

# elm creek

## Watershed Management Commission

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### Regular Meeting Minutes November 13, 2024

**I. CALL TO ORDER.** A meeting of the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, November 13, 2024, in the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Avenue North, Plymouth, MN, by Chair Doug Baines.

Present: Bill Walraven, Champlin; Tom Anderson, Corcoran; Doug Baines, Dayton; Joe Trainor, Maple Grove; Terry Sharp, Medina; Catherine Cesnik, Plymouth; and David Katzner, Rogers.

Also present: Kevin Mattson and Lauren Letsche, Corcoran; Derek Asche, Maple Grove; Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; Andrew Simmons, Rogers; Erik Megow and Diane Spector, Stantec; Kevin Ellis, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Jen Dullum, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR); and Judie Anderson, JASS.

Also present: Peter Crane, Maple Grove.

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

**III.** Motion by Cesnik, second by Walraven to approve the **Minutes\* of the October 9, 2024, meeting.** *Motion carried unanimously.*

**IV.** Motion by Walraven, second by Trainor to approve the **November Treasurer's Report and Claims\*** totaling \$102,458.80. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**A. Fish Lake Carp Removal Final Reimbursement, \$4,840.77.\***

**B. Dayton River Road Final Reimbursement, \$47,350.77.\***

Motion by Trainor, second by Katzner to approve these two reimbursements, included in the total claims amount above. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**V. OPEN FORUM.**

**VI. PROJECT REVIEW.**

**2024-025 Elm Creek Vista, Maple Grove.** This 15.83-acre site is located just northeast of the intersection of Chankahda Trail and Maple Grove Parkway. The project site consists of 10.51 acres, with 5.3 acres on the west side of Elm Creek. The proposed project is a new 3.2-acre development for six new family lots along Elm Creek. The project includes mass grading, utilities, stormwater treatment, floodplain mitigation, wetland alteration, wetland buffers and City trail and will result in 1.40 acres of impervious surface. In their findings dated

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

RULE G - WETLAND ALTERATION  
RULE H - BRIDGE AND CULVERT CROSSINGS  
RULE I - BUFFERS

\*indicates enclosure

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

November 5, 2024, Staff recommends approval with five conditions. Asche reported that the fifth condition has been satisfied with the City being responsible for the replacement plan for the 870-square foot impact on the west side of the new road and trail. Motion by Trainor, second by Cesnik to approve this project with the remaining four conditions. *Motion carried unanimously.*

*[Sharp departed 11:53 a.m.]*

**VII. OLD BUSINESS.**

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS.**

**IX. FOURTH GENERATION PLAN.**

Last month, the Commissioners began an initial discussion regarding **Resilience/Adaptation**. The twin issues of ongoing development/land use change and changing precipitation and other climate patterns have the potential to negatively impact water resources in the watershed. The Commissioners expressed concern about new, increased volumes and rates of runoff generated by land use conversion. Those impacts will be magnified as precipitation patterns continue to change and intensify. As part of the Fourth Generation Plan the Commissioners have identified their desire to think proactively about those impacts and how they could be mitigated or prevented entirely through projects, practices, and adaptive planning.

At the TAC meeting earlier today, Staff asked a couple of members of the TAC as well as a member of the County staff to participate in a resiliency working group. Heather Nelson, Champlin, and Scharenbroich volunteered to participate in the work session and Kris Guenther from Hennepin County will be asked to participate as well.

At the December meeting the Commissioners will review a draft of parts of the Fourth Generation Plan.

**X. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES AND UPDATE.**

**A.** Attached to Staff's November 6, 2024, memo\* is the final grant application\* for the **FY25 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding** allocation, excepting the portion being contracted to Hennepin County for the shared Conservation Specialist. The County outreach cost-share project will be incorporated into the next Hennepin County contract for services. The Diamond Lake neighborhood project will be led by the city of Dayton and the Rice and Fish Lakes project by the city of Maple Grove. Prior to initiating work each city will execute a cooperative and subgrant agreement with the Commission. The work being funded is summarized below and in the table that follows:

1. Additional agricultural/rural BMPs through Hennepin County in the priority Rush Creek Headwaters, South Fork Rush Creek, and Diamond Creek subwatersheds.
2. Three improvements in Dayton identified in the Diamond Creek SWA.
3. Developing a strategic plan to guide further work to manage carp and fish habitat in Fish and Rice Lake

