

elm creek

Watershed Management Commission

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MINUTES Regular Meeting | April 10, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER. A meeting of the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 11:32 a.m., Wednesday, April 10, 2024, in the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Avenue North, Plymouth, MN, by Chair Doug Baines.

Present: Bill Walraven, Champlin; Ken Guenther, Corcoran; Doug Baines, Dayton; Dan Riggs, Maple Grove; Terry Sharp, Medina; and Catherine Cesnik, Plymouth. Not represented: Rogers.

Also present: Kent Torve, Stantec, Corcoran; Derek Asche, 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 (TRPD); Judie Anderson, JASS; Karen Wold, Barr Engineering; Zach Moen, Loucks Associates; and Paul Wardell, Plymouth.

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

A. Motion by Guenther, second by Sharp to approve the **Minutes* of the March 13, 2024, meeting.** *Motion carried unanimously.*

B. Motion by Guenther, second by Walraven to approve the **April Treasurer's Report and Claims*** totaling \$33,409.29. *Motion carried unanimously.*

III. OPEN FORUM.

Wardell was present to express his concerns regarding elevated water levels on his property. The Commission requested that Staff from the City of Plymouth and the MnDNR meet with Wardell to discuss options to clear the pipe located on the property at 6105 Vicksburg Lane.

IV. PROJECT REVIEWS.

A. 2016-005 Ravinia Wetland Replacement Plan, Corcoran.* Wold was in attendance to present the Ravinia project. Included in the meeting packet were the annual monitoring reports for the 2021-2023 growing seasons. She indicated that areas of the site still remain under-vegetated. Wold was requested to set up a Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) meeting onsite in May to evaluate the site and to make a recommendation to the Commission as to the need for future mitigation activity. The Commission continues to hold an LOC in anticipation of completing the project; however, the cash escrow has been depleted.

B. 2024-005 Rush Hollow North, Maple Grove.* The project is located on a 9.0-acre site and will disturb 10.6 acres. The proposed project will construct 25 single-family homes, associated

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driveways, utilities, and streets. Off-site grading and future trails will be completed by others. The project triggers Rules D and E. A finding of facts memo dated March 29, 2024, is included in the meeting packet for Commission approval conditioned on escrow reconciliation and updated notes stating soil decompaction and off-site grading approval. Motion by Guenthner, second by Riggs to approve Staff's recommendations. *Motion carried unanimously.*

C. 2024-007 Eagle Brook Church, Plymouth.* The project is development of an existing parcel with a proposed 64,000 square foot building, parking, cul-de-sac, park, associated trail, utilities and storm water treatment. The existing parcel is 55.96-acres and there are 25.71-acres of proposed disturbance. The site currently consists of an existing farmstead and outbuildings, associated driveways and public improvements. The site is located on the northwest quadrant of Maple Grove Parkway and Chankahda Trail. The project triggers Rules D, E, and I. A finding of facts memo dated April 3, 2024, is included in the meeting packet for Commission approval with the standard conditions of escrow reconciliation and an approved operation and maintenance plan with three stipulations. Motion by Guenthner, second by Walraven to approve Staff's recommendations with the added condition that a chloride management plan also be put in place. *Motion carried unanimously.*

D. 2024-008 Rogers High School Stadium, Rogers.* The site is located on Rogers High School property in the northeast corner of the James Road and 141st Avenue North intersection. The proposed project includes a new concessions building, ticketing building, shot-put throwing areas, and trails on a 3.54-acre site. The project triggers Rules D and E. A finding of facts memo dated April 3, 2024, is included in the meeting packet recommending approval with the standard escrow reconciliation condition. Motion by Guenthner, second by Walraven to approve Staff's recommendation. *Motion carried unanimously.*

V. WATER MONITORING.

A. Motion by Guenthner, second by Walraven to approve the October 1, 2023-September 30, 2025, **Stream Monitoring Agreement with the United States Geological Survey (USGS).*** The agreement calls for cost-sharing between the parties of \$40,000 (USGS) and \$46,700 (Commission). This amount exceeds the Commission's budgeted amount for 2024 and Staff recommend that an adjustment be made to the 2025 budget to reflect the disparity. Motion by Guenthner, second by Walraven to approve the agreement. *Motion carried unanimously.*

B. Motion by Walraven, second by Guenthner to approve the **2024 CAMP Agreement*** between the Commission and Metropolitan Council. *Motion carried unanimously.* The agreement is in the amount of \$760 for biweekly monitoring of Teal Lake.

