

1.0 Introduction and Purpose

The Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission (EC WMC) was formed on February 1, 1973, under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) developed under authority conferred to the member communities by Minnesota Statutes 471.59. The parties to that JPA were Champlin, Corcoran, Dayton, Maple Grove, Medina, Plymouth, and the Hennepin Conservation District. In 1980 Hassen Township joined, followed by Rogers in 1983. Greenfield was also a party to the JPA, but left in 2001. Hassen was fully annexed by Rogers in 2012. The Joint Powers Agreement governing the WMO is included in Appendix A.

The watershed is located in the northwest part of the Minneapolis-St. Paul seven county metropolitan area (Figure 1.1) in the Crow River and Twin Cities Mississippi River basins of the Upper Mississippi River watershed. The Commission's purpose is set forth in Minnesota Statutes 103B.210, Metropolitan Surface Water Planning, which codified the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act of 1982:

- (1) protect, preserve, and use natural surface and groundwater storage and retention systems;
- (2) minimize public capital expenditures needed to correct flooding and water quality problems;
- (3) identify and plan for means to effectively protect and improve surface and groundwater quality;
- (4) establish more uniform local policies and official controls for surface and groundwater management;
- (5) prevent erosion of soil into surface water systems;
- (6) promote groundwater recharge;
- (7) protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and water recreational facilities; and
- (8) secure the other benefits associated with the proper management of surface and ground water.

1.1 FIRST AND SECOND GENERATION PLANS

The Commission adopted its initial Management Plan in 1983 and a Second Generation Plan in 2004. The Second Generation Management Plan was amended three times between 2004 and 2014 (Table 1.1).

Table 1.1. Record of revisions to the Second Generation Watershed Management Plan.

Number	Type	Date of Adoption	Summary of Revisions
1	Minor	12-Mar-08	Revises Appendix F. Water Quantity Standards to provide extended detention and/or runoff volume reduction to protect stream channels in the watershed.
2	Major	14-Nov-12	Clarifies process for identifying, prioritizing and funding CIPs. Updates listing of CIP projects, programs and studies. Amends anniversary date of Plan from July 2013 to October 2014.
3	Minor	8-Oct-14	Adopts new Rules and Standards as new Appendix O, and deletes all of existing Appendix F except for certain key policies and standards.

