



MINUTES
February 1, 2018

A meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Shingle Creek and West Mississippi Watershed Management Commissions was called to order by Chairman Richard McCoy at 8:34 a.m., Thursday, February 1, 2018, at Crystal City Hall, 4141 Douglas Drive North, Crystal, MN.

Present were: Andrew Hogg, Brooklyn Center; Mitch Robinson, Brooklyn Park; Rick Lestina, Maple Grove; Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; Richard McCoy and Marta Roser, Robbinsdale; Ed Matthiesen and Diane Spector, Wenck Associates, Inc.; and Judie Anderson, JASS.

Not represented: Champlin, Crystal, Minneapolis, New Hope and Osseo.

Also present: Kimberly Carpenter, Rich Harrison, and Laura Schell, Metro Blooms, for Item III.

- I. Motion by Scharenbroich, second by Hogg to **approve the agenda**. *Motion carried unanimously.*
- II. Motion by Scharenbroich, second by Lestina to **approve the minutes** of the November 30, 2017 meeting.* *Motion carried unanimously.*
- III. **Autumn Ridge Apartments – SCWMC Partnership Cost Share Grant Application.***

A. The Project. The applicants - the residents of Autumn Ridge Apartments, the property owners Sherman Associates, Metro Blooms, and the City of Brooklyn Park - are seeking funds for the first phase of a five-year stormwater retrofit project for this site, located at Boone and 63rd Avenues North. The first phase includes the installation of five raingardens, two trench drains, a native planting, and permeable pavement; removal and installation of trees; and training of maintenance staff for installation and maintenance of stormwater practices.

B. Proposed Budget. The proposed project budget is \$135,358. The applicants are requesting \$50,000 from Shingle Creek WMC as well as \$55,000 from Hennepin County. The property owner will contribute \$30,358. A review of the construction cost estimate items has been conducted. The total cost of the project seems appropriate for the scope and scale of the project; however, the costs associated with Raingardens 1 and 2 are on the low side of industry standards. The low costs may be attributed to project partner in-kind services and installation assistance through volunteer labor.

C. Impairment Reduction. Shingle Creek is impaired for chloride. The application states the proposed project addresses the chloride impairment through runoff volume reduction, the use of permeable pavement in the most heavily foot-trafficked area on site, and maintenance training for the proper application of road salt. The application also states that the proposed stormwater BMPs capture 14.7 lbs. of Total Phosphorus, 4,418 lbs. of solids and 2,667,374 gallons of runoff water annually as modeled in WinSLAMM. The cost per pound phosphorus removal is \$9,208 based on construction costs. This is slightly under the \$10,000 seen as typical for rain gardens.

Currently there are no BMPs on site. The proposed BMPs will provide good treatment. However, as proposed they are not sized adequately to treat to the full watershed goal of a 90% annual volume reduction. The applicant is encouraged to revisit sizing of the BMPs in footprint and depth to maximize treatment potential.



D. Recommendation. Staff recommends funding the partnership cost-share program for the Autumn Ridge Participatory Landscape Project in the requested amount of \$50,000, subject to the relevant Commission Partnership Cost-Share Guidelines including but not limited to:

1. Cost-share is on a reimbursable basis following completion of the project.
2. The property owner must dedicate a public easement or equivalent to install and maintain the BMPs.

Motion by Lestina, second by Scharenbroich to approve Staff's recommendations, with a further recommendation:

3. A maintenance agreement from the property owner with appropriate easements or similar protections be recorded that would ensure that a) the BMPs are properly maintained; b) the BMPs must remain in place until the site is improved or redeveloped and other BMPs are put in place; and c) authorizes the City to enter upon the land to ensure the BMPs continue to function properly, and to undertake maintenance at the land owner's cost if they are not properly maintained.

and that these recommendations be forwarded to the Commission for final approval. *Motion carried unanimously.*

IV. Twin Lake Carp Project.

Matthiesen gave a brief overview of the project following the carp removal including the removal totals, aeration strategies and possible locations for fish barriers.

V. Twin Lake Aquatic Vegetation Management Policy.

A. Staff's January 30, 2018 memo* outlines the goals, objectives and timeframe for vegetation management on the Twin Lake chain of lakes following the winter carp removal. The outline assumes common carp densities have been reduced below critical thresholds and a significant change in water quality occurs in the summer of 2018, stimulating an abundance of vegetation growth within the Twin Lakes, especially in Upper Twin Lake.