VI. OLD BUSINESS.

VII. NEW BUSINESS.

A. Preliminary 2024 CIP.* Included in the meeting packet is Staff's April 4, 2024, memo* showing a preliminary CIP reflecting comments received to date. The CIP shows projects expected to be levied in either 2024 or 2025 as well as those levied in 2023. Planned projects where the completion date is currently unknown or not scheduled are shown as "future."

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The City of Dayton has submitted two projects to add to the CIP for 2025: a Diamond Lake drawdown/alum treatment and a French Lake drawdown/alum treatment. Both of these projects were recommendations in the Diamond Creek Subwatershed Assessment and some preliminary conceptual design work has already been completed. The associated Exhibit A's* are included in the meeting packet.

The City of Maple Grove requests that the Rush Creek Hollow Stream Restoration project cost be increased from \$1 million to \$1.6 million. This project was originally submitted at \$1.6 million but was reduced to \$1 million at the time the CIP was revised in 2023. An updated Exhibit A* for that project is also attached.

Both the Dayton and Maple Grove CIP revisions require a Minor Plan Amendment (MPA). The MPA process includes notifying the member cities, county, and review agencies of the proposed amendment, and considering the requests and any comments received at a *public meeting*.

It was recommended by the members of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) that the Commission proceed with the MPA process and set time within the next regular meeting, May 8, 2024, for that public meeting. Motion by Guenther, second by Walraven to proceed with the MPA process as recommended by the TAC. *Motion carried unanimously.*

B. Draft South Fork Rush Creek SWA.* Last April, the Commission authorized development of a subwatershed assessment for the South Fork Rush Creek drainage area. This study was funded \$59,716 from Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF), \$4,976 from Commission funds, and \$1,659 from the benefitting cities. A draft of the SWA report* is being presented at both today's TAC and Commission meetings for review and comment.

A core team of technical staff from the Commission, Hennepin County, and the cities of Corcoran, Maple Grove, and Medina met to review existing conditions and potential Best Management Practices (BMPs) in this mainly agricultural and rural residential area. With their input, Staff narrowed the BMPs down to those that are most technically feasible and ranked the various types of practices based on their cost effectiveness at reducing nutrient and sediment pollution. Staff also identified properties that may have older individual septic sewer systems in proximity to ditches and streams, and fields that are likely tile-drained, which may be at a higher risk of delivering nutrients and sediment to receiving waters.

A draft copy of the report, including tables and figures detailing this information, is available on the Commission's website. For ease of use, all of this data is also available in an online [interactive map](#). The map layer labeled "Prioritized BMPs" shows the top five most cost-effective practices by type, while "Potential BMPs identified" shows those that were determined after ground truthing to be technically feasible but not necessarily the highest priority. Those could be considered "opportunistic" BMPs that might make sense to do in conjunction with other work. There are various other map layers showing data considered in the analysis and other helpful information such as future MUSA boundaries.

Tom Beneke from Stantec led the discussion at the TAC meeting where members focused on identifying and prioritizing potential projects and then further prioritizing them by

feasibility and availability of funding. It was also suggested that an executive summary of the study be created for presentation to the appropriate City Councils that includes information about how the data will be used and next steps. This discussion will continue at the May 8, 2024, TAC meeting.

C. 2023 Annual Activity Report.* Motion by Sharp, second by Walraven to accept the 2023 report pending review and comment received by Friday, April 19, 2024. *Motion carried unanimously.*

VIII. EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH.*

A. Grace Barcelow, the shared Education and Outreach Coordinator with Hennepin County, provided an update* on work completed since the March WMWA meeting as well as what activities are on tap for April and May. It is her intent to continue to provide these monthly updates and she welcomes questions and input. Grace.barcelow@hennepin.us.

B. Watershed PREP. Jessica Sahu Teli, the WMWA educator, has accepted a full-time position at East Metro Water Resource Education Program (EMWREP). WMWA is in the process of advertising for her replacement.

C. West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA) will meet via Zoom at 8:30 a.m., May 14, 2024.

IX. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES.

