

elm creek Watershed Management Commission

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
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www.elmcreekwatershed.org

September 3, 2025

Representatives
Elm Creek Watershed Management
Commission Hennepin County, MN

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

Dear Representatives:

A regular meeting of the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission will be held on **Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 11:30 a.m.** at Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Avenue North, Plymouth, MN.

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will meet at 10:30 a.m., prior to the regular meeting.

The Commission will suspend its regular meeting at 11:30 a.m. for the purpose of conducting two public hearings.

The first will be a public hearing on three proposed capital improvements:

Project 2025-01:	Diamond Lake Alum Treatment, Phase I, Dayton.
Project 2025-02:	Rush Creek Stream Restoration, Rush Hollow to Fernbrook, Maple Grove.
Project 2025-03:	Corcoran Sweeper, Corcoran.

The second will be a public hearing on the Commission's Draft Fourth Generation Watershed Management Plan.

The regular meeting will resume immediately after the public hearings conclude.

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	Erik Megow	Diane Spector	Rebecca Carlson
	TAC Members	Karen Galles	Kris Guentzel	Kevin Ellis
	City Clerks	Brian Vlach	BWSR	Met Council
	Official Newspaper		DNR	MPCA

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

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AGENDA Technical Advisory Committee September 10, 2025 | 10:30 a.m.

1. Call to Order.
 - a. Approve agenda.*
 - b. Approve minutes of last meeting.*
2. Fourth Generation Plan – comments received.*
3. Champlin Cartway Bridge.*
4. Other Business.
5. Next TAC meeting – October 8, 2025.
6. Adjournment.

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*in meeting packet
**available at meeting

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Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Notes | August 13, 2025

I. A meeting of the **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** of the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order on Wednesday, August 13, 2025, in the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Avenue North, Plymouth, MN, by Vice Chair Ben Scharenbroich.

Present: Steven Touney, Champlin; Lauren Letsche, Corcoran; Josh Accola, Stantec, Dayton; Derek Asche, Maple Grove; Dusty Finke, Medina; Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; Mike Albers, Rogers; Kevin Ellis, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District; Diane Spector and Erik Megow, Stantec; and Judie Anderson, JASS.

II. By motion and second the **August 13, 2025, meeting agenda*** and the **minutes of the May 14, 2025, meeting*** were approved as written.

[Asche arrived and assumed the Chair.]

III. **WMWA STRATEGIC PLAN.***

WMWA has existed as a relatively informal collaborative since 2006, when it was simply a “Joint Education Committee” of SCWM and Bassett Creek. In 2010 it was formalized as WMWA through a funding agreement between SCWM, Bassett Creek, and Elm Creek, and the adoption of the West Metro Education and Outreach Plan.

Often referred to as “a committee of who shows up,” a small group of WMWA participants has been meeting as a working group to frame a strategic planning process to better define the organization, its mission and structure, and develop a long-term vision and pathway to that vision. The goals are two-fold: 1) formalize the organizational structure of this ad hoc group; and 2) define and start building a path toward a fully funded full-time coordinator.

The strategic planning working group has defined four planning steps to be completed in 2025. To start the process, they have prepared a short presentation* providing an overview of WMWA’s history and current functions and some questions for discussion. At this meeting they are requesting the TAC’s input and hope that at least one TAC member will volunteer to participate in a focus group to help further flesh out the strategic plan in step two of the process. Step three is implementing a more formal structure for WMWA than just “who shows up,” including bylaws that establish things like membership, leadership, voting rights, authorizations (hire, fire, contract), etc. Finally, the Education and Outreach Plan is almost ten years old and should be updated.

1. Present strategic planning process to TACs and take input (this meeting).
2. Host one or two focus group meetings of 5-6 TAC volunteers from the four member WMOs plus potentially Richfield-Bloomington and Pioneer-Sarah Creek to flesh out the vision and pathway.

3. Discuss organizational structure options and draft bylaws for current WMWA organization.

4. Update the Education and Outreach Plan.

Discussion:

1. Scharenbroich and Talori Dunsworth have volunteered to participate in the planning process.

2. There should be an emphasis on meeting checking all the NPDES II required education and public outreach minimum measures.

3. Members expressed less interest in individual grants for property owners while expressing interest in increasing outreach to renters.

IV. WEBSITE RFP.*

A small group of representatives from Elm Creek, Shingle Creek, West Mississippi, and Pioneer-Sarah Creek met to review a draft RFP prepared by staff for migrating and refreshing the three websites for the organizations. Included in the meeting packet is a draft* that reflects that group's comments. The group plans to meet one last time for a final review; although no substantive revisions are anticipated at that time. Staff hope to finalize the RFP for distribution by the last week of August.

The recommended actions are 1) discuss and provide feedback; 2) approve the RFP subject to any additional modifications by the working group; and 3) authorize Shingle Creek, acting as the Fiscal and Contracting Agent, to proceed with distributing the RFP. In the interim, Staff will request input from the member cities about potential vendors they have worked with that they would recommend.

The members recommended that the Commission approve the actions above as well as the proposed \$10,000-\$15,000 individual Commission budgets.

V. PROJECT REVIEW PROCESS.*

There has been ongoing discussion regarding how to speed up the process of closing out development project reviews. Typically, the project review has been approved contingent on one or more conditions, and the applicant is able to meet most or all the conditions within 60-90 days. However, especially when there has been delay in starting construction or there is continued redesign, some project reviews remain open for several months or longer. There may be multiple rounds of post-approval review as plans are modified, and the engineer and admin staff must spend time checking in with the applicant and the City to check status, incurring additional costs that are difficult to track and recoup.

