RO					T	RB		T
2023		T	T		T									T	T		T
2022			T		T		T						T	T			T
2021			T		T		T					T	T	T			T
2020			T		T									T		C	T
2019			T		T									T			T
2018			T		T				C					T			T
2017			T		T				C					T			T
2016		C	T		T				C					T			T
2015			T		T				C	C				T			T
2014			T	C	T					C		T		T	C		T
2013			T	C	T	T				C		T		T	C		T
2012			T	C	T	T					C	T	T		C		T
2011			T	C	T	T		C				T	T	C/T			T
2010		C	T		T	T		C				T		C/T			T
2009		C	T		T	T		C				T		C			T

C = CAMP; T = Three Rivers; RB = recommended from budget; RO = recommended from other source. Shaded = Impaired Waters; Sentinel Lakes: Diamond, Fish, Rice, Weaver

Evaluate Monitoring Data

Three Rivers has been collecting and maintaining lake and stream data for many years, and the annual report includes figures and tables showing water quality by year. For some sites there is enough data to run some trend analysis statistics to determine if there are any statistically significant trends.

Review Implementation Strategies & Report

The final step in such a review is compiling the information developed in the previous tasks to provide an overall summary of actions taken and progress made to date, including quantifying how much of the required load reductions has been achieved. The Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (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 review identifies what has been successful and what not so successful and develops a prioritized action plan for the next several years.

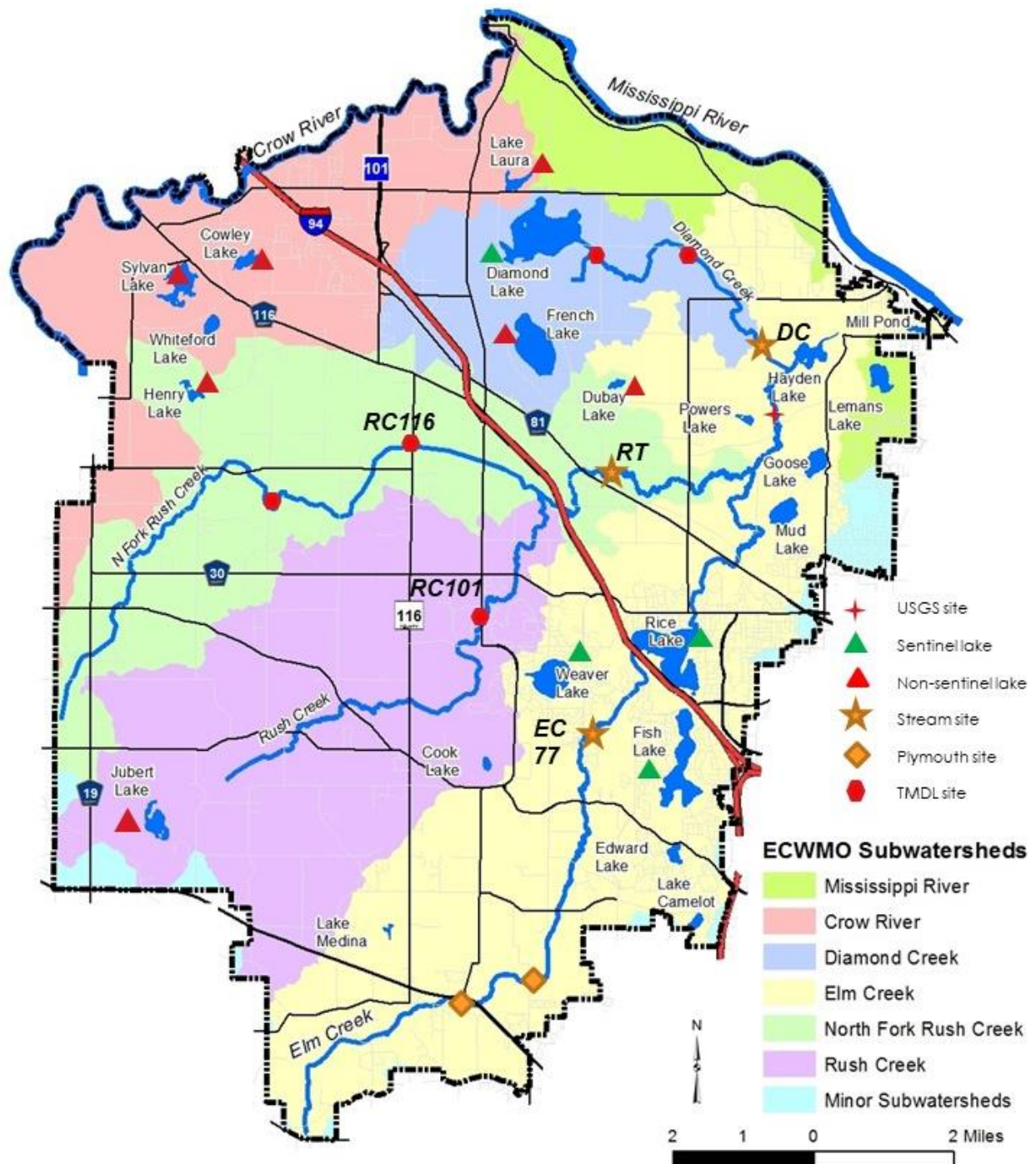


Figure 1. Monitoring locations.

RECOMMENDED SCOPE OF WORK

We recommend that the Commission consider the following scope of work:

Task 1: Data Collection

Lakes. It has been the Commission's practice to obtain at least two years' worth of lake data in the event the first year is non-representative of conditions, so ***we recommend that Sylvan and Cowley be repeated in 2024 from the 2024 operating budget. We also recommend that Henry, Jubert and French be monitored in 2024 as a supplement to the routine 2024 monitoring, and that those lakes are repeated in 2025.*** In 2025 we would undertake the first year of monitoring Dubai and Laura from the 2025 operating budget. The CAMP program can fill where volunteers are available on other lakes.

Streams. There are long-term routine monitoring sites on Elm (EC77 on Figure 1), Diamond (DC), and Rush Creeks (RT), and Plymouth contracts with Three Rivers for ongoing monitoring on upper Elm Creek at Hamel, Elm Road and at Peony Lane. North Fork and South Fork Rush Creek above their confluence were monitored during development of the TMDL, but there has been little monitoring since that time. These sites are downstream of ongoing development as well as previous and current subwatershed assessments. ***We recommend that the Commission monitor South Fork (RC101) and North Fork (RC116) in 2024 and 2025*** to help assess any change since they were last monitored prior to the TMDL.

Note that this monitoring would require an amendment to the contract with Three Rivers, and that contract runs through 2024. There would likely be some adjustment to the costs for 2025 under a new contract.

Cost to complete: Lakes: \$4,746 in 2024 and \$4,746+ in 2025. Streams, \$6,524 in 2024 and \$6,524 in 2025. TOTAL: \$11,270 in 2024 and \$11,270+ in 2025.

Task 2: Compile Load Reduction Data

This task would be collecting and compiling information on load reductions completed in the watershed, and mapping and summarizing those reductions by drainage area. This includes three subtasks. 1) Obtain information from the cities, Three Rivers, and the county regarding any structural and non-structural load reduction BMPs completed in the watershed, their locations and load reductions. If reductions are not available, we would prepare an estimate. 2) The most time-consuming task would be compiling load reductions and geo-referencing development in the watershed since the monitoring for the TMDL was completed. Data has been compiled since 2015, but project locations must be digitized. Pre-2015 all we have are lists of project reviews, so we would have to go back to the original files and engineer's reports to compile that data for about 200 project reviews. 3) Partner with Hennepin County to compile and track ag projects completed in the watershed, and to update the animal unit counts in the watershed.

