

## MINUTES

February 10, 2022

A virtual meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Shingle Creek and West Mississippi Watershed Management Commissions was called to order by Chair Richard McCoy at 11:05 a.m., Thursday, January 13, 2022.

Present: Andrew Hogg, Brooklyn Center; Mitchell Robinson, Brooklyn Park; Heather Nelson, Champlin; Mark Ray, Crystal; Derek Asche, Maple Grove; Katie Kowalczyk, Minneapolis; Nick Macklem, New Hope; Amy Riegel, Plymouth; Richard McCoy, Robbinsdale; Ed Matthiesen, Diane Spector, Katie Kemmitt, and Todd Shoemaker, Stantec; and Amy Juntunen and Judie Anderson, JASS.

Not represented: Osseo.

Also present: Burt Orred, Jr., Crystal.

- I. Motion by Riegel, second by Ray to **approve the agenda**. \* *Motion carried unanimously.*
- II. Motion by Ray, second by Riegel to **approve the minutes**\* of the January 13, 2022, meeting, with the second paragraph of III.B. being reworded for clarity. *Motion carried unanimously.*
- III. **Fourth Generation Watershed Management Plan.** Attached to Staff's February 4, 2022, memo are three items for discussion:

**A. Revised Maintenance Policy** that reflects the discussion held in January. The revised policy applies only to maintenance activities that are not already taken on by the member cities, either as part of a cooperative agreement with the Commission or as part of their NPDES requirements.

Motion by Riegel, second by Stout to recommend the revised policy to the Commissions for approval. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**B. Rules revisions.** An updated memo summarizes the need for and proposed language to bring the rules into conformance with the latest NPDES permit.

1. Revising the rules to replace the current Water Quality requirement of providing 60% TP and 85% TSS removal or infiltrating 1.3 inches, to the new standard of 1.1 inches of volume management through infiltration or abstraction, or a combination of abstraction and filtration.

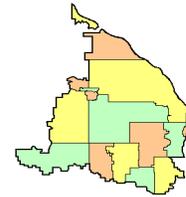
2. Adopting the new requirements for linear projects, potentially establishing an upper dollar limit per pound of TP removal to define "cost effective."

3. A marked-up version of the rules that addresses other housekeeping items.

### Discussion:

a. Linear projects – must document the reason for not being able to meet requirement.

b. No cost cap at this time.



Motion by Riegel, second by Ray to recommend the revised Rules to the Commission for approval. *Motion carried, Maple Grove voting nay.*

**C. Monitoring program framework.** Members will begin discussing the existing monitoring program to see if it still meets the needs of the Commissions and the cities. For example, is there value to continuing monitoring outflow in West Mississippi? Can we adjust the frequency of monitoring in the lakes? Should we test for new parameters. Do targeted monitoring on outfalls into the creek? The members were requested to review the goals of the monitoring program in anticipation of discussion at the March meeting.

**IV. Bass Lake Vegetation Improvements.** At the January 2022 Commission meeting Staff was directed to move forward with a DNR Conservation Partners Legacy Grant application\* to fund aquatic vegetation transplants to Bass Lake. Conservation Partners Legacy Grants fund conservation projects that restore, enhance, or protect forests, wetlands, prairies, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife in Minnesota. Staff have begun writing the application with a focus on the habitat improvements that will be made in the lake. Staff is also in the process of obtaining Letters of Support from the City of Plymouth and the Bass Lake Improvement Association to accompany the grant application. A 10% match will be required and will be provided by a combination of Bass Lake Improvement Association in-kind labor and cash match from the reserve funds left over from the Bass and Pomerleau Lakes alum treatment project. In their updated memo of February 9, 2022,\* Staff estimated the grant request will be \$22,890; a minimum of \$2,489 will be required for match.

