

elm creek Watershed Management Commission

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
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www.elmcreekwatershed.org

March 4, 2026

Representatives

and

Technical Advisory Committee Members
Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission
Hennepin County, Minnesota

The meeting packet for this meeting may be found on the Commission's website:
<http://www.elmcreekwatershed.org/minutes-meeting-packets.html>

Dear Representatives and Members:

A regular meeting of the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission will be held on **Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 11:30 a.m.** at Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Avenue North, Plymouth, MN. We will meet in the **Aspen Room** on the main level.

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will convene at 11:00 a.m., prior to the regular meeting..

Please email me at judie@jass.biz to confirm whether you or your Alternate will be attending the regular meeting.

Thank you.



Judie A. Anderson

Administrator

JAA:tim

Encls: Meeting Packet

cc:	Alternates	Eric Osterdyk	Diane Spector	Rebecca Carlson	Grace Neumiller
	TAC Members	Karen Galles	Kris Guentzel	Kevin Ellis	Brian Vlach
	DNR	BWSR	Met Council	MPCA	City Clerks
	Reviewing Agencies			Official Newspaper	

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

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Watershed Management Commission

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AGENDA

Technical Advisory Committee

March 11, 2026 | 11:00 a.m.

1. Call to Order.
 - a. Approve agenda.*
 - b. Approve minutes of last meeting.*
2. Proposed Amendment to 2026 CIP.*
3. Cost Share Requests – Fish and Rice Lake Associations.*
4. WMWA Strategic Planning – Update.
5. Other Business.
6. Next TAC meeting – April 8, 2026.
7. Adjournment.

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*in meeting packet
**available at meeting

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Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes | September 10, 2025

I. A meeting of the **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** of the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., in the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Avenue North, Plymouth, MN, by Vice Chair Ben Scharenbroich.

Present: Heather Nelson and Steven Touney, Champlin; Lauren Letsche, Corcoran; Josh Accola and Ben Otto, Stantec, Dayton; Shane Awalt, Maple Grove; Dusty Finke, Medina; Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; Mike Albers, Rogers; Kevin Ellis, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Diane Spector and Erik Megow, Stantec; and Judie Anderson, JASS.

Also present: Laura Rescorla, WSB, for item IV.

II. Motion by Accola, second by Touney to approve the **Agenda of the September 10, 2025 meeting.*** *Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion by Touney, second by Albers to approve the **Notes of the August 13, 2025 meeting.*** *Motion carried unanimously.*

III. **FOURTH GENERATION WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

A. The Commission submitted its Fourth Generation Watershed Management Plan to Metro State reviewing agencies on June 16, 2025. Following the 60-day review period, Stantec reviewed and compiled the received comments and provided recommended responses that are attached to their September 3, 2025 memo.*

The Commission received comments from BWSR, Metropolitan Council, Hennepin County, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), and the Minnesota Department of Health (as well on September 9, 2025, from the DNR). Many comments were easily addressed, and a marked up version of the plan is attached or can be found at [Watershed Management Plan - Elm Creek Watershed](#).

B. There are two comments for further discussion.

1. BWSR suggested that since the Plan likely was not going to be adopted before the end of 2025, the date of the plan could be revised from 2025-2034 to 2026-2035. *Staff recommend this change.*

2. Several agencies requested that some of the goals be revised to be more specific and add more measurability. Staff have reviewed the proposed revisions below with BWSR and they have commented that we're going "in the right direction." *Staff recommend these changes:*

Priority 1: Water Quality:

1. → ~~Make measurable progress in achieving state water quality and ecological standards in the Impaired Waters and protect those that are not Impaired.~~
- 2.1. Reduce summer average TP concentration in Diamond Lake to 90 ug/L or better and improve TP, chl-a and clarity in Rice Lake by 10% from the 2013-2024 summer averages.
- 3.2. Achieve stable or improving water quality trends (TP, chl-a and clarity in lakes and TP and TSS in streams) where there ~~is no designated impairment is sufficient data available to determine a trend.~~

¶

Priority 2: Water Quantity and Groundwater:

1. → Maintain the current flood profile of Elm Creek and tributaries.
1. → ~~Achieve no net increase in runoff volume or rates of discharge from development and redevelopment.~~
2. → ~~Limit new volumes and rates of runoff~~ to reduce potential for flooding, erosive velocities and streambank erosion.
3. → Foster groundwater recharge.