Currently, the final review fee reconciliation cannot occur until all the conditions are met and the engineer has reviewed and signed off on them. It is to the Commission's benefit and obligation to close-out these projects as soon as possible, both to collect any outstanding review fees and to refund unused escrow to the applicants in a timely manner.

In July, the Commissioners discussed some procedural changes that would hand over some of the responsibility for post-approval follow-up to the cities. The project review is not a permit, it is a recommendation to the city to be considered as part of the city's own approval process. Cities have

their own lists of conditions for individual developments, so adding any pending watershed conditions should not be onerous, and some cities already include these conditions with their permits. Based on that discussion, Staff suggest modifying the project review administrative process as follows:

1. The reviewing engineer will continue to work with applicants during the project review process to resolve issues with their plans to limit the scope, complexity, and number of conditions of approval. Once a project is approved by the Commission, JASS will continue to send out a Notice of Conditional Approval to the City, cc'ing the applicant and their engineer/representative. This Notice lists pending conditions and will ask for their resolution within 30 days, noting that once all conditions are satisfied the escrow will be reconciled within 60-90 days. Stantec and Resilience Resources will ensure that they bill monthly to provide for that timely reconciliation.

2. After 30 days, the engineer will review conditional items with the City to discuss their resolution and any outstanding items. Unless the City requests the Commission's help with any outstanding conditions, JASS will send the City a Notice of Commission Project Review Closure, cc'ing the applicant and their engineer/representative. That notice will list any pending conditions and notify them that the Commission is handing over their resolution to the City and its development review process.

3. Following confirmation that the engineer has billed all the project review and follow-up time, JASS will begin the escrow reconciliation process.

4. Once the Commission has handed over the project review to the City, re-submittals after 90 days of approval by the Commission will require an additional non-refundable \$1,000 fee.

5. Approved projects that have not commenced within one year will continue to require full re-submittal (including all fees) and re-approval. This is a current requirement that is currently not always enforced depending on the individual circumstances of the development review.

Discussion:

1. Consider extending the application period to two weeks prior to the meeting packet deadline date.

2. Consider omitting step 2, above, regarding the Notice of Review Closure.

The members recommended approving the modifications as outlined in steps 1-5, above.

VI. NORTH FORK RUSH CREEK REMEANDER FEASIBILITY STUDY.*

In April 2023, the Commission authorized the North Fork Rush Creek Remeander Study, funded by a Watershed-based Implementation Funding (WBIF) grant from BWSR, which expires on December 31, 2025. The impetus for this was the pending acquisition by Rogers of a large tract of high-quality maple-basswood forest south of the creek known as Steig Woods. The City intends to manage the site as open space with limited access and is interested in enhancements to the surrounding area, including re-meandering the creek.

The Study Area is between Fletcher Lane (CSAH 116) and Brockton Lane (CSAH 101). The creek in this Study Area is part of County Ditch #21. The North Fork is an Impaired Water listed for low dissolved oxygen (DO) and fish and macroinvertebrate assessments. A future county road extension and regional trail are planned to cross the stream within the Study Area. This Feasibility Study was in-

tended to evaluate potential improvements to the creek, to both address the impairments and to accommodate the future alignment of the county road extension. The full report is posted on the website at [Minutes & Meeting Packets - Elm Creek Watershed](#).

Some potential design options were previously reviewed by the TAC. Those options have been refined and further developed, and probable costs estimated. At this meeting Staff:

1. Presented and discussed the refined design options and their benefits and costs
2. Discussed options for moving forward
3. Discussed TAC recommendations to take to the Commission in September

Staff requested additional comments by August 22.

VII. FOURTH GENERATION WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN.

Formal review comments are due August 16, 2025.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS.

The **next meeting** of the Technical Advisory Committee is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 10, 2025.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Judie A. Anderson

Recording Secretary

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To: Elm Creek WMO Commissioners
Elm Creek TAC

From: Erik Megow, PE
Diane Spector

Date: September 3, 2025

Subject: Fourth Generation Watershed Management Plan Public Hearing

**Recommended TAC/
Commission Action**

Discuss written comments and proposed responses. Approve the recommended revisions. Hold public hearing and take any comments. By motions, authorize sending Plan to BWSR for approval.

In accordance with Minnesota Statutes 103B.231, which sets out the watershed management plan process for Metro area Watershed Management Organizations (WMOs), the Commission must hold a public hearing on the draft Fourth Generation Watershed Management Plan no sooner than 14 days following completion of the 60-Day review period, which ended August 16, 2025. The purpose of the hearing is to provide a forum for the public, government agencies, and member cities to provide comments on the goals, management strategies and work plan proposed for the ten year period 2025-2034.

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 this memo. Upon completion of the hearing a record of the hearing and all comments received and responses made must be forwarded to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), which then has up to 90 days in which to consider approving the Plan. Once BWSR has approved the Plan, which may not be until December, the Commission has 120 days in which to adopt it. The Commission should plan to adopt the Plan at the December 2025 or January 2026 meeting.

The Commission received comments from BWSR, Metropolitan Council, Hennepin County, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), and the Minnesota Department of Health. 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](#).