With the anticipated results of improved water clarity resulting from fish management in the Twin Lake system a significant enhancement of the submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) community and overall biological community health (measured via Indices of Biotic Integrity; IBI) is expected, specifically

1. the number of species will increase
2. the spatial coverage of vegetation will increase
3. the biomass of vegetation will increase
4. IBI scores will improve.

These ecological responses to improved water quality are perceived as beneficial to the overall ecosystem health, therefore, the intention of the AVMP is not to prevent these items from occurring but rather facilitate them. Vegetation management activities are intended to target and limit a significant rebound in vegetative AIS within the lake and restore a diverse and healthy native SAV community. Rather than waiting to see if the native community can outcompete and displace AIS it is the intent to actively choose to be proactive and help ensure the AIS do not gain the upper hand in becoming pervasive within the basin. Currently, curlyleaf pondweed (CLP) is the only dominant vegetative AIS species in Twin Lake system (most notably in the Upper Twin basin) and is the focus species of management activities within the AVMP.

B. The objectives and success of activities of the AVMP will be addressed through:

1. Evaluating the SAV community pre-improvement project.



2. Delineating current locations of AIS.
3. Implementing activities that reduce, eradicate or control current population of AIS.
4. Assessing the effectiveness of implemented activities.
5. Evaluating the SAV community post-improvement project.

The memo concluded with proposed specific tasks and target completion dates.

D. Also included in the packet was a **draft Submersed Aquatic Vegetation Management Policy.*** This policy specifies that the Commission will participate in SAV management needed as part of an internal load reduction project, but only to control AIS such as curlyleaf pondweed and Eurasian water milfoil. Individual lakeshore property owners may undertake SAV management at their own expense for recreation and access.

E. Members queried whether a variance from the DNR would be required to implement some of the proposed activities. There is no current source of funding for the implementation activities. Would the Commission consider increasing the member assessment Cap to fund vegetation management projects?

F. Staff will bring this discussion to the neighboring watershed organizations with a possible goal of creating a policy that is northwest metro-wide in scope.

VI. Dissolved Phosphorus 319 Grant.

Upon approval by the Commission a CWA 319 grant application will be submitted by the March 2, 2018 deadline to install filter media at the outlet of wetland 639W just upstream of Upper Twin Lake in Crystal and at the outlet of Cherokee wetland, on Bass Creek at Cherokee Drive in Brooklyn Park. That site is just upstream of Bass Creek Park and the Bass Creek Park monitoring station. Both these wetlands export high concentrations of soluble reactive phosphorus. The filters would test various combinations of iron-enhanced sand, zeolite-enhanced sand, and a product called Phoslock mixed with sand. The outflow from each of these filters would be monitored to see which filter medium performs the best under field conditions. On conclusion of the testing phase, the lesser-performing media would be removed and replaced with the best-performing medium considering life-cycle costs. In addition to the outlet filters, the pool at the overflow outlet on wetland 639W would be aerated with a small pond aerator to improve soluble phosphorus capture in the media. The aerator would be installed with a float switch so it turns on only when the elevation of water in the pond rises high enough to overflow the weir.

VII. Watershed-Based funding Pilot.*

BWSR is in the process of transitioning Clean Water Funds from a statewide competitive model to a geographically-focused model. As consortia of watersheds, counties, and other groups prepare their One Water One Plan (1W1P) plans, BWSR will provide each with a pot of money so the groups can immediately start implementing high-priority projects and programs. Over time the amount of funds available for the annual competitive grants will be significantly reduced and reallocated to this new strategy. The Metro area is not part of the 1W1P program at BWSR because planning for Metro watersheds is governed under a different statute and rule. However, BWSR recognizes that Metro WMOs have undergone significant planning and prioritization efforts in developing their management plans, and has been weighing how to make 1W1P implementation funding available to Metro WMOs.

After holding a number of listening sessions, the BWSR Board developed the Watershed-Based Funding Pilot Program. The organizing unit in planning for this Pilot Program is the county. Each of the counties in the Metro will be allocated a share of the \$5.59 million available for the Metro. Hennepin County's share is \$1.018 million. In each county, eligible entities must identify a Convener, and the Conveners will work with the eligible



local governments to develop a “Collaborative PTM Implementation Plan” by June 30, 2018. (PTM is the latest acronym and stands for Prioritize, Target, and Measure.) This Plan must describe the process used to select projects and programs, how success will be evaluated, *and lay out the specific projects and programs recommended for funding*. An option offered by BWSR is that rather than develop a PTM Implementation plan, counties may opt into a Metro Competitive Grant program implemented by BWSR.

