

MINUTES
May 28, 2020

A virtual 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 8:35 a.m., Thursday, May 28, 2020.

Present were: Andrew Hogg, Brooklyn Center; Mitch Robinson, Brooklyn Park; Todd Tuominen, Champlin; Mark Ray, Crystal; Derek Asche, Maple Grove; Liz Stout, Minneapolis; Bernie Weber, New Hope; Nick Waldbillig, Osseo; Ben Scharenbroich, Amy Riegel, and Emerson Peaslee, Plymouth; Richard McCoy and Marta Roser, Robbinsdale; Ed Matthiesen and Diane Spector, Wenck Associates, Inc.; and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

Also present: Karen Jaeger, Maple Grove; Harold Johnson, Osseo; Karen Galles, Hennepin County Environment and Energy; and Luca Youngsma, DNR.

I. Motion by Ray, second by Stout to **approve the agenda*** with item 6.d. Crystal Lake Management Plan, being moved up for discussion prior to Galles' departure. *Motion carried unanimously.*

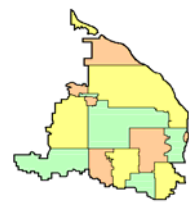
II. Motion by Ray, second by Stout to **approve the minutes*** of the April 30, 2020 meeting. *Motion carried unanimously.*

III. Project Review Fees.*

A. At the budget meeting the members of the TAC and the Commissioners were interested in reviewing the fee schedule to ascertain that it covers the cost of project reviews and that the fees were in line with those of other joint powers WMOs in the area. The schedule* was last updated in 2014 and reviewed in 2018, at which time the Commission voted to not revise the schedule.

Tables in Staff's May 27, 2020 memo* compare the review fees received to the cost of performing the project reviews. The costs may also include meetings with developer's representatives, agencies, etc. As shown, often, especially in Shingle Creek, the review fee is not adequate to recapture all those costs. Projects that are part of regional developments such as Arbor Lakes or northern Brooklyn Park along the 610 corridor tend to cost less to review because treatment and rate control are being provided as part of regional systems or multi-development systems and the review is less extensive. Where development is infill or redevelopment, the project review can be more complex. In 2018 the review fees were adequate to cover the costs overall, but in 2019 they were not.

Staff compared the review fees to those of the adjacent Elm Creek* and Bassett Creek* WMOs to a sample of project reviews from 2018-2019. Elm is generally based on size, with a flat rate per acre. Bassett is generally based on flat amounts, with a base rate and other flat add-on rates for special analyses.



B. Staff recommend increasing the project review fees and suggest two options:

1. Maintain the current fee structure but simply increase the rates.
2. Consider a structure such as Bassett's, with a base rate and add-ons depending on the complexity of the review.

Juntunen noted that Elm Creek is also looking to revise their fee schedule – potentially moving to an escrow process – to ensure that the applicants, and not the cities, bear the costs of the reviews.

Some other watershed organizations use an escrow fee schedule. Wenck was queried how much administrative costs could be if an escrow process was used. JASS estimates administering escrows would probably cost about \$100 per review.

This discussion will continue at the next TAC meeting. Staff will flesh out the costs for managing escrows and look at the current schedule to consider altering base fees.

IV. HUC8 Model Update.

Issues have been worked out with the State. Matthiesen will provide an update with figures and results at the June meeting.

V. CIP Levy by Project.

At the last TAC meeting the members wanted to better understand the potential impacts to individual property owners of the proposed levy for 2020 Capital Improvement Projects.

In their May 27, 2020 memo* Staff provided an estimate based on the tax capacity rate experienced in the certify 2018/pay 2019 year. That levy of \$479,900 resulted in a Tax Capacity Rate of \$0.00355. Using the median single family home value by city reported by Hennepin County in its Assessment Report 2020, Table 1 of the memo shows the estimated impact on an average home in each member city in the Shingle Creek watershed.

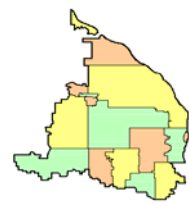
Staff were directed to add a column for percent increase next to the dollar amount increase for context. Sometimes 300% increase is \$10. The Commission's job is to present how much it needs to carry out its goal.

The Tax Capacity Rate is variable year-to-year depending on the overall net tax capacity in the county and distribution by city. The median value data is for all the single-family properties in the city, so it may not be representative of the median value of the homes in the Shingle Creek watershed.

