

elm creek Watershed Management Commission

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Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes | March 13, 2024

I. A meeting of the **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** of the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 10:03 a.m., Wednesday, March 13, 2024, in the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Avenue North, Plymouth, MN, by Chair Derek Asche.

Present: Josh Accola, Stantec, Dayton; Derek Asche, Maple Grove; Rebecca Haug, WSB, Medina; Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; Diane Spector and Erik Megow, Stantec; Rebecca Carlson, Resilience Resources; Kevin Ellis, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); and Judie Anderson, JASS.

Not represented: Champlin, Corcoran, and Rogers.

Also present: Doug Baines, Dayton, and Jen Dullum, BWSR.

II. Motion by Scharenbroich, second by Haug to approve the **Agenda** as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

III. Motion by Scharenbroich, second by Haug to approve the **Minutes** of the January 10, 2024, meeting. *Motion carried unanimously.*

IV. 2024 CIP.

Included in the meeting packet is a preliminary CIP* reflecting comments received to date. Projects levied in 2023 are also shown there. The CIP should reflect projects expected to be levied in either 2024 or 2025. Planned projects where the completion date is currently unknown or not scheduled are shown as “future.” Staff requests that cities submit proposed revisions to the CIP by March 29, 2024, so any required minor plan amendments may be initiated at the April meeting. Staff will send out a reminder along with an *Exhibit A* for use in submitting new or revising existing projects.

On March 9, 2022, the Commission revised the CIP cost share policy to eliminate the \$250,000 per project maximum and the annual working guideline for the maximum amount to be levied annually was increased from \$500,000 to \$750,000. The maximum Commission participation is still 25% of total project cost.

Staff’s March 6, 2024, memo shows the current CIP with project costs in 2023-2024-2025 and future of \$5,235,400, \$7,150,000, \$250,000 and \$3,250,000. Total Commission shares are \$767,750, \$800,000, \$150,000 and \$525,000, respectively.

The 2024 and 2025 CIP will be implemented under the Third Generation Plan. As part of the Fourth Generation Plan the Commission will be developing a new CIP for the period 2026-2035.

V. PARTNERSHIP COST SHARE APPLICATION.*

The City of Maple Grove has submitted a Partnership Cost Share Program application* to help

fund a spring 2024 carp removal effort on Fish Lake. The request is for \$11,856 toward a total project cost of \$18,941. The Fish Lake Area Residents Association (FLARA) proposes to provide matching funds of \$2,000 cash and in-kind volunteer labor valued at \$5,085. A copy of the Commission's Partnership Cost Share Policy* is included in the meeting packet as information.

Following years of watershed management and in-lake alum treatments, Fish Lake is proposed to be removed from the State's draft 2024 list of Impaired Waters. This delisting transitions the lake from an Improvement lake to a Protection lake. Carp management efforts have been made on Fish Lake, including population estimates and at least one winter seining removal event. However, it appears that the lake still exceeds the management threshold of 89 pounds/surface acre of carp biomass, which suggests the resident carp population has the potential to negatively impact water quality.

FLARA received a proposal from consultants WSB to undertake spring box netting to remove as much carp biomass as possible, and to prepare to develop a longer-term management plan for Fish Lake. That longer-term plan will be developed in coordination with the City, Three Rivers Park District, and the Commission as part of the watershed-wide TMDL 10 year review this year.

Motion by Haug, second by Scharenbroich to recommend that the Commission approve this application as submitted. *Motion carried unanimously.*

VI. FOURTH GENERATION PLAN SCOPE OF SERVICES. Stantec has submitted a preliminary scope of services* to complete the Fourth Generation Plan. The scope is comprised of three tasks:

A. Task 1 – Meetings and Public Input. Staff have assumed a total of four Commission/Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings focused on the Plan. Instead of a separate Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), the cities will designate one of their existing citizen commissions to provide directed citizen input and feedback on the draft Plan. Staff have also included development and publication of an online interactive map on the Commission's website to help inform and obtain input from the public.

B. Task 2 – Update Plan. The Fourth Gen Plan will likely look a lot like the Third Gen Plan. Some of the information in the new Plan will simply reference the old Plan since it hasn't changed. Staff will update land use and future land use, information about water quality in the watershed, and expected geographies where development will likely occur in the next ten years. In addition, this task includes the following:

1. Complete a short self-analysis of the effectiveness of the Third Generation Plan, evaluate progress toward goals, and identify areas of success or less than success.
2. Review and update as necessary the Goals and Policies established in the Third Generation Plan.
3. Review and update as necessary the Rules and Standards and monitoring programs.
4. Enhance the education and outreach programming. Staff will spend some time developing options, not only to help to meet NPDES requirements, but also to engage on other topics of interest.

5. Discuss approaches the Commission could consider addressing the impacts of the continued build-out of the watershed, and how to add climate resiliency and sustainability.

6. Incorporate summaries of the findings of the TMDL and review process and the subwatershed assessments and other studies completed since the Third Gen Plan was adopted.

7. Update the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and Implementation Program.

8. Forecast future budget needs and financing options.

The four working meetings will likely focus on the following:

1. Review of progress to date and update Commission's vision, goals and policies.
2. Identify and discuss options for enhancing education, outreach, and engagement in the watershed.

3. Discuss future development, changing precipitation patterns, potential impacts to water resources and infrastructure, and discuss a framework for addressing those impacts.

4. Review and discuss the proposed ten-year CIP and Implementation Plan and any special funding considerations that may arise.

Not included in the Plan process is completion of the legal/hydro boundary analysis started last year with Shingle/West Mississippi, nor any modeling associated with topic #3 above. Staff assume that both of these will be identified as implementation actions and programmed during the ten-year Plan time frame.

C. Task 3 – Plan Review Process. Following completion of the draft Plan the Commission will send it to the member cities and review agencies for “informal” review. After incorporating any comments received, the Plan will proceed to the formal 60-day review process. Following a public hearing, the Commission must forward the draft final Plan to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), along with a log of comments received, responses, and how the Plan was revised. Following review and approval by BWSR, the Plan will come back to the Commission for final adoption.

The current plan expires October 23, 2025. The schedule calls for adoption of the Fourth Generation Plan on October 8, 2025. The estimated not-to-exceed cost to complete the Plan is \$49,744. The work will be completed using funds set aside for this purpose, supplemented as necessary by Funds Assigned for Studies.

Motion by Scharenbroich, second by Haug to recommend to the Commission acceptance of this Work Order. *Motion carried unanimously.*

VII. Staff will send around a doodle poll to schedule the **first WBIF meeting**. Participants will be Catherine Cesnik representing the Commission, Accola and Scharenbroich representing the cities, Dullum representing BWSR, Spector will be the moderator, and Hennepin County will also be represented.

VIII. The next Technical Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2024.

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IX. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judie A. Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Judie A. Anderson
Recording Secretary
JAA:tim

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