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 **recommends this change**.
- 2) Several agencies requested that some of the goals be revised to be more specific and add more measurability. We have reviewed the proposed revisions below with BWSR and they have commented that we're going 'in the right direction.' **Staff recommends 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.

Number	Plan Page	Comment	Response
BWSR: JEN DULLUM			
1	n/a	Several comments noting typographic, citation, or nomenclature corrections are not listed separately here	Thank you for noting, all corrections have been made
2	E.1 +	Consider Plan start date of 2026 since plan adoption may occur late 2025.	Good point, Commission will consider it at the hearing.
3	2.6	It is not clear who manages ditches. Please consider expanding on this to make clear the ditch authority for all ditch sections. (p. 2.6)	Revised to clarify that Hennepin County manages the numbered county ditches, and private property owners manage private ditches.
4	4.2	Did the Commission consider initial input from plan review authorities when identifying priority issues? How do initial input concerns and issues align with the 4th Generation Priority Issues? Can a summary of the input received and a description of the assessment process be provided?	Yes, the Commission reviewed the input from agencies at the plan kickoff meeting in June 2024. Much of the agency input reinforced the priority areas the Commission had already identified that should be an important focal area in the plan. Added some clarifying text to 4.1.1.
5	4.2	Once the priority issues were developed it is unclear how they were prioritized	It was a discussion and consensus; there wasn't a ranking or formal process.
6		The Plan must contain specific measurable goals. Many of the goals and strategies in this plan are general actions and are not considered measurable. Making the goals and strategies more quantifiable will aid in assessing your progress toward implementing the Plan. For example, the Priority 1, Goal 1 is to "Make measurable progress in achieving state water quality and ecological standards..." By how much? What improvements would you like to work toward/are feasible over the next 10 years?	Will consider rewording to delete "measurable progress" and set numerical goals based on desired outcomes. 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. 2) Achieve stable or improving water quality trends (TP, chl-a and clarity in lakes and TP and TSS in streams) where there is sufficient data to determine a trend.
7	4.5	Priority 2 - Evaluating Progress, provides an example of where a measurable goal has been set (no net increase). Consider using as Plan goal.	Will consider adding no net increase in runoff volumes and rates as a numeric goal.
8	4.5	The 8410 plan content requirements state that "organizations shall establish goals to address groundwater issues identified within the area of the organization in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Master Water Supply Plan, or the Metropolitan Council's subsequent equivalent, and source water protection plans." Please ensure this Plan reflects the issues identified in those plan(s).	Added some text regarding the Commission's voluntary actions for groundwater/source water as suggested in the Master Water Supply Plan.
9	4.5	An annual communication is required. If you plan to use your annual report as this communication tool, how will you ensure that it reaches your Watershed residents?	The annual report is posted on the website and provided to the member cities with a request that they inform their residents and property owners.
10	4.24	How will you address the process for evaluating implementation of local water plans and the procedure to address an LGU failing to implement its local water plan or parts of its local water plan as part of 8410?	Revised section 4.4 to clarify that the Commission evaluates adequacy of implementation as part of the LWMP update review process. Failure would be dealt with on a case by case basis under the provisions of the JPA.
11	B.19.	Please let us know if you will be providing an updated wetland table as percentages may have changed since 2013. Also, will you be providing an inventory of priority wetland areas in the Watershed?	The 2013 NWI update is the most recent for the East-Central region. The Commission does not independently track changes since then.
12	D.1	Please also remember that water quantity trends should be a part of data collection to help guide management decisions.	Added some trend information to Appendix B. The lake report cards produced annually show trends.
MET COUNCIL: STEVE CHRISTOPHER			
13	n/a	Several comments noting typographic, citation, or nomenclature corrections are not listed separately here	Thank you for noting, all corrections have been made
14		Priority 1 Goal 1. How is "measurable progress" defined? Specifically, in waters where multiple parameters are trending in different directions, how will success be defined?	Will consider rewording to delete "measurable progress" and set numerical goals based on desired outcomes. (see #6)
15		Priority 2 Goal 3. The Met Council has developed a technical memo: Identifying Priority Areas for Recharge Protection and Enhancement Activities in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Region that could be used to inform the ECWMC's implementation on groundwater recharge	We have reviewed the memo and the Elm Creek watershed area is 57% low priority and 40% moderate for Recharge Protection and Enhancement Activities. Higher priority areas are along the Crow and Mississippi River corridors. This data will be considered as part of the Resiliency Plan to assist in siting potential regional storage and infiltration BMPs.
16	n/a	Ensure the plan is Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant	Microsoft Word accessibility checker shows it is compliant.
HENNEPIN COUNTY: KRIS GUENTZEL			
17	n/a	Several comments noting typographic, citation, or nomenclature corrections are not listed separately here	Thank you for noting, all corrections have been made
18	2.6	Narrative text is correct. In addition, Hennepin County is interested in working with the Watershed and its participating cities, along with the DNR, during the plan period to transfer or abandon agricultural ditches which no longer serve that purpose and have benefited areas that are fully developed. Two ditches referenced in the plan, Ditch 22 in Maple Grove and Ditch 16 in Maple Grove and Corcoran, serve benefitted areas that are now or will soon be fully developed.	Thank you, we will pass that along to the cities.
19	3.2	Text in third paragraph lays out options for how the Commission may raise funds but doesn't say what they actually do. Please clarify that, either or both as it relates to current and future operations.	The text has been modified to make that clearer.

