

elm creek Watershed Management Commission

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Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes November 9, 2022

I. A meeting of the **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** of the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 11:03 a.m., Wednesday, November 9, 2022, in the Aspen Room, Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Avenue North, Plymouth, MN, by Vice Chair Ben Scharenbroich.

Present: Heather Nelson, Champlin; Derek Asche, Maple Grove; Matt Danzl, Hakanson-Anderson, Medina; Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; Andrew Simmons, Rogers; Diane Spector and Erik Megow, Stantec; James Kujawa, Surface Water Solutions; Kevin Ellis, Hennepin County Dept. of Environment and Energy (HCEE); and Judie Anderson, JASS.

Also present: Doug Baines, Dayton.

II. Motion by Scharenbroich, second by Danzl to approve the **agenda**.* *Motion carried unanimously.*

III. Motion by Simmons, second by Scharenbroich to approve the **minutes*** of the October 12, 2022, meeting. *Motion carried unanimously.*

IV. **Floodplain Modeling and Mapping.**

Included in the meeting packet was MnDNR's QAQC Memo dated October 17, 2022.* It describes the quality assurance and quality control completed on the detailed and approximate studies within the Elm Creek watershed. It summarizes the QAQC methodology completed for all the reaches and describes eight "needed actions" by the modeler.

Members expressed concerns that MnDNR is requesting additional work beyond the scope agreed upon by the parties. Asche, Megow, and Anderson will meet with representatives from MnDNR to discuss the TAC's concerns. Other members are welcome to join this discussion.

Megow noted that the shared boundaries with the Shingle Creek/West Mississippi watersheds have not been finalized. The cities in the Elm Creek watershed that are also in the SCWM watersheds have been working with the SCWM engineer to finalize the boundaries. The new proposed legal boundary conforms closely to the hydro boundary. The engineer developed certain rules to guide how that boundary is drawn to smooth the lines, follow parcel and right of way boundaries, and manage various oddball situations. As a result, there will be some differences between the proposed hydro and legal boundaries. The draft boundaries can be viewed at: [SCWM Legal Boundary Review - PUBLIC \(arcgis.com\)](#).

It is anticipated that all boundaries will be finalized in time for the December meeting. At that time, the SCWM Commissions have asked the Elm Creek Commission to review the proposed boundaries and issue a formal resolution of concurrence. Staff will send an email to the TAC members with a link so that they can forward this information on to the appropriate persons in their cities.

[Asche arrived 11:12 a.m., and assumed the Chair.]

V. Chloride Management Requirements for Project Applicants.*

A. The Elm Creek TAC and Commission have a thorough understanding of how road salt (chloride) use for winter safety can negatively impact water bodies. Road salt can contaminate drinking water, have negative impacts on aquatic organisms, and corrode infrastructure, among other impacts. Both Elm Creek and South Fork Rush Creek are impaired for chloride.

To help minimize sources of chloride in the watershed, the TAC and Commission have been more frequently recommending development projects to the cities pending submittal of a chloride management plan from developers. The purpose of a chloride management plan is to ensure that proper winter maintenance BMPs are used for developments in the watershed to minimize the amount of excess chloride applied to pavement and to reduce the amount of chloride that makes its way to water bodies in the watershed.

There are some difficulties with requiring chloride management plans from project applicants. The entity submitting project plans for permitting often doesn't have a strong relationship with the entity who will ultimately be doing winter maintenance, making it difficult to ensure management plans are upheld and implemented. Winter maintenance crews are often contracted out, especially in the case of large developments. Conversely, requiring chloride management plans may help increase awareness of chloride issues in the watershed and be an additional tool to educate people on the negative impacts of salt use.

B. Stantec researched chloride management plan requirements from various cities and watershed organizations in the Metro Area to understand what is currently being done, what is working well, and what options there are for the Elm Creek Commission to require a chloride management plan with project applications. Stantec reviewed chloride management requirements from Nine Mile Creek and Coon Creek Watershed Districts, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, and the cities of Edina, Bloomington, and Plymouth. Stantec also reviewed the draft Winter Maintenance Management Plan templates created for the Hennepin County Chloride Initiative (HCCI) by Fortin Consulting. A copy of that draft* is included in the meeting packet.

Chloride management plans as a requirement for development is a relatively new idea and haven't been implemented in many places, so there was not much overall feedback from the watershed organizations and cities on how this requirement has been going.

C. Based on the review described above, Stantec proposes four potential options for the Commissions to implement a chloride management requirement with project submittals ranging from 1 (easier to implement) to 3 (more difficult/resource intensive to implement):

- 1.** Do not add a chloride management plan requirement and instead continue efforts on chloride education and outreach in the watershed.
- 2.** Require project applicants to name an individual or multiple individuals responsible for winter chloride management onsite.
- 3.** Require project applicants to submit a Chloride Management Plan using the templates provided in the Winter Maintenance Management Plan created by Fortin Consulting. Project applicants will use the calculator to choose which template to use: basic, intermediate, or detailed.
- 4.** Add chloride management requirements to the Operations and Maintenance agreements between the site owner and the City.