Motion by Scharenbroich, second by Accola to recommend these changes to the Commission.
Motion carried unanimously.

IV. CARTWAY BRIDGE.*

A. The City of Champlin submitted a project request* to the Third Generation Plan CIP for the reconstruction of the Elm Creek crossing at Cartway Road, which is just upstream of Mill Pond. Since the submittal, the City has been working with the DNR to define that agency's design requirements for the culvert and to complete the DNR and Commission required H & H modeling.

The City is now prepared to present this project to the TAC for a determination of watershed benefit and the amount of cost share the Commission would be willing to contribute to this project. The City is preparing bid documents and would like to convey the amount of watershed cost share to expect when it brings the contract to the City Council later this year. This project would be on the Commission's 2026 CIP.

B. WSB's September 3, 2025 memo* documents the benefits to Elm Creek as a result of the bridge replacement and the City's request for cost share participation from the Commission.

Elm Creek is impaired for aquatic life and aquatic recreation and has TMDLs approved for chloride, dissolved oxygen (DO), E. coli, fish bioassessments, benthic macroinvertebrate bioassessments, and total suspended solids (TSS).

1. Habitat Benefits. The proposed crossing is conducive to aquatic organism passage. The mean 2-year velocity through the culverts is 1.5 fps. Aquatic organism passage through culverts is facilitated by 2-year velocities of less than 2 fps and a natural culvert bottom. The 2-year velocity range of the channel upstream and downstream of the culvert is 1.2 fps to 3.3 fps. The bottom of the box culverts will be filled with one foot of native sediment mixed with riprap class I. The City has steadily restored Elm Creek and Mill Pond over the last decade. The Cartway Bridge is the last remaining hydraulic and creek improvement in this segment.

The widened culvert opening to more closely mimic bankfull conditions aligns with the creek restoration that has been completed upstream and down and restores aquatic connectivity. This aligns with the Commission's Third Generation Plan by incorporating habitat improvements (within the culvert crossing) into projects to improve biotic integrity.

2. Water Quality Benefits. The proposed crossing will reduce velocities in and around the crossing, resulting in reduced erosion and decreased sediment load transport downstream. The 90-degree bend in the stream upstream of the crossing naturally provides an area where velocities decrease in the stream. Getting closer to bankfull width with the proposed crossing will further reduce velocities and scour. Using BWSR's Water Erosion Pollution Reduction Estimator, the proposed crossing reduces downstream loading by approximately 0.28 tons of sediment/TSS and 0.23 lbs. of TP per year. This high-level estimate assumes sandy soil and prevention of 100 cf of eroded volume over 20 years. This aligns with the Third Gen Plan by reducing the potential for erosion and sedimentation around this crossing of Elm Creek, reducing TP and TSS loads.

3. Floodplain Benefits. The proposed crossing decreases the floodplain elevation and width upstream, reducing flood risk along this portion of Elm Creek. Although this doesn't remove any existing structures from the floodplain, it provides additional protection from future flooding, particularly considering a changing climate. The proposed crossing increases the opening area from 290 sf to 371 sf, increasing conveyance capacity. This aligns with the Third Gen Plan and goals as it is the statutory responsibility of the Commission to prevent and mitigate flooding.

C. Cost. The estimated construction cost for the Cartway Bridge Replacement Project is \$2,037,000. 25% of the construction cost is \$509,000; the maximum amount that could be funded via the Commission. The City of Champlin is requesting the Commission to consider a CIP cost share of \$250,000 or 12% of the construction cost.

