

elm creek

Watershed Management Commission

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Regular Meeting Minutes March 14, 2018

I. A **regular meeting** of the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 11:32 a.m., Wednesday, March 14, 2018, in the Mayor's Conference Room, Maple Grove City Hall, 12800 Arbor Lakes Parkway, Maple Grove, MN, by Chairman Doug Baines.

Present were: Bill Walraven, Champlin; Tom Anderson, Corcoran; Doug Baines, Dayton; Joe Trainor, Maple Grove; Elizabeth Weir, Medina; Fred Moore, Plymouth; Kevin Jullie, Rogers; James Kujawa and Jason Swenson, Hennepin County Dept. of Environment and Energy (HCEE); Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); Jeff Weiss, Barr Engineering; and Judie Anderson and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

Also present: Todd Tuominen, Champlin; Kevin Mattson, Corcoran; Mark Lahtinen, Maple Grove; and Catherine Cesnik and Derek Asche, Plymouth.

A. Motion by Weir, second by Walraven to approve the **revised agenda**. * *Motion carried unanimously.*

B. Motion by Walraven, second by Weir to approve the **minutes*** of the February 14, 2018, regular meeting. *Motion carried unanimously.*

C. Motion by Moore, second by Walraven to approve the March **Treasurer's Report and Claims*** totaling \$28,613.35. *Motion carried unanimously.*

II. Open Forum.

III. Action Items.

A. **Project Review 2017-038 Bass Lake Estates, Corcoran.*** This is a proposed residential development consisting of 55 single family lots and one commercial lot on a 40-acre site. The project is located west of the intersection of Bass Lake Road (CR 10) and CR 101. Fifty-five villa-style homes are proposed for the residential portion of the site and a storage facility is proposed for the commercial portion of the site. Staff reviewed this site for conformance to rules D, E, F, and I (stormwater management, erosion and sediment control, floodplain alteration, and buffers). In their findings dated March 13, 2018, Staff recommended approval subject to the applicant recording the maintenance agreements and easements within 90 days of final plat recording. Motion by Moore, second by Walraven to approve this project per Staff's recommendation. *Motion carried unanimously.*

B. **Project Review 2018-002 Highway 169 Pedestrian Bridge/Trail, Champlin.*** This project proposes the construction of a multi-modal pedestrian trail adjacent to the TH 169 corridor, along with several other improvements including parking improvements in two locations, changing the location of a boat launch proposed in permit 2017-027W, and modifying an existing trail. The total project area includes nearly six acres of disturbance. Impacts to the floodplain are part of the project, with both floodplain fill and mitigation being provided as part of the project. In their findings dated March 13, 2018, Staff recommended approval with no conditions. Motion by Moore, second by Weir to approve this project. *Motion carried unanimously.*

IV. New Business.

V. Water Quality.

A. **2018 Three Rivers Park District Stream Monitoring.** The 2018 budget includes \$7,600 for extensive stream monitoring on Diamond Creek, Rush Creek main stem, and Elm Creek above Rice Lake, and \$1,000 for one DO

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longitudinal survey on Diamond Creek. Motion by Moore, second by Weir to approve the 2018 stream monitoring program. *Motion carried unanimously.*

B. 2018-2022 Cooperative Monitoring Agreement with TRPD.* This long-standing agreement defines the stream and lake monitoring that will be provided by the Park District in the next five years. It includes continuous flow stream monitoring at three sites annually and water quality lake monitoring of four lakes annually. From time to time the Commission may select other sites of particular interest as part of the agreement. Within the agreement the Park District agrees to reimburse the Commission for 12.5% of the monitoring costs, including the costs of the USGS monitoring site, at an ascending not-to-exceed amount ranging from \$5,000 to \$6,000 annually.

Concern was expressed that monitoring as follow-up to the watershed-wide TMDL was not included in the agreement. That monitoring is included as a separate line item in the budget and will be performed outside of the agreement.

