

elm creek Watershed Management Commission

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Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes | February 12, 2025

I. A meeting of the **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** of the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, January 8, 2025, in the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Avenue North, Plymouth, MN, by Chair Derek Asche.

Present: Lauren Letsche, Corcoran; Josh Accola, Stantec, Dayton; Derek Asche, Maple Grove; Michelle Jennings, WSB, Medina; Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; Andrew Simmons, Rogers; Kevin Ellis, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); Diane Spector and Erik Megow, Stantec; and Judie Anderson, JASS.

Not represented: Champlin.

Also present: Amy Riegel, HCEE, and Jen Dullum Board of Water and Soil Resources, BWSR;

II. Motion by Scharenbroich, second by Simmons to approve the **February 12, 2025, meeting agenda**. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion by Scharenbroich, second by Simmons to approve the **minutes of the January 8, 2025, meeting**. *Motion carried unanimously.*

III. **PROPOSED 2025 WORK PLAN.***

Staff's first February 5, 2025, memo* repeated the Work Plan that was presented in January along with revisions to the proposed monitoring program provided by Vlach. No other revisions were requested. Motion by Scharenbroich, second by Simmons to recommend approval of the 2025 Work Plan as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

IV. **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 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. 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.*

Motion by Scharenbroich, second by Simmons to recommend that this language be added to the Exhibits section of the Stormwater Management Rule. *Motion carried unanimously.*

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 Minnesota Rules require each Metro WMO to establish monitoring programs that are sufficient *"to determine whether the water quality and quantity goals of the organization are being achieved."* The Rules do not specify what the monitoring program should be or what it should encompass but do require that this program specify where monitoring will take place, how frequently, what will be monitored, and how the data will be used.

The Commission contracts with the Three Rivers Park District 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. No significant changes to the program are recommended.

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.

The proposed monitoring program was approved by consensus.

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 more 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.

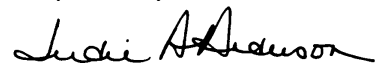
VI. OTHER BUSINESS.

A. **Riegel** introduced herself in her new role as Senior Water Resources Specialist at Hennepin County Environment and Energy.

B. The **next meeting** of the Technical Advisory Committee is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 12, 2025.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Judie A. Anderson
Recording Secretary

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