

elm creek

Watershed Management Commission

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
3235 Fernbrook Lane
Plymouth, MN 55447

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

Regular Meeting Minutes January 8, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER. A meeting of the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 11:34 a.m., Wednesday, January 8, 2025, in the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Avenue North, Plymouth, MN, by Chair Doug Baines.

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

Also present: Heather Nelson, Champlin; Lauren Letsche, Corcoran; Kent Torve, Stantec, Dayton; Derek Ashe, Maple Grove; Michelle Jennings, WSB, Medina; Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; Andrew Simmons, Rogers; Erik Megow and Diane Spector, Stantec; Rebecca Carlson, Resilience Resources; Kevin Ellis, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

Also present: Eric Meyer, Larson Engineering, for project 2024-029.

II. AGENDA. Motion by Cesnik, second by Walraven to approve the agenda* as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

III. Motion by Trainor, second by Sharp to approve the **Minutes* of the December 11, 2024, meeting.** *Motion carried unanimously.*

IV. Motion by T. Anderson, second by Cesnik to approve the **January Treasurer's Report and Claims*** totaling \$326,033.88, along with an additional claim from the City of Plymouth for 2025 meeting room expense totaling \$3,900. *Motion carried unanimously.*

V. OPEN FORUM.

[Katzner arrived 11:58 a.m.]

VI. PROJECT REVIEW.

A. 2024-027 Fairway Shores Villas at Cook Lake, Corcoran.* This is a 40.56-acre site located at the north end of Fir Lane off County Road 10. The site is comprised of one existing parcel which is a mixture of planted, herbaceous, wetlands, and forested areas with 0 acres of existing impervious. The parcel is located within the South Fork Rush Creek subwatershed. The applicant proposes the construction of 75 single family homes, corresponding with the construction of streets, utilities, stormwater ponds, and filtration basins. The proposal will disturb 28.9 acres, resulting in 9.7 acres of new impervious. The project triggers Commission rules D, E, G, and I. A complete application was received November 5, 2024. The applicant was sent an extension of their 60-day requirement on December 31, 2024, via email to facilitate review at today's meeting. In their findings dated December 31, 2024, Staff recommend approval with four conditions.

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

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

Discussion centered around the outlet for Cook Lake. From aerial photography, it appears the outlet is a piped outlet through the golf course. Staff may need to reach out to the golf course for this determination. It may be good to work with the golf course on a maintenance easement.

Motion by Trainor, second by Walraven to approve this project with the four conditions cited in Staff findings dated December 31, 2024. *Motion carried unanimously.*

B. 2024-028 Osseo New Elementary School, Maple Grove.* The project is located in the northwest corner of the Arbor Ridge Parkway and 101st Avenue North intersection. The proposed project is a 34.04-acre site with approximately 25 acres of disturbed area and 9.27 acres of new and reconstructed impervious surfaces. The project is proposing a new elementary school building, bus parking lot, staff parking lot, and various playgrounds and sports fields. The project triggers Commission rules D, E, G, and I. In their findings dated December 31, 2024, Staff recommend approval of the project with three conditions. Motion by Trainor, second by T. Anderson to approve this project with those conditions. *Motion carried unanimously.*

C. 2024-029 Maple Grove Senior High 2025 Additions, Maple Grove.* The High School is located on an approximately 87-acre property within the city limits of Maple Grove. The site is located south of Highway 610 and east of Fernbrook Lane. The project proposes to construct various additions to the existing building and site improvements including reconstruction and reconfiguration of parking facilities. The project includes grading, utilities, and stormwater treatment, and will result in a net increase of 4.6 acres of impervious surface. The project triggers Commission rules D and E. In their findings dated December 31, 2024, Staff recommend approval of the project with two conditions. Motion by Katzner, second by Walraven to approve this project with those conditions. *Motion carried unanimously.*

VII. OLD BUSINESS.

Accept 2024 Work Plan.* Staff received comments from Three Rivers Park District. They were unable to monitor Lakes Henry and Jubert but were able to monitor Rush Creek at CRs 101 and 116 and perform a vegetation survey on Sylvan Lake. With these updates, motion by Trainor, second by T. Anderson to accept the 2024 Work Plan. *Motion carried unanimously.*

VIII. NEW BUSINESS.

Draft 2025 Work Plan.* Staff's January 2, 2025, memo detailed the highlights of the proposed work plan for 2025:

1. Complete development of the **Fourth Generation Watershed Management Plan**; the current Plan expires in Fall 2025.

2. The **Watershed-wide TMDL Ten Year Review** currently underway will be wrapped into the Fourth Generation Plan in the same manner as the original TMDL and WRAPS implementation strategies and actions from those studies were incorporated into the Third Generation Plan.

3. The **BWSR Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) for FY25** (\$373,590) has been contracted and entities will start implementing improvements in 2025.

4. Continue to **partner with WMWA and Hennepin County on enhanced education and outreach**, with leadership and assistance from the shared outreach coordinator. The Commission will also sponsor one or more shoreline restoration/resilient yards workshops with the shared coordinator and Metro Blooms as part of the WBIF funding.

