

elm creek

Watershed Management Commission

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Regular Meeting Minutes February 12, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER. A meeting of the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 11:37 a.m., Wednesday, February 12, 2025, in the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Avenue North, Plymouth, MN, by Vice Chair Catherine Cesnik.

Present: Bill Walraven, Champlin; Dan Riggs, Maple Grove; Terry Sharp, Medina; and Catherine Cesnik, Plymouth.

Not represented: Corcoran, Dayton, and Rogers.

Also present: Lauren Letsche, Corcoran; Josh Accola, Stantec, Dayton; Derek Asche, Maple Grove; Michelle Jennings, WSB, Medina; Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; Andrew Simmons, Rogers; Erik Megow and Diane Spector, Stantec; Rebecca Carlson, Resilience Resources; Kevin Ellis and Amy Riegel, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Jen Dullum Board of Water and Soil Resources, BWSR; Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District; and Judie Anderson, JASS.

Also present: Adam Niese, Houston Engineering.

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

III. CONSENT AGENDA. Motion by Walraven, second by Sharp to approve the Consent Agenda:

A. Minutes of the January 8, 2025, meeting.*

B. February Treasurer's Report* and claims totaling \$64,135.82.

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. OPEN FORUM.

V. PROJECT REVIEWS.

A. 2023-025 Rogers Mixed-Use Improvements, Rogers.* The applicant is redeveloping a 1.94-acre parcel, triggering Commission Rules D and E. The proposed development is located at the northwest corner of main street (CR 150) and Church Avenue and is bordered by John Deere Lane on the north and the Burlington Northern Railroad on the southwest. The parcel lies in the watershed draining north to the Crow River. The applicant is proposing a mixed-use development to replace the existing industrial/commercial land use consisting of both consolidated and unconsolidated bituminous parking with buildings. In addition to eliminating the unconsolidated bituminous parking the applicant proposes increasing pervious area by 7,841 SF. The project includes sub-surface stormwater facilities and a commercial filtration system to achieve Commission requirements. There

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RULE E - EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL
RULE F - FLOODPLAIN ALTERATION

RULE G - WETLAND ALTERATION
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RULE I - BUFFERS

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are contaminated soils onsite. The MPCA has reviewed and approved the applicant’s construction plans to mitigate contamination exposure during construction. In findings dated November 21, 2023, Staff recommended approval of this project with the standard escrow and stormwater maintenance agreement conditions. This project was approved at the December meeting with those conditions.

The applicant made minor changes to the proposed project and resubmitted it for Staff review in December 2024. The current proposal increases pervious area to 11,383 SF, resulting in an impervious area of 80,252 SF (1.84 acres), a net decrease of impervious area of 11,383 SF, (0.26 acre). Staff find the project meets Commission standards and, in their findings revised January 21, 2025, recommends Staff-level approval of the changes with the two standard conditions of meeting escrow requirement and providing an executed stormwater BMP maintenance agreement acceptable to the City and Commission within 90 days.

B. 2024-030 Northview Preserve, Rogers.* This project consists of the development of a 30.75-acre parcel. The project will disturb 29.3 acres, adding 11.0 acres of new impervious surface. The applicant is proposing to create 75 single-family residential homes with associated streets and utility infrastructure. The project triggers Commission Rules D, E, and I. Stormwater runoff will maintain the existing drainage patterns. The proposed site contains three stormwater ponds, two of which are connected through a stormwater pipe and will treat runoff from the southern half of the site. The third pond will include pretreatment and filtration, treating runoff from the northern half of the site. In their findings dated February 5, 2025, Staff recommend approval with four conditions. Motion by Walraven, second by Sharp to approve Staff’s recommendations. *Motion carried unanimously.*

C. 2024-031 The Parkway Neighborhood, Dayton.* This is a 67.33-acre site located at the southwest corner of the intersection of I-94 and Dayton Parkway. The project was reviewed for Rules D, E, F, G, and I. The site is comprised of two parcels which are a mixture of forested, planted, herbaceous, hayfield, and open water areas with 0.0 acres of existing impervious. The site is located near the central north portion of the Rush Creek subwatershed, just south of French Lake. The applicant proposes construction of multi-family, mixed-use, and commercial buildings, parking lots, landscaping, and a new road. The proposal will disturb 40.3 acres of the site, resulting in 19.5 acres of new impervious surface after development. The development sizing presented incorporates the planned future 11.5 acres of impervious area in basin 1A-2. When this develops, provided it’s in alignment with the proposed stormwater routing and impervious area, this development may only require erosion control review. The 11.5 acres are included in the numbers listed here and in the findings. In their findings dated January 31, 2025, Staff recommend approval with four conditions. Motion by Walraven, second by Riggs to approve Staff’s recommendations. *Motion carried unanimously.*

D. 2025-003 Ray J’s Bar and Grill, Rogers.* This is a new 2.7-acre development bounded by 141st Avenue North to the north, retail property to the south, Northdale Boulevard to the west, and Highway 101 to the east. The project triggers Commission Rules D and E. 2.2 acres of the site are proposed to be disturbed. The new development will include a 6,600 SF building with patio, new parking lot, pickle ball court, and a building pad for a future building in