Motion by Cesnik, second by Walraven to approve the application as drafted. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**Final WBIF allocations**

Funding Priority	Total Cost	WBIF	Match	Source of Match
<b>Contracted to Hennepin County</b>				
Education & outreach coordinator	\$306,000	\$46,000	\$77,000	WMWA and county (\$77K); other WBIF*
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$306,000	\$46,000	\$77,000	
<b>Contracted to the Elm Creek Commission</b>				
1. County outreach/cost-share	\$192,500	\$175,000	\$17,500	County staff time and \$, land-owner in-kind and \$
2. Diamond Lake Neighborhood BMPs	\$120,000	\$108,000	\$12,000	City Cost Share or Closed Projects, City
3. Rice and Fish Lakes Fish and Habitat Management	\$49,050	\$44,590	\$4,460	City/Partnership Cost Share, City, landowners
<b>Subtotal</b>	\$361,550	\$327,500	\$33,960	
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$667,550	\$373,590	\$110,960	

\*Shingle Creek, West Mississippi, Bassett, and Richfield-Bloomington WMOs are each contributing \$46,000 from their WBIF funds

[Sharp returned 12:28 p.m.]

**B. North Fork Rush Creek Preliminary Design.\*** As part of the FY23 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) process, the City of Rogers requested the Commission to evaluate the feasibility of a re-meandering project on a portion of the North Fork of Rush Creek, which is part of Hennepin County Ditch #21. The proposed project would stabilize banks to define a new channel, improve water quality, enhance aquatic habitat, and reintroduce some of the natural meanders that existed prior to channelization.

In 2023, the Commission authorized completion of the feasibility study. Staff have completed field work and met with city and agency representatives to explore potential options for the remeander that would help meet the Commission’s water quality, ecological integrity, and wetland goals, WCA and floodplain requirements, City and Three Rivers recreation goals, and Hennepin County transportation needs. The study considers options for the desired stream improvements and open space enhancements while also accommodating future infrastructure projects. Staff developed two potential workable options which were presented to the Technical Advisory Committee members earlier today.

Both designs proposed would implement new meanders and lengthening of the channel. The second of the two designs would also implement some step pools to create an open water feature, increase potential for aeration, and increase habitat. The proposed meandered channels are designed to be 5 feet deep to prevent the growth of cattails. The bank slopes would

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be 3:1. The excavated material could be used to fill in several of the lateral ditches. Two of the ditches are used as outlets for stormwater ponds for the residential development, but the remaining lateral ditches appear to not serve a function and could be filled.

**XI. EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH.**

**A. Grace Barcelow's November Update.**

**What we have been working on since the October WMWA Meeting.**

1. Wrote article on chloride pollution which will be published in the next couple of weeks.
2. Finished consultations from Fish Lake and Eagle Lake workshops and continue to work with residents to install larger projects. Metro Blooms will be creating designs this winter. A larger project that will have a significant water quality impact has been identified, and more money will be allocated to designing and implementing practices on this property.
3. Continued work on Southgate Apartment complex project, working towards finalizing second budget proposal.
4. Began outreach for Parkers Lake chloride reduction project. Sent a mailing to target facilities in the Northern Subwatershed of the lake and have begun to follow up.
5. Continued outreach for the Adopt-a-Drain K12 program. Enrolled one classroom at Parnassus Preparatory in Maple Grove. 100+ outreach emails and follow-ups were sent out.
6. Sent mailing to 244 faith-based facilities in WMWA territory to participate in chloride consultations and followed up with phone calls and emails. Reformatted the chloride consultation presentation which will be reviewed at the upcoming WMWA meeting.

**What work will be happening before the December WMWA meeting?**

7. Continue outreach to involve middle school classrooms in the Adopt-a-Drain K12 program.
8. Continue outreach for the Parkers Lake Chloride reduction project. Begin scheduling and conducting consultations.
9. Continue outreach for the chloride reduction campaign targeting faith-based facilities in WMWA territory. Staff are seeking any connections folks may have for a faith-based facility in WMWA territory. Staff will continue to reach out to facilities and begin to schedule and conduct consultations.
10. Continue work to complete designs for the Southgate Apartment project in Bloomington.
11. Create December Media Kit. Kit will include news blurb and social media posts about chloride consultations and BMPs post-snowstorm.