Cost to complete: \$10,896, to be completed by August 1, 2024

Task 3: Evaluate Monitoring Data

This task has two subparts: 1) Work with Three Rivers to undertake statistical trend analysis where there is a good data set to determine if there are any statistically significant trends; and 2) compile, summarize, and document other data collected in the watershed by the MPCA, DNR, and any other parties to add context and robustness to Three Rivers' dataset.

Cost to complete: \$3,216, to be completed by December 31, 2024

Task 4: Review Implementation Strategies

The Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (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 recommended implementation actions and a prioritized action plan for the next several years. This task includes at least two meetings of the TAC and Commission to review findings and discuss potential actions and strategies for their implementation.

Cost to complete: \$7,220, to be completed by December 31, 2024

Task 5: Final Report

The final task is to summarize all the information collected, compiled, and developed during this process into a final report. The report will identify all the require load educations and other actions in the TMDL and WRAPS and present the load reductions achieved and other actions completed within the drainage area to each Impaired Water by city. This will be the basis to determine how much progress has been made and how much additional work would be necessary to achieve water quality standards.

The report will set forth the revised, prioritized implementation strategies, their costs, potential sources of funding, and responsible parties. The final report will be available to incorporate into the Commission's Fourth Generation Watershed Management Plan that will be underway at about the same time, as well as the member cities' upcoming local water plans, and will be provided to the MPCA.

Cost to complete: \$5,596, draft by April 1, 2025, final by December 31, 2025

SUMMARY AND FUNDING

When we discussed this topic in spring 2023, we estimated the cost of this updated ongoing and the other tasks would be about \$40,000. As we've been able to review data availability more comprehensively and the scope of work involved, our revised cost estimate is \$26,928 for Stantec analytical work and \$22,540 (potentially adjusted for new rates in 2025) for additional lake and stream monitoring by Three Rivers (Table 1).

At the end of 2022 the Commission had a balance of \$181,817 in ***funds assigned for projects or studies***. You encumbered \$9,468 of that in 2023 to match WBIF grant funds, leaving an available balance of about \$172,349. If you choose to proceed, ***we recommend this as the funding source***.

Table 1. Estimated cost to complete the proposed scope of work.

Task	Three Rivers		Stantec	TOTAL
	2024	2025*		
1. Data Collection	\$11,270	\$11,270*		\$22,540*
2. Compile Data			\$10,896	\$10,896
3. Evaluate Monitoring Data			\$3,216	\$3,216
4. Review Implementation Strategies			\$7,220	\$7,220
5. Final Report			\$5,596	\$5,596
TOTAL	\$11,270	\$11,270*	\$26,928	\$49,468*

*Cost may increase based on Three Rivers' 2025-2026 contract.

PROJECT STAFF

- Project Manager Erik Megow
- Senior Water Resources Planner Diane Spector
- GIS Specialist Katy Berglund
- Project Engineer in Training Kaitlin Truong, Jordan Wochenske
- Environmental Scientist Katie Kemmitt

The fee estimate above in Table 1 has been prepared on a time and materials basis, per the Terms and Agreements set forth in our Professional Services Agreement dated March 5, 2021 and will not exceed the amount indicated without prior authorization from the ECWMC.

We look forward to discussing this proposal and are happy to review our approach and scope of work with you. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me via phone or email.

Best regards,

STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC.



Erik Megow, PE (MN)

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STAFF REPORT November 1, 2023

- a. **2014-015 Rogers Drive Extension, Rogers.** This project involves improvements along Rogers Drive from Vevea Lane to Brockton Lane. Site plans received July 1, 2014, met the requirements of the Commission with the exception of the nutrient control. 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.
- b. **2015-030 Kiddiegarten Child Care Center, Maple Grove.** Approved December 9, 2015. If the City 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. On February 5, 2019, Derek Asche contacted the owner requesting a copy of the recorded maintenance agreement. On August 29, 2023, Asche reported there is no update for this project.
- c. **2016-005W Ravinia Wetland Replacement Plan, Corcoran.** In December 2016, the Commission approved Staff's recommendations on this wetland replacement plan. Barr Engineering has been providing monitoring to ensure the replacement meets the performance standards of the approved plans. Annual reports were submitted to the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in February 2019, February 2020, and March 2021. As of March 2021, wetlands and buffers are looking good but will need continued vegetation management in 2021 to get rid of invasive species (mostly cattail). Hydrology is good in both the restoration and creation areas. Cattail and Reed canary grass reemerged during the 2021 growing season and will likely need another year of aggressive maintenance in 2022. The 2021 monitoring report will be submitted to the USACE in March 2022 with recommendations for maintenance. Staff are attempting to follow up on the annual reporting.
- d. **2017-014 Laurel Creek, Rogers.** In June 2017, the Commission approved this project with four conditions. All contingency items have been provided with the exception of the O&M agreement which is being negotiated as to whether the City or the HOA will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the stormwater management facility. On August 31, 2017, Andrew Simmons responded that the O&M agreement is still being negotiated.
- e. **2017-050W Ernie Mayers Wetland/floodplain violation, Corcoran.** The City of Corcoran contacted the Commission in 2017 concerning drainage complaints on Mayers' property. Technical Evaluation Panels (TEPs) were held to assess the violations and a restoration order was issued to Mayers. In 2018, an appeal of the restoration order was received by the Board of Water and Soil Resources. BWSR

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placed an order of abeyance (stay) on the appeal, looking for a resolution between the LGU and Mayers. The parties came to an agreement to resolve the violation in 2021. The agreement was signed by BWSR, Corcoran and Mayers. Commission Staff have not been provided with a copy of the agreement and the agreement does not resolve the Commission's floodplain fill issue from the wetland work. Staff sent correspondence to that effect to Mayers on February 1, 2022, requesting an application and site plan. To date, no WCA or floodplain compliance actions have been taken by Mayers or the City. Once the Commission is informed by the LGU of how the violations will be resolved, Staff can follow up on the outstanding Elm Creek floodplain issues.

f. 2018-046 Graco Expansion, Rogers. This project is the expansion of an existing building. The site is located in an area that has regional ponding provided for rate control purposes, but needs to account for water quality and abstraction requirements on-site prior to discharging offsite as part of the improvements. The Commission granted conditional approval at their October 2018 meeting. Conditions of approval were to (1) submit a SWPPP plan meeting requirements, (2) clarify maintenance responsibilities for the iron enhanced sand filter, and (3) a letter from the City of Rogers stating their intentions to provide the water quality deficit in an upcoming project. Staff confirmed several minor plan revisions remain in conformance with the original approval. This item will remain on the Staff report until the water quality deficit has been made up.

g. 2020-009 Stetler Barn, Medina. This site disturbs approximately 3.5 acres and must meet Commission Rules D, E, and I. Because of the limited available space for pasture, paddocks and land application of manure, understanding how these components will be managed was also an important part of the review. A complete plan was received on April 22, 2020. At their May 13, 2020, meeting the Commission approved this project contingent upon: (1) the landowner continuing to work with the U of M Extension Office and Hennepin County Rural Conservationist to finalize composting, pasture and paddock management plans and (2) a long-term pond/basin operation and maintenance plan and agreement with the City of Medina being approved by the City and the Commission. The agreement must be recorded on the land title with a copy of the recorded agreement provided to the Commission.