Motion by Weir, second by Walraven to approve the 2018-2022 agreement. *Motion carried unanimously.*

C. FEMA Floodplain Modeling and Mapping.* Included in the meeting packet was Hennepin County's March 7, 2018 proposal to update the Special Flood Hazard Areas on the FEMA floodplain maps that are located within the Elm Creek watershed. Under the proposal the existing Elm Creek Hydrologic and Hydraulic models will be created/updated in current modeling packages acceptable to the Minnesota DNR. The areas to be studied are those presented by the Minnesota DNR in their figure for the Elm Creek watershed; both detailed and non-detailed areas are included under the scope of work detailed in the proposal. The total budget proposed for this task is \$92,772.45. The project would be led by Jason Swenson; his overflow project review work would be performed by Jeff Weiss. Motion by Weir, second by Trainor to accept the proposed as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

D. Vlach presented the **results of the 2017 TRPD Lake Monitoring.** Four lakes – Diamond, Fish, Rice and Weaver – were monitored in 2017. The first three lakes were included in the watershed-wide TMDL and were classified as impaired for excess nutrients. All four lakes were monitored in 2017 for total phosphorus, chlorophyll a, Secchi disk transparency, dissolved oxygen, specific conductance, temperature, pH, ammonia, total Kjeldahl nitrogen, nitrate-nitrite nitrogen, alkalinity and chloride. The lake report cards will be included in the Commission's *2017 Annual Activity Report.*

VI. Grant Opportunities and Updates.

A. Internal Phosphorus Loading Control in Fish Lake project. No report this month.

B. Rush Creek Headwaters Subwatershed Assessment project.* Expected March-April 2018 activities include:

1. Complete draft report
2. Meet in late March with Core Team to review draft report and identified BMPS
3. Meet with TAC in April to review draft report and identified BMPs
4. Meet with focus group to review draft report and identified BMPs

C. Watershed-Based Funding Pilot.*

A second "pre-meeting" of watershed administrators was held February 27, 2018 to discuss options for allocating the Metro Area Watershed-Based Funding Pilot Program dollars over the next few years. Juntunen was present to represent the Commission.

Hennepin County will be receiving from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) \$1.018 million per year for the next two years, to be expended by December 31, 2021. The group discussed several issues and will meet one more time before Hennepin County convenes the formal planning meeting to which all eligible entities will be invited.

One question from the previous meeting was whether all 57 cities and watersheds in the county would be eligible and involved in deciding priorities and writing the work plan for the coming planning period. BWSR confirmed that all 57 entities are eligible to apply, but that any activities and projects must be in a watershed plan. Projects that are on a city CIP but not on a watershed CIP by July 1, 2018, are not eligible. In addition, all 57 entities are eligible to participate in the planning process. However, when the formal meeting invitation is issued, a city can decline to participate, or simply

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not attend the formal meeting, which will be considered declining. A city that declines to participate can still apply for funding for a project through the watershed if the project is on the watershed’s CIP.

Other counties tend to be leaning towards passing through the funds to the WMOs in the county based on some formula, typically 50% land area/50% tax base.

There was extensive discussion to consider allocating some amount of funds “off the top” to undertake collaborative activities regarding chloride management. All agreed that it was something everyone had in common, and could benefit from a wider ranging, more visible approach. Topics discussed included more and wider geographical range of certification workshops; mass marketing; possible partnership with the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association (MNLA), which is already spearheading the StopOverSalting movement and the proposed limited liability legislation; targeted outreach to churches, school districts, multi-housing associations, etc.; and possibly a small grant program to help smaller owner-operators to afford to retrofit their equipment and purchase items such as temperature sensors, etc. to help them make more informed decisions about rates of salt application. An ad hoc subcommittee volunteered to flesh out this idea and come up with a rough cost estimate.

One of the options discussed at the first pre-meeting was considering allocating funds and making prioritization decisions based on basins. The watershed representatives spent time in their basin groups to talk about their potential priorities. For the Minnesota River basin, the priority was on chloride reduction. For the Mississippi River basin, it was on nutrient reduction and chloride reduction. For the Crow River basin, it was nutrient reduction, noting that they were especially dependent on willing landowners.

