

elm creek

Watershed Management Commission

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Regular Meeting Minutes June 11, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER. A meeting of the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 11, 2025, in the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Avenue North, Plymouth, MN, by Treasurer Catherine Cesnik.

Present: Bill Walraven, Champlin; Tom Anderson, Corcoran; Dan Riggs, Maple Grove; Terry Sharp, Medina; Catherine Cesnik, Plymouth; and David Katzner, Rogers.

Not represented: Dayton.

Also present: Lauren Letsche, Corcoran; Derek Ashe, Maple Grove; Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; Mike Albers, Rogers; Erik Megow and Diane Spector, Stantec; Rebecca Carlson, Resilience Resources; Kevin Ellis, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District; Ben Torrison, USGS; and Judie Anderson, JASS.

II. AGENDA. Motion by Sharp, second by Walraven to approve the agenda* with the following additions:

Ben Torrison under Open Forum
6.d. Approve 2024 Audit.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Walraven second by Sharp to approve the **CONSENT AGENDA**.*

- 1. Minutes of the May 14, 2025, meeting.***
- 2. June Treasurer's Report* and claims** totaling \$110,070.54.

Motion carried unanimously.

III. OPEN FORUM.

Torrison was present to introduce himself as the successor to James Fallon, the Commission's former contact at the United States Geological Survey (USGS). He also presented the new look of the USGS home page. It can be viewed at <https://waterdata.usgs.gov>. Real time data from the monitoring station in Champlin may be viewed at http://waterdata.usgs.gov/mn/nwis/uv/?site_no=05287890&PARAMeter_cd=00065,00060.

IV. PROJECT REVIEWS.

A. 2025-019 Northdale Boulevard Industrial, Rogers.* The project consists of a 43.8-acre site located at the northwest corner of the intersection of 147th Avenue North and Highway 101. The proposed project consists of the construction of three industrial buildings along with

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associated utility improvements, landscaping, and hardscaping and triggers Rules D, E, and F. In their findings signed June 3, 2025, Staff recommend approval with three conditions: (1) escrow reconciliation; (2) an O & M Plan approved by the City; and (3) confirmation from the DNR that compensatory storage within the floodway will not require a no-rise certification. Motion by Walraven, second by Riggs to approve Staff’s recommendations. *Motion carried unanimously.*

B. 2025-021 Brockton Lane Business Park, Corcoran.* This project is located on Brockton Lane, 600 feet south of Rush Creek. The site is comprised of one parcel which is a mixture of cultivated, forests, and herbaceous vegetation with 0 acres of existing impervious surface. The parcel is located within the Rush Creek subwatershed. The applicant proposes construction of two commercial buildings, truck dock and parking stalls, and 400 parking spaces. The proposal will disturb 43.09 acres of the 78.85-acre site and result in 26.48 acres of new impervious surface after development. In their findings updated June 4, 2025, Staff recommend approval with five stipulations: (1) escrow reconciliation; (2) provide monumentation documentation for the wetland buffers within the plan set; (3) provide TEP’s approval for the mitigation plan documenting the reduction in drainage area to both south wetlands and the impact of that and potential dewatering from connections between south pond and south wetland; (4) demonstration of the separation requirement for the NWL and EOF for the northern pond; and (5) an O & M agreement if required by the City. Motion by Walraven, second by Riggs to approve Staff’s recommendations. *Motion carried unanimously.*

C. 2025-022 Asguard – Phase 2, Rogers.* The proposed redevelopment will consist of a new mixed use residential and retail building with underground parking, a new 9,000 SF restaurant, and a 9,000 SF fuel facility encompassing approximately 8.6 acres located at the intersection of Rogers Drive and 114th Avenue North. This second phase will disturb 4.1 acres and result in 2.2 acres of proposed impervious surface. The project triggers Rules D, E, and F. In their findings signed June 3, 2025, Staff recommend approval with two conditions: (1) escrow reconciliation; and (2) an O & M plan for the proposed stormwater BMPS approved by the City. Motion by T. Anderson, second by Walraven to approve this project with those conditions. *Motion carried unanimously.*

D. 2025-025 Compass Orthodontics, Medina.* This project proposes construction of an orthodontics clinic building and surface parking along with associated utility improvements, landscaping, and hardscaping on a 0.75-acre site located north of Highway 55, between Clydesdale Trail and Wells Fargo Bank. The project triggers Rules D, E, and I. In their findings dated June 3, 2025, Staff recommends approval with four conditions: (1) escrow reconciliation; (2) an O & M Plan approved by the City; (3) a final irrigation reuse plan including distribution piping and pumping plans and calculations; and (4) an approved wetland buffer plan showing buffer monumentation. Motion by Walraven, second by Riggs to approve Staff’s recommendations. *Motion carried unanimously.*