h. 2020-017 Meadow View Townhomes, Medina. This is a 22-acre site located south of Meander Road and north of Highway 55. Lennar Homes is proposing to build 125 townhomes with their necessary infrastructure on this site. A complete application was received May 29, 2020. The plans call for 7.64 acres of new impervious areas. The Commission's review was for conformance to Rules D, E, F, G, and I. At their October meeting, the Commission approved Staff's finding dated September 30, 2020, contingent upon (1) the mean (average) depth on the west wet detention pond must be 4.0' or deeper; (2) buffer strip monumentation and vegetation maintenance plans must conform to the Commission's requirements; (3) an operation and maintenance agreement of the stormwater ponds must be approved by the City and the Commission. The agreement must be recorded on the property title. Since the approval, the City has requested the applicant provide abstraction by irrigation only, thus eliminating one filter basin. Staff reviewed the changes and found the updates to be compliant with the Commission's original approvals for stormwater management and administratively approved the plans contingent upon item 3 above and added the condition that design information on the irrigation pump and augmentation water source must be provided within

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six months of this approval. The Commission received a copy of the recorded O&M agreement on November 2, 2021; and (4) erosion and sediment controls must conform to Commission requirements.

i. **2020-032 Enclave Rogers – Commerce Boulevard, Rogers.** This project would create an apartment complex on an undeveloped 3.3-acre site. The project will disturb the entire site and create 2.15 acres of impervious surface. The applicant is proposing an iron enhanced sand filter to meet Total Phosphorus removal requirements. The site is within two of the three outlots created as part of the adjacent former Lowe's development. The application was reviewed for Rules D and E. Staff granted administrative approval for grading contingent on applicant accepting risk for changes required for final approval and on approval from the City for grading activities. In their findings dated December 2, 2020, Staff recommended approval with those conditions, as well as submission of an O&M agreement for stormwater features and with minor updates to the hydrology report and the SWPPP. The Commission approved Staff recommendations at their December 9, 2020, meeting.

j. **2020-033 Weston Woods, Medina.** This project would create 150 residential units on a 135-acre undeveloped site. The project will disturb 49.2 acres and create 17.49 acres of impervious area. The Commission approved this project at their March 2021 meeting with four contingencies: (1) wetland replacement plans must be approved by the City of Medina (LGU), MN DNR and USACE prior to impacts, (2) provide quantification of the change in flood storage capacity for the one-percent annual chance flood event due to the proposed project, (3) provide documentation that changes in flood elevation and loss of floodplain storage have been avoided, minimized, and/or mitigated to the extent practicable. Demonstrate that changes in flood elevation will not cause high water or aggravate flooding on other land and, (4) an O&M agreement for stormwater facilities, including irrigation pumping system components and augmentation wells system, must be approved by the City and the Commission and recorded within 90-days after final plat approval on the title to this property. A copy of the recorded agreements must be provided to the Commission.

k. **2021-020 Crew Carwash, Maple Grove.** This project would reconstruct an existing bank building and parking lot on a 1.80-acre parcel into a carwash. The site is located southwest of the intersection of Weaver Lake Road and Elm Creek Boulevard with access from Grove Drive. The disturbance is 1.52 acres, the existing impervious is 1.07 acres, and the proposed impervious is 1.17 acres. Runoff from this site flows into a regional pond on Arbor Lakes Parkway, which ultimately discharges to Rice Lake. The City has stated that the regional pond meets rate control and water quality treatment for the site. The applicant is proposing to use soil amendments to meet the Commission's volume rules. The Commission approved the project at its June meeting contingent on a maintenance agreement being filed with the City with terms agreeable to the Commission. The outstanding escrow balance has been received. On August 29, 2023, Asche reported there is no update for this project.

l. **2021-029 TriCare Grocery, Maple Grove.** The project will construct a grocery store, retail, and associated parking on approximately 2.5 acres of the 62.7-acre TriCare parcel, located just north of CR 30 and southwest of I-94. The project was reviewed for Rules D and E. Staff issued a denial in 2016 when the regional stormwater BMP project was constructed. On November 10, 2021, the Commission approved this project contingent upon receipt of the escrow balance and the City reconstructing the basin to meet Commission rules and standards per Staff findings dated November 1, 2021. On August

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29, 2023, the City reported no update.

m. 2021-034 BAPS Temple, Medina. This project includes construction of a Hindu Temple, dining hall, gymnasium, parking lot and permanent residency for the temple's priest on a 19.7-acre parcel at 1400 Hamel Road which currently serves as a farmstead with a farmhouse and barns. The project was reviewed for Rules D, E, G, and I and approved at the October 2021 meeting contingent on three conditions outlined in Staff's findings dated October 4, 2021: (1) receipt of the escrow balance, (2) an O&M agreement with the City, and (3) a geotechnical report provided to the Commission. On July 21, 2022, the applicant's engineer stated, "The client is holding on[to] construction documents temporarily; once they give us the go-ahead, we will work to finalize the items, likely by this fall [2022]." On November 3, 2022, the Commission was informed that the applicant has amended the site layout and anticipates construction in 2023.

n. 2021-036 D&D Service, Corcoran. This development is proposed at the southeast corner of the intersection of County Roads 10 and 19 on a 16.54-acre parcel. The proposed project will include a large warehouse and office buildings along with parking and associated facilities. The existing site is a single farmhouse and surrounding agricultural land. The project was reviewed for Rules D, E, G, and I. Findings updated October 5, 2021, wherein Staff recommended contingent approval with five conditions were approved at the October meeting: (1) payment of all review fees; (2) Corcoran TEP approval of the Wetland Mitigation Plan and the city maintains a drainage and utility easement for existing and proposed on site wetlands; (3) applicant shall consider and respond to staff comments on plan and provide final data prior to approval; (4) applicant shall respond to any City comments; and (5) applicant shall provide a Stormwater Maintenance Agreement acceptable to the city and the Commission within 90 days after the plat is recorded. On July 26, 2022, Kevin Mattson confirmed that the O&M agreement has been received and recorded.

o. 2021-044 Balsam II Apartments, Dayton. The Commission approved this project in January 2022. The final infiltration testing of the stormwater basin and receipt of the escrow balance are the only conditions outstanding from Staff's findings dated December 22, 2021. On August 30, 2023, the applicant informed the City they will be conducting the testing on August 31, 2023. *The infiltration test results were received by the City on October 25, 2023, and are being reviewed.*

p. 2021-052 Norbella Senior Living, Rogers. This project will construct a 40-unit senior living facility on South Diamond Lake Road. The proposed disturbance is 2.4-acres with net, new impervious surfaces of 1.4- acres. The project was reviewed for Rules D and E. Staff findings dated February 14, 2022, were approved by the Commission at their March 9, 2022, meeting with three conditions: (1) final escrow balance being reconciled, (2) a stormwater maintenance agreement being put in place between the owner and the City with terms acceptable to the Commission, and (3) a detail being added to the construction drawings showing the inspection ports being installed along the isolator row of the underground filtration system. On January 25, 2023, Andrew Simmons reported that this project has not yet proceeded.

q. 2022-006 Hamel Townhomes, Medina. The proposed project would construct 30 townhomes with associated sidewalks, roads, and stormwater infrastructure. The project will create 1.76-acres of impervious, 1.54-acres of which is net, new impervious, and triggers Rules D and E. In their findings

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dated August 2, 2022, Staff recommended approval with two conditions: receipt of an O&M Agreement acceptable to the City and final escrow determination. The project was approved at the Commission's August meeting. The project is currently on hold and Staff are working with the engineer and owner regarding the escrow. The escrow balance has been invoiced and this project will be removed from the report upon its receipt.

r. 2022-011 Arrowhead Drive Turn Lane Expansion, Medina. This project consists of a linear project for the City of Medina and a private site expansion for Open Systems International (OSI). The City will be constructing a stormwater BMP on the OSI site to accommodate rates and water quality from two projects: (1) Arrowhead Drive Turn Lane expansion and the future (2) OSI expansion. The projects are being reviewed as a planned development being treated by the proposed basin. This project received approval at the Commission's May meeting pending three conditions found in Staff findings dated May 2, 2022: (1) final escrow determination, (2) payment of the additional floodplain alteration review fee, and (3) plans for the OSI, Inc. parking expansion being developed. A Commission application for Rule E will be necessary, assuming the stormwater management is consistent with this approval. An erosion control and grading plan for the OSI site should include no more than 1.56 acres of impervious surface and all impervious surfaces shall be directed to the proposed stormwater BMP.