5. **Chloride management** is a priority topic, and the successful grant application to develop a chloride management plan jointly with the Shingle Creek and West Mississippi WMOs will fund a plan that clarifies the problem assessment, identifies the different stakeholders and their actions and messages, and includes goals and options for implementation. This work will begin in Spring 2025 following execution of a contract with BWSR, expected by March.

6. Admin staff will update the **Commissioners' Handbook** and make it available on the website for ease in keeping it current.

Other segments of the proposed Work Plan focus on Special Studies and Projects, the Monitoring Program, Education and Outreach, Agricultural Outreach, and Routine and Administrative Actions.

Earlier, members of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) noted that they would like to see the Commission's policies on the website, and that the website be reorganized and updated. Commissioners suggested adding an Acronym directory to the website as well.

Vlach stated that the 2025 monitoring should include, Henry, Jubert and French Lakes and Rush Creek at CR116 and CR101. TRPD will make sure there are two years of monitoring on Cowley and Sylvan Lakes – using that data as part of the WRAPS review. Vlach will review the proposed 2025 lake monitoring program and return to the February meeting with his recommendations.

Motion by Trainor, second by Walraven to table approval of the 2025 Work Plan to the February meeting. *Motion carried unanimously.*

IX. **FOURTH GENERATION PLAN.**

A. Comments on Draft 1. Staff reported that the Commission received comments from:

1. Jen Dullum, BWSR, on rewording some goal statements to make them more measurable.

2. Scharenbroich, asking Staff to request member cities to schedule meetings with advisory committee and have a meeting budgeted for each city in order to present what is being proposed in the Fourth Generation Plan.

B. Rules and Standards.* One of the components of the Fourth Generation Watershed Plan update is a review of the development Rules and Standards. The Rules were last reviewed and amended in 2022 with the following:

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1. Adopted the NPDES General Stormwater Permit standards for linear projects and clarified that the volume reduction standards applied to both runoff from new impervious surface and fully reconstructed impervious surface.

2. Clarified the Commission’s standards regarding the required freeboard between the high-water elevation of a constructed or natural water and the low floor or opening of a proposed adjacent structure.

3. The City of Champlin recently submitted a request for the TAC and Commission to consider clarifying the requirements for municipal linear projects, which is detailed in a separate memo* included in the meeting packet.

Earlier today, the TAC agreed to the sequencing as proposed, adding basic language to include a summary of alternatives reviewed to achieve volume control/filtration. Cost-effectiveness would be decided by the City. Staff will return next month with a 1-2 sentence addition to the Rules.

4. Staff would like to revisit the compensatory storage requirement for floodplain fill on linear projects. A recent project in Plymouth triggered this topic, and there are rural and urban roadways throughout the watershed that will be upgraded in the future, likely widened, that may pose a hardship for cities to provide compensatory floodplain storage.

5. Staff is not aware of any other necessary substantive revision to the Rules. Staff will review the Rules for any additional housekeeping-type revisions.

X. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES AND UPDATE.

Spector reported that the Elm Creek, Shingle Creek and West Mississippi WMOs were awarded a BWSR Accelerated Implementation Plan Grant in December for their joint **Chloride Management Plan**. Work will begin on the plan this spring.

XI. EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH.

A. Winter Salt Week.* Winter Salt Week, January 27-31, 2025, is a collaboration of governmental and non-governmental organizations across the United States and Canada with the goal of raising awareness around salt pollution and reduction solutions. This is a great way to engage with Minnesotans on chloride pollution in your community and continue “working to keep freshwater fresh.”

www.wintersaltweek.org has a rundown of the daily webinars including Minnesota speakers providing public works perspectives and presenting on the policy solutions panel. The event consists of a series of online presentations over four days to provide expert knowledge about why we need to reduce winter salt and practical solutions for doing so. The fifth and final day offers an opportunity for cities, watershed organizations, and others to hold their own events.

The Low Salt, No Salt MN team has developed a toolkit for you to help promote Winter Salt Week and plan your own event. Check out the [Winter Salt Week Toolkit](#).

Online Workshop for Community Leaders about Chloride Pollution. Encourage your community leaders to sign up for the MPCA's [Smart Salting: Community Leaders Workshop](#) on January 31, 2025, 11 am-1 pm. Locally, Plymouth is hosting a Winter Maintenance Open House on January 30.

The **Joint Chloride Management Plan** will incorporate Winter Salt Week into its education and outreach plan. WMWA, Hennepin County Chloride Initiative (HCCI) and Watershed Partners are working with the MPCA to develop Low Salt No Salt and Winter Salt Week into a cohesive, statewide campaign.

B. A copy of an article from CCX Media entitled, **“New Hope Tries New salting Solutions for Winter Road Treatment,”** was included in the meeting packet. The article describes how the City is pre-wetting the granular salt they use so that it sticks better on their streets and also to target treatments around specified areas such as intersections.