On January 23, 2018 Spector attended a “pre-meeting” convened by Hennepin County to take the pulse of the 11 WMOs in the county. Representatives from all 11 WMOs plus BWSR staff and Karen Galles (HCEE) discussed possible directions. It was the consensus that the group would prefer that the funds set aside for Hennepin County should stay in Hennepin County instead of in a Metro Competitive Grant program and that there was also an interest in aligning the funding to the three basins in the county – the area to the west draining to the Crow River, the area to the south draining to the Minnesota River, and the area draining to the Mississippi River. Complicating the issue is that the BWSR Board policy states that the local governments eligible to receive these funds are WMOs, cities, counties, and SWCDs with approved and adopted management plans. Hennepin County as both the county and SWCD is not eligible because the county groundwater plan was never adopted by the County Board, leaving cities and WMOs as the only eligible applicants.

The Pilot Project policy requires that eligible local governments within the county be part of the PTM Implementation Plan planning. If that is the case, then not only would the 11 WMOs be part of the planning process, but also the 45 cities in the county, a committee of 56. The 11 WMOs asked BWSR staff to determine if cities can delegate their planning responsibilities (and their grant eligibility) to the WMO(s) in their city, and if that can be done administratively through a letter or if a resolution from the City Council would be required. This question must be resolved before the local governments in Hennepin County convene formally to do the PTM Plan. It was the consensus of the group that if that must be done by resolution, or if some cities do not agree to delegate their eligibility, it will not be possible to complete the Plan before June 30 and for the first year the group would default to a competitive grant process. The informal planning group will meet again in a month.

The members discussed whether the member cities would be willing to delegate eligibility and planning authority to the WMOs. No formal action was recommended at this time.

VIII. CIP and Cost-Share Schedule.*

A. Staff’s January 26, 2018 memo shows the current Shingle Creek and West Mississippi CIPs. The Commissions may reschedule projects from year to year or remove projects from the CIP with no need for a plan amendment, but a minor plan amendment will be needed to add projects, modify the estimated cost and Commission contribution by more than $\pm 25\%$, or add specificity to a project. At this time, the Shingle Creek Commission expects to undertake a minor plan amendment to add the proposed dissolved phosphorus 319 grant project to the CIP and to specify that the 2018 lake internal load project will be alum treatments on Bass and Pomerleau Lakes.

B. Staff reviewed potential projects to consider for the CIP, some of which might fall under one of the generic projects already on the CIP. (No potential projects were identified in West Mississippi.) These include:

1. Bass Creek Restoration in Bass Creek Park (Brooklyn Park)
2. Shingle Creek Stabilization, Northland Wetland to Bottineau Blvd (Brooklyn Park)
3. Brookdale Park Offline Ponds Habitat Enhancement (Brooklyn Center)
4. Palmer Lake Outlet Stabilization (Brooklyn Center)
5. Pike Lake Internal Load Project (Plymouth/Maple Grove)



6. Meadow Lake Drawdown (New Hope)
7. Mattson Brook Stabilization, 85th to West River Road (Brooklyn Park)

If cities have projects to add to the CIP they should be submitted for consideration as soon in advance of the next TAC meeting (March 1). The application can be found at: shinglecreek.org/member-city-resources.html.

IX. Other Business.

A. SCWM FEMA Update.

Matthiesen gave a verbal report on the on-going discussion with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources regarding the Federal Emergency Management Administrations grant to update the floodplain and floodway model. Wenck estimates the cost to update the hydrology and hydraulic models is \$75,000. Rita Weaver at the DNR said \$50,000 is available to Shingle Creek. Diane Spector said the Commission should be able to find \$25,000 by reallocating funds in the special studies account to cover the difference of the two-year period of the FEMA grant. The DNR is looking into additional funds for surveying or DNR staff availability.

B. The next meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee is scheduled for March 1, 2018, at 8:30 a.m. at Crystal City Hall.

C. The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judie A. Anderson".

Judie A. Anderson
Recording Secretary

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