

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 February 11, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER. A meeting of the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 11:32 a.m., Wednesday, February 11, 2026, in the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Avenue North, Plymouth, MN, by Chairman Doug Baines.

Present: Andrew Kessler, Champlin; Loren Evenrud, Corcoran; Doug Baines, Dayton; Joe Trainor Maple Grove; Christina Frazier, Plymouth; and Dave Katzner, Rogers. Not represented: Medina.

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

Also present: Ben Torrison and Katie Allenson, USGS.

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

III. Motion by Frazier, second by Katzner to approve the **Minutes of the January 14, 2026, meeting.*** *Motion carried unanimously.*

IV. Motion by Katzner, second by Trainor to approve the **February Treasurer's Report and Claims totaling \$114,006.81.*** *Motion carried unanimously.*

V. OPEN FORUM.

USGS Partnership Agreement. Torrison and Allenson were present to introduce themselves, describe the partnership the Commission has with the USGS, and to present the October 1, 2025-September 30, 2027 joint funding agreement for the operation and maintenance of the stream gauge in Champlin. The total cost for fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025, will be \$43,700, with the Commission's share being \$24,100. The total cost for fiscal year beginning October 1, 2026, will be \$44,200, with the Commission's share being \$24,600. The Commission budgeted \$23,350 in 2026 based on the estimated contract cost increase. The difference can be accommodated within the overall monitoring budget.

Motion by Katzner, second by Frazier to accept the agreement as written. *Motion carried unanimously.*

VI. PROJECT REVIEWS.

A. 2025-034 Hassan Sand and Gravel, Rogers.* This project proposes redevelopment

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

of the existing residential and agricultural buildings to construct a commercial building with associated parking and a contractor laydown yard. The project is located at 25720 141st Avenue and will disturb approximately 13 acres of the site. The project triggers Rules D, E, and F. A complete application was received on August 12, 2025. In their findings dated January 30, 2026, Staff recommended approval with five conditions: (1) reconciliation of the escrow fee, (2) receipt of O&M plan approved by the City, (3) receipt of results of a post construction infiltration test, (4) provision of additional grading detail for the septic system design, and (5) provision of permanent cover over the contractor yard to prevent erosion. Motion by Trainor, second by Katzner to approve this project with those conditions. *Motion carried unanimously.*

B. 2025-041 Arbor Ridge Business Park, Maple Grove.* The project consists of a 20-acre site with approximately 10.6 acres of disturbance, located south of Arbor Ridge Parkway and east of Weston Way South. The project proposes construction of an office/industrial building and associated parking and triggers Rules D, E, and I. The project review application was initially received on October 30, 2025, but was paused for design changes. A resubmittal with these changes was received on November 14, 2025. In their findings dated February 3, 2026, Staff recommended approval with one condition, reconciliation of the escrow fee. Motion by Katzner, second by Trainor to approve this project with that condition. *Motion carried unanimously.*

C. 2025-044 Juniper Hill, Maple Grove.* This project spans approximately 14 acres on a site located at 16725 Elm Road North. The project proposes to construct 33 single-family homes with associated roadway and utilities and triggers Rules D, E, F, G, and I. A complete project review application was received on December 11, 2025. In their findings dated January 23, 2026, Staff recommended approval with four conditions: (1) reconciliation of the escrow fee, (2) approval from the City for grading and wetland buffer off the parcel on City land, (3) plans signed by professional engineer, and (4) revise filtration bench detail. Motion by Trainor, second by Kessler to approve this project with those conditions. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Commissioner Frazier expressed concerns about the negative impacts that development can have in terms of tree removal, radiant heat from paving over green spaces, and erosion adjacent to sensitive resources such as wetlands and creeks. She was advised that the Commission does not have rules limiting tree removal or a certain percent of the site that can be paved, but many of the member cities do. As far as erosion is concerned, the Commission requires vegetation of disturbed soils post construction and recommends erosion control blankets on steep slopes to help with revegetation. The Commission also requires down-gradient perimeter control such as bio-logs or silt fence as part of its erosion and sediment control rule.

D. 2025-048 Villas at Hunter Hill-Amendment, Medina.* The project spans approximately 3.2 acres on a site located west of Hunter Drive and south of Hamel Road. The project proposes to build residential housing units along with associated parking and driveways, triggering Rules D and E. A complete project review application was received on January 5, 2026. In their findings dated January 30, 2026, Staff recommended approval with two conditions: (1) reconciliation of the escrow fee, and (2) receipt of O&M plan approved by the City. Motion by Frazier, second by Trainor to approve this project with those conditions. *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

VII. OLD BUSINESS.

A. 2026 Work Plan.*

Staff's February 4, 2026, memo* iterates highlights of some of the special projects/studies the Commission is proposing to undertake in 2026. No revisions were made to the January presentation. However, Brian Vlach provided Staff with some minor changes to the 2026 TRPD monitoring plan:

The Park District will monitor Elm Creek at 77th Avenue (EC77); Rush Creek at Territorial Road (RT); and Diamond Creek (DC) for continuous flow and water quality. TRPD will monitor four sentinel lakes (Fish, Weaver, Diamond, and Rice). As part of the Elm Creek Watershed TMDL 10 Year Review three or four additional lakes (Henry and Jubert **and both** Dubai and Laura if they can be accessed) and two stream sites (Rush Creek at CR 116 and CR 101) will be monitored. French Lake **will not be** monitored since sufficient data has been collected from that lake. **In addition**, Prairie Lake will be sampled by TRPD at no charge to the Commission.