12. Create plan for communications strategy in 2025 for presentation at the next WMWA meeting.

B. **West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA)** will meet via Zoom at 8:30 a.m., December 10, 2024.

## XII. 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 6 of these minutes are discussed in the November 6, 2024, report.

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

1. **Welcome Ranch, Dayton.** Landowners are waiting until 2025 for their EQIP application status from the NRCS and installation of heavy use area protections, barn gutters, fencing, pasture seeding and manure bunker. Hennepin County-led design work for the manure bunker is being halted until 2025.

2. **Stotts 1A/1B/TOHWW, Corcoran.** Plans have been transferred from the former engineering support to the new on-retainer engineering firm. Plans are currently under review and additions for further seep drainage are being added.

3. **City of Corcoran.** Hennepin County plan for seeding and establishment was approved and the cost-share application has been circulated for signature. Field preparation and planting will take place before snowfall, likely in mid-November.

4. **Christian Settling Basin, Dayton.** Plans and mobilization have been approved for this project. Currently waiting for contractor to begin work.

5. **Bottema Wetland Repairs.** Landowner has selected a contractor and has a pre-construction meeting scheduled for November 12th. No construction date has been scheduled yet but is likely to occur this year.

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**.

## XIII. OTHER BUSINESS.

A. The Commissioners are reminded of **appointments** due by those members that appoint annually. Officers will be elected at the March 12, 2025, meeting.

B. **Solicitation for letters** of interest for legal, technical and administrative services will be published in the December 9, 2024, issue of the *State Register*. Responses are due January 2, 2025, and will be considered at the January 8, 2025, meeting.

XIV. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

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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.		2024-002	The Meadows Park, Plymouth.
2016-005	Ravinia Wetland Bank Plan, Corcoran.		2024-003	Rogers Apartments.
2017-050W	E Mayers Wetland/floodplain viola, Corc		2024-004	Dayton River Road Turn Lane.
2018-046	Graco, Rogers.		2024-005	Rush Hollow North, Maple Grove.
2020-009	Stetler Barn, Medina.		2024-006	Sunram Construction, Corcoran.
2020-017	Meadow View Townhomes, Medina.		2024-009	Heritage Christian Academy, Maple Grove.
2020-033	Weston Woods, Medina.		2024-010	Corcoran Storage II.
			2024-011	Jaeger-Jordan Ditch Stabilization, Dayton.
2021-029	Tri-Care Grocery / Retail, Maple Grove.		2024-012	Dayton Interchange.
2021-034	BAPS Hindu Temple, Medina.		2024-013	Red Barn Pet Retreat, Corcoran.
			2024-014	Schmidt Woods Park, Plymouth.
2022-006	Hamel Townhomes, Medina.		2024-015	Hennessy Grove, Maple Grove.
2022-011	Arrowhead Drive Turn Lane Expn, Medina.		2024-016	Sundance 11th, Dayton.
2022-017	City Center Drive, Corcoran.		2024-017	Pioneer Trail Industrial Park, Corcoran.
2022-018	Big Woods, Rogers.		2024-018	Kwik Trip 1187, Dayton.
2022-022	Cook Lake Highlands, Corcoran.		2024-019	Silver Buckle, Plymouth.
2022-040	Kariniemi Meadows, Corcoran.		2024-020	Woodland Hills, Corcoran.
2022-043	Meander Park and Boardwalk, Medina.		2024-021	Heather Meadows, Third Addn, Corcoran.
			2024-022	Hope Meadows Townhomes, Corcoran.
2023-001	Chankahda Trail Recon Phase 2, Plymouth.		2024-023	Upward Acres, Corcoran.
2023-009	Magnifi Financial, Maple Grove.		2024-024	Dental Associates, Maple Grove.
2023-015	So Fork Rush Creek Evanswood, M Grove		2024-025	Elm Creek Vista, Maple Grove.
2023-020	Dunkirk Square, Maple Grove		2024-026	Brindle Path, Medina.
2023-022	Shores of Sylvan Lake, Rogers.			
2023-023	NORSQ, Maple Grove.			
2023-025	Rogers Mixed Use Improvement.			
2023-029	Dayton Field 4th Addition.			
2023-030	Woodland Hill of Corcoran.			

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