Number	Plan Page	Comment	Response
20	3.3	Comment suggested text to include describing the County's role in preserving soil health; operating as the soil and water conservation district; and the developing Watershed Connections program.	The text has been modified to make that clearer.
21	4.2-4.7	County staff were impressed with the goals and strategies outlined in the document, particularly commitments the Commission is making to further enhance partnerships in our cost share and West Metro Water Alliance programming.	Thank you.
22	4.3-4.4	In the narrative text proceeding the goals, please clarify why Diamond Lake and Rice Lake were chosen above other impaired lakes to have specific water quality goals while other impaired lakes just had a 'make measurable progress' goal assigned.	Text was added explaining that these lakes were prioritized because they were impaired waters where sustained and focused actions could most likely make a measurable improvement.
23	4.4	Redevelopment opportunities frequently provide partners with our best opportunities to reclaim and/or improve lost or degraded natural resources. The County recommends at least one of the goals in Sections 4.2.1 to 4.2.4 reference this opportunity and one or more of the strategies outline a process for improving coordination between the watershed, city, county, and any other relevant partners to achieve water quality and quantity goals beyond minimum requirements for the development or re-development to proceed.	We agree. The Commission relies on voluntary actions and includes incentives for preservation and restoration of natural resources such as woodlands and grasslands in the form of credits toward meeting the requirements of the Rules and Standards. The Commission is happy to coordinate with the cities and county but ultimately this falls under the cities' land use authorities.
24	4.13	Hennepin County is coordinating the Natural Resources Partner Coalition (NRPC), which seeks to engage with ECWMC and its member cities to collate disparate sources of data and information that are relevant to natural systems planning, use that information to help partners develop strategies to put planning into action, and to provide technical assistance or create resources necessary to support members of the coalition to elevate the role of natural systems in creating healthy, thriving, and resilient communities. The work and resources of the NRPC will be helpful to communities to meet new minimum requirements in the 2050 comprehensive planning process related to natural systems and climate change. We recommend that the watershed include a reference to the NRPC in this, or another relevant section of the plan, as it is likely to provide some of the planning tools outlined in this section.	Updated the bullets under Phase 1: Resiliency Framework Planning: 2025-2028 to add a strategy to coordinate with the NRPC and other agencies early in the process.
MDH: DERECK RICHTER			
25	n/a	Various references to Minnesota Statutes 103B.201 are referred to in the plan as 103B.210. Review all statutory references to ensure they are correct	Noted, corrections have been made.
26	n/a	It is important that the plan acknowledge that the Watershed is upstream of the drinking water intakes for the Minneapolis and St. Paul public water systems. The entirety of the Watershed is within Priority Area B and a portion of Priority Area A of the surface water Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA-SW) for the Minneapolis and St. Paul public water supply systems. It is noted that the Priority Area A and B delineations will be revised in a future Source Water Assessment (SWA) to re-identify these areas as the Emergency Response Area (ERA) and Spill Management Area (SMA). Recommendation: Should add in language in the Education and Outreach Program section and Exposure & Sensitivity. You can use the language provided in the first round of comments that were submitted.	Section 2.5 notes that the Mississippi River is a drinking water source for the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, and the watershed is within the Priority Areas A and B of the surface water Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA-SW) for those public water supply systems. Added text to section 4.2.4 resiliency that a concern that will be considered in the Climate Resiliency and Sustainability Plan is the potential impacts of increased runoff and soil/bank erosion might have on drinking water sources, including the Minneapolis and St Paul intakes.
27	E.4, 4.5	Recommend adding additional information about groundwater in the plan to meet requirements and to reflect the importance of groundwater, as all communities in the watershed rely on groundwater for drinking water. This includes many private drinking water wells. Consider including impacts to groundwater quality in addition to groundwater quantity when evaluating stormwater BMPs to protect surficial groundwater. Additionally, groundwater could be addressed through promoting the proper maintenance of private wells and the sealing of unused wells in education and outreach efforts.	Limiting or prohibiting infiltration in sensitive areas is already detailed in the commission's rules and standards. Hennepin County manages a well sealing grant program and provides education and outreach to residents and the cities to share; the Commission will ensure that messaging is available on our website.
28	3.4	Recommend rewording the section to more accurately reflect the EH Division programs:[suggested text]	Modified as requested.
29	4.4	Consider recommending LGUs incorporate continuous potential contaminant source management at locations identified as high priority for the Minneapolis and St. Paul public water supply systems once their updated Source Water Assessments (SWAs) are published. The updated SWAs will contain delineated ERAs and SMAs (see general comment above), as well as an inventory of potential contaminant sources for these areas.	Thank you, we will pass this along to our member cities.
30	4.6	When working on resiliency and climate adaptation, consider impacts to both surface water and groundwater sources of drinking water. Examples include impacts of increased erosion and overall volume of water on drinking water intakes along the Mississippi River, and impacts of flooding on private wells (recommend including wells in "infrastructure that may be at long-term risk of flooding"). Please reach out to MDH Source Water Protection staff as needed regarding this.	Added text to section 4.2.4 to this effect.
31	4.8	Suggest adding under "Key requirements of the Rules and Standards" a reference to additional considerations for infiltration BMPs in vulnerable wellhead protection areas, near active karst features, or other locations as listed in your rules. Potential language could be something like "Restrictions or a higher level review may be required in wellhead protection areas or for sites near water supply wells or potential sources of contamination".	Added to the key requirements bullet.
32	App B	The statement here is confusing, as it implies there that this is a summary document only. However, only a few tables and figures appear to be in the Third Generation Plan and not this appendix, so it is much more than just a summary document. Please clarify this statement or just include the few extra tables and figures and omit the statement.	Text has been updated.