Motion by Trainor, second by Frazier to approve the revised Work Plan. *Motion carried unanimously.*

B. New Website.

Spector reported that Staff is working with Avallo and Skol Marketing for the WMWA and watershed website updates. In January, Staff met with both firms to discuss new desired website features, logo updates, web design, and hosting platforms. Website development is underway for the WMWA, Shingle Creek/West Mississippi, Pioneer-Sarah Creek, and Elm Creek Watershed Commission websites.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS.

Local Water Management Plans.* Now that the Commission has completed its Fourth Generation Watershed Management Plan, each city is required to update their Local Water Management Plan (LWMP) to be consistent with the Plan's goals and policies as well as local water management needs. The LWMP is a required component of the city's Comprehensive Plan, and the LWMP update must be completed *no sooner than two years prior to the due date updating the city's Comp Plan.*

The next round of city, township, and county comprehensive plans are due to Metropolitan Council by the end of December 2028. Cities have received their guidance from the Met Council and will begin to engage consultants to help complete that planning and prepare the required documents. More information about Imagine 2050 Comprehensive Planning can be found on the Met Council's website: [Home - Local Planning Handbook](#).

LWMPs must meet the requirements cited in MN Statutes, 103B.235 and MN Rules Chapter 8410. In general, LWMPs need to include a summary of the priorities and problems in the community; structural, nonstructural and programmatic actions to take to address the priorities and problems; and clearly identified funding mechanisms to fix the problems. Addi-

tional requirements are set forth in the Fourth Generation Plan.

Motion by Trainor, second by Katzner directing Staff to provide this information in a letter to the member cities. *Motion carried unanimously.*

IX. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES.

The **BWSR FY 2027 Clean Water Fund (CWF) Projects and Practices Grants** Request For Proposals (RFP) is now open and includes two programs: 1) Projects and Practices, and 2) Projects and Practices Drinking Water. Entities working under a current State-approved and locally-adopted water management plan are eligible to apply. Applications must be submitted via [eLINK](#), BWSR’s grants management system. Only grant requests greater than or equal to \$30,000 will be considered. Application deadline is Wednesday, March 25, 2026, no later than 4:30 pm CST.

X. EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH.

A. Grace Barcelow, Hennepin County Environment and Energy Conservation Specialist, grace.barcelow@hennepin.us was present to provide an overview of her work and plans for the upcoming year.

One item of discussion was the Commission’s preference for a WBIF-funded BMP project for 2026 and potentially 2027. In 2024 and 2025 Barcelow coordinated lakeshore stabilization workshops for Fish Lake homeowners and is currently working with several to get those projects in the ground in the spring. Since she likely has engaged most of the interested homeowners on that lake, in 2026 she could shift to a different priority lake (Rice?) or take on some other activity.

- B.** Also included in the meeting packet were **updates from Barcelow*** regarding:
1. Chloride Reduction Campaign
 2. Youth Stormwater Education Work
 3. February media kit – chloride consultations, best winter maintenance practices
 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

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/922390839?pwd=TkIBQW1ZNXVXdzdtTDBTSDZkZmZuQT09>

XI. COMMUNICATIONS.

A. Staff Report. The February 4, 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. Feedback provided during that

meeting is still to be reviewed by the project team. Additional work will be required, including further conversations with adjacent landowners and a Level 2 wetland delineation, continuing through spring.

2. Lake Henry Hollow Horse Ranch, Rogers. A pre-TEP meeting was convened with Hennepin County, LGU, and state representatives to discuss Wetland Conservation Act impacts of the project and past landowner activities. Staff provided documentation of the previously constructed alleyway that is a violation but would need to be recorded. TEP members will review documentation but requested that a level 2 wetland delineation be performed before filing a notice of determination.

3. Hennepin County completed reporting on all BWSR grants and programs during 2025. Hennepin County staff took over reporting duties for cost-share projects related to FY23 and FY25 WBIF grants for the Commission. The next 40% of grant funds (\$70,000) was requested from BWSR since the FY23 WBIF grant has reached and surpassed the 50% completion mark.

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

XII. 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.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Judie A. Anderson
Recording Secretary

JAA:tim

Z:\Elm Creek\Meetings\Meetings 2026 EC\February 11, 2026 Regular Meeting mins.docx