

elm creek Watershed Management Commission

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Regular Meeting and Public Hearing Minutes September 11, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER. A meeting of the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 11, 2024, in the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Avenue North, Plymouth, MN, by Vice Chair Catherine Cesnik.

Present: Ken Guenther, Corcoran; Joe Trainor, Maple Grove; Terry Sharp, Medina; Catherine Cesnik, Plymouth; and David Katzner, Rogers. Not represented: Champlin and Dayton.

Also present: Kent Torve, Stantec, Corcoran; Derek Asche, Maple Grove; Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; Andrew Simmons, Rogers; Erik Megow and Diane Spector, Stantec; Rebecca Carlson, Resilience Resources (via Zoom); Kevin Ellis, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Brian Lother, Hope Community, and Josh McKinney, Measure Group, for Project 2024-022; and Judie Anderson, JASS.

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

III. Motion by Guenther, second by Katzner to approve the **Consent Agenda:**

A. Minutes* of the August 14, 2024, meeting.

B. September Treasurer's Report and Claims* totaling \$54,198.88.

Motion carried unanimously.

[The meeting was suspended at 11:34 a.m.]

IV. PUBLIC HEARING.*

The Commission had previously received feasibility reports for one proposed 2024 capital project and called for a public hearing during today's meeting to consider that project as well as the annual City Cost Share and Partnership Cost Share projects. The cities and the county have been notified and notice has been duly published. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider the proposed projects and their financing and to take comments from the member cities and the public. The projects are:

A. 2024-01: Rush Creek Hollow Stream Restoration. Stream restoration and erosion repair from Orchid Lane to Fernbrook Lane, approximately 4,000 linear feet. Estimated phosphorus reduction of 200 lbs/year, and providing improved riparian environment, floodplain connectivity, recreation and access to the creek, and education.

B. 2024-02: City Cost Share. This annual project provides cost sharing to retrofit smaller BMPs on city property on a voluntary basis. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

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developed policies and procedures to administer these funds and makes recommendations to the Commission on which projects should be funded. The estimated 2024 year-end balance in this account will be \$155,000.

C. 2024-03: Partnership Cost Share. This program makes funds available to member cities to help fund the cost of Best Management Practices (BMPs) partnership projects with private landowners. Participating projects on private property must be for water quality improvement and must be for improvement above and beyond what would be required to meet Commission rules. The estimated 2024 year-end balance in this account will be \$90,000.

Elm Creek 2024 CIP Projects (2025 levy).

Project	Total Est Cost	City/Private	Comm Share	Comm Levy
Rush Creek Hollow Stream Restoration	\$1,600,000	\$1,200,000	\$400,000	\$424,200
City Cost Share Program	100,000	100,000	100,000	106,050
Partnership Cost Share Program	50,000	0	50,000	53,025
Subtotal	\$1,750,000	\$1,300,000	\$550,000	\$583,275
5% additional for legal/admin			27,500	
Subtotal			577,500	
TOTAL LEVY (101% for uncollectable)			\$583,275	\$583,275

[The public hearing was opened at 11:40 a.m.]

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

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

Motion by Guenthner, second by Trainor to adopt **Resolution 2024-02 Ordering 2024 Improvements**,* with the modification to delete the city cost share portion of the proposed levy (item B., above). *Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion by Guenthner, second by Sharp to approve the **Cooperative Agreement with the City of Maple Grove for the Rush Creek Hollow Project.*** *Motion carried unanimously.*

By September 27, 2024, Staff must inform Hennepin County of the Commission’s levy request for 2024 (payable 2025) of \$477,225.

[The regular meeting resumed at 11:45 a.m.]

V. OPEN FORUM.

Trainor told the Commissioners of a conversation he had with a resident regarding flooding below Elm Creek Road on the south side. Asche informed that the trail in that location is within the floodplain. Trainor indicated that he had advised the resident that the Commission errs on the side of protecting existing landowners.