E. 2025-026 Rush Creek Bass Lake Markets, Maple Grove.* This project proposes the construction of a multi-tenant building and surface parking along with associated utility improvements, landscaping, and hardscaping. The project consists of a 1.55-acre site located at the

southeastern corner of the intersection between CR 101 and CR 10. This development is a part of previously approved HyVee - Markets at Rush Creek (Project Review 2009-004). The project triggers Rules D and E. In their findings dated June 3, 2025, Staff recommend approval contingent on escrow reconciliation. Motion by Walraven, second by Kratzer to approve this project with that condition. *Motion carried unanimously.*

V. 2025 MAXIMUM LEVY.*

A. At this meeting the Commission must set the maximum capital projects levy it expects to certify to Hennepin County. The actual levy will be certified in September, after the Commission holds public hearings on the proposed projects. The table below shows the projects that will be considered in September. The Maximum Levy sets the ceiling for the capital levy; the Commission can certify a lesser levy but cannot increase it. In addition to the project cost, the Commission levies an additional 5% to cover administrative costs, and 1% to cover uncollected levies, based on historical rates. These maximum levies must be reported to Hennepin County by June 26.

Elm Creek 2025 CIPs

Project	Total Cost	City/Private	Comm Share	Comm Levy
Diamond Lake Alum Treatment	\$330,000	\$0	\$330,000	\$349,965
Rush Creek – Rush Hollow to Fernbrook	800,000	600,000,	200,000	212,100
Corcoran Sweeper	400,000	300,000	100,000	106,050
Subtotal	\$1,530,000	\$900,000	\$630,000	\$668,115
5% addl for legal/admin costs			31,500	
Subtotal			661,500	
Total Levy (101% for uncollectable)			\$668,115	\$668,115

B. Diamond Lake Alum Treatment. Alum treatment and aquatic vegetation management in Diamond Lake to consolidate sediments, reduce nutrient release from sediments, and control invasive curly-leaf pondweed. This is phase 1 of the proposed levy; an additional levy for this project will be certified in 2026 for completion in 2026-2028.

Rush Creek – Rush Hollow to Fernbrook. Stream restoration and erosion repair of 1,600 linear feet of Rush Creek downstream of Rush Hollow to Fernbrook Lane. Estimated phosphorus reduction of 100 lbs/year, improved riparian environment, improved floodplain connectivity, and improved recreation and access to the creek.

Corcoran Sweeper. Cost participation in the purchase of a street sweeper to begin a systematic municipal street sweeping program.

Motion by Walraven, second by Katzner to set the Commission’s maximum levy for 2025 at \$668,115. *Motion carried unanimously.*

VI. 2024 AUDIT.

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Johnson & Company has not yet completed the **2024 Audit**, which must be submitted to the State Auditor by June 30, 2025. Motion by Katzner, second by T. Anderson to accept the 2024 Audit pending Staff review and approval. *Motion carried unanimously.* A copy of the audit will be included in the July meeting packet.

VII. WEBSITE PLATFORM.

The Elm Creek, Shingle Creek/West Mississippi, and Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commissions have all agreed to the process to move to a new website platform as outlined at last month's meetings. The Steering Committee will move forward as proposed and Troy Gilchrist, attorney for the Shingle Creek/West Mississippi WMOs, will draw up the memo of understanding between the organizations.

VIII. FOURTH GENERATION WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN.

A. Public Opinion Survey.* During the month of May residents in the watershed were given an opportunity to participate in an online survey about issues in the watershed. These results will provide a baseline on knowledge about the watershed and about topics members may want to address in the coming years. There were 39 respondents, and the results* were included in the meeting packet. Some general observations about the results include:

1. Respondents were most concerned about general water quality and the pollutants entering our lakes, streams, and wetlands.
2. The most common ways of enjoying these resources were walking or biking trails and enjoying the views.
3. They want to know more about what is being done to protect and preserve our waters.
4. A majority of respondents are aware of the need to keep grass clippings and leaves off of pavements and limiting the use of salt.
5. A fair number want to know more about what they or their HOA can do on their properties.
6. The most important issue for half the respondents was protecting surface waters from the impacts of future development.

B. Agency Comments.* Informal comments were received from the Board of Water and Soil Resources, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the Minnesota Department of Health. Staff's responses were attached to the comment pages. For the most part the comments are self-explanatory and Staff have made minor revisions to the Plan to reflect them.

