

MINUTES
May 12, 2022

A 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 11:35 a.m., Thursday, May 12, 2022, at Crystal City Hall, 4141 Douglas Drive, Crystal, MN.

Present: Mike Albers, Brooklyn Center; Mitchell Robinson, Brooklyn Park; Heather Nelson, Champlin; Mark Ray, Crystal; Mark Lahtinen, Maple Grove; Liz Stout and Katie Kowalczyk, Minneapolis; Nick Macklem, New Hope; Ben Scharenbroich and Amy Riegel, Plymouth; Richard McCoy and Mike Sorensen, Robbinsdale; Diane Spector, Todd Shoemaker, and Katie Kemmitt, Stantec; and Judie Anderson, JASS.

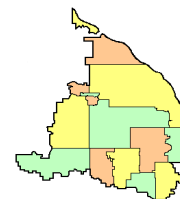
Not represented: Osseo.

Also present: Burt Orred, Jr., Crystal; Karen Jaeger, Maple Grove; Ray Schoch, Minneapolis; and Andy Polzin, Plymouth.

- I. Motion by Ray, second by Macklem to **approve the agenda**.** Motion carried unanimously.*
- II. Motion by Ray, second by Robinson to **approve the minutes*** of the April 14, 2022, meeting. *Motion carried unanimously.*
- III. **Fourth Generation Watershed Management Plan.** Included in Staff's May 6, 2022, memo* were four items:

A. Boundary Adjustments. Staff and the cities have been aware for many years that there are discrepancies between the watershed legal boundary and hydrological boundary. Among the reasons why: (1) the boundaries were initially drawn using 10-foot topo. The more recent 2-foot topo allows a more accurate hydrologic boundary delineation. (2) When the boundaries were drawn, a number of the parcels on the periphery of the watersheds were large lot agriculture or rural residential, and those have since been subdivided and in some cases the hydrology has been changed as a result of mass grading done with development. (3) We do not have a watershed-level hydro boundary for West Mississippi but could assemble one from city H & H models. In response to a series of requests from one property owner in particular, we have had some discussion with local staff and the Commission's attorney about the advisability of updating the boundaries, which also impact Bassett Creek and Elm Creek. At this level we agreed that it was not cost-effective to complete a boundary change to accommodate one parcel. However, a wholesale rewriting of the boundaries (and establishing a hydro boundary for WM) would be a significant undertaking. Staff will continue to research the potential changes.

B. A Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Workshop was held on April 25, 2022, at the Crystal Community Center, hosted by County Commissioner Irene Fernando. There were about 35 attendees, a good mix of Shingle Creek, West Mississippi, and Bassett Creek Commissioners and TAC members, some County staff, and representatives from a few other WMOs. The workshop included presentations by the County, Metro Blooms, and Mississippi WMO staff, personal reflections on Environmental Justice work



by the Executive Director of a nonprofit that serves diverse and underrepresented communities, as well as small group discussions and reflections.

C. Education and Outreach Framework. Many of the city Citizen Advisory Committees (CACs) are identifying the need to provide more education and outreach opportunities within the two watersheds. As noted in the Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) discussion, the West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA) and Hennepin County have been working together to develop a shared half-time position specifically to provide hands-on outreach to property owners. A very rough framework for education and outreach includes:

1. General education and outreach on key messages shared through the website, social media, written materials, press releases, and WMWA.
2. Youth education through WMWA's Watershed PREP.
3. Adult education and outreach through WMWA's Watershed PREP, focused on tabling and association workshops.
4. Adult education and outreach through new shared outreach coordinator, focused on workshops and hands-on BMPs.
5. Outreach to diverse communities through Metro Blooms and Partnership Grants hands-on BMPs.

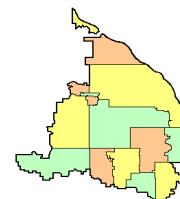
D. Implementation Plan Development. Staff are going to begin sketching out the individual lake and stream resource plans that will help to define both the monitoring program and the implementation plan. They will be identifying where such future work such as (1) lake internal load feasibility studies; (2) subwatershed assessments; and (3) targeted monitoring might be helpful in the coming ten years. They will also be working with the Technical Advisory Committee to start to build the CIP for the coming ten years. They will be collecting this information over the next month and will have a compilation at the June meeting.