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the southwest corner of the property. An existing infiltration basin will be utilized for stormwater management and the project will result in 1.42-acres of impervious surface. Staff are recommending approval with three conditions. A finding of fact memo dated February 2, 2025, has been prepared for the Commission meeting. Motion by Riggs, second by Walraven to approve Staff's recommendations. *Motion carried unanimously.*

E. 2025-004 Elm Creek Preserve Pavement Rehab, Dayton/Maple Grove.* This project consists of pavement rehabilitation (mill and overlay), ADA improvements, and the conversion of two parking lots within Elm Creek Park Reserve from gravel to pavement. Three Rivers Park District proposes expansion of the total number of paved parking stalls available within the park. The first parking lot is in the south portion of the Elm Creek Park Reserve (within Maple Grove) across the street from the Chalet. The second site is located in the central part of the park (within Dayton), along the access road to the Eastman Nature Center. The combined sites are approximately 4.6 acres in size. Existing impervious is 32.8 acres, proposed is 32.9 acres (an addition of 0.18 acres of new impervious, the remainder of impervious is either newly reconstructed or mill and overlay). Currently there is no stormwater quality treatment. Three filtration basins are proposed to meet Commission requirements. These basins will be routed to a ditch that ultimately drains to wetlands. The purpose of the project is to reduce the need for shuttle service, provide basic maintenance and to update facilities for compliance with the ADA to provide equitable access. The project triggers Rules D and E. In their findings dated January 31, 2025, Staff recommend approval with standard conditions regarding maintenance agreements and escrow payments. Motion by Riggs, second by Sharp to approve Staff's recommendations. *Motion carried unanimously.*

F. 2025-006 Hennessey Grove Update, Maple Grove.* This project was approved at the June 2024 Commission meeting. Since that time, this project has changed ownership and some minor floor elevations have been updated to meet the Commission's low floor requirements. The updated approval outlines the new owner. In their findings dated January 21, 2025, this project was approved by Staff. Because the escrow has not been reconciled on the original submittal, Administrative staff requested the Commissioners to also approve this iteration. Motion by Walraven, second by Riggs to approve Staff recommendations for project 2025-006. *Motion carried unanimously.*

VI. 2025 WORK PLAN.*

Staff's February 5, 2025, memo* repeats the proposed Work Plan presented at the January meeting. Aside from some revisions to the proposed monitoring program, no other revisions were requested.

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

B. Wrap the Watershed-wide TMDL Ten Year Review currently underway 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.

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

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

E. Using funds from the BWSR Clean Water Fund Accelerated Implementation Grant, develop a chloride management plan jointly with the Shingle Creek and West Mississippi WMOs that clarifies the problem assessment, identifies the different stakeholders and their actions and messages, and includes goals and options for implementation.

F. Update the Commissioners' Handbook and make it available on the website for ease in keeping it current.

Motion by Sharp, second by Walraven to accept the 2025 Work Plan. *Motion carried unanimously.*

VII. RESPONSES TO SOLICITATION OF INTEREST PROPOSALS FOR 2025-2026.* Six proposals were received – three from technical firms, two from legal firms, and one from an administrative service provider. Motion by Walraven, second by Riggs to accept the proposals from Campbell Knutson Professional Association for legal services, Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for engineering services, and from Judie Anderson's Secretarial Services, Inc. for administrative services. *Motion carried unanimously.*

VIII. FOURTH GENERATION PLAN.

A. Compensatory Storage. Staff provided a presentation* discussing the compensatory storage requirements of the Floodplain Rule. They walked through an example of the difficulties encountered, when providing compensatory storage for a linear project (Chankahda Trail Reconstruction - Phase 2, Project Review 2023-001). Staff also discussed an alternative, 'kerplunk' method, that allows the applicant to show *that the proposed alteration or filling, together with the alteration or filling of all other land on the affected reach of the waterbody to the same degree of encroachment as proposed by the applicant, will not cause high water or aggravate flooding on the other land and will not unduly restrict flood flows.* No changes to the current Rules were proposed.

B. Linear Projects. In their February 4, 2025, memo,* Staff detailed the discussion from the January meeting regarding linear street reconstruction stormwater requirements. Discussion at the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting had centered on the requirements for and amount of due diligence expected from cities for future resident road reconstruction projects. No major changes were proposed to the Commission's existing rule; however, Staff proposed the following language be added for clarification:

For linear projects, a narrative describing the alternatives that were considered but deemed not to be cost-effective, in conformance with the MS4 NPDES Permit, if requested by the Commission.

The TAC recommended that this language be added to the Exhibits section of the Stormwater Management Rule. The Commission agreed to this addition by consensus.

C. Monitoring Program. Staff's second February 5, 2025, memo* outlines the proposed monitoring program* for the Fourth Generation Plan. It essentially repeats what has been in place in previous watershed plans.

The Commission contracts with the Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) to perform lake and stream monitoring and to compile and analyze the data. Commission and Three Rivers staffs reviewed the detailed plan set forth in the Third Generation Plan and proposed some minor modifications for the Fourth Generation Plan.

