

elm creek

Watershed Management Commission

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Regular Meeting Minutes December 11, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER. A meeting of the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 11:33 a.m., Wednesday, December 11, 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: Lauren Letsche, Corcoran; Mark Lahtinen, Maple Grove; Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; 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); Grace Barcelow, Hennepin County/WMWA; Rachel Dunlap, Hennepin County/Green Corps, and Judie Anderson, JASS.

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

III. Motion by T. Anderson, second by Walraven to approve the **Minutes* of the November 13, 2024, meeting.** *Motion carried unanimously.*

IV. Motion by Walraven, second by Trainor to approve the **December Treasurer's Report and Claims*** totaling \$361,593.98. *Motion carried unanimously.*

V. OPEN FORUM.

[Katzner arrived 11:35 a.m.; Cesnik arrived 11:37 a.m.]

VI. PROJECT REVIEW.

2024-026 Brindle Path, Medina. This project is an approximately 20-acre development located north of Chippewa Road and west of Mohawk Drive. The project proposes 35 new single-family lots and associated streets, utilities and stormwater. The project triggers Commission rules D, E, G and I. In their findings dated December 4, 2024, Staff recommended approval of the project with five conditions. Motion by Trainor, second by Cesnik to approve Staff's recommendations. *Motion carried unanimously.*

VII. OLD BUSINESS.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS.

2024 Work Plan in Review. Staff's December 4, 2024, memo* summarizes the actions taken by the Commission in fulfillment of its 2024 Work Plan, which was approved on February 8, 2024. Some highlights include:

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

1. Began updating the Fourth Generation Watershed Management Plan.
2. Continued to move forward on projects funded by BWSR's FY21, FY23 and FY25 Watershed-Based Implementation Funds.
3. Proceeded with several education and outreach initiatives, including targeted lakeshore restoration workshops and projects, and partnered with the Shingle Creek and West Mississippi WMOS on a grant application to fund preparation of a joint Chloride Management Plan.
4. Viewed presentations on two outstanding projects in the watershed – the South Fork Rush Creek Restoration project and the Bottema Wetland Restoration project.

The accompanying Work Plan* summarizes the progress made on each of the actions identified in the 2024 plan. A draft **2025 Work Plan** will be presented at the January 8, 2025, meeting.

IX. FOURTH GENERATION PLAN.

Attached to Staff's December 4, 2024, memo* is the first draft of the in-progress Fourth Generation Plan. It is presented for information and comment and includes notations and highlights where information is still being updated. Staff intend to complete the draft by April. The draft* is available at: [Watershed Management Plan - Elm Creek Watershed](#).

The Fourth Generation Plan is organized differently than previous iterations. The rules and statutes governing plan content specify a variety of information to be included in the land and water inventory. That took up a large amount of space in the Third Gen Plan document. Most of that content, much of which is unchanging, has been moved to a separate Appendix B. Staff are still working on that as the GIS figures are being updated using the new legal boundaries.

Staff are requesting the Commissioners to review and comment on this draft, knowing that there will be several other opportunities to comment, both informally and formally. Also included in the plan budget is the option for Staff to visit each city to present the draft plan to obtain input prior to finalizing the draft in late spring and beginning the formal review process in about June.

Items completed in 2024:

1. A self-assessment
2. Problems and issues identification
3. Goals and strategies identification
4. Review of the education and outreach program
5. Review of progress toward the TMDLs (in progress)
6. Initial discussion on the resiliency analysis

In January-March the following will be completed and added to the Plan:

7. Complete the discussion on resiliency and develop a plan of actions
8. Review the monitoring program and development rules and standards
9. Take submittals from the cities on capital projects and other actions for the Implementation Plan and CIP

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10. Incorporate actions identified in the TMDL 10-year review

X. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES AND UPDATE.

Spector reported that, at its meeting next Wednesday, the BWSR Grant Committee will make its recommendation to the full BWSR board, at which time the Commission will learn if the multi-Commission **Chloride Management Plan** will move forward for funding consideration.