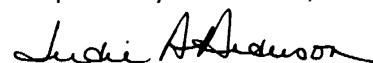
Motion by Touney, second by Albers to recommend approval of this project and the requested amount to the Commission. *Motion carried unanimously.*

V. OTHER BUSINESS.

The **next meeting** of the Technical Advisory Committee is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, November 12, 2025.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Judie A. Anderson

Recording Secretary

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To: Elm Creek WMO TAC

From: Eric Osterdyk, PE
Diane Spector

Date: March 4, 2026

Subject: Proposed Amendment to 2026 Annual CIP

Recommended TAC Action

Review proposed CIP amendment adding one project to the 2026 annual CIP and recommend the Commission undertake a Minor Plan amendment.

Earlier this year the Commission requested that cities submit any proposed revisions to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The City of Maple Grove submitted one project that it requested be added to the 2026 annual CIP.

The Fourth Generation Plan allows the Commissions to reschedule projects from year to year without going through a formal amendment process, and to revise the costs or scope of projects as more information becomes known. However, *adding* projects to the CIP requires a Minor Plan Amendment (MPA). This is a multistep process that involves notifying various parties, allowing for a comment period, holding a public meeting to discuss the amendment, and if it involves the capital levy, approval by Hennepin County. This process can take 2-3 months. The Annual CIP process begins early in the year since Hennepin County considers CIP MPA's and maximum levy requests in June- July of each year.

The project proposed by Maple Grove (see Exhibit A attached), is the restoration/stabilization of about 1,500 linear feet of Elm Creek upstream of Elm Road. Some of this reach runs through the city's Elm Creek Valley Linear Park and a bicycle/pedestrian trail provides access.

The City of Maple Grove has been actively working to stabilize and improve Elm, Rush, and South Fork Rush Creeks to improve water quality and ecological integrity. This project is consistent with the Elm Creek TMDL and meets the Commission's CIP cost share guidelines.

After TAC review, the next step is to recommend that the Commission at its April 2026 meeting initiate a Minor Plan Amendment process to add this project to the CIP. Table 1 below shows the proposed 2026 annual CIP with this addition. With the proposed project the potential 2026 levy could slightly exceed the desirable maximum levy of \$750,000. However, some of these projects are still undergoing feasibility studies that may adjust the project cost and subsequent levy contribution.

Table 1. 2026 annual CIP with proposed amendment.

PROJECT	FUNDING
<i>City Cost Share Program</i>	
Commission Contribution-Capital Levy	0
Local Contribution	
<i>Partnership Cost Share Program</i>	
Commission Contribution-Capital Levy	0
Local Contribution	
<i>Diamond Lake Internal Load Improvement</i>	
Commission Contribution-Capital Levy	330,000
Local Contribution	0
<i>Reconstruct Bridge at Cartway and Elm Creek</i>	
Commission Contribution-Capital Levy	250,000
Local Contribution	1,910,000
<i>Fish and Rice Lakes Carp Management</i>	
Commission Contribution-TBD	100,000
Local Contribution	TBD
<i>Maple Grove Street Sweeper</i>	
Commission Contribution-Capital Levy	100,000
Local Contribution	300,000
<u><i>Elm Creek Valley Stream Restoration</i></u>	
<u>Commission Contribution-Capital Levy</u>	<u>150,000</u>
<u>Local Contribution</u>	<u>450,000</u>
SUBTOTAL Commission Contribution-TBD	100,000
SUBTOTAL Commission Contribution-Capital Levy	830,000
SUBTOTAL Local Contribution	2,660,000
TOTAL	3,590,000

EXHIBIT A

**Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission
Capital Improvement Project Submittal**

Revised January 2025

A second page may be used to provide complete responses.