Table 1. Allocations to major basins based 50% land area/50% tax base.

Basin	Estimated Annual \$	WMOs in Basin
Minnesota	\$219,048	Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Cr WD, Nine Mile Cr WD, Lower Minnesota WD, Richfield-Bloomington WMO
Mississippi	\$784,147	Bassett Cr WMO, Elm Cr WMO (part), Minnehaha Cr WD, Mississippi WMO, Shingle Cr WMO, West Mississippi WMO
Crow	\$64,783	Elm Cr WMO (part), Pioneer-Sarah Cr WMO

Table 2. Allocations to WMOs based 50% land area/50% tax base.

	Simple Allocation (50/50)
Lower Minnesota WD	\$ 34,638
Minnehaha Creek WD	276,923
Nine Mile Creek WD	102,104
Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek WD	62,098
Bassett Creek WMO	76,185
Elm Creek WMO	149,456
Mississippi WMO	116,559
Pioneer-Sarah Creek WMO	64,784
Richfield-Bloomington WMO	20,208
Shingle Creek WMO	75,690
West Mississippi WMO	39,355

The group preliminarily discussed the following three funding options for further refinement and presentation at the formal planning meeting:

1. Set aside a certain dollar amount for chloride management, allocate the balance on either 2. or 3., below.
2. Allocate the full amount to basins based 50% land area/50% tax base (Table 1), basin WMOs would then allocate based on their own strategies.
3. Allocate the full amount to WMOs based 50% land area/50% tax base (Table 2).

A subcommittee of watershed reps will meet over the next few weeks to flesh out possible collaborative chloride management ideas and rough costs, and basin reps will flesh out their priority projects.

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The informal group will meet one more time to refine options to be presented to the formal planning group in 6-8 weeks and to discuss possible priority projects. The final work plan, priorities, and measurable outcomes must be completed by June 30, 2018.

Staff will set aside some time prior to the June 30 deadline to identify a project-ready project(s) that could be funded under this pilot program.

D. 319 Grant Application.* Fortin Consulting, Inc. is applying for a 319 Grant: *Nutrient Reduction through Better Lawn Maintenance* to continue the turfgrass maintenance certification classes they have offered in the past. They are seeking partners to host the classes. Partner in-kind costs will be for room rental, a light breakfast, and a box-type lunch for attendees and presenters. The intended audience includes private contractors, city park staff, property managers, and school maintenance staff. Classes are approximately six hours in length and include the certification test. Best times of year to hold these classes are mid-February to early April and late July or August. The grant term is Spring 2019 to December 2021.

The purpose of this project is to reduce loading of nutrients to surface waters and groundwater from outdoor maintenance activities through pollution prevention. The project will include training over 500 maintenance professionals through 20 Turfgrass Maintenance trainings, and a pilot working with an estimated 50-100 homeowners to test their soils and provide individualized recommendations for fertilizer and other BMPs.

VII. Education and Public Outreach.

A. West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA)

1. WMWA has switched over its email distribution system for the **WaterLinks e-newsletter** from Hennepin County to MailChimp. To continue to receive *WaterLinks*, or to newly subscribe, sign up at westmetrowateralliance.org/contact.html. The next issue of *Water Links* will be out in the second quarter of 2018 and will feature summer-related content

2. WMWA is also planning in 2018 to continue facilitating **native plant sales** by linking native growers with community events such as festivals and farmer's markets. WMWA would pay any booth fees charged by the event sponsor and advertise the event and the grower would be free to sell plants at the Resilient Yard Workshops.

3. Included in the meeting packet is the **2017 WMWA Annual Report.***

4. The next **WMWA meeting** is scheduled for 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 10, 2018, Plymouth City Hall.

B. Also included in the meeting packet is a press release for the upcoming **Metro Blooms workshops.*** Two workshops are being offered this year – *Learn How to Create a Resilient Yard* and *Turf Alternatives*.

VIII. Watershed Management Plan.

Staff have reviewed the **City of Maple Grove's Draft Surface Water Management Plan*** dated January 2018 for conformance with the Commission's Third Generation Plan. Their comments are included in their letter to the City dated March 7, 2018. Of particular note is that fact that the City's lower value wetland buffer requirements do not meet the Commission's standards.