Number	Plan Page	Comment	Response
33	App B	This statement implies that all updated information from the Third Generation Plan is included in this appendix, however, there is no DWSMA figure in this plan and nearly all of these areas have changed in the last 10 years. Please include an updated DWSMA figure and/or a link to the MDH Source Water Protection Web Map Viewer.	The member cities have requested that the Plan not include a DWSMA map, but instead refer the reader to the cities or the MDH for more information.
34	B.4	While the 1989 Hennepin County Geologic Atlas shows that the uppermost bedrock in the watershed is generally St. Lawrence and Franconia Formation (now Tunnel City Group), the understanding of the local geology has changed substantially since then. The 2018 Hennepin County Geologic Atlas Part A shows substantially more areas where the Jordan is the uppermost bedrock aquifer, compared to the 1989 atlas. Consider requesting the Minnesota Geological Survey review the relevant sections of Appendix B for accuracy in light of the updated atlas.	Thank you for this information.
35	B.16	Recommend acknowledging that the Mississippi River is a source of drinking water for Minneapolis and St. Paul. This makes the Mississippi River a Class 1 water. Consider including a map of the current Priority Areas A and B - data can be obtained here: https://gisdata.mn.gov/dataset/water-mgmt-area-surface-water . However, please note that these areas will soon be updated and renamed (see general comment above).	Added text. We prefer not to include a figure.
36	B.22	This first paragraph is a very good description. Consider also showing a figure of this information to assist with visualization.	Thank you. We prefer not to include a figure.
37	B.22	Double check with each city to ensure the information in this section of the Appendix is accurate. DWSMAs in the watershed (even for cities who are not part of the WMC) should be considered in this section of the Appendix as well - see earlier comment regarding a DWSMA figure and the next comment regarding their meaning and relationship to Wellhead Protection Plans	The information is taken from each city's annual water quality report. The member cities prefer that this plan not include a DWSMA figure but refer the reader to them for more information.
38	B.22	All cities that obtain their water from their own groundwater wells have completed Wellhead Protection Plans approved by MDH - please use the correct name for these plans. Maple Hill Estates has completed a Wellhead Protection Action Plan, also approved by MDH. Additionally, the Emergency Response Areas are not the only area of interest for drinking water protection and for the watershed to consider - refer to DWSMAs instead. Suggested reword [suggested language]	Modified as suggested.
MPCA: Amy Timm			
39	n/a	Section 2.0 would be an opportunity to include more details of the demographics of the communities, and Tribal influence in the area.	This is included in Appendix B
40	2.4	Table 2.2 a. Clarify the months for the summer averages; b. Would it be helpful to identify which waters are meeting standards? c. Including changes since the 3rd generation plan may be helpful for prioritization. You could include whether the lake has improved, stayed steady, or decreased in water quality over the past 10 years. This may help identify whether the goal is to protect or restore.	Added a footnote defining summer average. The table indicates which waters are impaired, and which meet water quality standards.
41	2.4	Table 2.3 a. Fish Lake: i. TMDL approved column, keep that it had a TMDL and include it was delisted. ii. Fish IBI – “no TMDL yet” is written, does this mean the commission would like to work towards a TMDL? If not, remove the word “yet”. b. Laura Lake is on the impaired waters list but is not listed in the table.	Made these revisions.
42	2.5	Table 2.5 a. County Ditch 16 is on the impaired waters list but is not listed in the table. b. Crow River i. Two additional impairments not listed including nutrients and mercury in fish tissue. ii. DO has been delisted. c. Mississippi River – i. Incorrect AUID – did you intend 07010206-805? ii. If so, besides the mercury and PCB, there are nutrient and fecal coliform impairments.	Made these revisions.
43	3.9	Fish Lake delisting: listed as various actions. i. Would creating a table of actions, tracking the reductions by the specific projects and keeping that in the water management plan be helpful to track completed projects and reductions. It may help get a better big picture of the amount of funding and work that goes into a delisting. It may also help prepare budgets for other upcoming costs/projects.	Noted that the primary actions leading to delisting were alum treatment and carp management.
44	3.9	b. [Cost share for] Street Sweeping – would it be helpful to include the estimated reductions due to street sweeping to help show the value of the cost share program? c. HCEED – include the number of voluntary projects that were completed?	The project descriptions in Appendix D show street sweeping effectiveness. HCEED partnership Ag BMPs are still early in the program development with only a few fully implemented.
45	3.9	Do you have a count of Hennepin County targeted education and outreach? Would that be helpful to rate the success of the program?	These are included in the annual WMWA report.
46	4.3	implementation strategies i. Limit further impact from development/redevelopment – does this mean that development will be limited? Perhaps “reduce the impact through stricter policy” or something along those lines would better represent the strategy?	Agree, revised text.
47	4.3	Priority 1, goal 1 – what would be measurable progress that would be considered a success? The goals could be represented with a set number of pounds of P or TSS reduced in the watershed. This may be a more accomplishable goal than a delisting. The goals could be by subwatershed to help target priority areas. d. Would you like to set a goal of so many stream miles restored? Habitat was listed as an issue of interest	The Commission has added some numerical goals based on desired lake response outcomes. (See #6 above). Stream restoration goals are difficult since so much is private and reliant on finding willing landowners.