1. Annual monitoring of the four "sentinel lakes," (Fish, Rice, Weaver, Diamond).
2. Periodic monitoring of other lakes on a rotating basis.
3. Routine stream flow and water quality monitoring at three stream sites , Elm (EC77), Rush (RT), and Diamond (DC) Creeks.
4. Periodic flow and water quality monitoring at additional upstream sites on Elm; South Fork Rush (RC101); and Rush (RC116) Creeks on a rotating basis.
5. Routine flow and water quality monitoring on Elm Creek in partnership with the USGS.
6. Continuing the partnership with Hennepin County to obtain water quality and macroinvertebrate surveys by volunteers as those programs are available.
7. Periodic fish and macroinvertebrate collections on biotically-impaired streams to assess progress toward meeting those TMDLs, and periodic longitudinal dissolved oxygen surveys on those streams with a dissolved oxygen impairment.
8. Continuing the partnership with Met Council to conduct lake surface water quality monitoring of other lakes by volunteers every two to three years through CAMP.
9. Each year Three Rivers Park District prepares a report on current water quality and trends, and reports water quality monitoring data to the State's EQUIS database.

At their meeting earlier today, the proposed monitoring program was approved by the TAC by consensus. The Commission agreed to the Monitoring Program by consensus, with additional biotic monitoring to be included as capability allows.

D. Public Input Plan. Staff's third February 5, 2025, memo* discusses ways to inform the public and obtain input regarding the Fourth Gen Plan. The list includes online options such as the Commission's and city websites and social media, and local news outlets.

There are options for various surveys, which can be informative. However, most of these types of surveys are self-selecting to people who care deeply enough one way or another to take the time to respond. The results can be skewed and are not scientific. Other input options listed in the memo include:

1. Enhance the Plan webpage with more details on specific accomplishments

and proposals.

2. Add a form on the Plan webpage to receive input.
3. Add a simple survey on the web page to vote on priorities.
4. Provide content for city websites and social media.
5. Send a press release to CCX and Post Newspapers describing the Plan and links to the survey.
6. Send a press release to CCX and Post Newspapers announcing availability of the draft plan, some highlights, and how to comment.
7. Publish a more detailed online survey targeting CACs, lake associations, elected officials, etc.
8. Provide posters and printed information and an option to submit written responses at tabling events.

Staff will repeat their email request to the member cities regarding their choice of a group/time to present the draft plan and take public input.

E. Resilience Plan. A draft Resilience Plan will be considered at the March meeting.

IX. EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH.

A. Grace Barcelow February Update.

What have we been working on since the January WMWA Meeting?

1. Released media kit focused on Beavers. Kit offers information on water quality and additional environmental benefits of preserving and protecting terrestrial and aquatic habitats, using beavers as an example. Includes recommendations to reduce damage related to beaver activities.
2. Continued conducting and scheduling chloride consultations at faith-based facilities.
3. Continued work to engage facilities in the Parkers Lake chloride reduction project and began to focus on potential solutions.
4. Collaborated with Hennepin County staff to gain insights into the Watershed Connections program (formerly RiverWatch) and explore ways to support programming within the WMWA territory.

What work will be happening before the March WMWA meeting?

5. Continue outreach to involve middle school classrooms in the Adopt-a-Drain K12 program.
6. Continue conducting outreach and consultations for Parkers Lake Chloride reduction project. Begin focused project work with identified users of chloride.
7. Continue outreach and consultations for the chloride reduction campaign targeting faith-based facilities in WMWA territory. Continue work to improve practices at facilities

already engaged in the campaign.

8. Continue progressing Southgate Apartment project, and Fish Lake and Eagle Lake water quality improvement projects.

9. Edit/Update three media kits from last year for partner use in 2025.

B. **West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA)** will meet via Zoom at 8:30 a.m., March 11, 2025.

X. 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 8 of these minutes are discussed in the February 5, 2025, report.

B. **Hennepin County Staff Report.***

1. **City of Corcoran.** Public Works department employees, who will be doing the seeding, are worried about potential field conditions for planting. Hennepin County Staff have provided technical assistance, but seeding of native species may be moved until Spring or later into the Fall. In the meantime, Staff are developing a cover crop plan which may be beneficial to outcompete some of the weed species that have been observed on-site.

2. **Welcome Ranch.** Hennepin County staff met with the facility manager to discuss EQIP selection and potential BMPs for the site. Staff are putting together an estimate for the manure bunker and barn gutters. Draft plans for the manure bunker will likely be completed in late Spring or early summer 2025. Hennepin County staff will enter the contracting phase with the landowners in February with gutter installation occurring in the spring.

3. **Christian Sediment Basin.** The contractor is adding extra erosion control measures to the site over winter. Construction will resume in Spring.

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

XI. OTHER BUSINESS.

A. The Commissioners were reminded of **appointments**. Unless otherwise noted in their Cities' resolutions, these appointments are for one year and must be renewed annually.

B. Officers will be elected at the March 12, 2025, meeting.

XII. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Judie A. Anderson, 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. |
| 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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