s. 2022-013 Dayton Industrial Site, Dayton. This project is a 25.04-acre site located on the north side of CR 81 between Brockton Lane and Dayton Parkway. The applicant is proposing to construct a 334,750 SF industrial building with associated parking for passenger vehicles and tractor trailers. Construction of an extension of Troy Lane Extension from its current cul-de-sac terminus continuing eastward to a future intersection with West French Lake Road is also planned, but will be permitted separately by the City. The proposed project will create 17 acres of new impervious, disturbing 30 acres. The area of the two existing parcels is 25.04 with 0.44 acres of existing impervious. At their May 11, 2022 meeting the Commission approved this project with eight conditions per Staff's findings dated May 2, 2022. As of August 30, 2023, only two conditions remain outstanding – the escrow reconciliation and final review of the O&M plan for the stormwater system/irrigation system.

t. 2022-016 Rogers Activity Center. Redevelopment and additions to the Rogers Municipal Complex are proposed at 14160 James Road. The project includes site clearing, demolition of the existing asphalt pavement, and grading for a future turf and ice rink facility. The Commission review covered Rules D, E, G and I. At their May 11, 2022 meeting the Commission approved Staff's findings dated May 2, 2022, with five conditions: (1) escrow fee reconciliation; (2) receipt of updated plans providing appropriate wetland buffer seed mix for any disturbed wetland buffer areas; (3) update the elevation of Device #5 in node 11P (888.60) of the proposed HydroCAD model to be consistent with what is shown on the plan sheets (888.50). Update report and tables if necessary to be consistent with HydroCAD results; (4) provide Notice of Decision forms from BWSR for Wetlands 2, 4, and 5 to confirm that wetland mitigation measures are not needed and that the wetlands are incidental; and (5) submit finalized construction plans prior to construction of the proposed buildings and parking lots. Plans will be needed to confirm that the site does not exceed the proposed impervious surface area (8.77 acres) and that the impervious surfaces are routed to the proposed stormwater improvements.

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u. 2022-017 City Center Drive, Corcoran. This site is approximately 30-acres, adjacent to and east of CR 116. The City is proposing to provide infrastructure and a regional stormwater system for the ultimate development of this area. This plan proposes to grade and construct City Center Drive, 79th Place, CR 116 turn Lanes, the proposed St. Therese Senior housing facility and a linear city park and trail along CR 116. At the June meeting the Commission approved this project with four conditions (1) wetland impacts and replacement plans approved by the LGU. (2) final erosion and sediment control plans meeting the Commission's requirements. (3) post construction drawdown rates of >3" per hour be verified on the filter bench to the NE regional pond and (4) final escrow balance determination, as cited in Staff findings dated May 31, 2022. Items 3 and 4 remain outstanding.

v 2022-018 Big Woods, Rogers. This site is approximately 72.1 acres, with 61.0 acres being disturbed. The project will create 207 residential lots and include 23.6 acres of impervious surface after development. The Commission review covers Rules D, E, and I. Per Staff findings dated June 1, 2022, the Commission approved this project at the June meeting conditioned on: (1) reconciliation of the escrow fee balance; (2) receipt of a wetland alteration plan approved by the WCA LGU [the City]; and (3) approval by the City of the O&M plan.

w. 2022-020 Skye Meadows Extension, Rogers. This is a development on a 45.3-acre parcel that will disturb 44.1 acres and result in 14.1 acres of impervious surface consisting of 129 lots and associated streets. The Commission review covered Rules D, E, G, and I. The project was approved at the Commission's June meeting with the three conditions cited in Staff's findings dated June 1, 2022: (1) final escrow balance reconciliation; (2) approved wetland mitigation plan for the proposed disturbance of Wetlands A and B; and (3) an O&M plan approved by the City. On January 25, 2023, Andrew Simmons reported that the project includes a road vacation that likely will not be approved. The applicant may need to come back for a re-review.

x. 2022-022 Cook Lake Highlands, Corcoran/Maple Grove. This is a 53.58-acre development comprised of four existing parcels in both cities. The western parcel in Corcoran totaling 27.3 acres is under consideration for this review. The adjacent Cook Lake Edgewater, 2021-031 was approved in October 2021. The site is located along the north side of CR 10 (Bass Lake Road) just west of the CR 101 crossing and southwest of Cook Lake. The applicant is proposing to create a detached residential rental community with 59 units creating 10.4 acres of new impervious areas in Maple Grove and 8.1 acres of new impervious in Corcoran (a total of 18.5 acres). The applicant reports incorporation of some impervious that is planned for the future acres of new impervious areas in Maple Grove, 8.1 acres of new impervious in Corcoran, (totaling 18.5 acres), as well as for the future expansion of CR 10. This phase of the project will disturb 18.6 acres. A stormwater pond with bio-filtration bench and a smaller filtration basin are proposed for the Corcoran portion of the site. At the June meeting the Commission granted approval of the six conditions cited in Staff's June 1, 2022, findings: (1) reconciliation of project review fees; (2) provide adequate wetland buffer monumentation; (3) raise the low floor elevations of structure to meet Commission's requirements; (4) provide turbidity barriers at inlets to Cook Lake during construction until site is stabilized; (5) meet outstanding City requirements - maintains a drainage and utility easement for existing and proposed on-site wetlands; and (6) provide a Stormwater Maintenance Agreement that acceptable to the City and the Commission within 90 days after the plat is recorded.

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y. **2022-026 Rogers Archway Building, Rogers.** The project site is located between 129th Avenue North and Territorial Road, west of Main Street and east of Elm Parkway. The applicant reconfigured their construction activities in order to maintain the volume of the existing pond, thereby not triggering Commission rules. Upon receipt of as-built plans confirming the reconfiguration, this project will be closed out and the surplus escrow returned to the applicant. On January 26, 2023, Andrew Simmons reported that construction has not yet commenced.

z. **2022-028 Elsie Stephens Park, Dayton.** This is existing park property (~20 acres) located about a mile north of the junction of County Roads 144 (N. Diamond Lake Road) and 12 (Dayton River Road). The project proposes to construct two entrance roads off CR 12, 1,300 feet of park roadways with a parking area and loop road, and a trail system to connect existing and future trails. Site revisions received July 5, 2022, were reviewed by the Commission at their July 2022 meeting. Staff recommended approval in their findings dated July 6, 2022, contingent upon: (1) pre- and post-construction soil analysis on each infiltration basin to determine that infiltration rates meet or exceed design assumptions; (2) erosion and sediment control meeting the Commission's requirements and approved by Staff; and (3) escrow fee reconciliation. On August 30, 2023, the Commission was advised that the post-construction tests are still being coordinated; item (2) is completed; and the fee will be reconciled once the test results are received.

aa. **2022-038 Tavera (North Phase), Corcoran.** Lennar Homes is proposing to develop this site into a 244-unit housing development, with 110 single family detached lots and 134 attached town-house units. It is the second phase of the overall larger 548-unit Tavera housing development encompassing 272 acres. Phase 2 will contain approximately 175 acres, disturb 110 acres, and create 38.6 acres of new impervious area. The Commission approved the project at their August 2022 meeting contingent upon meeting the conditions cited in Staff's August 3, 2022, findings: (1) O&M plans and agreement being provided to the Commission for their review and approval. These plans must include the irrigation system. (2) irrigation system pump and augmentation information being provided and approved by Staff and (3) the escrow balance being reconciled. No new information has been received.

ab. **2022-040 Karineimi Meadows, Corcoran.** This is a 125-acre parcel in the southeast quadrant of the CR 10 and 19 intersection proposed to be subdivided into ten large single family residential lots. The project will consist of constructing Chaparral Lane south of CR 10 with its associated drainage and stormwater basins into the site. Lot grading improvements will be customized and occur as the homes are built. The applicant extended the 15.99 deadline to February 8, 2023. Revised information and a recommendation for approval was provided to the Commission at their December 2022 meeting. The Commission approved this project contingent upon the following: (1) Ponds 3 and 4 filter volume drawdown rates must be designed for a 1.0"/hour drawdown rate, or if the existing rate of 1.8"/hour is used, the 48-hour drawdown must be field-verified after construction; (2) an approved and recorded O&M agreement for the stormwater ponds must be recorded on the property; (3) the escrow balance must be reconciled; and (4) the Commission recommends the City of Corcoran follow the Commission's recommended livestock management policy. Construction is to begin spring/summer 2023 Condition 1 will be verified by the applicant post-construction.