Stantec recommends Option 1, that the Commission refrain from adding any additional requirements to project review submittals and continue to focus on chloride education and outreach in the watershed. This option was agreed to by consensus.

VI. MPCA Climate Resilience Grants.*

A. The MPCA is now taking applications for the Planning Grants for Stormwater, Wastewater, and Community Resilience program. \$395,000 is available to support climate-planning projects in communities across Minnesota. This funding will help communities assess vulnerabilities and plan for the effects of Minnesota's changing climate in three areas:

1. Improving stormwater resilience and reducing localized flood risk
2. Improving the resilience of wastewater systems
3. Adapting community services, ordinances, and public spaces

This was a new grant program last year, and the TAC considered applying for a grant in 2021 to use the HUC8 model to estimate the potential impacts of future precipitation patterns. At that time the TAC believed the model was not yet ready to be used for that purpose. Given the updates made to the model earlier this year, Staff expect it to be now more useful for planning.

B. Last year Shingle Creek submitted a grant application, but was unsuccessful, and it is expected that Commission will reapply this year. Staff recommend that the Elm Creek Commission consider the same general work plan as Shingle Creek. Last year the grant program funded grants to a few other WMOs and cities to undertake essentially the same activities:

1. Model and map midcentury precipitation scenarios to create projected flood inundation areas for the 1%+ 24-hour rainfall event and the 1%+ 10 day event. A 'plus' is a rainfall depth taken from the 90th percentile estimate for the given rainfall frequency. FEMA often evaluates not only the 1% storm event but also the 1%+ storm event as a way to provide perspective on the range of values one COULD expect in the 1% event. The State Climatology Office also suggests using the 90th percentile as a proxy for midcentury precipitation.

2. Identify potential future flooding risks in the watershed by reviewing known flooding areas, infrastructure, structures, and emergency vehicle routes in or in close proximity to predicted future hazardous flood conditions.

3. Develop policy recommendations for using the scenario data. For example, this modeling could be used to help the cities and county better understand how to properly design new infrastructure such as culverts, bridges, etc., that would be expected to have a mid-century useful life.

The cost of undertaking the Shingle Creek workplan activities was estimated as just under \$25,000, with a grant request of about \$22,000 and a 10% local match of about \$2,500. Staff believe completing the same work for Elm Creek will likely be in that ballpark but haven't yet updated that estimate.

Applications are due January 12, 2023. If the TAC recommends and the Commission approves pursuing this grant, Staff will bring a draft workplan and application to the Commission at the December 14, 2022, meeting. The level of effort to prepare the application and associated documents will be minimal since much of what was prepared for Shingle Creek last year can be reused.

Discussion regarding submitting an application in January was mixed; some suggesting waiting for the next round of funding, while others indicating an application could be prepared for consideration at the December meeting.

VII. 16630/16750 Dayton River Road.*

At the October meeting, the TAC and Commission discussed an issue with erosion in a channel between the homes at 16630/16750 Dayton River Road that is expected to be exacerbated when a culvert under CSAH

12 is replaced as part of an upcoming County project. Erosion is contributing excess sediment to the Mississippi River. At the October meeting the TAC and Commission discussed sharing the cost of stabilizing this channel.

A. Good Steward Grants. This is a Hennepin County grant program that County staff recommend as a good source for a County contribution to the cost of channel stabilization. The City of Dayton will prepare and submit a grant application. Grants are due November 15.

B. Commission Cost Share. The City of Dayton is in the process of completing an updated cost estimate and Cost Share Program application. A draft application* was included in the meeting packet. Staff recommends approval of the Cost Share application. The members agreed by consensus to recommend approval of this application to the Commission.

VIII. Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Update.*

Hennepin County has submitted a workplan to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for the shared Education and Outreach coordinator. The Commission is now able to submit an application and work plan to BWSR for the balance of the grant. As previously discussed, that work plan will include \$175,000 for implementation of BMPs identified in the Rush Creek and Diamond Creek subwatershed assessments and \$92,774 for priority assessments. Staff will include, as example, assessments the proposed South Fork Rush Creek SWA, the Diamond Lake outlet channel, and the Rush Creek meandering near Stieg Woods as potential priorities. They are still developing options and cost estimates for each of those for further Commission consideration.

IX. Other Business.

X. The next Technical Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, December 14, 2022.

XI. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Judie A. Anderson
Recording Secretary
JAA:tim