IX. Communications.

A. Final version, **2017 Work Plan in Review.***

B. Final version, **2018 Work Plan.***

C. Friends of the Mississippi River **2017 Environmental Legislative Overview.***

X. Other Business.

A. Hearing no further nominations, motion by Trainor, second by Johnson to **re-elect the current officers** to serve in 2018. *Motion carried unanimously.* They are Baines, Chair; Weir, Vice Chair; Walraven, Secretary; and Moore, Treasurer.

B. Motion by Moore, second by Walraven to make the following **annual appointments:** official

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newspaper, Osseo-Maple Grove Press; official depositories, US Bank and the 4M Fund; Deputy Treasurer, Judie Anderson; and Auditor, Johnson & Company, Ltd. *Motion carried unanimously.*

C. The following **projects** are discussed in the March Staff Report.* ("W" denotes wetland project.)

1. 2013-046 Woods of Medina, Medina.
2. 2014-015 Rogers Drive Extension, Rogers.
3. 2015-004 Kinghorn Outlet A, Rogers.
4. 2015-030 Kiddiegarten Child Care Center, Maple Grove.
5. 2016-002 The Markets at Rush Creek, Maple Grove.
6. 2016-004 Park Place Storage Site Plans, Corcoran.
7. 2016-005W Ravinia Wetland Bank, Corcoran.
8. 2016-026 Faithbrook Church, Dayton.
9. 2016-040 Kinghorn 4th Addition, Rogers.
10. 2016-047 Hy-Vee Maple Grove #1, Maple Grove.
11. 2016-052 The Woods at Rush Creek, Maple Grove.
12. 2017-014 Laurel Creek, Rogers.
13. 2017-016 Territorial Woods, Maple Grove.
14. 2017-017 Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church, Rogers
15. 2017-019 Medina Senior Living Community, Medina.
16. 2017-021 Hindu Society of MN Staff Housing, Maple Grove.
17. 2017-029 Brayburn Trails, Dayton.
18. 2017-030 Brindle Path, Medina.
19. 2017-031 Bass Lake Crossing, Corcoran.
20. 2017-034 Plymouth Memory Care, Plymouth.
21. 2017-035 Weston Woods of Medina PUD.
22. 2017-036 Enclave at Elm Creek, Plymouth.
23. 2017-037 L-80 Lift Station MCES, Corcoran.
24. 2017-038 Bass Lake Estates, Corcoran.
25. 2017-039 Rush Creek Apartments, Maple Grove.
26. 2017-044 Reserve at Medina 2nd Addition, Medina.
27. 2017-045 Fish Lake Estates, Maple Grove.
28. 2017-046W Wessell Wetland Delineation, Corcoran.
29. 2017-048W Ebert Parcel Wetland Delineation, Corcoran.
30. 2017-049W Rolling Hills Wetland Delineation, Corcoran.
31. 2017-050W Ernie Mayer Wetland/floodplain violation, Corcoran.
32. 2017-051 Mallard South 2nd Addition, Rogers.
33. 2017-053 Sunrise Solar Garden, Corcoran.
34. 2018-001 Rush Creek Commons, Maple Grove.
35. 2018-002 Highway 169 Pedestrian Bridge/Trail, Champlin.
36. 2018-003 Rathburn Property, Rogers.*
37. 2018-004 Rush Creek Restoration Project, Maple Grove.
38. 2018-005 Sundance Greens, Dayton.
39. 2018-006 6270 Hunter Road, Corcoran.*
40. 2018-007 Copper Creek of Nottingham, Maple Grove.*
41. 2018-008 Hayden Hills Golf Course Subdivision, Dayton.
42. 2018-009 Northwest Greenway Trail, Phase IV, Plymouth.

D. Adjournment. There being no further business, motion by Weir, second by Walraven to adjourn. *Motion carried unanimously.* The meeting was adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Judie A. Anderson, Recording Secretary

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