C. 60-Day Review.* Following any revisions in response to the comments, the Commission must then send the revised Plan, a compilation of all the comments received, the responses, and a summary of how the Plan was revised in response to comments to BWSR. BWSR staff will review the Plan and make a recommendation to BWSR's Central Region Planning Committee, who will review the Plan and make a recommendation to the full BWSR Board to either approve

the Plan or require revisions. After approval by the BWSR Board, the Plan will come back to the Commission for final adoption. The law provides BWSR 90 days for this review process, but it can be completed in less time. The following is the tentative schedule for this process:

Initiate 60-Day Review	June 16, 2025
Complete 60-Day Review	~August 16, 2025
Responses to Comments By	~August 26, 2025
Hold Public Hearing	September 10 , 2025
BWSR Approval	October 22 or December 18, 2025 (likely)
Commission Adoption	November 12 or January 14, 2026

Motion by Katzner, second by T. Anderson to initiate the 60-day Review and schedule the Public Hearing for the September 10, 2025, meeting. *Motion carried unanimously.*

IX. EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH.

A. West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA).

1. Chloride Reduction Campaign. Grace Barcelow is analyzing and redesigning the campaign for the upcoming winter season. While this season's efforts successfully engaged faith-based facilities, the campaign was found to be highly time-intensive with limited impact on reducing chloride pollution. A proposal for the 2025–2026 WMWA chloride reduction campaign will be presented to WMWA partners in the coming months.

2. Youth Stormwater Education Work. Mary Karius will present at the July or August WMWA meeting to discuss the program’s evolution (from RiverWatch, WHEP). Following her presentation, members will gather feedback from partners and explore opportunities for collaboration between WMWA and Hennepin County on this initiative.

3. The **AIS media kit** was recently released and the **pet waste and water conservation media kits** will be released in updated versions during July and August.

4. Parkers Lake Chloride Reduction Project. Bolton & Menk staff recently presented a report detailing the findings and recommendations from a spring site visit at a property with a goal to reduce chloride use. These recommendations will be shared with the WMWA partners to determine the next steps. In July, a meeting has been scheduled with another property to gather initial information, followed by an official site visit in the fall or winter.

5. Eagle Lake and Fish Lake Shoreline/Yard Restoration Projects. Metro Blooms/Blue Thumb staff are in the process of finalizing project designs and have started sharing completed designs with residents. All designs are expected to be completed within the next few weeks, with the goal of having projects installed during the summer. On June 5, project partners met to begin planning the next set of workshops to be hosted this summer/fall.

6. Southgate Apartment Project (stormwater improvements, pollinator enhancements, and community engagement). Designs are being brought to 100% completion.

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Partners will be collaborating with residents and contractors to install stormwater BMPs, rain gardens, pollinator plantings, and a nature play area this summer.

B. West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA) will meet via Zoom at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, July 8, 2025. Follow this link to join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/922390839?pwd=TklBQW1ZNXVXdzdtTDBTSDZkZmZuQT09>

X. COMMUNICATIONS.

A. Staff Report. The June 4, 2025, Staff Report* provides updates on the development projects currently under review by Staff.

B. Hennepin County Staff Report.*

1. City of Corcoran. Due to persistent wet conditions and rainfall, field prep for planting was postponed. Hennepin County and City staff will meet in June to develop an updated plan for a fall planting. After a plan is agreed upon, Hennepin County staff will amend the current planting plan and overall contract to reflect a fall 2025 planting and future required maintenance.

2. Christian Sediment Basin, Dayton. The contractor had difficulty finding a replacement culvert that met the specifications of the project until mid-May. The culvert has been ordered and will be installed in mid-June. Once installed, light grading and seeding will need to be done before final inspection and closeout.

3. Welcome Ranch, Dayton. State cost-share application was fully executed. Landowner, contractor and county have started to work on gutters project around main barn and accessory building near paddocks. Starting condition pictures were taken during heavy rainfall events in May.

4. Cain Wetland Fencing, Corcoran. Staff followed up on a landowner request from a 2025 Coffee Hour event held this past Spring. Proposed project will repair a failing fence along a wetland on a property where cattle graze. Staff are currently evaluating the project and will have a decision after the next cost-share prioritization meeting.

5. Bottema Wetland Restoration, Corcoran. Seeding will take place in June on areas that were not well established in 2023-2024. Final construction on this project is still projected to occur later this spring or early summer.

6. 2025 Watershed Services Agreement. The approved version of the services agreement has been routed for signature to the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission and appropriate Hennepin County Staff. Once fully executed, the agreement will be in place. [The fully-executed agreement was received in the Commission office on June 30, 2025.]

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

XII. OTHER BUSINESS.

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

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Appointments have been received from Maple Grove, Medina, and Plymouth.

XIII, ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Judie A. Anderson
Recording Secretary

JAA:tim

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