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ac. 2022-043 Meander Park and Boardwalk, Medina. This project is a proposed commercial planned unit development located on the north side of Highway 55, 900 feet east of Arrowhead Drive on Lake Medina. Wetland surrounds the 18-acre site on the west and south, leaving approximately 7 acres of developable land. The project will disturb 6.3 acres of the site, resulting in a 4.0-acre increase in impervious surface. The project triggers Rules D, E, F, G and I. In their November 2, 2022, findings Staff recommended approval contingent upon (1) escrow fee reconciliation; (2) an O&M plan approved by the City, (3) addition of Emergency Overflows (EOFs) to the grading plan for basins East Filtration and the North Retention Basin. The low floor elevations must be at least one foot above the (EOF) for the stormwater pond. Secondary outlet devices potentially modeled as EOFs are reported as 987.27 for the North Retention Basin and 993.0, the elevation of the roadway, for the East Filtration Basin, (4) jurisdictional determination for LGU WCA replacement or exemption is necessary. LGU and WCA approval prior to any wetland impacts if required by LGU, and (5) addition of approved wetland monument signs to the plan set. These conditions were approved at the November 9, 2022, meeting.

ad. 2022-049 Connexus Energy Subdivision, Dayton. This is an existing 1.8-acre lot located on the north side of 117th Avenue North between Fernbrook Lane and East French Lake Road. The applicant is proposing to construct an energy substation adding 0.73 acres of impervious area, disturbing the entire parcel plus ROW. The current land use is row crops in C soils. In findings dated December 29, 2022, Staff is recommending approval with the following conditions: (1) payment of all review fees; (2) applicant must meet all City requirements; (3) applicant must provide signed agreement from adjacent landowner and the City for any off-site grading and direction of flow to the west; and (4) an O&M agreement for the stormwater facilities that implement those conditions that bind current and future owners of the project shall be recorded on this property. On August 30, 2023, the Commission was advised that all City requirements have been met and improvements to further dissipate flows at the discharge point have been incorporated. City staff will check in with the owner regarding the status of the documentation of consent.

ae. 2023-01 Chankahda Trail Reconstruction Phase 2, Plymouth. Hennepin County and the City of Plymouth are proposing to reconstruct approximately four miles of Chankahda Trail over the next few years. Phase 2 of the reconstruction extends from approximately 300 feet east of Peony Lane/Maple Grove Parkway to roughly 100 feet east of Vicksburg Lane. This project triggers Commission Rules D, E and F. This project was approved with two conditions at the Commission's April meeting: (1) final application escrow fee balance and (2) receipt of an updated compensatory storage plan that is separated from groundwater and hydraulically connected to the floodplain.

af. 2023-004 Medina Industrial Site Development, Medina. This proposed industrial development is located on undeveloped property currently being used for agricultural purposes. The project will disturb 23.8 acres of the 26.7-acre site, resulting in 17.3 acres of net, new impervious surfaces. The project requires review under Commission Rules D, E and G. Staff's May 1, 2023, findings with four conditions were approved at the Commission's May 10 meeting. Approval is contingent upon (1) final application escrow fee balance; (2) receipt of an operation and maintenance plan that is approved by the City of Medina; (3) receipt of an irrigation layout and pump plan; (4) receipt of grading details showing how the pond, maintenance road, and associated parking and retaining walls work with the proposed grades at the northwest corner of the proposed stormwater pond.

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Italics indicates new information

indicates enclosure

The applicant has provided updated submittals that meet the Commission's requirements. Only the escrow needs reconciliation.

ag. 2023-008 Rush Creek Boulevard Interchange, Maple Grove. The City of Maple Grove is proposing to extend Trunk Highway 610 from east of TH 94 to CSAH 30. The project will construct a new interchange at TH 94, south of the existing TH 610 interchange with TH 94 and includes improvements and realignment of Lawndale Lane. The project area is roughly 89 acres and will include approximately 20 acres of new impervious surface, triggering Rules D and E. Staff's findings dated June 2, 2023, were approved at the June meeting with four conditions. The applicant has provided updated submittals that meet the Commission's requirements and only the escrow needs to be reconciled.

ah. 2023-009 Magnifi Financials, Maple Grove. This project consists of the construction of a building with split-use between a coffee shop and bank with associated parking and utilities. The project will disturb 2.15 acres and result in a decrease in hardcover for the lot. The project triggers Commission Rules D and E. Staff's findings dated June 2, 2023, were approved at the June meeting with three conditions: (1) fee reconciliation; (2) receipt of the O&M agreement; and (3) provision of the OCS 104 details and plans. On August 29, 2023, the City asked the Applicant to follow up on condition 3.

ai. 2023-010 New Fire Station, Rogers. The City of Rogers is planning to construct a new fire station facility, Fire Station 2, at 141st Avenue North. The proposed site includes a new building, parking lots, sidewalks, an access road tying into Northdale Boulevard, and driveways. The project triggers Commission Rules D and E. In their findings dated September 1, 2023, Staff recommended approval conditioned on: (1) escrow reconciliation and (2) receipt of an Operation and Maintenance Plan approved by the City. The Commission approved the project with these conditions at their September 13, 2023, meeting.

aj. 2023-011 Sundance Greens 9th Addition, Dayton. Sundance Development, LLC submitted an application for review of this project. The submittal was received by the Commission on May 30, 2023. The project disturbs 10.6 acres increasing impervious by 2.8 acres for single-family homes. The project relies on existing stormwater approved for previous Sundance Greens Additions and is only an erosion control review request. *Staff provided a Staff-level approval for grading the week of the July Commission meeting where approval of this project was tabled.* Staff's updated findings dated August 1, 2023, granted approval pending (1) escrow reconciliation and (2) receipt of an Operation and Maintenance Plan acceptable to the City and the Commission within 90 days of plat recordation.

ak. 2023-013 River Valley Church, Maple Grove. This project consists of the construction of a single building, bituminous parking lot, stormwater basin, and other associated site improvements on an undeveloped lot located at the southwest corner of Arbor Ridge Parkway and 101st Avenue North. The project triggers the Commission Rules D and E. This item has been reviewed and a finding of facts memo dated June 30, 2023, was approved at the July Commission meeting with two standard conditions. The O&M condition has been met. Only the fee reconciliation remains.

al. 2023-014 Bottema Wetland Restoration, Corcoran. This project restores previously drained agricultural lands to wetlands. Ten wetlands in total will be restored during this project, with uplands seeded into prairie. The project is located north of CR 30 and west of Cain Road. The North Fork of Rush Creek flows east through the northeastern portion of the 120-acre parcel. Construction includes grading/disturbance on three acres of land and erosion control for the 120-acre parcel.