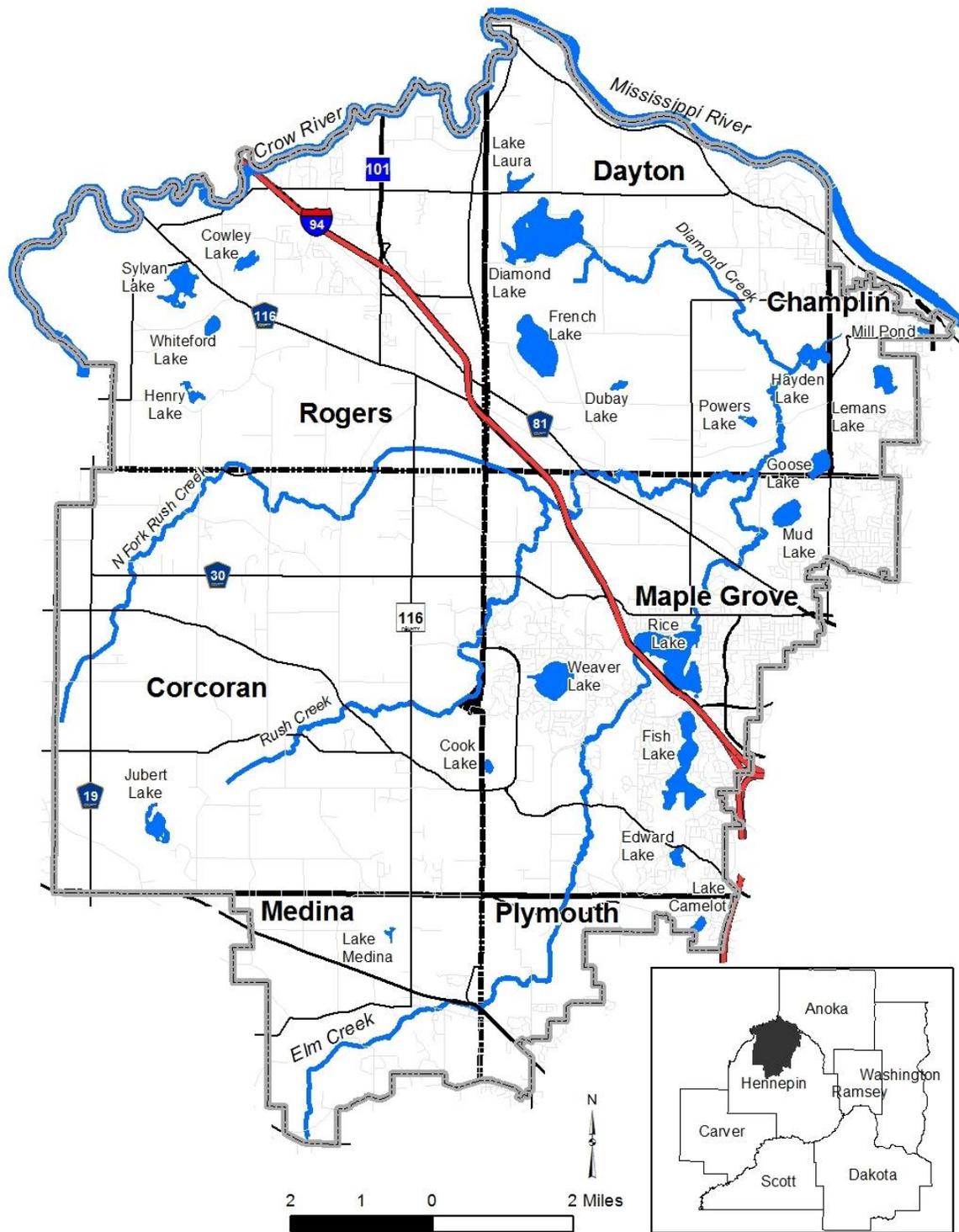


Figure 1.1. The Elm Creek watershed in Hennepin County, Minnesota.

Source: Minnesota DNR. Watershed boundary: Hennepin County Environmental Services.

Minnesota Statutes 103B.201 to 103B.253 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 8410 specify the basic content of the watershed management plan. The plan must:

- Describe the existing physical environment and land use in the area, as well as the proposed environment, land use, and development outlined in existing local and metropolitan comprehensive plans.
- Present information on the hydrologic system and its components and potential problems related thereto.
- State objectives and policies including management principles, alternatives and modifications, water quality, and protection of natural characteristics.
- Set forth a management plan including the desired hydrologic and water quality conditions and significant opportunities for improvement.
- Describe the effect of the plan on existing drainage systems.
- Identify high priority areas for wetland preservation, enhancement, restoration, and establishment and describe conflicts with wetlands and land use in those areas.
- Describe conflicts between the watershed plan and existing plans of Local Governmental Units (LGUs).
- Set forth an implementation program consistent with the management plan that includes a capital improvement program, standards, and schedules for amending the comprehensive plan and official controls of LGUs in the watershed to bring conformance with the plan.
- Set out procedures and timelines for amending the plan.

1.2 PLAN ORGANIZATION

This plan is divided into four sections:

1 – Introduction and Purpose: Describes the authority and composition of the EC WMC, the purpose of the Surface Water Management Act and the components of this watershed management plan.

2 – Inventory and Condition Assessment: A physical inventory of the watershed, it includes a profile of the watershed's existing environmental conditions. This profile contains descriptions of the area's geology, topography, soils, biological and human environment, and current land use and projected land use to the year 2020. This section also contains information on the lakes, streams, and wetlands in the watersheds.

3 – Watershed Organization and Operations: This section provides information about the Commission, how it is organized, its history, and its responsibilities, and discusses ongoing operations. This section also provides an evaluation of the successes of the Second Generation Plan and the areas where the Commission may have fallen short of its goals for the 2003-2014 period.

4 – Implementation Plan: This section sets forth the goals the Commission will work to achieve in the ten-year period covered by this Plan, and descriptions of the Commission's proposed operating programs, the Capital Implementation Program, and a discussion of implementation costs and financing. It also discusses the methods by which the Commission will evaluate progress towards achieving the goals set forth in the Plan, the process that will be followed should this Plan need to be Amended, and the requirements for Local Surface Water Management Plans prepared by the member cities in the watershed.