

elm creek Watershed Management Commission

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Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes | April 10, 2024

I. A meeting of the **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** of the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order at 10:05 a.m., Wednesday, April 10, 2024, in the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Avenue North, Plymouth, MN, by Chair Derek Ashe.

Present: Heather Nelson, Champlin; Kent Torve, Stantec, Corcoran; Josh Accola, Stantec, Dayton; Derek Ashe, Maple Grove; Rebecca Haug, WSB, Medina; Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; Andrew Simmons, Rogers; Diane Spector, Erik Megow, and Tom Beneke, Stantec; Kevin Ellis, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); and Judie Anderson, JASS.

Also present: Ken Guenther, Corcoran, and Doug Baines, Dayton.

II. Motion by Haug, second by Scharenbroich to approve the **Agenda** as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

III. Motion by Scharenbroich, second by Simmons to approve the **Minutes** of the March 13, 2024, meeting. *Motion carried unanimously.*

IV. **2024 PRELIMINARY CIP.**

Included in the meeting packet is Staff's April 4, 2024, memo* showing Table 2, 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."

No plan amendment is necessary to either reschedule projects from year to year or if the estimated cost increases by less than 125%. Smaller projects where the Commission's share is \$50,000 or less should be directed to the Cost Share program rather than the CIP. That account has an estimated balance of \$150,000.

In 2022, the Commission revised the CIP cost share policy to eliminate the \$250,000 per project maximum and the annual working guideline for the maximum amount to be levied annually was increased from \$500,000 to \$750,000. The maximum Commission participation is still 25% of total project cost.

Prior to or at the meeting, requests were received that two projects in Plymouth (Meadows Playfield and Brockton Lane Water Quality Improvements) and one project in Champlin (Reconstruct Bridge at Cartway and Elm Creek) be moved from 2024 to Unspecified Future Year; and one project in Maple Grove (Oxbow Trail Rush Creek Stabilization) be moved from 2024 to 2025. Champlin requested that the cost estimate for the Cartway Bridge be updated and that the proposed Mill Pond BMPs project be removed from the CIP. No plan amendment is necessary for these revisions.

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*.

Motion by Scharenbroich, second by Nelson to recommend to the Commission that it proceed with the MPA process and set time within the next regular meeting, May 8, 2024, for that public meeting.

V. 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 today's TAC and Commission meetings for review and comment. The work plan calls for an optional Open House upon completion of the draft.

The lower reach of South Fork Rush Creek is an Impaired Water for excess *E. coli* bacteria and chloride. This reach as well as a short segment of South Fork upstream and an Unnamed Tributary have impaired fish and/or macroinvertebrate communities. Excess nutrient concentration was identified as a primary stressor, and excess sediment as a secondary stressor. The watershed-wide TMDL includes required reductions in bacteria and total phosphorus in the streams.

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 appear to be 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 depicting 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. The study also includes BMPs identified in a Hennepin County Ditch #3 inspection report, and a potential stream assessment identified in previous Commission stream inspections.

Beneke led the discussion which 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.

[Torve departed 11:05 a.m.]

VI. OTHER BUSINESS.

The next Technical Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Judie A. Anderson
Recording Secretary
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