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There is no current or proposed impervious for this project. The project triggers only Rule E. Staff reviewed the project and approved the erosion control plans and offered several comments to the County regarding the design and future stabilization. Only the fee reconciliation remains.

am. 2023-015 South Fork Rush Creek Restoration at Evanswood, Maple Grove. This is a 5,500 lineal foot restoration of the South Fork of Rush Creek beginning 100 feet downstream (north) of 101st Street Avenue North Bridge. The project incorporates restoration and stabilization techniques and includes construction of a minimal impact pedestrian bridge. The project disturbs 14.7 acres and proposes no impervious outside the pedestrian bridge (a linear project, the proposed bridge impervious is less than 1 acre and does not trigger stormwater requirements). The project triggers rules E, F and H. The project was reviewed by Staff who recommend approval with three conditions - the standard fee/escrow condition and two conditions related to the LOMR filing with as-built conditions and the second DNR permit required for work in public waters associated with the pedestrian bridge.

an. 2023-016 Rogers South Community Park Improvements. This project consists of the disturbance of approximately 14.1 acres over three parcels totaling 34.3 acres to construct park improvements and a re-use irrigation system. Impervious surface within the disturbed area will increase from 0.24 acres to 3.36 acres. The project occurs on three parcels northwest of the Territorial Road and Main Street intersection, adjacent to the Rogers Elementary School (School District No. 728). The project triggers Commission rules D, E and I. This item was approved at the September meeting with two conditions contained in their findings dated August 1, 2023: (1) escrow reconciliation and (2) receipt of an operations and maintenance agreement between the City of Rogers and the School District.

ao. 2023-017 Veit Pit Sand Gravel Mine, Rogers. This project consists of temporary redevelopment for sand and gravel mining and processing operations. The project disturbs approximately 11.9 acres of farmland and woodland located southwest of the intersection of 141st Avenue and Willandale Road. The project triggers the Commission rules D, E and I. This item was approved at the September 13, 2023, meeting with two conditions as cited in their September 6, 2023, findings: (1) escrow reconciliation and (2) receipt of an operations and maintenance approved by the City of Rogers.

ap. 2023-018 Brayburn Trails II, Dayton. The developer is proposing 145 single family home lots and public roads on a 58.53-acre site. The project adds 20.2 acres of new impervious (a total of 20.8 acres of impervious) and disturbs 55 acres. The proposed development is located south of 117th Avenue North, on the west side of Fernbrook Lane, north of Rush Creek and southeast of French Lake. The project triggers Rules D and E and meets those requirements through NURP ponds with filtration benches and erosion control. This project was on the September Commission meeting agenda for approval; however, the applicant provided a significant revision of the project the Friday night before the Commission meeting leaving Staff with inadequate time to review proposed changes. The applicant was notified verbally of a 60-day extension on the day of the Commission meeting. The formal extension was sent via email October 4, 2023. The new deadline for review is December 3, 2023. Staff recommends approval with the standard escrow condition and maintenance agreements and that the applicant meet the volume management rule and the LFE rule with adequate submittals by October 6. *Only the first two conditions remain unfulfilled.*

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aq. 2023-019 23240 County Road 30, Corcoran. This project proposes an aggregate surface for staging construction equipment, adding 2.35 acres of new impervious (for a post project total of 2.97 acres of impervious). The project will disturb 5.3 acres through grading, installation of a stormwater basin, stabilizing off site drainage, on site drainage management and erosion control. The 9.46-acre parcel is located on the north side of 97th Avenue North (CSAH 30) and east of CSAH 19. The project triggers Rules D and E. Applicant proposes a NURP pond with filter bench to meet the water quality and rate control and abstraction requirements through filtration along with standard erosion control. In their findings dated September 5, 2023, Staff recommends approval conditioned on (1) escrow reconciliation, (2) provision of a signed agreement from the adjacent landowner and the City for any off-site grading or drainage, and (3) provision of a Stormwater Maintenance Agreement that is acceptable to the City and the Commission within 90 days after the plat is recorded. The Commission approved Staff findings with those conditions at the September 13, 2023, meeting.

ar. 2023-020 Dunkirk Square, Maple Grove. This project consists of a proposed redevelopment that will disturb 1.53 acres of existing retail parking lot on a portion of Dunkirk Square at the southeast of the intersection of Maple Grove Parkway and 94th Avenue. The project will redevelop retail parking into a new parking area and a Popeye's Restaurant, triggering Commission Rules D and E. *A finding of facts memo dated September 1, 2023, included Staff's recommendation for approval conditioned on (1) escrow reconciliation, (2) provision of details for orifices and weirs for underground detention, and (3) provision of a Stormwater Maintenance Agreement acceptable to the City and the Commission. The Commission approved Staff findings with those conditions at the September meeting.*

as. 2023-021 Park Place Memory Care Phase II, Plymouth. The proposed development will disturb 1.4 acres of a previously developed memory care facility at the northwest of the intersection of Medina Road and County Road 101. The project consists of site expansion, construction of an additional building, parking, and trails which triggers Commission rules D and E. This item has been reviewed and a finding of facts memo dated September 1, 2023, was included in the September meeting packet recommending approval conditioned upon escrow reconciliation. The Commission approved this project with that condition at the September meeting.

at. 2023-022 Shores of Sylvan Lake, Rogers. This project consists of the redevelopment of an existing farmstead into five (5) large lots on Sylvan Lake. The project triggers Commission rules D, E and I. This item has been reviewed by Staff and a finding of fact memo dated October 3, 2023, is included in the October Commission packet. *This item was approved at the October meeting with two conditions: (1) escrow reconciliation and (2) provision of a Stormwater Maintenance Agreement acceptable to the City and the Commission.*

au. 2023-023 Norsq, Maple Grove. This project consists of a 23.2-acre development on a 78.9-acre property located on Garland Lane, east of Lawndale Lane and north of 95th Avenue North. The proposed development consists of an apartment building, a commercial building, and townhomes. Along with the buildings, there will be amenities and associated street and utility infrastructure. The project triggers Rules D, E, F, G, H, and I. *A finding of facts memo dated October 31, 2023, included Staff's recommendation for approval conditioned on (1) escrow reconciliation, (2) provision of a Stormwater Maintenance Agreement acceptable to the City and the Commission.*

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av. 2023-024 Elm Creek Rest Area Sidewalk Reconstruction, Maple Grove. *The proposed project is located at the Elm Creek Rest Stop along I-94, directly west of Rice Lake. The proposed project will disturb 4.3 acres and consists of the reconfiguration/replacement of concrete walkways, parking area, and deck area. The project also includes the construction/relocation of a pet exercise area as well as various picnic areas. The project triggers Rules D and E. A finding of facts memo dated November 1, 2023, included Staff's recommendation for approval conditioned on escrow reconciliation.*

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HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

DATE: October 31, 2023

TO: Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission (ECWMC)

FROM: Kevin Ellis and Kris Guentzel; Hennepin County Department of Environment and Energy

RE: November ECWMC Updates

Bottema Wetland Restoration Update (Corcoran)

County staff have been working on reimbursing the landowner for grant-eligible costs.

Mattila Manure Bunker (Corcoran)

Landowner has been reimbursed for BMP implementation. Manure bunker will be inspected in one year. Previous projects installed in 2022 (barn gutters and livestock waterers) will be inspected in November for 1 year review.

Christian Settling Basin (Dayton)

Hennepin County staff completed an assessment of the wetland area directly to the East of proposed BMP site. TEP currently being assembled for review and recommendations. Installation of settling basin is on-track for Winter 2023/2024.

Stotts 1B

Met with landowner, neighbor, and engineer to review proposed plans for WASCOD and wetland restoration. Making slight adjustments to location of WASCOD and allowing for equipment crossing. Moving WASCOD closer to the property line with neighbor at request of landowner. Engineer currently making edits to plans based on proposed feedback.