C. **West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA)** will meet via Zoom at 8:30 a.m., January 14, 2025.

XII. COMMUNICATIONS.

A. Staff Report.* The Staff Report provides updates on the development projects currently under review by Staff. The projects listed in the table on page 6 of these minutes are discussed in the January 2, 2025, report.

B. Hennepin County Staff Report.*

1. Stotts 1A/1B/TOHWW, Corcoran. Construction of repairs to the Top of Hill Waterway have been completed. This includes regrading to repair erosion and the installation of a 6” tile line and gravel curtain that will capture a hillside seep that was impacting the function of the waterway. This will be fully closed out over the winter. Landowner also placed required rip rap at the base of grassed waterways that were a part of the 1A project. This project will also be closed out over winter. 95% plans of the 1B WASCOD and waterway will be presented to the landowner later in January.

2. City of Corcoran. Native seed has been purchased by the city with intention of planting this winter when the conditions are ideal. This will be dormant, seeded with immediate snow cover to help with establishment in the spring. The City will be able to do the seeding when conditions have been identified.

3. Ellis noted that he has been contacted by **the Matillas in Corcoran**. They are looking at phase 3, increasing their herd size to the maximum allowed by ordinance and expanding the allowable grazing area. This would require exclusionary fencing and a creek crossing on Rush Creek. The project is still in the talking stages.

4. The **Project Funding Table** and other **County programming** complete the report.

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS.

A. North Fork Rush Creek.* The cities of Corcoran, Dayton, Maple Grove and Rogers are all expecting development in this area. At the TAC meeting earlier today, these cities requested review of the flood elevations where the four cities meet. There are no listed floodplain elevations for this area, which is in FEMA Zone A. The members of the TAC recommended an expenditure of \$5,000 from general engineering funds to update the elevations. This action was approved by the Commission by consensus.

B. The Commissioners were reminded of appointments. Unless otherwise noted in their Cities’ resolutions, these appointments are for one year and must be renewed annually. Officers will be elected at the March 12, 2025, meeting.

C. The Solicitation for letters of interest for legal, technical and administrative services were published in the December 9, 2024, issue of the State Register. Responses are forwarded to Commissioners for consideration at the first meeting of the year. Due to some confusion regarding the process, the responses will be considered at the February 12, 2025, regular meeting.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judie A. Anderson
for
Amy Juntunen,
Recording Secretary
JAA:tim

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Project No.	Project Name	Project No.	Project Name
2014-015	Rogers Drive Extension.	2024-002	The Meadows Park, Plymouth.
2016-005	Ravinia Wetland Bank Plan, Corcoran.	2024-005	Rush Hollow North, Maple Grove.
2017-050W	E Mayers Wetland/floodplain viola, Corc	2024-006	Sunram Construction, Corcoran.
2018-046	Graco, Rogers.	2024-009	Heritage Christian Academy, Maple Grove.
2020-009	Stetler Barn, Medina.	2024-010	Corcoran Storage II.
2020-017	Meadow View Townhomes, Medina.	2024-013	Red Barn Pet Retreat, Corcoran.
2020-033	Weston Woods, Medina.	2024-015	Hennessy Grove, Maple Grove.
		2024-016	Sundance 11th, Dayton.
2021-029	Tri-Care Grocery / Retail, Maple Grove.	2024-017	Pioneer Trail Industrial Park, Corcoran.
2021-034	BAPS Hindu Temple, Medina.	2024-018	Kwik Trip 1187, Dayton.
		2024-019	Silver Buckle, Plymouth.
2022-006	Hamel Townhomes, Medina.	2024-020	Woodland Hills, Corcoran.
2022-011	Arrowhead Drive Turn Lane Expn, Medina.	2024-021	Heather Meadows, Third Addn, Corcoran.
2022-018	Big Woods, Rogers.	2024-022	Hope Meadows Townhomes, Corcoran.

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2022-022	Cook Lake Highlands, Corcoran.		2024-023	Upward Acres, Corcoran.
2022-040	Kariniemi Meadows, Corcoran.		2024-024	Dental Associates, Maple Grove.
2022-043	Meander Park and Boardwalk, Medina.		2024-025	Elm Creek Vista, Maple Grove.
			2024-026	Brindle Path, Medina.
2023-001	Chankahda Trail Recon Phase 2, Plymouth.		2024-027	Fairway Shores Villa, Corcoran
2023-015	So Fork Rush Creek Evanswood, M Grove		2024-028	Osseo New Elementary School, MG
2023-020	Dunkirk Square, Maple Grove		2024-029	Maple Grove Senior HS. 225 Additions.
2023-022	Shores of Sylvan Lake, Rogers.		2024-030	Northview Preserve, Rogers.
2023-023	NORSQ, Maple Grove.		2024-031	
2023-025	Rogers Mixed Use Improvement.		2024-032	Rogers Tech Center.
2023-029	Dayton Field 4th Addition.		2024-033	Fletcher By-Pass, Rogers.
2023-030	Woodland Hill of Corcoran.			

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