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) biennially appropriates funding for a program called **Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF)**. WBIF funding is allocated to targeted watersheds to be distributed according to guidelines agreed upon by the eligible entities in the allocation area (“the Partnership”). The Elm Creek allocation for fiscal year 2024-2025 is **\$373,590**, which will become available July 1, 2024. A minimum 10% match is required. The first Convene meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 15, 2024, at 10:00, via Zoom.

X. COMMUNICATIONS.

A. Staff Report.* Staff reports provide 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 April 3, 2024, report.

B. Hennepin County Staff Report.*

1. Christian Settling Basin, Dayton. Permit applications for construction of the settling basin have been submitted to the City of Dayton and the Army Corps of Engineers. The County is currently awaiting feedback. Once permits are secured, plans for the project will be finalized and construction on the project will be scheduled.

2. Bottema Wetland Restoration, Corcoran. The design team, landowner, and preferred contractor conducted a site visit on March 18 to view work completed to date and discuss necessary fixes to address erosion that occurred after the historic (75-year, 7-day recurrence rain event) rainfall Corcoran received last fall. The design team, consisting of county staff and two engineers at Houston Engineering, are working through solutions to better stabilize

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slopes and wetland outlet structures. New designs are expected to be completed in the next month or so and city and watershed staff should expect permitting discussions to occur later this spring. Work is likely to occur this summer.

3. Van Asten Cover Crops, Dayton. Hennepin County staff met with NRCS staff to get approval on a warm season cover cropping plan for this farm which will eventually be planted with perennial pasture. Plan includes a diverse seed mix that will help reduce compaction, enhance soil health, and provide forage for livestock and horses. Using Hennepin County Soil Health Incentive Program funds, the mix will be planted in late Spring/Early summer. The landowner also met with NRCS staff to discuss EQIP funding for prescribed grazing, pasture planting, fencing, and other grazing infrastructure. This is being taken into consideration as a farm plan is being developed for the site.

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

5. The last two pages of the report describe other **County programming:** Mighty Mississippi Cleanup Challenge; Earth Day activities; Environmental Response Fund grants; and building material donation collection at city cleanup events.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS.

XII. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 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.	2023-001	Chankahda Trail Reconstruction Phase 2, Plymouth.
2016-005W	Ravinia Wetland Bank Plan, Corcoran.	2023-009	Magnifi Financial, Maple Grove.
2017-050W	Ernie Mayers Wetland/floodplain violation, Corcoran.	2023-010	Rogers New Fire Station.
2018-046	Graco, Rogers.	2023-011	Sundance Greens 9th, Dayton.
2020-009	Stetler Barn, Medina.	2023-013	River Valley Church, Maple Grove.
2020-017	Meadow View Townhomes, Medina.	2023-015	South Fork Rush Creek Evanswood, Maple Grove.
2020-033	Weston Woods, Medina.	2023-016	Rogers South Community Park.
2021-020	Crew Carwash, Maple Grove.	2023-020	Dunkirk Square, Maple Grove.
2021-029	Tri-Care Grocery / Retail, Maple Grove.	2023-022	Shores of Sylvan Lake, Rogers.
2021-034	BAPS Hindu Temple, Medina.	2023-023	NORSQ, Maple Grove.
2021-052	Norbella Senior Living, Rogers.	2023-025	Rogers Mixed Use Improvement.
2022-006	Hamel Townhomes, Medina.	2023-028	Rush Creek Hollow, Maple Grove.
2022-011	Arrowhead Drive Turn Lane Expansion, Medina.	2023-029	Dayton Field 4th Addition.
2022-016	Rogers Activity Center.	2023-030	Woodland Hill of Corcoran.

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2022-017	City Center Drive, Corcoran.		
2022-018	Big Woods, Rogers.		
2022-020	Skye Meadows Extension, Rogers.	2024-001	Saddle Ridge, Rogers.
2022-022	Cook Lake Highlands, Corcoran.	2024-002	The Meadows Park, Plymouth.
2022-028	Elsie Stephens Park, Dayton.	2024-003	Rogers Apartments.
2022-040	Karinieimi Meadows, Corcoran.	2024-004	Dayton River Road Turn Lane Improvements.
2022-043	Meander Park and Boardwalk, Medina.	2024-005	Rush Hollow North, Maple Grove.
		2024-006	
		2024-007	Eagle Brook Church, Plymouth
		2024-008	Rogers High School Stadium, Rogers.

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