VI. PROJECT REVIEWS.

A. 2024-020 Woodland Hills of Corcoran 2024.* This is a 36.7-acre site at the northeast corner of Hackamore Road and CR 116. Three parcels making up the site are currently a mix of undeveloped land with woodland, six wetlands, and meadow. The southeast corner of the site contains a building and some equipment parking / storage areas. The northernmost corner of the site is about 260 feet from a tributary to Elm Creek within the northwest portion of the Elm Creek minor subwatershed. The project drains locally in three directions to adjacent wetlands and ditches which all drain to the Elm Creek tributary. The applicant proposes a housing development with 61 homes and associated roadways and storm water management disturbing 26.1 of the 36.7 acres. The development proposed increases impervious from the existing 2.6 acres to 8.8 acres of new or reconstructed impervious. A complete application was received July 26, 2024. The initial 60-day decision period per MN Statute 15.99 expires September 24, 2024. In their findings revised September 3, 2024, Staff recommends approval with three conditions: (1) Payment of all review fees; (2) Low floor elevations for lots 1-3 in block 3 (L1-L4, B3) do not meet Commission requirements. Increase low floor elevations for these lots relative to the wetland HWL in Outlot C or provide for sufficient hydraulic separation so they meet the required separation and resubmit plan set; and (3) Provide maintenance plan and agreement if required by the City of Corcoran. Motion by Guenther, second by Trainor to approve Staff's recommendations as cited herein. *Motion carried unanimously.*

B. 2024-021 Heather Meadows Third Addition, Corcoran.* This is an 88.2-acre site located at 22901 Oakdale Drive. The portion of the property under development is mostly cropland with some minor wetlands and tree lines. The project drains into wetlands that drain to the west and to the south from the property. A small section of the site drains to the northeast. The set of parcels lies in both an unnamed northern subwatershed which drains to areas outside the Commission boundaries, and the remaining portion of the site drains to Rush Creek. The applicant proposes a housing development with ten new single-family lots on a proposed extension of Heather Lane, in addition to one existing homestead, one farmstead, and two outlots. This project will disturb 12.5 of the 88.22 acres. The development proposed increases impervious from the existing 0.11 acres to 2.57 acres of new or reconstructed impervious. The applicant provided a complete application July 23, 2024. The 60-day review period ends September 21, 2024. In their findings revised September 3, 2024, Staff recommends approval with four conditions: (1) Payment of all review fees; (2) The erosion control plan provided does not meet Commission requirements. Applicant must provide construction fencing or silt fencing to protect ponds post grading and inlet protection in catch basins during construction; denote location of rock construction entrance and materials staging on erosion control plan; (3) Update the HydroCAD model curve numbers to reflect accurate existing and proposed conditions. Post development curve numbers should be higher than pre-development curve numbers. Resubmit models for review. Models must still show that rate control and water quality requirements are still achieved or further changes to grading plan must be implemented; and (4) Provide maintenance plan and agreement if required by the City of Corcoran. Motion by Guenther, second by Trainor to approve Staff's recommendations as cited herein. *Motion carried unanimously.*

C. 2024-022 Draft Hope Meadows Townhomes, Corcoran.* This is a 14.5-acre site

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located at the northwest intersection of County Roads 30 and 116. The site is comprised of two existing parcels which are a mixture of cropland, woodland, wetlands, and grass areas with 0.81 acres of existing impervious. The two parcels are located within an unnamed subwatershed tributary to Rush Creek. The applicant proposes the construction of row townhomes, utility improvements, private access roads, and stormwater management facilities as part of an overall PUD. This phase of the proposed project disturbs 14.5 acres of the 14.5-acre site, resulting in 3.35 acres of new and reconstructed impervious. This project is the northeast area of the larger Hope Church PUD. The applicant submitted a complete application July 29, 2024, along with several subsequent iterations. The most recent was submitted August 23, 2024, and shows a new rate increase issue for the northeast corner. The 60-day decision period ends September 27, 2024. In their findings revised September 10, 2024, Staff recommends approval with five conditions: (1) Approval is contingent upon payment of all review fees; (2) This recommendation is solely for the JP Brooks Townhomes development, not for the entire Hope Meadows site -- Future project reviews and recommendations will need to evaluate the remainder of proposed development for rate control, water quality and other commission requirements; (3) Provide a technical memo documenting in situ soils during construction for Pond 3F and Pond 4N with photos and an as-built showing liner installation if high groundwater and sand are encountered; documentation should be provided in either case; (4) The project discharge meets rate control at the development boundary on the northeast, yet the downstream conveyance under four residential driveways is undersized in the existing and the proposed condition. The City has an agreement with the Developer which requires them to coordinate with the City to investigate and upsize the culverts to meet current engineering design standards. Commission staff, in close coordination with the City, recommends culverts are sized to convey the 10-year event under-developed conditions using best practices for hydrologic and hydraulic modeling or any county requirements; and (5) Provide maintenance plan and agreement if required by the City of Corcoran. Motion by Guenthner, second by Trainor to approve Staff's recommendation to withhold approval until the five conditions are met. *Motion carried unanimously.*