Number	Plan Page	Comment	Response
48	4.5	Strategy 2 – I don't believe I saw where the priority TMDLs were identified. Are this some of the items listed in the implementation section? Having it specifically stated of where the Priority lakes, streams and watersheds are, could help prioritize work.	"Priority" refers to key projects identified in TMDLs and other implementation plans, not priority TMDLs
49	4.5	Strategy 3 – do you want to list out the number of lakes and streams you plan to monitor per year?	Appendix D sets forth the proposed Monitoring program, however, that is reviewed and modified each year based on current needs and budget,
50	4.5	Would a strategy of shoreline protection projects or education be of interest?	Currently working with Hennepin County on shoreline workshops and cost share on Fish Lake but it depends on willing landowners.
51	4.4	a. The 2nd sentence says that this plan "accomplishes that". Do you feel that is accurate or would a better verbiage be reduces the impact. b. Having a 100-year flood map in the document may help show priority areas to focus on flood issues and to show where floodplain storage may be required. c. Education and Outreach – do you plan to put an emphasis on communities that you may not previously engaged with? Including that here would be helpful.	Revised to "addressed that" .Floodplain map is in Appendix B
52	4.4-4.5	Would including a number of outreach events or a goal of number of people to reach help identify whether you were successful in reaching your goal.	Generally these activities are provided by our partnership with WMWA. Numerical goals are established annually across the four member WMOs.
53	4.3-4.9	Overall, on goals and strategies. a. It may be helpful to put a few more numbers into the goals so that you can better identify success and know whether you accomplished what you set out to do. b. By identifying whether a strategy is a continuation of what you are doing vs adding in a new item, could help with identify the time/resource commitment in the plan compared to what you were doing previously.	A section has been added to each goal area specifying how progress would be defined and measured.
54	4.8-4.9	Nice summary of resilience and adaptation a. Should some of this information be in Chapter 2? b. Updating appendix B to show these climatic changes will help reinforce what you have written. Appendix B seems to be more focused on weather than climate. c. The UMN has some nice summaries that could help with that: https://climate.umn.edu/regional-climate-summaries d. A potential strategy could be to have the UMN come and do a climate training with the board, member cities, and other staff.	These are good suggestions, and we look forward to MPCA's participation as we prepare the Climate Resiliency and Sustainability Plan.
55	4.9+	It seems like there are additional strategies listed out in this section that are not identified in the goals and actions section. Taking time to include these items in the goals and actions will make it clearer of where the actions items are listed instead of splitting this information up. i. For instance, chloride was listed in the issues, and the implementation, but was only a side note in the goals and actions under MS4 requirements.	Table 4.4 is a useful cross reference. Detailed strategies are identified in the Annual Work Plan.
56	4.13	Environmental Justice is briefly mentioned, but additional information about the demographics and action items may help create a more targeted outreach plan. i. Incorporate EJ into the goals and actions section instead of only in the implementation section.	There is only one small census tract in Plymouth with a concentrated population of Asian Indian families that is noted on the EJ map. There are no low income, other ethnic minority or non English speaking concentrations. Commission will work with cities to determine EJ needs for the wider population.
57	4.13-4.14	Agricultural outreach – do you have a goal of acres? I did not see this in the goals and actions.	Hesitate to set a numerical goal for acres since the BMPs are often not tied to acres of land, e.g. exclusionary fencing or manure bunkers.
58	n/a	It seems like there are two different climate and resiliency sections, one under goals and actions and the other under implementation. The Climate section 4.3.5 could be worked into the goals and actions to make it more clear of the action items.	Will check to be sure these sections are consistent.
MDA: None received			
DNR: None received			
MnDOT: None received			

To: Elm Creek WMO TAC

From: Erik Megow, PE
Diane Spector

Date: September 3, 2025

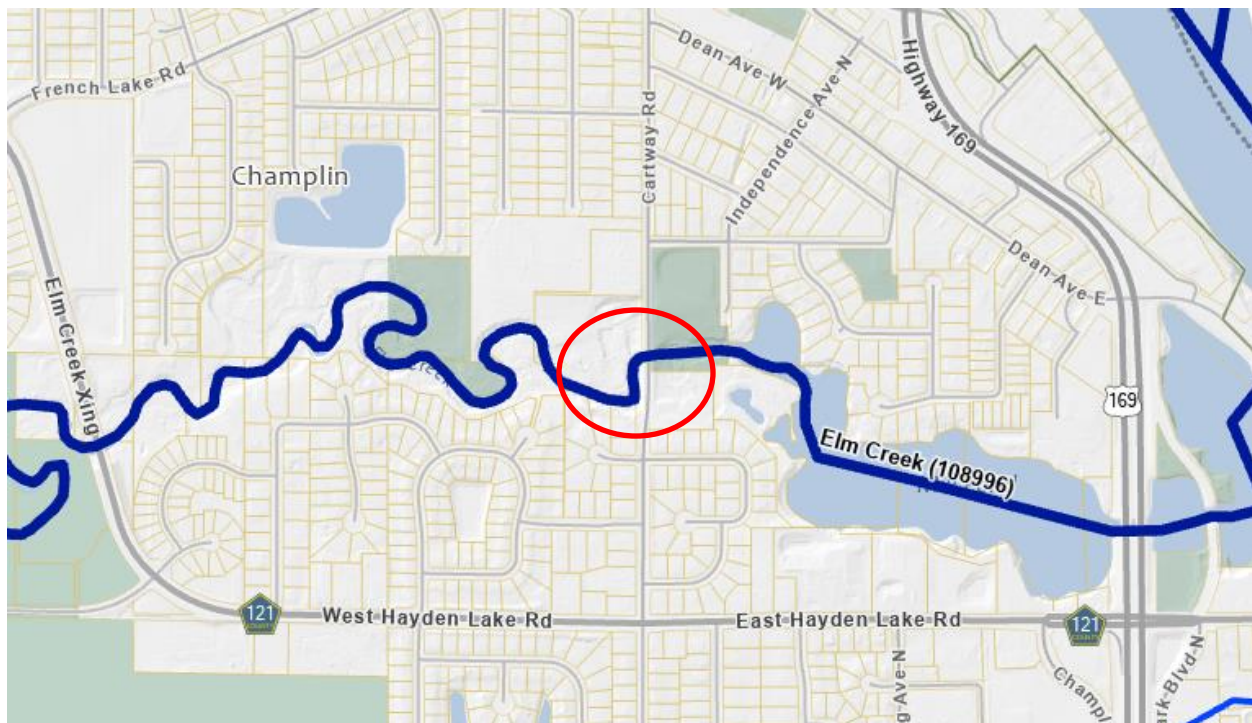
Subject: Champlin Reconstruct Cartway Bridge