The numbers in the second table show the maximum levy. The Commission could later decide not to proceed with any of these projects prior to the certification date. Delaying a project to a future year would likely mean a \$2 million levy down the road. Staff requested the TAC to make a recommendation to the Commissions of a course of action as they decide their maximum levy at their June 11, 2020 meeting.

Motion by Ray second by Riegel to recommend to the Commissions the levies as proposed (Shingle Creek = \$1,405,165; West Mississippi = \$287,660). *Motion carried unanimously.*

VI. Filamentous Algae (FA) Discussion. Following alum treatments in Bass and Upper Twin lakes, some filamentous algae growth has been observed. Brian Vlach at Three Rivers Park District has experienced the same results, so it appears to be a regional problem. It may be related to the temperature at the time of the treatments. It is possible that a broader distribution of alum and wider coverage areas may help get ahead of the FA problem. Wenck staff are working on an internal document which they will



send to the Commissions, TRPD, and neighboring watershed organizations as a plan of action. They also want to create educational materials for lakeshore owners so that they understand what FA is and how to deal with it.

Staff have been looking at options for treating/living with filamentous algae in Twin Lake. This spring 's weather and lake conditions have been conducive for its growth. The Commission will share advice with the residents. Meadow Lake experienced the same conditions after its drawdown.

Jaeger noted that Rice Lake has had problems with bullheads dying and curly leaf pondweed. She stated there was a [news] article about manure overloads to the water. Staff responded that there has not been a manure problem in Shingle Creek. The article is about conditions in the west/southwest area of the State. They also noted that Rice Lake is in the Elm Creek watershed.

VII. Meadow Lake Drawdown.

The drawdown is proposed to begin at the end of the golf season. Meadow Lake would be discharged west to the New Hope city storm sewer systems. The city would dewater the internal pond in the golf course. There are potential aquatic, wildlife and hydrologic impacts. A pump operational plan and some other items requesting authorization from DNR are being undertaken. It is hoped to get DNR's decision soon in order to move forward this fall. The project requires 75% approval of riparian owners. The project is on the CIP for levy this fall and will be resubmitted for a Clean Water Fund grant. The City has agreed to provide funds up front in order to move forward until grant or levy funds become available.

[Ray and Stout departed 9:30 a.m., Weber at 9:50 a.m.]

Youngsma introduced himself. He indicated he did not have an update on this project.

A Memo of Understanding with the City will be included on the Commission's June 11 agenda.

VIII. SRP Monitoring.

All three media are performing well, with the Alcan treatment still showing the best results. The project is up and running and performing. Staff will have data to report at the next meeting.

IX. Twin Lake Carp Barrier.

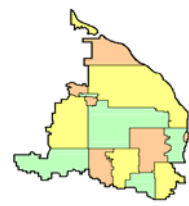
The carp are running. A crew caught 50 carp at the throat of Ryan Creek. They expect to catch that many or more again – about 1,000 lbs. The goal is take out as many as possible.

X. Crystal Lake Management Plan.

Galles was particularly interested in the lake levels and what steps the City of Robbinsdale is pursuing this year. Lake levels continue to be well above the OHW, reducing the ability to deal with ongoing storm events since there is no natural outlet. There is a pump in Sanborn Park that pumps water into the City of Minneapolis through their internal storm sewer and eventually to Shingle Creek. Minneapolis' storm sewer system is not able to handle any additional discharge.

Last year Robbinsdale had a permit to discharge to Ryan Creek and is approved to discharge directly to Ryan Lake until the end of this year. The City must find an alternative option for 2021.

Part of the Robbinsdale's 2020 CIP is to install an underground discharge line up to Ryan Lake so that whenever they need to pump down the lake they can bring in a portable pump to direct the water up to CR 9 and spill out into Ryan Lake. The City is moving ahead with that option, but the ideal situation is to have a line that runs from the north side of CR 9 to the south side of CR9. That is difficult since there is a 24" sanitary sewer pipe already there. Adding this additional line would be challenging, i.e., expensive.



After the project is completed, the pipe will be underground and will not be visible. Scharenbroich offered to touch base with McCoy regarding a pump base. Plymouth has experience with this construction.

XI. Other Business.

XII. Next Meeting.

The next Technical Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for 8:30 a.m., Thursday, June 25, 2020. This also will be a virtual meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Juntunen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Amy Juntunen
Recording Secretary
AAJ:tim

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