D. 2024-023 Upward Acres, Corcoran.* This is a 62.4-acre site located at the intersection of County Roads 30 and 116. The site is comprised of one existing parcel which is a mixture of planted, herbaceous, wetlands, and forested areas with 0.38 acres of existing impervious. The parcel is located within the Rush Creek subwatershed. The applicant proposes the subdivision of the parcel into six residential parcels. Construction includes grading, road construction, and stormwater basin construction through fall 2025 with home construction to follow through fall 2026. The proposal will disturb 7 acres of the 62.4-acre site, resulting in 1.75 acres of new and reconstructed impervious. Staff received the complete application August 9, 2024. The 60-day review period closes October 8, 2024. Staff recommends approval with the five contingencies listed in their findings dated September 3, 2024: (1) Approval is contingent upon payment of all review fees; (2) Provide documentation of tree preservation agreement/easement; (3) Update the HydroCAD model curve numbers to reflect accurate existing and proposed conditions. Post development curve numbers should be higher than pre-development curve numbers. Resubmit models for review. Models must still show that rate control and water quality requirements are still achieved or further changes to grading plan must be imple-

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mented; (4) Provide wetland delineation report for the project file; and (5) Provide maintenance plan and agreement if required by the City of Corcoran. Motion by Trainor, second by Guenther to approve Staff's recommendations as cited herein. *Motion carried unanimously.*

VII. OLD BUSINESS.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS.

IX. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES.

A copy of the 2025 Clean Water Accelerated Implementation Grant application for a **joint Chloride Management Plan*** for the Elm Creek, Shingle Creek and West Mississippi watershed organizations was included in the meeting packet. Grant funds requested total \$47,555. Each Commission's cost share is \$1800. The application was submitted by the August 22 deadline and awards are expected to be announced in early December.

[Trainor departed 1:11 p.m.]

X. WATER QUALITY.

A mile-long stretch of the South Fork Rush Creek in Maple Grove was featured in the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) **September Snapshots**. The 14-acre site includes a native prairie planting and restored wetlands. It also reconnected the floodplain, resloped the nearly vertical eroding streambanks, and reshaped some of the meanders to reflect a more natural course. Together, these elements help to improve water quality by armoring the banks, curbing erosion, containing floodwaters, and allowing runoff to filter through wetlands, reducing sediment and the pollutants it carries.

XI. EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH.

A. The four WMOs who are members of WMWA, Hennepin County, and the Richfield-Bloomington WMO pooled some of their Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) to support a half-time Conservation Specialist. WBIF funding was also set aside to undertake special projects in each of the watersheds. Elm Creek and Shingle Creek elected to sponsor **shoreline restoration workshops*** and projects on two priority lakes: Fish Lake (Elm) and Eagle Lake (Shingle).

The partnership contracted with Metro Blooms to present the workshops and do on-site consultations and designs. Ten participants per lake are eligible to receive a free design consultation and up to \$400 in reimbursement assistance to defray the cost of installing projects. Most of these will be shoreline buffers, rain gardens, etc., but County staff will also be looking for opportunities to undertake more intensive restoration that might include near-shore and emergent aquatic habitat improvements. These more extensive projects may be eligible for additional financial assistance.

The first Fish Lake workshop was held at Fish Lake Park on Thursday, September 5. Of the 13 participants registered, eight signed up for personal consultations this fall, with three others signed up for consultations in the spring. The Eagle Lake workshop was held at the same

location on Tuesday, September 10. Of the 12 attendees, five signed up for consultations and four more individuals are on the waiting list for consultations.

The goal is to complete ten projects on the Fish Lake shoreline. If there are additional willing landowners, Staff may come back to the Commission to determine if there are other funds available to support more projects, such as the Partnership Cost Share program. Participants in the workshops learn about:

1. Healthy shorelines and shorelands: what do they look like?
2. How to conduct a site assessment
3. What are some examples of the type of projects they could consider?
4. How to select the appropriate plants
5. Permit requirements and resources
6. How to care for their projects

The goal is to provide the participants with knowledge and tools that will help them complete DIY projects or how to work with a contractor if they prefer, as well as where to go for more information and help if that is needed.

B. Grace Barcelow's September update. Below is a brief update on work completed since the August 13, 2024, WMWA meeting:

1. Released [media kit](#) about best fall lawn care practices. This media kit has 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.
2. Completed outreach and planning efforts for Fish Lake and Eagle Lake workshops. Workshops will be hosted September 5 and 10 from 6pm - 8pm at the Fish Lake Pavilion building. (See Item A., above.)
3. Continued work on Southgate Apartment complex project, notably hosting third engagement event to show residents preliminary designs for the property.
4. Edited outreach materials for BCWMC (Bassett Creek) project.