City	Maple Grove	Date 1/12/26
Contact Name	Derek Asche	
Telephone	763.494.6354	
Email	dasche@maplegrovern.gov	
Project Name	Elm Creek Valley Stream Restoration	
Project Location	Elm Creek South of Elm Road	

	Amount
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$ 600,000
Estimated Commission Share (25%) (May split between years but not exceed \$750,000 in any one year)	\$ 150,000
Other Funding Sources - City Funds	\$ 450,000
Other Funding Sources (name them) -	\$ 0

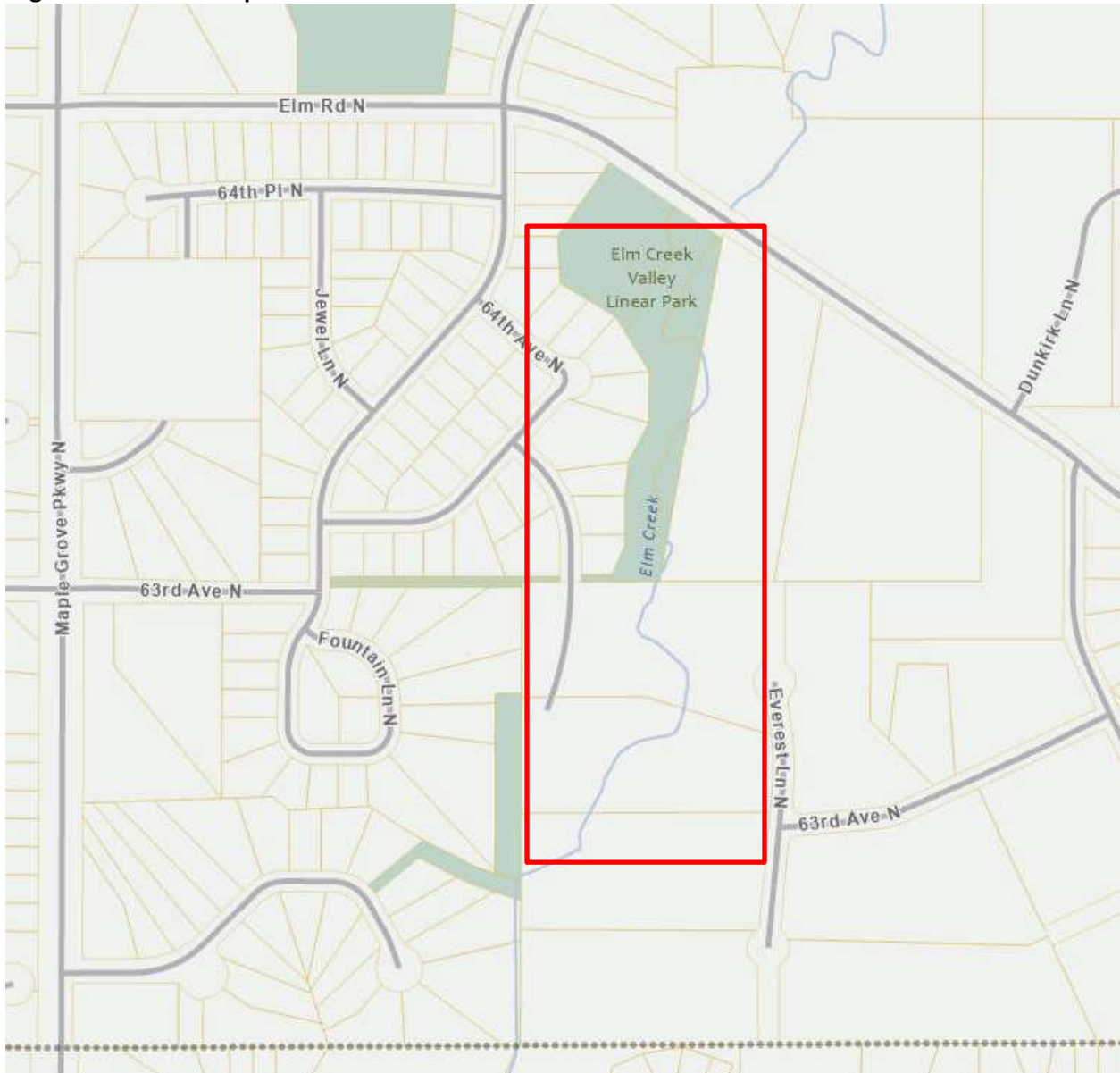
1. Is project in Member's CIP? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Proposed CIP Year = 2026
2. Has a feasibility study or an engineering report been done for this project? If available, attach the feasibility study or relevant section. Feasibility to be completed Jan/Feb 2026	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
3. Describe the project and its purpose. Attach a location figure. What water resource(s) will be impacted by the project? Stream restoration of Elm Creek from Elm Road south for 1,500 linear feet. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has identified excess sediment, low dissolved oxygen, E. coli, and insufficient fish/invertebrate assessments as primary stressors on this portion of the creek. A stream restoration will address the stressors identified by the MPCA, meet total maximum daily load goals for the city, and provide ecological benefit to the area.	
4. What is the anticipated improvement that would result? (Size of area treated, TP/TSS reduction, other benefits.) Estimated phosphorus reduction of 100 lbs per year, improved riparian environment, improved recreation and access to the creek, improved education.	
5. How does the project contribute to achieving the goals and programs of the Commission? The Commission has long supported projects in communities that will improve water resources to reduce or prevent impairments and to reach goals of Total Maximum Daily Load Plans.	
6. Does the project result from a TMDL or a Subwatershed Assessment? Which one? Elm Creek Watershed TMDL's for Elm Creek.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
7. Does the project have an educational component? Describe. City parkland sits adjacent to half of the creek with existing and planned trails. Future development will provide additional space for parks/trails.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
8. Do all the parties sharing in the cost of the project agree to go forward with this project and is the funding secured?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

