

elm creek Watershed Management Commission

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Regular Meeting Minutes July 10, 2024

I. **CALL TO ORDER.** A meeting of the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 11:34 a.m., Wednesday, July 10, 2024, in the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Avenue North, Plymouth, MN, by Chair Doug Baines.

Present: Ken Guenther, Corcoran; Doug Baines, Dayton; Terry Sharp, Medina; Catherine Cesnik, Plymouth; and Kevin Jullie, Rogers.

Not represented: Champlin and Maple Grove.

Also present: Derek Asche, Maple Grove; Ben Scharenbroich and Talori Dunsworth, Plymouth; Andrew Simmons, Rogers; Erik Megow and Diane Spector, Stantec; Kevin Ellis, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District; Jen Dullum, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR); and Judie Anderson, JASS.

II. **AGENDA.** Motion by Guenther, second by Sharp to approve the agenda as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

A. Motion by Guenther, second by Sharp to approve the **Minutes* of the June 12, 2024, meeting.** *Motion carried unanimously.*

B. Motion by Guenther, second by Sharp to approve the **July Treasurer's Report and Claims*** totaling \$32,112.73. *Motion carried unanimously.*

III. **OPEN FORUM.**

IV. **PROJECT REVIEWS.**

2016-005W Ravinia Wetland Replacement Plan, Corcoran. In 2016, the Commission approved Staff's recommendations for this wetland replacement plan. Barr Engineering was engaged to perform annual monitoring to ensure the replacement meets the performance standards of the approved plans. On January 24, 2024, Staff contacted Barr Engineering to learn the status of this project. Karen Wold from Barr attended the Commission's April meeting to provide an update on the project. The Commission continues to hold a replacement escrow of \$292,000, but the monitoring escrow has been depleted and is in arrears by \$7,294.05. Motion by Guenther, second by Jullie directing Staff to invoice the developer for the arrearage. *Motion carried unanimously.*

V. **FOURTH GENERATION WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

The Commission's June meeting served as the official "kick off" of the Commission's

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Fourth Generation Plan. The process began with the notification of interested planning parties and a request for information and input into priorities to consider during the planning process.

Eight agencies replied to that notification and their responses have been posted on the website, <https://www.elm-creekwatershed.org/watershed-management-plan.html>.

Discussion at the June meeting was primarily a self-assessment brainstorming session where the members discussed the successful and the not-so-successful activities associated with the Third Generation Plan. The assessment was summarized in Staff's July 2, 2024 memo.* Also included there was a table* of **Problems and Issues**, categorized as "no longer a priority," "continue to Fourth Gen Plan", or added as "new to the Fourth Gen Plan." (Italicized items would be focal items.)

A. Water Quality Problems or Issues.

1. Stream and lake impairments – continue.
2. *Transitioning land use – address new volumes and full development.*
3. Erosion and sediment control – assess progress and need.
4. *New impairments, including chloride on Elm and SF Rush Creek - increased emphasis on chloride management and outreach.*
5. Drinking water source protection – add to Fourth Gen Plan.

B. Agricultural Impacts on Water Quality.

1. Increase number and distribution of ag BMPs - continue.
2. Develop effective mechanism to achieve voluntary adoption of BMPs – continue.
3. Create more effective outreach to ag operators and hobbyists – no longer a priority issue to call out.

C. Funding Needs.

1. Additional funding to take on actions identified in Channel Study and WRAPS – being done, no longer a priority issue to call out.
2. Identify sustainable funding level and sources that minimize impacts to city levies – being done, no longer a priority issue to call out.

D. Other.

1. *Expand education and outreach to increase knowledge re water resources issues and create behavioral change - add to Fourth Gen Plan, focus on Chloride management, HOAs, LAs.*
2. Develop realistic Capital Improvement Plan – being done, no longer a priority issue to call out.
3. All member cities need to be involved in watershed management – formal-

ize meeting schedule of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), but otherwise not a priority issue.

4. Too many agencies involved in water management, nothing gets done – ongoing and effective TAC can be place for collaboration and cooperation; continue collaboration with Hennepin County.

5. *Need for climate vulnerability assessment - add to Fourth Gen Plan.*

6. [added] Include Land and Water Acknowledgement - add to Fourth Gen Plan. Cesnik will provide Bassett Creek WMO’s acknowledgement as an example.

By consensus, it was agreed the contents of the table were complete as written/modified.

At the August meeting, the members will focus on education and public outreach.

VI. OLD BUSINESS.

VII. NEW BUSINESS.

VIII. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES.

A. Clean Water Fund Grant.* The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) opened the annual solicitation for Clean Water Fund (CWF) Grants on June 28, 2024, with applications due August 22. This \$9.6 million is funding from the ongoing Legacy Amendment and is one of the primary funding sources for surface water improvements in Minnesota. Up to 20% of that amount may be reserved by BWSR for projects that protect or improve drinking water sources.

At this time there does not appear to be anything on the Commission’s CIP that would be ready for a Project and Practices application.