XI. EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH.

A. Included in the meeting packet is a synopsis of the **Conservation Education and Implementation Partnership Pilot**. It focuses on improving water quality through three key strategies designed to reduce barriers to taking conservation action and is funded by contributions from the West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA), Hennepin County, and grants from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).

B. Grace Barcelow's December Update.

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

1. Worked on **chloride pollution media release**. Hennepin County communications leadership decided that the chloride article would be better off as a news release. The article has been reworked and we are working on communicating with newspapers (*StarTribune*, *Sun Post*, *Sun Current*, etc.) and news stations (WCCO, CCX, etc.) to see if any would be interested in picking up the story. Our aim is to get more coverage on WMWA's chloride work and chloride education overall through this approach. Due to this change, I have not yet completed the December media kit. I will be working to get this media kit to communication partners ASAP.

2. Conducted first consultation for the Parkers Lake chloride reduction project.

3. Continued outreach for AAD K12 program.

4. Began conducting consultations at faith-based facilities.

5. Received information on Watershed Connections programming from Mary Karius.

6. Attended MPCA Smart Salting for Parking Lots & Sidewalks Certification Training.

What work will be happening before the January WMWA meeting?

7. Continue outreach to involve middle school classrooms in Adopt-a-Drain K12 program.

8. Continue conducting outreach and consultations for Parkers Lake Chloride reduction project.

9. Begin working with facilities to identify what resources could be provided to reduce chloride use.

10. Continue outreach and consultations for the chloride reduction campaign

targeting faith-based facilities in WMWA territory and consider including other facilities (like homeowner associations) as connections are built out.

11. Continue progressing Southgate Apartment project, and Fish Lake and Eagle Lake water quality improvement projects.

12. Create media strategy. I will discuss general strategies at our next meeting and get feedback to present a full strategy at our January meeting.!

13. Still working on getting a survey together to identify effectiveness of media kits in 2024.

14. Attending Basett Creek, Elm Creek, and Shingle/West Mississippi Commission meetings in December.

B. **West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA)** will meet via Zoom at 8:30 a.m., January 14, 2025.

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 5 of these minutes are discussed in the December 4, 2024, report.

B. Hennepin County Staff Report.*

1. **Stotts 1A/1B/TOHWW, Corcoran.** Plans have been returned from engineering to the landowner for comment. Upon approval, repairs to Top of Hill Water Way will be made before the end of the year (weather permitting). Landowner has been working on installing riprap at the end of 1A grassed waterways. Design work is underway for the waterway component of 1B plans. Draft plans will be submitted to landowner before the end of the calendar year.

2. **City of Corcoran.** The cost share application has been fully executed for this project. County staff are working with City staff to find ideal time and conditions for seeding this month. Field will need to be smoothed with a cultipacker before seeding can be done.

3. **Christian Settling Basin, Dayton.** Construction has begun on the settling basin. All tree grubbing, excavation, and smoothing has been completed. Rip rap at the inlet and outlet will need to be installed along with seeding next year to fully complete. Contractor has installed erosion control measures to prevent sedimentation from bare neighboring field during construction.

4. **Bottema Wetland Repairs.** Freezing ground means construction in/around the wetland areas can no longer occur this year. Selected contractor plans to conduct work early in 2025 once site conditions allow. Project agreements will be extended to allow for construction and restoration activities to continue into 2025.

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

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

C. The Commission received an email* from the **League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust** with links to 2025 coverages, rates, and dividends.

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. The **Solicitation for letters** of interest for legal, technical and administrative services was 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 2:05 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.		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.

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2023-022	Shores of Sylvan Lake, Rogers.		
2023-023	NORSQ, Maple Grove.		2024-028 Osseo New Elementary School, MG
2023-025	Rogers Mixed Use Improvement.		
2023-029	Dayton Field 4th Addition.		
2023-030	Woodland Hill of Corcoran.		

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