

elm creek

Watershed Management Commission

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Regular Meeting Minutes | January 14, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER. A meeting of the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 11:36 a.m., Wednesday, January 14, 2026, in the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Avenue North, Plymouth, MN, by Commissioner Dave Katzner.

Present: Gerry Butcher, Champlin; Loren Evenrud, Corcoran; Doug Baines, Dayton; Dan Riggs, Maple Grove; Christina Frazier, Plymouth; and Dave Katzner, Rogers. Not represented: Medina.

Also present: Steven Touney, Champlin; Jon Bottema and Ryan Bottema, Corcoran; Derek Asche and Shane Awalt, Maple Grove; Chris Dahl and Dusty Finke, Medina; Ken Dutton and Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; Mike Albers, Rogers; Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District; Kevin Ellis, Hennepin County; Eric Osterdyk and Diane Spector, Stantec; and Judie Anderson, JASS.

II. AGENDA. Motion by Frazier, second by Butcher to approve the agenda with the addition of item 5.a. Website Update.* *Motion carried unanimously.*

III. Motion by Butcher, second by Riggs to approve the **Minutes of the December 10, 2025, meeting.*** *Motion carried unanimously.*

IV. Motion by Frazier, second by Butcher to approve the **January Treasurer's Report and Claims totaling \$199,886.64.*** *Motion carried unanimously.*

V. OPEN FORUM.

VI. PROJECT REVIEW.

2025-040 Commerce Boulevard Development, Rogers.* This project resides on a 3.5-acre site located northeast of Commerce Boulevard and west of George Weber Drive. The project proposes construction of two commercial buildings along with associated parking and driveways and triggers Rules D and E. Initial review of this project has been completed and comments were sent to the applicant on October 24 and November 14, 2025, and on January 6, 2026. Responses to Staff comments were deemed complete and in their findings dated January 8, 2026, Staff recommends approval with two conditions: (1) escrow reconciliation, and (2) receipt of an Operation and Maintenance Plan approved by the City of Rogers. Motion by Butcher, second by Riggs to approve project 2025-040 with those conditions. *Motion carried unanimously.*

VII. OLD BUSINESS.

[Baines arrived 11:55 a.m. and assumed the Chair.]

Spector provided an update on the new website development process. She queried whether the Commissioners would like Skol to develop a new logo for Elm Creek as part of the process. No particular interest was expressed regarding the creation of a new logo.

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

VIII. 2026 WORK PLAN.*

A. Minnesota Rule 8410.0150 requires the Commission to submit to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) a financial report, activity report and audit report for the preceding fiscal year. MN Rule 8410.0150 Subp. 3 outlines the required content of the annual activity report. It includes an assessment of the previous year’s annual work plan and a projected work plan for the following year.

Staff’s January 7, 2026, memo* highlights some of the special projects/studies the Commission is proposing to undertake in 2026. They include:

1. The Watershed -wide TMDL Ten Year Review has been underway in 2024-25 with data analysis of progress to date and additional lake and stream monitoring. This study will be completed by summer 2026.

2. Several BWSR Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) activities are in implementation in 2026, including ag BMPs, the Fish and Rice Lake Fish Management Plan, and various BMPs in the City of Dayton, including a feasibility study for the proposed Diamond Lake Internal Load Project.

3. Continue to partner with WMWA and Hennepin County on enhanced education and outreach, with leadership and assistance from the shared outreach coordinator. In previous years, the Commission sponsored two shoreline restoration/resilient yards workshops on Fish Lake with the shared coordinator and Metro Blooms as part of the WBIF funding.

4. Chloride management is a priority topic, and work is underway to develop a chloride management plan jointly with the Shingle Creek and West Mississippi WMOs to refine the problem geospatially; identify the different stakeholders and their actions and messages; and establish goals and options for implementation. Work is expected to be completed by fall 2026.

5. Admin staff will update the Commissioners’ Handbook and make it available on the updated website for ease in keeping it current.

B. The Commission’s Fourth Generation Watershed Management Plan identifies issues, priorities, and goals for the ten-year period 2026-2035. The Annual Work Plan is a more detailed set of actions the Commission undertakes to work toward meeting those goals. The goals and actions are organized by priority areas within the Plan so progress toward goals can be tracked.

Motion by Katzner, second by Butcher to accept the 2026 Work Plan as proposed.
Motion carried unanimously.

IX. 2026 CIP AND COST SHARE PROGRAM.*

The Commission revised its Capital Improvement Program (CIP) as part of the Fourth Generation Watershed Management Plan. The CIP typically is reviewed each year and amended as necessary to add, delete, or amend projects as opportunities arise, priorities change, or costs

are re-evaluated. The CIP is considered in two ways, The “CIP” is a list of all the potential projects the Commission and cities might undertake over the 10-year planning period and is usually organized in five-year increments. The “Annual CIP” is the list of proposed projects the Commission and cities will be considering this year.