As part of the Request for Proposals, BWSR is also offering *Accelerated Implementation Grants*, which aim to build capacity for local governments to accelerate on-the-ground projects that improve or protect water quality and perform above and beyond existing state standards for protecting and restoring water quality. Eligible proposals are pre-project identification, planning, and design tasks such as inventorying pollutant sites, using existing targeting tools to perform Subwatershed assessments, providing technical assistance, or increasing citizen interaction.

The Commission has identified developing a Chloride Management Plan as a top priority for the next ten years in the prep work for the Fourth Generation Plan. The Commission participated in the Hennepin County Chloride Initiative where some education and outreach tasks are focused on chloride management education. Managing chloride has become a key part of discussions when reviewing development projects in the watershed. There is a need for a comprehensive, inclusive plan for managing chloride across the watersheds and metro wide.

Staff recommend partnering with the Shingle Creek/West Mississippi WMOs to submit a proposal to the CWF Accelerated Implementation Grants to develop a chloride management plan that can be used by all three watersheds and member cities to guide chloride management. A joint plan shared by the three WMOs will ensure consistent messaging about chloride management for the member cities, private landowners, and other watersheds. Shingle

Creek and Bass Creek in the Shingle Creek watershed and Elm Creek and South Fork Rush Creek in the Elm Creek watershed are Impaired Waters for chloride. Crystal Lake in the Shingle Creek watershed and North Fork Rush Creek and Diamond Creek in the Elm Creek watershed are considered by the MPCA as High Risk, meaning there is some data indicating elevated levels but not enough to meet the Impaired Waters criteria. Some of the outfalls in West Mississippi also suggest elevated concentrations of chloride.

Staff propose that this joint Chloride Management Plan align with the model described in the Minnesota Statewide Chloride Management Plan (<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/statewide-chloride-resources>) and recommend a four-step approach, subject to change as the scope of work is developed.

1. Define and fully understand the problem. Evaluate and interpret available monitoring data to characterize chloride conditions in the watersheds' waters and runoff; a source assessment to understand the primary sources of chloride; and a "state of the practice" assessment that summarizes the management actions already being undertaken by stakeholders in the watershed.

2. Identify the stakeholders and partners in the watershed and define their roles and responsibilities. Achieving the goals of the Chloride Management Plan will take the collective action of a large, diverse group of people and agencies. No one entity can complete this on their own. The Statewide Plan is a good starting point for what should be a series of stakeholder meetings to flesh out a roles and responsibilities matrix. Included in this effort should be an agreed-upon method of tracking progress and holding stakeholders accountable.

3. Identify implementation strategies and goals. The problem analysis in step 1 will suggest areas of focus for implementation, including priority geographies, actions, and stakeholders. This step should be completed by the stakeholders identified in the roles and responsibilities matrix. The Statewide Plan also includes suggested implementation strategies by stakeholder type that can serve as a jumping off point. Specific, measurable, achievable goals will be set within the plan to track the implementation of the strategies.

4. Ongoing monitoring and assessment. The Chloride Management Plan should be a living document, where the goals and strategies will be reviewed and potentially revised annually to reflect progress as well as highlight new areas of focus and implementation. As part of this step the WMO's monitoring programs should be reviewed to determine if any additional monitoring would be advisable to aid in the ongoing assessment of progress.

Motion by Guenther, second by Cesnik to approve an expenditure of ~\$2,000 to collaborate with the Shingle Creek and West Mississippi WMOs to prepare the CWF grant application as proposed. *Motion carried unanimously.* Baines, Cesnik, and Scharenbroich or Amy Riegel volunteered to serve on the application work committee.

B. The next 2024 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Convene Group meeting is scheduled for 10:30, July 15, 2024, via Zoom.

IX. EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH.

A. Grace Barcelow's July Update.*

What have we been working on since the June WMWA Meeting?

1. Released [media kit](#) about Pet Waste. This media kit educates residents on pet waste pollution and encourages people to pick up pet waste. There is a newsletter and set of social media posts with a focus on summer, and another newsletter and set of social media posts with a focus on early spring. There is also a mailer that will be sent out within the next couple of weeks which cities can use as they see fit.

2. Continued planning efforts for Fish Lake and Eagle Lake workshops.

3. Hosted second engagement event at Southgate Apartments June 29, continuing to receive ideas from apartment residents. The next engagement will be held on August 24 and Metro Blooms will propose a design and ask for feedback from residents.

4. Applied for the Pollinator Pathways Grant through BWSR to support water quality and pollinator-friendly projects in Maple Grove and Bloomington.

What work will be happening before the August WMWA meeting?

5. Continue outreach to involve middle school classrooms in Adopt-a-Drain K-12 program throughout WMWA watersheds.

6. Continue planning for fall 2024 workshops with Metro Blooms, including one specifically for Fish Lake residents.

7. Continue engagement process for the Southgate Apartment project in Bloomington.

8. Create August media kit. This was initially going to be about drought friendly practices, but after all the rain we have had, we may need to switch gears... content is TBD! Happy to take any ideas.

