

# elm creek Watershed Management Commission

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## Regular Meeting and Public Hearing Minutes September 10, 2025

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**I. CALL TO ORDER.** A meeting of the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 11:34 a.m., Wednesday, September 10, 2025, in the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Avenue North, Plymouth, MN, by Chairman Doug Baines.

Present: Bill Walraven, Champlin; Loren Evenrud, Corcoran; Doug Baines, Dayton; Dan Riggs, Maple Grove; Catherine Cesnik, Plymouth; and Dave Kaztner, Rogers.

Not represented: Medina.

Also present: Steven Touney, Champlin; Lauren Letsche, Corcoran; Shane Awalt, Maple Grove; Dusty Finke, Medina; Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; Mike Albers, Rogers; Kevin Ellis, Hennepin County; Amy Timm, MPCA; Erik Megow and Diane Spector, Stantec; Rebecca Carlson, Resilience Resources; and Judie Anderson, JASS.

**II. AGENDA.** Motion by Cesnik, second by Walraven to approve the agenda\* as presented.  
*Motion carried unanimously.*

**III. CONSENT AGENDA.** Motion by Walraven, second by Cesnik to approve the Consent Agenda:  
**Minutes of the August 13, 2025, meeting.\***  
**September Treasurer's Report and Claims totaling \$52,293.59.\***

*Motion carried unanimously.*

*[The meeting was suspended at 11:38 a.m.]*

**IV. PUBLIC HEARING – 2025 CIP.\***

The Commission had previously approved a Minor Plan Amendment, reported a 2025 maximum levy, and called for a public hearing for today to consider three projects and a levy to fund them all or in part and to take comment from the member cities and the public. The cities and the county have been notified and notice has been duly published. The projects are:

**A. 2025-01: 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.

**B. 2025-02: Rush Creek Hollow to Fernbrook Stream Restoration.** Stream restoration and erosion repair of approximately 1,600 linear feet of Rush Creek downstream of Rush Hollow to Fernbrook Lane. Estimated phosphorus reduction of 100 lbs./year, improved riparian

RULE D - STORMWATER MANAGEMENT  
RULE E - EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL  
RULE F - FLOODPLAIN ALTERATION

RULE G - WETLAND ALTERATION  
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RULE I - BUFFERS

\*indicates enclosure

**CHAMPLIN - CORCORAN - DAYTON - MAPLE GROVE - MEDINA - PLYMOUTH - ROGERS**

environment, floodplain connectivity and recreation, and access to the creek.

**C. 2025-03: Corcoran Sweeper.** Cost participation in the purchase of a street sweeper to begin a systematic municipal street sweeping program.

**Elm Creek 2025 CIP Projects (2026 levy).**

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

*[The public hearing was opened at 11:41 a.m.]*

No comments were received from the member cities. No one was present to speak regarding the proposed projects.

*[The public hearing was closed at 11:42 a.m.]*

Motion by Walraven, second by Cesnik to adopt **Resolution 2025-02 Ordering 2025 Improvements ....** \* Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Katzner, second by Walraven to approve a **Cooperative Agreement with the City of Maple Grove for the Rush Creek Project.** Motion carried unanimously.

Staff will inform Hennepin County of the Commission’s levy request for 2025 (payable 2026) of \$668,115.

**V. PUBLIC HEARING - FOURTH GENERATION PLAN.\***

**A.** In accordance with MN Statutes 103B.231, the Commission must hold a public hearing on its draft Fourth Generation Watershed Management Plan no sooner than 14 days following completion of the 60-Day review period, which ended August 16, 2025. The purpose of the hearing is to provide a forum for the public, government agencies, and member cities to provide comments on the goals, management strategies and work plan proposed for the ten-year period 2025-2034. Upon completion of the hearing, a record of the hearing and all comments received and responses made must be forwarded to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), which then has up to 90 days in which to consider approving the Plan. Once BWSR has approved the Plan, the Commission has 120 days in which to adopt it.

The Commission received comments from BWSR, Metropolitan Council, Hennepin County, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Many comments were easily addressed, and a marked up version of the plan\* is attached or can be found at [Watershed Management Plan - Elm Creek Watershed](#).