A. The full current CIP is included in the Plan and also on the website. The Fourth Generation Plan allows the Commission to reschedule projects from year to year without going through a formal amendment process, and to revise the costs or scope of projects as more information becomes known. However, adding projects to the CIP requires a Minor Plan Amendment (MPA). This is a multistep process that can take 2-3 months. The Annual CIP process begins early in the year since Hennepin County considers CIP MPA’s and maximum levy requests in June-July of each year.

The Commissioners reviewed a table* that shows the potential projects for this year’s Annual CIP for levy certification in September. If there are any additional projects to be added for 2026 (which will be levied in 2027), please notify staff ASAP.

B. Cost Share Programs

The Cost Share programs currently are carrying significant balances. The Cost Share programs are targeted at small projects (typically under \$100,000-200,000) and applications can be considered at any time. Guidelines and applications can be requested from the Administrative Office.

Watershed	City Cost Share	Partnership	Closed Projects
Elm Creek	\$264,373	\$143,386	\$278,516

X. FOURTH GENERATION WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN. *

A. The Commission has completed its Fourth Generation Plan In accordance with Minnesota Statutes 103B.231, which sets out the watershed management plan process for Metro area Watershed Management Organizations (WMOs). On December 18, 2025, the Commission received approval of its Plan from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). The Board’s approval letter* and a copy of the Board’s action* were included in the meeting packet. Resolution 2026-01* Adopting [the] Fourth Generation Watershed Management Plan was also included in the packet for consideration and approval.

B. The new plan covers the period 2026-2035 and includes revised and new goals and strategies and a new Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and Implementation Plan. Highlights include:

1. Continuing to implement development Rules; the monitoring and education and outreach programs; and CIP and cost share programs.
2. Includes a special focus on Diamond and Rice Lakes with several actions to work toward meeting specific water quality targets.

*indicates enclosure

3. Continues the partnership with Hennepin County on outreach to agricultural and rural properties, including cost share for voluntary BMPs.

4. Continues to expand education and outreach efforts and work with other WMOs in the area toward a shared full-time WMWA education and outreach coordinator.

5. Proposes to develop a Climate Resilience and Sustainability Study – completing a vulnerability assessment and developing adaptation strategies. This study will focus on Commission concerns as well as compliment the climate resilience analyses and implementation actions that will be required by the Met Council in city 2050 Comprehensive Plans.

Motion by Katzner, second by Riggs to adopt Resolution 2026-01. *Motion carried unanimously.*

The Fourth Generation Watershed Management Plan can be found at <https://www.elmcreekwatershed.org/watershed-management-plan.html>

C. **Timeline to complete local plans.** Cities will have until December 31, 2028, to update their Local Water Management Plans as part of the next Comprehensive Planning process. Requirements for the Local Plans can be found in the Fourth Generation Plan.

XI. EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH.

A. Included in the meeting packet were updates from Grace Barcelow,* Hennepin County Environment and Energy Conservation Specialist, grace.barcelow@hennepin.us regarding:

1. Chloride Reduction Campaign
2. Youth Stormwater Education Work
3. January media kit – preserving and protecting terrestrial and aquatic habitats

4. Parkers Lake Chloride Reduction Project
5. Eagle Lake and Fish Lake Shoreline/Yard Restoration Projects
6. RBWMO and BCWMO Multi-Family Housing Project Planning

B. **West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA)** will meet via Zoom at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, February 10, 2026. The link to join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/922390839?pwd=TKlBQW1ZNlVXdzdtTDBTSDZkZmZuQT09>

X. COMMUNICATIONS.

A. **Staff Report.** The January 6, 2026, Staff Report* provides updates on the development projects currently under review by Staff.

B. Hennepin County Staff Report.*

1. **Trousdale Wetland Restoration, Corcoran.** Staff met with LGU, BWSR, and engineering representatives for a pre-application meeting. Over the course of the meeting, questions were raised regarding the plan and existing conditions on site. A Level 2 wetland delineation will be completed, and staff will seek more information from local landowners

regarding tile existence and maintenance. Hennepin County will work with engineering to collect information, data, and make edits and recommendations to the plan.

2. Sovereign Stables, Dayton. Hennepin County Staff are working with the Board of Water and Soil Resources and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to understand if this project is eligible for cost-share funding. If approved, the manure storage project will move into the design phase over winter 2026.

3. Information on **project funding** and other **County programming** completes the report.

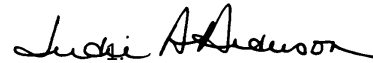
XI. OTHER BUSINESS.

A. A **reminder of appointments** due by those members that appoint Commissioners annually.

B. Election of officers will take place at the March meeting.

XII. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Judie A. Anderson
Recording Secretary

JAA:tim

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