Motion by Riegel, second by Stout to recommend to the Shingle Creek Commission that Staff proceed with this application. *Motion carried unanimously.*

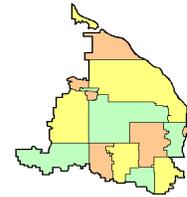
**V. 2022-23 WBIF Grants.\*** The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) biennially appropriates funding for a program called Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF). The WBIF funding is allocated to targeted watersheds to be distributed according to guidelines agreed upon by the eligible entities in the allocation area (“the Partnership”). The BWSR Board approved allocations for fiscal year 2022, including \$95,501 to the Shingle Creek allocation area and \$75,000 to the West Mississippi allocation area, which will become available July 1, 2022. A minimum 10% match is required.

The BWSR Funding Policy for the program specifies that each Partnership will include one decision-making representative from each watershed district and/or watershed management organization, soil and water conservation district, county with a current groundwater plan, and up to two decision-making representatives from municipalities within the allocation area. For these two allocation areas, that would include the respective commission, Hennepin County in its capacity as the county SWCD, and up to two cities. Other parties may participate in discussions regarding the use of the funding, but only the decision-making representatives may make the final recommendation to BWSR. The city and watershed representatives may be TAC members or Commissioners.

Riegel and Robinson volunteered to represent the cities. Kris Guentzel or Kevin Ellis will likely represent Hennepin County.

The first official convene meeting will be held at the end of the March 10, 2022, TAC meeting, just prior to the regular March meeting of the Commissions. At that meeting the group will begin discussing options for the use of the funds.

Staff recommends that the TAC and Commissioners start thinking about their priorities and objectives for the funding. Activities eligible for funding span a very wide range of options, but all



must be focused on prioritized and targeted cost-effective actions with *measurable water quality results*. Funding is not limited to capital projects; anything in the Third Generation Plan's Implementation Plan may be eligible as long as its end goal is the protection and improvement of water quality. The Implementation Plan included several broad areas, including:

1. Keeping the Rules and Standards up to date
2. Maintaining a robust monitoring program
3. Implementing an education and outreach program
4. Implementing TMDL management actions
5. Completing subwatershed assessments and follow-up implementation cost share
6. Matching grants
7. Maintaining an ongoing and periodically updated capital improvement program (CIP)

The Partnerships may choose to award the funds to one high-priority project or make numerous awards for varying objectives. Projects may be added to the CIP by Minor Plan Amendment for eligibility for the WBIF funding if that is approved prior to submitting a work plan.

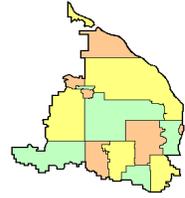
Along with designating the required representatives, the secondary purpose of this discussion is to provide some broad guidance and direction to the designees to consider during the Convene meeting. For example, the TAC may want to make it known to the Partnership its funding preference.

At the March 10 Convene meeting the Partnerships will complete some procedural details and then discuss the desired objectives and outcomes from the use of the funding before determining how fundable activities will be solicited and selected. Recommended activities approved by BWSR may then be detailed in a work plan starting approximately June 2022. Funding would be available July 1, 2022, following submittal and approval of the work plan. Recommended Convene meeting objectives include:

1. Choose a decision-making process.
2. Decide how to select activities for funding. Note that partnerships may also want to choose funding targets for various categories (e.g., projects, studies, education).
3. Partnerships may select activities by:
  - a. Developing a list of potential activities from eligible plans,
  - b. Dividing funding among eligible entities in an equitable manner,
  - c. Selecting a few priority waterbodies (lake, streams) and/or groundwater areas to prioritize activities,
  - d. Using agreed upon criteria to select activities, or
  - e. Using a process approved by the BWSR Central Region Manager.
4. Select the highest priority, targeted, measurable, and eligible activities to be submitted to BWSR as a budget request.
5. Confirm which entity will serve as grantee and/or fiscal agent for each selected activity and decide on the source of the 10% required match.

#### **VI. Other Business.**

Macklem indicated New Hope is withdrawing the Liberty Park project at this time.



**VII.** The next meeting is scheduled for 10:30 a.m., March 10, 2022, prior to the regular Commission meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judie A. Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judie A. Anderson  
Recording Secretary  
JAA:tim

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