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**B.** There are two comments for further discussion.

1. BWSR suggested that since the Plan likely was not going to be adopted before the end of 2025, the date of the plan could be revised from 2025-2034 to 2026-2035.

2. Several agencies requested that some of the goals be revised to be more specific and add more measurability:

Priority 1: Water Quality:

~~1. → Make measurable progress in achieving state water quality and ecological standards in the Impaired Waters and protect those that are not impaired.~~

~~2.1. Reduce summer average TP concentration in Diamond Lake to 90 ug/L or better and improve TP, chl-a and clarity in Rice Lake by 10% from the 2013-2024 summer averages.~~

~~3.2. Achieve stable or improving water quality trends (TP, chl-a and clarity in lakes and TP and TSS in streams) where there is no designated impairment is sufficient data available to determine a trend.~~

¶

Priority 2: Water Quantity and Groundwater:

~~1. → Maintain the current flood profile of Elm Creek and tributaries.~~

~~1. → Achieve no net increase in runoff volume or rates of discharge from development and redevelopment.~~

~~2. → Limit new volumes and rates of runoff to reduce potential for flooding, erosive velocities and streambank erosion.~~

~~3. → Foster groundwater recharge.~~

Staff recommended acceptance of these changes, as did members of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) at their meeting earlier today.

*[The public hearing was opened at 11:52 a.m.]*

Additional comments were received from the Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) on September 9, 2025, and will be incorporated into the comment sheet compiled by Staff. No additional comments were received from the member cities or reviewing agencies. No one was present to provide additional comments.

*[The public hearing was closed at 11:53 a.m.]*

Motion by Walraven, second by Riggs to authorize Staff to send the revised plan, along with the comments received and the Commission’s responses thereto, to BWSR for their final review and approval. *Motion carried unanimously.*

*[The regular meeting resumed at 11:54 a.m.]*

**VI. OPEN FORUM.**

**VII. PROJECT REVIEW.**

**2025-033 Hope Meadows Phase II, Corcoran.** This is a 12.83-acre phase of the original Hope Meadows Project located directly west of CR 116 at the intersection with Oswald Farm Road, Hunters Ridge and Hope Way. This project is Phase II of the original Hope Meadows (2024-022). The existing condition is a combination of cultivated, grass land and forest with no pre-development impervious, but some impervious constructed on the overall site as the result of prior phases of the project. The applicant proposes construction of 18 single-family lots and existing Hope Way. The proposed project disturbs 10.3 acres creating 3.56 acres of new impervious. In their findings dated September 3, 2025, Staff recommends approval with three conditions: (1) escrow reconciliation; (2) inclusion of erosion control details; and (3) a maintenance plan and agreement if required by the City. After discussion, motion by Katzner, second by Riggs to approve this project with the further requirement that low floor elevations meeting Commission requirements be provided. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS.**

**IX. NEW BUSINESS.**

**X. EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH.**

**A. West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA).**

**1. Chloride Reduction Campaign.** Grace Barcelow, Hennepin County Environment and Energy Conservation Specialist, [grace.barcelow@hennepin.us](mailto:grace.barcelow@hennepin.us), has analyzed and redesigned the chloride reduction campaign for the upcoming winter season. While last season's efforts successfully engaged faith-based facilities, the campaign proved to be highly time-intensive with limited impact on chloride pollution reduction. She has developed a new campaign proposal for the 2025–2026 season, which she hopes to finalize by the October WMWA meeting.

**2. Youth Stormwater Education Work.** Mary Karius, [mary.karius@hennepin.us](mailto:mary.karius@hennepin.us), presented on the Watershed Connections program in August. Osseo, Wayzata and Rockford High Schools are participating in 2025. It is anticipated that additional schools will join the program.

If there are schools within your watershed that you'd like to see participate, please contact Grace or Mary. They will be meeting monthly to discuss updates on enrollment and also welcome your input on how to boost engagement across WMWA watersheds and where you'd like to focus those efforts.