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

Project Funding Table: Projects completed and in design which are anticipated to utilize Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission (ECWMC) funds. Amounts in 'Funding Sources' columns include costs invoiced and encumbered. Funding sources may be from a federal agency (Natural Resources Conservation Service, or NRCS), state agency (Watershed-based implementation fund (WBIF) or another grant), or local entity (ECWMC Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Hennepin County, or from the landowner).

Receiving Water(s)	Project Name	Best Mngt. Practice(s) (BMP)	Status	BMP Benefits		Cost		Cost effectiveness *		NRCS	Grant **	Funding Sources			
				TP (lbs/yr)	TSS (tons/yr)	Project Dev / Design	Install	\$/lb-TP/yr	\$/ton-TSS/yr			WBIF	CIP	Henn. Co.	Land-owner
Rush Creek	Cain Fencing	Pasture Mngt.	Installed and Complete (2022)	6.63	-	\$6,419.86	\$14,180.50	\$213.88	-	-	\$7,799.28	-	\$3,545.13	\$1,418.05	\$1,418.05
	Mattila Phase 1	Barn Gutters and Waterers	Installed and Complete (2022)	17.29	-	\$4,279.91	\$33,225.00	\$192.16	-	-	\$24,918.75	-	\$4,983.75	-	\$3,322.50
	Mattila Phase 2	Manure Bunker	Installed	4.8	-	\$6,419.86	\$57,675	\$1,141.67	-	-	-	\$31,721.25	\$14,418.75	\$5,767.50	\$5,767.50
	Stotts Phase 1A	Grassed Waterways	Substantially Installed	79.44	39.72	\$8,559.82	\$120,000	\$151.05	\$302.11	-	\$74,940	-	\$14,988	-	\$9,992
	Stotts WASCOB & Waterway	WASCOB & Grassed Waterway	Installed and Complete (2021)	7.5	7.5	\$4,279.91	\$32,704.80	\$436.06	\$436.06	-	\$17,987.64	-	\$8,176.20	\$3,270.48	\$3,720.48
	Vehrenkamp WASCOB	WASCOB	Prelim. design complete	TBD ±	TBD	\$8,559.82	\$20,600	TBD	TBD	-	-	\$9,270	\$5,150	\$2,060	\$2,060
	Bottema Restorations	Wetland and Prairie Restoration	Installed	14.2	-	-	\$124,000	\$932.86	-	-	-	\$68,200	\$31,000	\$6,200	\$18,600
	Stotts Phase 1B	Grassed Waterways, Wetland Restoration	In design	TBD ±	TBD	\$4,279.91	TBD	TBD	TBD	-	-	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Diamond Creek, Diamond Lake	Welcome Ranch Manure Bunker/	Manure Bunker, Fencing, HUAP, Barn Drainage	Design	TBD	TBD	-	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD		TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
	Van Asten Manure Bunker	Manure Bunker	Cost-Benefit Analysis	TBD	TBD	\$6,419.86	\$36,900				-	\$20,295	\$9,225	\$3,690	\$3,690
	Christian Settling Basin	Sediment Settling Basin	Wetland Delineation	TBD	TBD	TBD	\$11,777	TBD	TBD	TBD	-	\$6,477.35	\$2,944.25	\$1,177	\$1,177
								Total Encumbered:				\$129,486.25	\$91,486.83	\$22,406.03	\$48,120.53
								ECWMC Funding:				\$175,000	\$100,000	-	-
								Remaining:				\$45,513.75	\$8,513.18	-	-

* Cost effectiveness is annualized over the practice life cycle, which considers the cost (install + maintenance) and benefit over the lifetime of the practice, typically 10-20 years.

** Stotts Phase 1A was completed in 2022 using the Rush Creek Headwaters Clean Water Fund Projects and Practices grant.

± TBD = To Be Determined. Projects in early design phases may not have installation costs or water quality benefits estimated yet.

Bold and Italicized text indicates projects that have encumbered funds but have not been reimbursed or invoiced.

Highlighted text indicates change from last month's report

Hennepin County Environment and Energy

701 Fourth Ave S., Suite 700, Minneapolis, MN 55415

612-348-3777 | hennepin.us/environment

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

Other Hennepin County Programming

Good Steward Grants

Good Steward Grants are primarily for smaller projects that improve water quality, enhance natural areas and promote environmental stewardship to the community. A typical grant amount is \$10,000 to \$20,000, with a maximum amount of \$25,000. All landowners are eligible to apply, including:

- Individuals
- Nonprofit and non-governmental organizations
- Local government agencies
- Businesses

If you're a renter, we encourage you to still reach out to us. We'd be happy to work with you and the property's landowner to identify and refine any grant ideas you may have.

Funding may be used for environmental or engineering consulting fees, materials, supplies, labor and inspection fees.

- Ideal for smaller, community-based or single applicant projects. Typical projects include constructing rain gardens, stabilizing stream banks, restoring native vegetation, installing vegetated filter strips or implementing other best management projects.
- Typical funding amount of \$10,000 to \$20,000; maximum funding amount of \$25,000
- Grant funding can cover up to 75 percent of the total eligible project cost. Landowners must contribute the remaining 25 percent of project costs, which can be cash or in-kind.

Applications for Good Steward Grants will be accepted now through November 14, 2023.

If you have any questions on the grant program or other funding opportunities, please contact Ellen Sones, ellen.sones@hennepin.us or 612-596-1173.

Become a Minnesota Water Steward

Become a champion for clean water in your community! [Minnesota Water Stewards](#) is a program that certifies and supports community leaders to prevent water pollution and educate community members to conserve and protect our waterways.

[Applications](#) to join the 2024 Hennepin County cohort of Minnesota Water Stewards are due November 30.

Upcoming [virtual information sessions](#) are scheduled for:

- Tuesday, November 7 at 5 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 21 at noon

For more information, contact Alex Van Loh at avanloh@freshwater.org.



Judie Anderson

From: Hennepin County <hennepin@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 2:27 PM
To: Judie Anderson
Subject: Green Notes: Land protection leaves conservation legacy, become a Minnesota Water Steward, visit the drop-off facilities

[View in browser](#)



Permanent land protection leaves a conservation legacy



Hennepin County is working to establish 6,000 acres of [conservation easements](#) by 2040. This will provide habitat for a diversity of wildlife, preserve space for residents to connect with nature, and make our communities more resilient to climate change.

A conservation easement is a set of development restrictions that a landowner voluntarily places on their property to protect its natural resources. They provide permanent protection, ensuring that the land is preserved for future generations while allowing the landowner to continue to use and enjoy what they value about their land.

Building on a tradition of land protection

Hennepin County along with partners like the Minnesota Land Trust, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, cities, Three Rivers Park District, and private landowners have already established nearly 1,000 acres of conservation easements across 60 different easements.

Over the past five years, Hennepin County has greatly expanded and accelerated the work of establishing conservation easements by partnering with a nonprofit organization, the Minnesota Land Trust, to secure funding through the state's [Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund](#).

Since 2018, Hennepin County and the Minnesota Land Trust have been awarded over \$9.3 million from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, making possible the addition of more than 360 acres of conservation easements as well as funding restoration projects on protected land.

Hennepin County recognized as Partner of the Year

The Minnesota Land Trust recently recognized Hennepin County as their [Partner of the Year](#). This recognition is a testament to the commitment both organizations have to ensuring exceptional habitat continues to have a place in the most populous county in Minnesota.

Learn more

Read our new [climate action article](#) to learn more about how conservation easements support resilient ecosystems and mitigate the impacts of climate change and find examples of recent success in protecting and restoring habitat.



If you or someone you know is interested in leaving a legacy of environmental stewardship by establishing a conservation easement, get started at hennepin.us/land-protection.