IV. 2022-2023 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Convene Meeting.*

A. The Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) committee met for its second convene meeting on April 14, 2022, concurrent with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting. The group reviewed potential actions identified for possible funding, including projects programmed in the CIP for the next few years, TMDL actions such as lake internal load feasibility studies or aquatic vegetation/rough fish management, and education and outreach options.

B. Spector noted that WMWA (the West Metro Water Alliance) has been working with Hennepin County staff regarding the possibility of a shared staff member who could provide education and outreach within the four WMWA watersheds. The County is fleshing out the possibilities and what the cost would be, which they thought would be in the vicinity of \$100,000 per year. The expectation is that this staff person would be available to provide targeted workshops, on-site consultations, and targeted outreach on various water quality topics.

Hennepin County has drafted a proposed "Education, Outreach, and Technical Assistance Action Plan" that would initially dedicate 0.5 FTE in a 2-year limited duration employee position to implement this initiative across areas of the county that are contributing financially. The purpose would be to develop a pilot program to increase technical assistance, education, and outreach with residents focused on increasing conservation implementation success. This pilot program would be



focused on marketing and promoting workshops, reaching out to underserved communities, potentially delivering workshops, and providing follow-up assistance to workshop participants. It is possible that this could be developed in tandem with Metro Blooms to incorporate their expertise, especially in outreach to underserved groups. A component could also include providing small financial assistance grants to parties installing BMPs, which would be administered by this position. The convene group agreed to dedicate WBIF funds for education and outreach: \$35,501 from the Shingle Creek allocation, and \$10,000 from the West Mississippi allocation.

C. The group also discussed funding actions such as additional subwatershed assessments that would identify more projects that could be incorporated into future capital projects for funding by grants and levy. The convene group agreed to dedicate \$60,000 from the Shingle Creek allocation to subwatershed assessments, with two areas in particular identified: the drainage area to the Gaulke/Memory Lane/Hagemeister Pond system; and the drainage area to Eagle Lake, including an internal load assessment for Eagle Lake.

D. Finally, the group agreed to dedicate the remaining \$65,000 in West Mississippi allocation to continuing to refine and design the high priority Mississippi River streambank stabilization needs in Brooklyn Park, for which the City and Hennepin County have completed a feasibility assessment. The purpose of the WBIF funding would be to take these from conceptual design to 30% design to improve project readiness for future grant funding.

Funding Priority	Amount WBIF	Source of 10% Match	Grantee
Shingle Creek			
Education & outreach contracted coordinator	\$35,501	Operating budget for E & O	SC WMC
Subwatershed assessments	\$60,000	Operating budget for SWAs	SC WMC
TOTAL	\$95,501		
West Mississippi			
Education & outreach contracted coordinator	\$10,000	Operating budget for E & O	WM WMC
Miss R Streambank Stabilization Design	\$65,000	?	?
TOTAL	\$75,000		

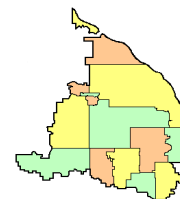
E. Future Actions.

1. Confirm the allocations and identify and confirm the source of the match and the grantees for each of the allocations. These will be presented to the Commissions for review and agreement to serve as the grantees and provide the 10% match as noted. Note that the Hennepin County proposal for the Education and Outreach contracted coordinator is still under development and is still being considered by other WMOs for potential financial contributions from their WBIF allocations. Staff recommends that the TAC consider approving the allocations and funding levels in principle so that the process can move forward.

2. Once all parties participating in the E & O coordinator proposal have agreed to the proposal and the actual contribution amount is known, any modifications to the above will be brought back to the convene committee for review and approval. Staff acting as the convenor will then provide the final recommendation to BWSR for its review and approval. Once that has been secured, Staff will develop and submit work plans so funds can be contracted later this year.

VII. Shingle Creek Maintenance Levy.

Over the past few months, the Commission, TAC, and Staff have discussed options for funding



“maintenance” types of activities that are neither capital projects nor city maintenance, but are often the ongoing remnants of capital projects. These are activities such as ongoing long-term efforts to manage carp or curly-leaf pondweed, which would be the largest need, but also maintenance of fish barriers or BMPs installed as research projects, etc. There is no specific designated funding source for these types of activities.