There is also a stewardship component to this program. A journey map is available to help parties define their goals and take actions. This is a pilot – the map has not been used before and the process has not fully been tested. Here is the link: <https://www.hennepin.us/business/work-with-henn-co/environmental-education>.

**3. The September Media Kit** is about fall lawn care. It includes information to help residents improve practices on their properties to reduce leaves going into storm drains during the fall season and encourages residents to sign up for the Adopt-a-Drain program.

Barcelow has also published an article exploring how water quality influences property values in Minnesota. It was published in the Sun Newspapers and will be printed throughout newspapers in Hennepin County. [COLUMN: How water quality shapes property values in Minnesota | Free | hometownsource.com](#). She has held off promoting the article in wake of the shooting in Minneapolis and will be shared on Hennepin County socials soon.

**4. Parkers Lake Chloride Reduction Project.** WMWA continues to work with Bolton and Menk to take the next steps in implementing recommended practices at the properties where they have met. These efforts are focused on reducing chloride use and improving site management. They plan to implement upgrades, host smart salting trainings, and reach out to two additional target facilities for this coming fall/winter.

**5. Eagle Lake and Fish Lake Shoreline/Yard Restoration Projects.** Metro Blooms and Blue Thumb staff have completed and distributed all restoration designs to participating residents.

A workshop focusing on Fish Lake and Eagle Lake will be hosted on September 16 from 6-8 pm at Fish Lake Pavillion. Despite extensive outreach efforts, only two people signed up for the workshop that had been scheduled for September 4 and it was cancelled in order to focus on engaging those sign-ups for the September 16 workshop. [Resilient Shorelines - Eagle Lake: Hosted by West Metro Water Alliance – Blue Thumb](#)

**B. West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA)** will meet via Zoom at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, October 13, 2025. The link to join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/922390839?pwd=TKlBQW1ZNXVXdzdtTDBTSDZkZmZuQT09>

## XI. COMMUNICATIONS.

**A. Staff Report.** The September 3, 2025, Staff Report\* provides updates on the development projects currently under review by Staff.

### **B. Hennepin County Staff Report.\***

**1. Lake Henry Hollow Horse Ranch, Rogers.** Hennepin County staff met on site with the landowner to look at wetland impacts from the previous owner and determine how to proceed with future cost-share projects. The previous landowner had installed a track system for horses to reach the southern pasture. In doing so, it appears that the wetland was filled, and a culvert installed. Hennepin County staff are working with the LGU to prepare a document that outlines that these changes were made by the previous landowner and are not the responsibility of the current landowner. After this memo has been filed, contracting for cost-share projects will commence.

**2. City of Corcoran.** Field prep for the site has begun in order to seed the native species mix this fall. Roundup was sprayed to eliminate weeds that have grown over the site. There will be a two-week buffer period until more work is completed. After the two weeks, city staff will disk and prepare the seedbed.

3. **Christian Sediment Basin, Dayton.** Seed mix is being obtained by the contractor to complete the project. Seeding should occur within the next few weeks. Staff are also waiting on final review and approval by the technical service provider. After seeding is complete, the landowner will be reimbursed for the project.

4. **Welcome Ranch, Dayton.** Hennepin County staff are assisting development of plans for the manure bunker and heavy use area protections. These plans should be ready for landowner review in the fall. The landowner is interested in implementing a manure bunker this fall pending field conditions.

5. **Van Asten Manure Bunker and Barn Gutters, Dayton.** County staff are assisting in the development of plans for a manure bunker and gutters. The landowner is interested in implementing both BMPs this fall pending field conditions.

6. **Cain Wetland Fencing, Corcoran.** The landowner has agreed to the cost-share rate for the project and the contracting phase has been started. Conditions are too wet to begin this project immediately, which could delay implementation into the fall. In the meantime, staff will continue to work through the contracting phase of cost-share with the landowner.

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

Ellis also distributed information regarding the **Natural Resources Partner Coalition**. Current members include Hennepin County, Three Rivers Park District, the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota Land Trust, and the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. <https://z.umn.edu/nrpc>

**XII. OTHER BUSINESS.**

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Judie A. Anderson  
Recording Secretary

JAA:tim

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