Developing a closure plan for the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center

On October 24, the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners passed a [resolution](#) to develop a closure plan for the [Hennepin Energy Recovery Center \(HERC\)](#) between 2028 to 2040. The resolution included a condition that the HERC closure plan will continue to comply with state law, meet county climate goals, and achieve our [Zero Waste Plan \(PDF\)](#).

Hennepin County plans to aggressively pursue zero-waste policies, programming, and infrastructure. The county will advocate for policy changes at the state, county, and city levels to move toward zero waste and make meaningful progress toward climate emissions reductions. The county will also need to ensure continued funding for natural resources programming and expanded zero-waste efforts.

The county board is seeking comments from cities regarding proposed policy issues relating to closure of the HERC. The HERC closure plan is due to the board by February 1, 2024.

Learn more from the [report \(PDF\)](#) shared with the board in advance of this action.

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- Tuesday, November 7 at 5 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 21 at noon



For more information, contact Alex Van Loh at avanloh@freshwater.org.

25 Healthy Tree Canopy grants awarded



Hennepin County recently awarded 25 [Healthy Tree Canopy grants](#) totaling nearly \$500,000. Grant recipients include 13 cities, two affordable housing properties, five schools, and five nonprofit organizations.

Grant funding will be used for a variety of activities, including conducting tree inventories, expanding the capacity of city forestry teams, treating or replacing ash trees, educating residents on the benefits of trees, and engaging them in tree planting efforts. More than 620 trees will be planted through the grant projects.

The grants will improve livability and reduce disparities by planting trees in areas experiencing disproportionate amounts of economic, environmental, and health inequities. The grants will also protect people and increase the county's resilience to climate change by increasing the benefits that trees provide.

[Learn about the grants awarded](#). For more information, contact trees@hennepin.us.

Planting for pollinators on Nicollet Island

Restoration work funded in part by a Hennepin County Good Steward Grant



Nicollet Island sits within the Mississippi River just north of Saint Anthony Falls in downtown Minneapolis. Before European colonization, the island supported river forest and oak savanna plant communities. Over the years, the island's natural areas have degraded through industrialization and neglect, allowing buckthorn and other aggressive species to move in.

Friends of the Mississippi River are [restoring the island's natural areas](#) with support from a [Hennepin County Good Steward Grant](#), in partnership with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, and Nicollet Island-East Bank Neighborhood Association.

Laura Domyancich-Lee, an ecologist with Friends of the Mississippi River, says they weigh several factors in their restoration work, including identifying historically native plants and their uses — such as habitat quality, medicine, food,

or specific spiritual purposes — with current needs and conditions, including social walking trails and the desire for residents to connect with the river.

The work entails buckthorn and garlic mustard removal, prescribed burns, and pollinator plantings. “With our restorations, we try to be sure we have nectar and floral resources for pollinators throughout the growing season,” says Domyancich-Lee.

Community connections are also a big part of Friends of the Mississippi River’s restoration work. For instance, this past June during Pride month, volunteers recruited from the LBGTQ community helped plant pollinator demonstration boxes. “The most successful restoration work in shared community spaces is when there are long-term stewards connected to that place,” says Domyancich-Lee.

Applications for Good Steward Grants due November 14

Good Steward Grant applications are being accepted through November 14. These grants typically support smaller, community-based or single applicant projects to protect natural resources, such as constructing rain gardens, stabilizing stream banks, restoring native vegetation, installing vegetated filter strips, or implementing other best management practices. The typical funding amount is \$10,000 to \$20,000.

See the [Good Steward Grant application guidelines \(DOCX\)](#) for more information. Access application materials and submit your application online through the [Supplier Portal](#).

Include a trip to a Hennepin County drop-off facility during fall cleanup



Hennepin County operates [drop-off facilities](#) in Brooklyn Park and Bloomington for residents to safely disposal of a variety of household items. This includes appliances, batteries, electronics, cords and string lights, paint, tires, and household hazardous wastes such as cleaning products, pesticides, and mercury-containing items. The county also accepts recycling, including cardboard, plastic bags and film, and organics, at the drop-off facilities.

Fall and winter are a great time to visit the drop-off facilities since they tend to be slower compared to the spring and summer. Watch this [video from the City of Bloomington](#) to learn what to expect during your visit. The video shows how you check in, describe what materials you brought, and unload your materials – all within a few minutes.

The video also describes some important guidelines for materials, such as that [cardboard](#) must be 3'x3' or smaller with all Styrofoam and other packing materials removed.

Regular hours at the drop-off facilities are Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The facilities are closed on Sundays and Mondays. Learn more about the [locations and hours](#), including holiday closures.

Find out more about what's accepted, any fees and material limits or guidelines, and additional recycling and disposal options for common household items by searching the [Green Disposal Guide](#), calling 612-348-3777, or emailing environment@hennepin.us

Celebrating a successful season of household hazardous waste collection events



Hennepin County hosted four [household hazardous waste collection events](#) in 2023. Participation in the events was strong, with 2,563 households bringing in nearly 134,000 pounds of hazardous waste – an average of 52 pounds per household. This included over 4,000 pounds of household batteries!

The county offers collection events throughout the spring, summer, and fall to provide residents a convenient, local option for disposing of household hazardous waste. Event locations and dates for 2024 will be announced in the spring.

Don't let your pumpkins go to waste



As you clean up from Halloween, don't let your pumpkins go to waste! Compost pumpkins by putting them in your [backyard compost bin](#) or [organics recycling](#) cart or bringing them to an organics recycling drop-off. Or check to see if your city is

offering any special drop-off events, such as Edina's [Pumpkin Smash and Bash!](#) Before composting, remove all candles, candle wax, paint, and other decorations. You can also simply leave them out for the squirrels and birds to enjoy!

In the News

Apartment recycling champions help their neighbors recycle

Hennepin County launched the Apartment Recycling Champions program in May with the goal of addressing barriers to improve recycling at multifamily properties. Champions are residents at multifamily buildings who are paid by the county to inspire and educate their neighbors, improve the set-up of recycling bins, provide tips, and answer waste reduction and recycling questions.

Champions help to overcome common challenges for recycling programs at multifamily properties, including limited space for recycling containers, high rates of turnover for both residents and property managers, and language or cultural barriers.



Read a [feature of the program in the Sahan Journal](#) to learn what two Recycling Champions did to improve recycling at their apartment buildings. Mohamud Roble, building on his experience working to reduce waste in his native Somalia, hosted educational events for his neighbors to teach them what and how to recycle. Alicia Brandon started talking directly to her neighbors, handed out educational materials and recycling tote bags, and put up signs directing people to the recycling room.

Green Tip: Help bats in your own backyard



Bats are an important part of our ecosystem as they eat up to half their body weight in insects every night. Not only do they eat mosquitoes, they also contribute billions of dollars' worth of agricultural production by eating pests.

Hennepin County is home to seven species of bats, including the federally endangered northern long-eared bat. These species depend on decaying trees, caves, mine shafts, and bat houses to raise their pups in the summer and to take shelter in for the winter.

Bats in our area are struggling due to disease, habitat loss, climate change, and development, but there are many things we can do to help bats!

- Build a bat house – find plans for [building a safe and suitable bat house](#) from Bat Conservation International.
- Manage forests in the winter to avoid disturbing young bats during nesting season in the spring.
- Protect wetlands and other sources of freshwater.
- Avoid using pesticides – they can poison or kill bats, who are natural pest controllers.
- Keep cats indoors – they are one of the most common causes of bat fatalities.

- Contact the [Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota](#) if you find an injured bat. Don't pick it up.
- Report bats that are sick, deceased, or behaving unusually to the [Minnesota Department of Natural Resources](#).

Find more tips for providing habitat for bats in our [building and maintaining your bat house brochure \(PDF\)](#).



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