Since this is not funding for a capital project as a separate line item on the CIP or smaller BMPs funded through the Cost Share programs, it is unclear whether a Minor Plan Amendment is necessary to initiate this new program. In many ways it is like an operating budget line item, but funded from levy rather than city assessments. Staff has been in contact with BWSR to determine if an MPA is necessary before the Commission chooses to certify a levy for this purpose. As of yet, we do not have that determination.

If an MPA is required to modify the Third Generation Plan to reflect this new program, Staff recommend that the TAC direct them to craft an amendment that would be to BWSR’s satisfaction and proceed with the standard MPA process of publishing notice and discussing the proposed MPA at a public meeting on July 14, 2022. At that time you would adopt the MPA and attached policy. If no MPA is necessary, the TAC would simply adopt the guidelines included in the meeting packet and include the requested amount in the notice of maximum levy adopted at the meeting.

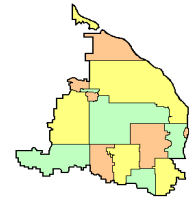
Motion by Riegel, second by McCoy to adopt the Maintenance Funding Guidelines.* Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Impaired Waters Status.*

Spector attended the MPCA/DNR Mississippi River - Twin Cities HUC 8 Watershed Professional Judgement Group (PJG) – WEST meeting on April 28, 2022. This is a step in the process where the MPCA and DNR’s watershed assessment team reviews water quality and other data to determine which streams and lakes are meeting or exceeding state standards, as well as identifying where more information is needed. The purpose of the PJG meeting is to take local and public input on potential new impairments, new de-listings, those waterbodies that are recognized as nearly or barely impaired, and those that are vulnerable. This includes assessment results from monitoring chemical parameters as well as from biological monitoring of aquatic invertebrates and fish. The MPCA will use this information to develop and submit to the EPA a new draft Impaired Waters list, which is several steps further down the road in the process. There is some good news and some not so good news.

A. In West Mississippi, the MPCA is proposing a new impairment listing (for *E. coli*) on the channel that flows out of the Brooklyn Park **Environmental Preserve** through Mississippi Gateway Regional Park and discharges into the Mississippi River below the Coon Rapids Dam.

B. The MPCA is proposing new impairment listings on **Bass Creek** – DO and *E. coli*. While this is a new impairment listing, recall that DO was a primary biotic stressor and, as such, the Shingle and Bass Creek Biotic and DO TMDL includes non-numeric TMDL implementation actions for Bass Creek such as channel reshaping and adding aeration structures. Such features were included in the Bass Creek Park Restoration Project that is just concluding. The Commission and cities have also been treating the Shingle Creek *E.coli* impairment as a whole-watershed impairment as well. It is not clear whether and when TMDL studies will need to be completed for these new impairments to formally establish load reductions, but there will not likely need to be new implementation actions since the cities and Commission are already in implementation.



C. Bass Lake was noted to now be meeting the TP and Secchi standard, but still experiencing elevated chl-a, and there was a question as to whether it should be delisted at this time. Spector was able to provide some background to the PJG about the alum treatment and vegetation management activities that are ongoing, and that there was active management and oversight by the City, lake association, and Commission. That was sufficient for the group to feel comfortable recommending that Bass Lake be proposed for delisting for nutrients.

D. Pomerleau Lake now clearly meets state water quality standards for all three eutrophication indicators, and it is recommended for delisting with no questions from the PJG.

E. There are a number of lakes this assessment round being proposed for listing based on non-attainment of the fish IBI standard. All three basins of **Twin Lake** are proposed as is **Eagle Lake**. Spector has a little information about which of the fish metrics seem to contribute to the low score. More complete actual IBI data can be readily obtained when it comes time to figure out what, if anything, to do about it.

F. Crystal Lake was diagnosed with moderately elevated chloride concentrations and is classified as vulnerable to a future chloride impairment. No impairment at this time, just for information and consideration.

IX. Other Business.

A. The next TAC meeting is scheduled for 11:00, June 9, 2022, prior to the regular Commission meetings.

B There being no further business, the Technical Advisory Committee meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judie A. Anderson".

Judie A. Anderson
Recording Secretary
JAA:tim

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