B. West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA) will meet via Zoom at 8:30 a.m., August 13, 2024.

X. COMMUNICATIONS.

A. Staff Report.* Staff reports provide updates on the development projects currently under review by Staff. The projects listed in the table on page 7 of these minutes are discussed in the July 2, 2024, report.

B. Hennepin County Staff Report.*

1. **Bottema Wetland Restoration, Corcoran.** Design plans have been updated and county staff are reaching out to the city and watershed to understand what (if any) plan

review requirements they may have. Once these requirements have been met, County staff will work with the landowner to finalize next steps with the contractor, including a pre-con meeting and construction staking. Implementation is expected later this summer/early fall once conditions on-site dry up a bit.

2. Van Asten Cover Crops, Dayton. Cover crop planting was delayed due to wet field conditions. Previous crop has been terminated and planting is anticipated in the first half of July. Working with landowner to finalize manure bunker design and placement. Potential to install either fall 2024, or early 2025.

3. Christian Settling Basin, Dayton. Project was further delayed due to wet site conditions. Staff are working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to answer questions on the practice and project site to get full approval.

4. Welcome Ranch, Dayton. Hennepin County staff performed a site visit to understand new managers' goals and needs for conservation projects. Staff have developed a conceptual plan that includes a large manure bunker, exclusionary fencing, barn gutters, and heavy use area protections. There is also potential to develop a grazing plan for the 24 horses on-site. Installation for Phase 1 (barn gutters, fencing, and heavy use area protection) is possible in late summer/fall 2024.

5. Stotts 1A/1B/TOHWW. Hennepin County staff performed a site visit to understand current conditions and finalize plans for completing 1A waterways and making repairs to the top of hill waterway. Staff were able to fully execute a state cost-share contract for 1A/repair projects and are cleared to move forward with mobilization and construction when site conditions allow. Wright County engineers will provide an updated plan set to the landowner and Hennepin County that incorporate seep repairs on both sides of the waterway. For the 1B WASCOD designs, the landowner is discussing placement with his neighbor. Once that comment is reached, plans will be finalized, and construction will begin in late summer/fall 2024.

6. The Project Funding Table has been updated to reflect activity that occurred last month.

7. The last two pages of the report describe other **County programming** and the County's **Solid Waste Management Plan**.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS.

XII. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Judie A. Anderson
Recording Secretary

JAA:tim

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Project No.	Project Name		Project No.	Project Name
2014-015	Rogers Drive Extension.		2023-015	South Fork Rush Creek Evanswood, M Grove
2016-005	Ravinia Wetland Bank Plan, Corcoran.		2023-020	Dunkirk Square, Maple Grove4
2017-050W	E Mayers Wetland/floodplain viola, Corc		2023-022	Shores of Sylvan Lake, Rogers.
2018-046	Graco, Rogers.		2023-023	NORSQ, Maple Grove.
2020-009	Stetler Barn, Medina.		2023-025	Rogers Mixed Use Improvement.
2020-017	Meadow View Townhomes, Medina.		2023-028	Rush Creek Hollow, Maple Grove.
2020-033	Weston Woods, Medina.		2023-029	Dayton Field 4th Addition.
2021-020	Crew Carwash, Maple Grove.		2023-030	Woodland Hill of Corcoran.
2021-029	Tri-Care Grocery / Retail, Maple Grove		2024-001	Saddle Ridge, Rogers.
2021-034	BAPS Hindu Temple, Medina.		2024-002	The Meadows Park, Plymouth.
2022-006	Hamel Townhomes, Medina.		2024-003	Rogers Apartments.
2022-011	Arrowhead Drive Turn Lane Expn, Medina.		2024-004	Dayton River Road Turn Lane.
2022-017	City Center Drive, Corcoran.		2024-005	Rush Hollow North, Maple Grove.
2022-018	Big Woods, Rogers.		2024-007	Eagle Brook Church, Plymouth.
2022-022	Cook Lake Highlands, Corcoran.		2024-008	Rogers HS Stadium Improvements.
2022-028	Elsie Stephens Park, Dayton.		2024-009	Heritage Christian Academy, Maple Grove.
2022-040	Kariniemi Meadows, Corcoran.		2024-010	Corcoran Storage II.
2022-043	Meander Park and Boardwalk, Medina.		2024-011	Jaeger-Jordan Ditch Stabilization, Dayton.
2023-001	Chankahda Trail Recon Phase 2, Plymouth.		2024-012	Dayton Interchange.
2023-009	Magnifi Financial, Maple Grove.		2024-013	Red Barn Pet Retreat, Corcoran.
			2024-014	Schmidt Woods Park, Plymouth.
			2024-015	Hennessy Grove, Maple Grove.
			2024-017	Pioneer Trail Industrial Park. Corcoran.
			2024-018	Kwik Trip 1187, Dayton.
			2024-019	Silver Buckle, Plymouth.

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