Recommended TAC Action

Presentation by the City of Champlin. Discuss and make a recommendation on the amount of any Commission CIP cost share to be considered in 2026.

The City of Champlin submitted a project request to the 3rd Generation Plan CIP (attached) for the reconstruction of the Elm Creek crossing at Cartway Road, which is just upstream of Mill Pond. The benefits to the watershed of replacing this culvert have not been clear. 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 Council later this year. Note that this project would be on the 2026 CIP.



Memorandum

To: ECWMC TAC

From: Laura Rescorla, PE
Earth Evans, PE

CC: Heather Nelson, PE, City of Champlin

Date: September 3, 2025

Re: Cartway Bridge Replacement | Waterbody Benefits
City Project No: 22403
WSB Project No: 023365-000

This memo documents the benefits to Elm Creek as a result of the Cartway Bridge Replacement and the City of Champlin’s request for cost share participation from the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission (ECWMC).

BACKGROUND

The existing crossing of Elm Creek at Cartway Road (**Figure 1**), immediately upstream of Mill Pond, is a 27’ x 16’2” corrugated steel arch culvert that was constructed in 1974. The culvert has deteriorated, exhibiting corrosion at the spring line. Per a routine bridge inspection in October 2024, the NBI structure evaluation rating is 4, indicating poor condition.



Figure 1: Project Location

In 2023, WSB conducted a feasibility study of the bridge replacement. Numerous alternatives were considered, including:

- 14'x14' and 12'x12' box culverts in various locations (existing location and alignment, existing location and perpendicular to the road, south of existing to eliminate 90 degree bend in the creek)
- 14'x14' and 10'x10' box culverts with a 6'x6' floodplain box
- Two 20'x16' box culverts
- Span bridge

The preferred alternative, two 14'x14' box culverts with a 36" equivalent arch floodplain culvert, was chosen because:

- The 31.5 ft opening width more closely matches the bankfull width (37 ft) than the existing crossing.
- It provides 3 ft of navigable clearance to the OHWL.
- It prevents impacts to the stream length and surrounding wetland as compared to alternatives that realign the culvert or propose a new location.
- Although a rise is allowed downstream (Zone AE floodplain with no floodway), this option produced the most minimal rise in water surface elevation on downstream property not owned by the City.
- It can be constructed with standard box culvert sections and headwalls, managing the project cost.

