



April 11, 2022

Mr. Doug Baines
Chair
Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission
3235 Fernbrook Lane
Plymouth, MN 55447

Dear Mr. Baines,

At the March 2022 Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission (ECWMC) meeting, the Commission approved a scope of work and budget for Stantec to update the modeling work for the Elm Creek Watershed for the Twin Cities HUC8 project. I commend the Commission for taking this step. There are several ways the previously submitted modeling can be improved, and it seems likely that the approved scope of work will result in improved and more accurate modeling.

ECWMC completed a third-party review and submitted comments and recommendations to MN DNR in a memorandum dated January 22, 2022. MN DNR responded to the comments and recommendations in a memorandum dated February 14, 2022 (attached). The RFP for the scope of work ECWMC approved in March was sent on February 18.

One of the recommendations included in the 2-14-2022 memorandum was not included in the RFP or the approved scope of work. Since this item was not discussed at the March TAC meeting nor at the March ECWMC meeting, I would like to request the ECWMC to consider this recommendation and potentially amend the scope of work approved in March. The recommendation stated:

“Some watersheds contain significant lengths of multiple streams, and then the flows generated from the HEC-HMS model are distributed proportionally to each stream. We recommend that the Commission subdivide those watersheds to more accurately model flows going to each stream and to create a more direct correlation between HEC-HMS results and flows used in the HEC-RAS model. Examples include but are not limited to EC35, EC26, EC19, EC16, EC3, DC1, RC2, SFRC2, and SFRC7.”

For additional clarification, the watershed subdivisions could be limited to those watersheds listed above.

As the recommendation states, subdividing these watersheds will improve the model accuracy and create a better correlation between the hydrology (HEC-HMS) results and the hydraulic (HEC-RAS) model. This task could also impact the recalibration of the model, which is a task included in the scope of work. Therefore, this task should be completed prior to recalibrating the model.

We recognize that this additional task will result in additional cost for ECWMC; however, as a reminder, MN DNR is also completing additional work at no cost to ECWMC. MN DNR has agreed to complete the creation of the

floodplain delineations and depth grids for the revised modeling on behalf of the Commission. These were deliverables had a budgeted cost of \$16,000 ECWMC's scope of work with Barr Engineering. If MN DNR did not agree to complete this work with the floodplain delineations and depth grids, then the Commission would need to complete these tasks for the revised model to be accepted.

Sincerely,

Jeff Weiss, PE, CFM
Floodplain and Surface Water Engineer

CC: Judie Anderson, JASS

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