To be completed by staff

Date Reviewed by TAC	Date Added to CIP
CIP Project Number	

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Figure 1. Location map.



To: Elm Creek WMO Commissioners
Elm Creek TAC

From: Eric Osterdyk, PE
Diane Spector

Date: March 4, 2026

Subject: Cost Share Requests from the Fish and Rice Lake Associations

**Recommended TAC/
Commission Action**

TAC: Review and make a recommendation to the Commission
Commission: Consider awarding each lake association \$5,000 in partnership cost share.

The Elm Creek Convene Group allocated \$49,050 of its 2025-2027 Watershed-based Implementation Funding (WBIF) towards developing a comprehensive carp management plan for Fish and Rice Lake. A nuisance population of these bottom-feeding fish above a certain “carrying capacity” threshold is detrimental to water quality and ecological integrity in lakes. Alum treatment on Fish Lake several years ago and other actions in the watershed improved water quality so that it now meets state standards and has been removed from the list of Impaired Waters. Rice Lake continues to experience degraded water quality. The Fish Lake and Rice Lake associations have been actively working to help manage the rough fish population to protect Fish Lake and help improve Rice Lake.

That WBIF funding was used to contract with WSB Associates to conduct additional investigative work, including updating population estimates and movement tracking studies. Most of that work is complete and that data will be reviewed this spring by a working group of city, lake association, Three Rivers, and watershed staff. This group will prepare a multi-year action plan for activities such as carp removals and design, installation, and maintenance of carp barriers. It will also include a plan for how these activities will be funded on an ongoing basis. That management plan is expected to be completed by mid-summer 2026.

In the meantime, both the Fish Lake Area Residents’ Association (FLARA) and the Rice Lake Area Association (RLAA) have submitted funding requests to the City of Maple Grove Lake Quality Commission to help fund carp box netting in the lakes this summer (see attached). The Fish Lake work is estimated at \$14,492 and the Rice Lake work is \$12,205. Both associations propose to provide a 10% cash match and in-kind labor to help with the box netting.

Both associations have requested the Commission to consider contributing funding for this work in 2026. While we would prefer that this work wait until the master plan is finalized, additional box netting will be a future action. *Staff would support a \$5,000 contribution from the Partnership Cost Share program to each association.* The program has a balance of about \$140,000.