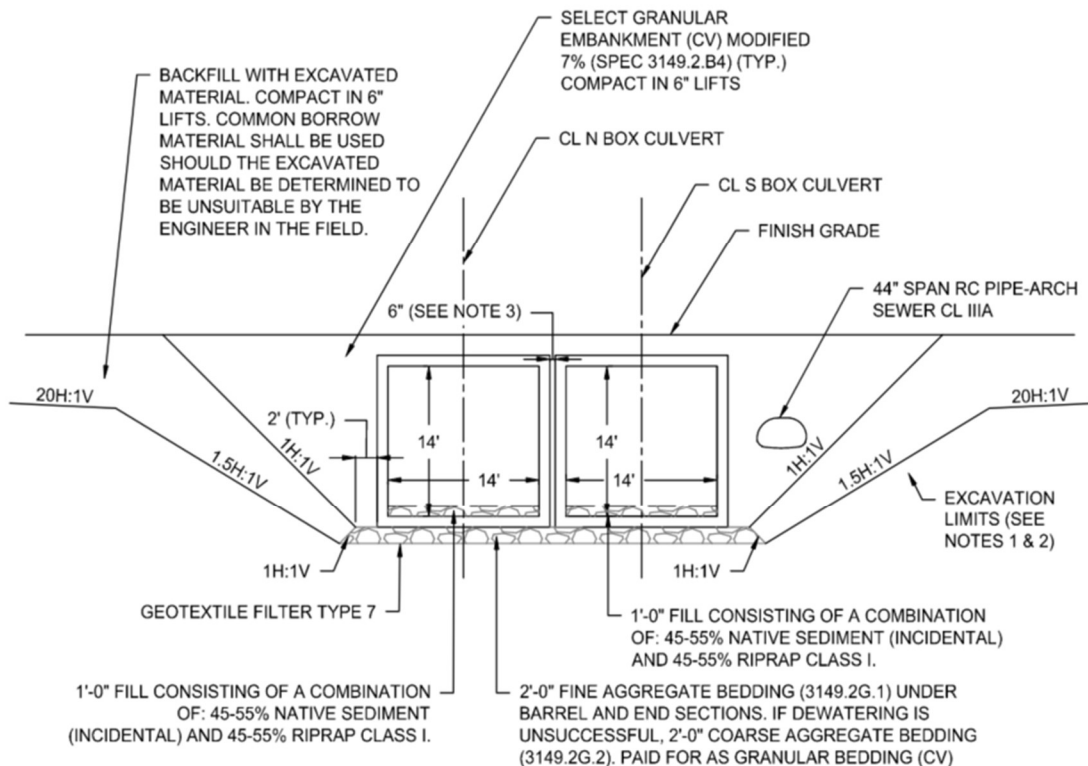


Figure 2: Proposed Crossing Typical Section

ELM CREEK EXISTING CONDITIONS

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).

BENEFITS OF THE PROPOSED CROSSING

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 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 1 ft 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 ECWMC 3rd Generation Watershed Management Plan (ECWMC Plan) by incorporating habitat improvements (within the culvert crossing) into projects to improve biotic integrity.

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. However, there is a scour hole on the upstream side of the existing culvert. 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 lb of TP per year.

- This high level estimate assumes sandy soil and prevention of 100 cf of eroded volume (100 ft on either side of the stream between the crossing and the riffle, 1 ft height and 0.5 ft depth of erosion) over 20 years.

This aligns with the ECWMC Plan by reducing the potential for erosion and sedimentation around this crossing of Elm Creek, reducing TP and TSS loads.

Floodplain Benefits

The proposed crossing decreases the floodplain elevation and width upstream, reducing flood risk along this portion of Elm Creek. The 100-year water surface elevation decreases by 0.10 ft to 0.55 ft at all analyzed cross sections upstream of the crossing, to approximately 1000 ft west of Hayden Lake Road. 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 ECWMC Plan and goals as it is the statutory responsibility of ECWMC to prevent and mitigate flooding.

- Goal A.3: Prevent the loss of floodplain storage below the established 100-year elevation.

- Goal A.4: Reduce peak flow rates in Elm, Diamond, and Rush Creeks and tributary streams to the Crow and Mississippi and preserve conveyance capacity.

COST SHARE REQUEST

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 ECWMC Cost Share. On behalf of the City of Champlin, we request that you consider a cost share of \$250,000 or 12% of the construction cost.

ATTACHMENTS

Cartway Bridge Replacement Project Plans (August 21, 2025)

MnDNR Hydraulic Analysis Memo (August 12, 2025)

Updated Alternatives Analysis (August 5, 2025)

Feasibility Report (December 21, 2023)

EXHIBIT A

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

*(This submittal will be rated on its completeness and adherence to the goals of the Commission.
A second page may be used to provide complete responses.)*

City	Champlin	
Contact Name	Heather Nelson	
Telephone	763-923-7120	
Email	hnelson@ci.champlin.mn.us	
Address	11955 Champlin Drive	
Project Name	Reconstruct Bridge at Cartway and Elm Creek	
Project Location	Cartway Road and Elm Creek	
	1. Is project in Member's CIP? (X) yes () no	Proposed CIP Year = 2024
	2. Has a feasibility study or an engineering report (circle one) been done for this project? () yes (X) no	
		Amount
	Total Estimated Project Cost	\$2,160,000
	Estimated Commission Share (up to 25%, not to exceed \$250,000)	\$250,000
	Other Funding Sources (MSA, City Funds)	\$1,910,000
		\$2,160,000
	3. What is the scope of the project? Reconstruction of the bridge crossing where Cartway Road crosses Elm Creek.	
	4. What is the purpose of the project? What water resource(s) will be impacted by the project? Reconstruction of the bridge to maintain transportation network, as this is a major roadway crossing of Elm Creek within the City of Champlin. Elm Creek will temporarily be impacted during construction.	
	5. What is the anticipated improvement that would result from the project? (Include size of area treated and projected nutrient reduction.) Maintain hydraulic flow of Elm Creek	
	6. How does the project contribute to achieving the goals and programs of the Commission? The project contributes to achieving the goals of the commission by maintaining or improving water quantity flow rates within Elm Creek.	
0/10	7. Does the project result from a regulatory mandate? () yes (X) no How?	
0/10/20	8. Does the project address one or more TMDL requirements? () yes (X) no Which?	
0/10/20	9. Does the project have an educational component? () yes (X) no Describe.	
0/10	10. Do all the LGUs responsible for sharing in the cost of the project agree to go forward with this project? (X) yes () no Identify the LGUs.	
10/20	11. Is the project in all the LGUs' CIPs? (X) yes () no	
1-34	(For TAC use) 12. Does project improve water quality? (0-10) 13. Prevent or correct erosion? (0-10) 14. Prevent flooding? (0-5)	15. Promote groundwater recharge? (0-3) 16. Protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat? (0-3) 17. Improve or create water recreation facilities? (0-3)
TOTAL (poss 114)	Adopted April 11, 2012 Revised May 2019	