What work will be happening before the October WMWA meeting?

5. Continue outreach to involve middle school classrooms in Adopt-a-Drain K12 program throughout WMWA watersheds.
6. Complete Eagle and Fish Lake workshops and begin consultations.
7. Welcome and on-board Green Corps member, who is starting mid-September and who will be supporting WMWA work.
8. Begin outreach for BCWMC project.
9. Continue work to complete designs for the Southgate Apartment project in Bloomington.

10. Create October media kit. This media kit will promote Smart Salting trainings and give tips on residential BMPs that reduce chloride use.

C. **West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA)** will meet via Zoom at 8:30 a.m., October 8, 2024.

XIII. COMMUNICATIONS.

A. **Staff Report.*** The Staff report provides updates on the development projects currently under review by Staff. The projects listed in the table on page 8 of these minutes are discussed in the September 4, 2024, report.

B. **Hennepin County Staff Report.***

1. **Welcome Ranch (Dayton).** Updated design plans for areas that require heavy use protections and potential fencing plan. Management of the ranch are working with NRCS to develop an EQIP application before the September 6 deadline.

2. **Stotts 1A/1B/TOHWW.** Hennepin County staff met with engineers to finalize draft plans for the 1B WASCOB and waterway. Currently arranging a time to meet with the landowner to discuss potential edits.

3. **Lakeshore Workshops.** The WMWA member watershed organizations and Hennepin County are offering free shoreline restoration workshops to the residents of Fish Lake and Eagle Lake on September 5 and 10. Residents will learn more about active steps they can take to protect their shoreline from erosion and enhance wildlife habitat. The curriculum was developed by Blue Thumb. (See XI.A., above.)

4. **City of Corcoran.** City staff contacted Hennepin County staff with interest in a cover crop planting for fallow city-owned farm fields just north of Corcoran City Hall. Staff recommended a perennial planting that should increase available habitat, decrease erosion, and reduce needed maintenance. Staff are currently working on a conceptual plan to present to city staff for approval. Hennepin County will perform a soil test to track progress over time.

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

6. The last two pages of the report describe other **County programming.**

XIV. OTHER BUSINESS.

XV. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:37 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.		2023-023	NORSQ, Maple Grove.
2016-005	Ravinia Wetland Bank Plan, Corcoran.		2023-025	Rogers Mixed Use Improvement.
2017-050W	E Mayers Wetland/floodplain viola, Corc		2023-029	Dayton Field 4th Addition.
2018-046	Graco, Rogers.		2023-030	Woodland Hill of Corcoran.
2020-009	Stetler Barn, Medina.		2024-002	The Meadows Park, Plymouth.
2020-017	Meadow View Townhomes, Medina.		2024-003	Rogers Apartments.
2020-033	Weston Woods, Medina.		2024-004	Dayton River Road Turn Lane.
			2024-005	Rush Hollow North, Maple Grove.
2021-029	Tri-Care Grocery / Retail, Maple Grove		2024-006	Sunram Construction , Corcoran.
2021-034	BAPS Hindu Temple, Medina.		2024-007	Eagle Brook Church, Plymouth.
			2024-009	Heritage Christian Academy, Maple Grove.
2022-006	Hamel Townhomes, Medina.		2024-010	Corcoran Storage II.
2022-011	Arrowhead Drive Turn Lane Expn, Medina.		2024-011	Jaeger-Jordan Ditch Stabilization, Dayton.
2022-017	City Center Drive, Corcoran.		2024-012	Dayton Interchange.
2022-018	Big Woods, Rogers.		2024-013	Red Barn Pet Retreat, Corcoran.
2022-022	Cook Lake Highlands, Corcoran.		2024-014	Schmidt Woods Park, Plymouth.
2022-040	Kariniemi Meadows, Corcoran.		2024-015	Hennessy Grove, Maple Grove.
2022-043	Meander Park and Boardwalk, Medina.		2024-017	Pioneer Trail Industrial Park. Corcoran.
			2024-018	Kwik Trip 1187, Dayton.
2023-001	Chankahda Trail Recon Phase 2, Plymouth.		2024-019	Silver Buckle, Plymouth.
2023-009	Magnifi Financial, Maple Grove.		2024-020	Woodland Hills, Corcoran.
2023-015	South Fork Rush Creek Evanswood, M		2024-021	Heather Meadows, Third Addn, Corcoran.
2023-020	Dunkirk Square, Maple Grove4		2024-022	Hope Meadows Townhomes,. Corcoran.
2023-022	Shores of Sylvan Lake, Rogers.		2024-023	Upward Acres, Corcoran.

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