

# elm creek Watershed Management Commission

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## Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes | March 12, 2025

I. A meeting of the **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** of the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 10:31 a.m., Wednesday, March 12, 2025, in the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Avenue North, Plymouth, MN, by Chair Derek Asche.

Present: Steven Touney, Champlin; Lauren Letsche, Corcoran; Derek Asche, Maple Grove; Michelle Jennings, WSB, Medina; Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; 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: Dayton and Rogers.

Also present: Doug Baines, Dayton, and Jen Dullum Board of Water and Soil Resources, BWSR.

II. Motion by Scharenbroich, second by Touney to approve the **March 12, 2025, meeting agenda** with the addition of item 6.b. Website Platform. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion by Scharenbroich, second by Letsche to approve the **minutes of the February 12, 2025, meeting**. *Motion carried unanimously.*

### III. **FOURTH GENERATION WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN.\***

A. As part of the Fourth Generation Plan public outreach, the TAC members elected not to establish a separate Commission **Citizens Advisory Committee\*** (CAC), but for each city to designate one of its existing citizen commissions to serve. The role of the CAC is to provide input and review - a presentation on the general goals and actions in the Fourth Generation Plan at one of their regular meetings and an opportunity to review and provide comment on the overall draft plan either at a subsequent meeting or on their own. The Commission budgeted for Commission staff at one meeting per city; however, some city staff may prefer to present the information using materials provided by Commission staff.

City	CAC	Date	Alt Date	Time
Dayton	Parks & Recreation Commission	April 1	May 6	6:30 pm
Champlin	Environmental Resources Commission	April 7		7 pm
Medina	Planning Commission	April 8	May 13	7 pm
Plymouth	Environmental Quality Commission	April 9		7 pm
Corcoran	City Council	April 10	May 8	7 pm
Maple Grove	Lake Quality Commission	April 16		6:30 pm
Rogers	Planning Commission (staff will present)	May 5		7 pm

**B.** The Fourth Generation Plan will include a new **Capital Improvement Program\*** for the period 2025-2034. Members were requested to submit projects to the CIP, including any that were included in the Third Generation Plan to be carried over. The table on the following page summarizes project submittals by city and subwatershed. It also includes generic projects for planning purposes that are placeholders that will be fleshed out in future years.

The Commission has some policies that define what can and cannot be submitted for CIP or cost share funding. These were provided in the meeting packet for information and include:

- 1. Standards and Guidelines\*** that provide guidance on how the information on the form will be used by the TAC as it makes its recommendations to the Commission.
- 2. General CIP Cost Share Policy.\***
- 3. Policy on Non-structural Practices\*** (such as street sweepers and equipment to reduce the use of chloride).

**C. Resiliency and Adaptation.**

**1. Resiliency Discussion.\*** A subgroup of TAC members met virtually on February 27, 2025, to review and discuss potential resiliency planning strategies for the Fourth Generation Plan. Heather Nelson and Steven Touney (Champlin), Kent Torve and Lauren Letsche (Corcoran), Derek Asche (Maple Grove) and Ben Scharenbroich (Plymouth) represented a cross-section of developed and developing, upper watershed and lower watershed cities.

**2. Goal.** The Commission had preliminarily established its resiliency goal as: *Assist member cities in understanding and implementing options for enhancing watershed resiliency for future development.*

- 3. Strategies.**
- a.** Model and periodically re-assess the potential impacts of land use/cover change and a non-static climate on water resources with the best available predictive data.
  - b.** Quantify and qualitatively assess risk and evaluate and implement responses for mitigation.
  - c.** Collaborate with other agencies and organizations on joint efforts to manage impacts both locally and regionally.
  - d.** Develop strategies to appropriately manage future impacts.

**4.** Met Council has released general draft Policy Plans for the upcoming Imagine 2050 effort that suggest cities will be required to do resiliency planning as part of their Comp Plans, however, there has been no specific guidance as to what that would entail.

**5.** The Climate Vulnerability Assessment modeling proposed to start in 2028 would use the refined HUC-8 model with the upcoming Atlas 15 precipitation data and proposed 2050 land use information developed by cities in their next Comprehensive Plans to identify future flood-prone areas and areas where more storage and/or abstraction would be beneficial. The subgroup discussed a strategy of Commission cost participation in projects that add upstream runoff storage, and adding some generic resilience/watershed storage and corridor restoration projects to the CIP and performing subwatershed assessments (SWAs) specifically looking at practices to reduce runoff volumes.

There was also discussion on how the Commission could assist the cities as they prepare their Comp Plans, and how there is often a disconnect between land use planning and parks and natural resources planning, and the more “technical” planning such as the stormwater plan. All agreed that it would be beneficial for Staff to introduce this topic to the local CACs at their presentations.

**6. Actions 2025-2035.**

Phase 1: Resiliency Framework Planning 2025-2028.

Phase 2: Climate Vulnerability and Assessment 2028-2030.

Phase 3: Adaptation Strategy Development and identification 2030-2032.

Phase 4: Adaption Strategy Implementation 2030-2035.

**D. Rules.** Staff requested volunteers to assist with making “housekeeping” revisions to the Rules document. Ashe and Scharenbroich volunteered. The Rules and Appendices will be presented at the April meeting.

**IV. JOINT CHLORIDE MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

The Commission partnered with the Shingle Creek and West Mississippi WMOs to submit an Accelerated Implementation Grant (AIG) proposal to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). The grant was approved and Shingle Creek, as the fiscal agent for the grant, has now executed a contract with BWSR and received approval of a work plan. At its March 13, 2025, meeting the Shingle Creek Commission will consider approving a Work Order detailing the work that will occur under this contract.

The \$47,455 grant requires a \$4,745.50 match, which will be split among the three watersheds, or \$1,582 per Commission. Staff recommend approving this contribution, to be funded from the Assigned Funds Account for Special Studies.

Motion by Scharenbroich, second by Letsche to recommend this action to the Commission.  
*Motion carried unanimously.*

**V. NORTH FORK RUSH CREEK – FOUR CORNERS RESULTS.**

The modeling updates and results were shared with the Cities of Corcoran, Rogers, Dayton, and Maple Grove. The latest modeling sets a Base Flood Elevation (BFEs) from Fletcher Lane to the North Fork’s confluence with the South Fork of Rush Creek. The BFEs shared with the Commission and the four member cities represents the best available data for development within the FEMA Zone A.

**VI. FISH AND RICE LAKES CARP MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC PLAN.**

The WBIF convene group had previously allocated just under \$50,000 to obtain updated carp population and movement data on Fish and Rice Lakes and develop a comprehensive plan for fish management in the lake system. That plan would need to be reviewed and approved by BWSR before expending additional WBIF funds on carp management. Staff have obtained a proposal from WSB, the consultant that did previous carp assessment work on these lakes, for \$49,325 and recommend its approval. The TAC recommended this action to the Commission.

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS.**

**A. Website Platform.** The Commission's website was started on Weebly in 2009. Effective July 2025, the Weebly platform will no longer be supported. It is likely that the current website will remain active, but it is unknown how the functionality and ability to undertake updates will be affected. Staff are recommending that the Commission move to a new website platform and are in the midst of investigating alternatives. These will be brought to the TAC and the Commission for consideration in April. Funding for this project will be taken from the unreserved General Fund.

**B.** The **next meeting** of the Technical Advisory Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, April 9, 2025.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Judie A. Anderson

Recording Secretary

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