

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

November 12, 2020

(Action by the SCWMC appears in blue, by the WMWMC in green and shared information in black.
*indicates items included in the meeting packet.)

I. A joint virtual meeting of the Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission and the West Mississippi Watershed Management Commission was called to order by Shingle Creek Chairman Andy Polzin at 12:50 p.m. on Thursday, November 12, 2020.

Present for Shingle Creek were: David Mulla, Brooklyn Center; Adam Quinn, Brooklyn Park; Burton Orred, Jr., Crystal; Karen Jaeger, Maple Grove; Ray Schoch, Minneapolis; Bill Wills, New Hope; John Roach, Osseo; Andy Polzin, Plymouth; Wayne Sicora, Robbinsdale; Ed Matthiesen and Diane Spector, Wenck Associates, Inc.; Troy Gilchrist, Kennedy & Graven; and Judie Anderson and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

Present for West Mississippi were: David Mulla, Brooklyn Center, Alex Prasch, Brooklyn Park; Gerry Butcher, Champlin; Karen Jaeger, Maple Grove; Harold E. Johnson, Osseo; Ed Matthiesen, Wenck Associates, Inc.; Troy Gilchrist, Kennedy & Graven; and Judie Anderson and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

Also present were: Andrew Hogg, Brooklyn Center; Mitch Robinson, Brooklyn Park; Mark Ray, Crystal; Derek Asche, Maple Grove; Bob Grant and Megan Hedstrom, New Hope; Leah Gifford, Ben Scharenbroich and Amy Riegel, Plymouth; Richard McCoy and Marta Roser, Robbinsdale; Brian Kallio and Todd Shoemaker, Wenck Associates; and Laura Scholl and Jennifer Ehlert, Metro Blooms.

II. Agendas and Minutes.

Motion by Schoch, second by Jaeger to approve the **Shingle Creek agenda**.** Motion carried unanimously.*

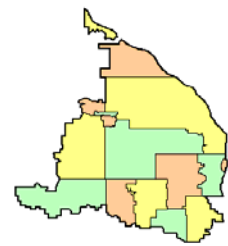
Motion by Butcher, second by Johnson to approve the **West Mississippi agenda**.** Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion by Schoch, second by Jaeger to approve the **minutes of the October 8, 2020 regular meeting**.** Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion by Johnson, second by Jaeger to approve the **minutes of the October 8, 2020 regular meeting**.** Motion carried unanimously.*

III. Finances and Reports.

A. Motion by Schoch, second by Roach to approve the Shingle Creek **November Treasurer's Report* and claims** totaling \$42,398.32. Voting aye: Mulla, Quinn, Jaeger, Schoch, Wills, Roach, Polzin, and Sicora; voting nay – none; absent: Crystal.



B. Motion by Jaeger, second by Butcher to approve the **West Mississippi November Treasurer's Report* and claims** totaling \$8,979.94. Voting aye: Mulla, Prasch, Butcher, Jaeger, and Johnson; voting nay – none.

[Orred arrived 1:05 pm.]

IV. Open Forum.

Brooks Landing is a senior affordable housing community located on 74th Avenue in Brooklyn Park. Scholl and Ehlert presented an update on this \$80,000 project for which the Shingle Creek Commission contributed \$30,000 of Cost Share funds. The site is 1.87 acres in size, 53% impervious. The community is comprised of 110 units. Other partners include the City of Brooklyn Park, Helping Hand Companies, African Career Education and Resource, Inc., Metro Blooms, Board of Water and Soil Resources Lawns to Legumes program, and Boisclair Corporation, owners of this affordable housing community.

The project began in 2019 when, after many discussions with the residents, Metro Blooms developed a landscape retrofit plan for the site. The plan includes stormwater improvements to reduce runoff and improve water quality, as well as livable, improved outdoor spaces with access to gardening areas, flowering trees and shrubs, and improved gathering areas.

On-site work commenced in 2020. Raingardens were created/retrofitted and landscaping was undertaken to create habitat along the Single Creek corridor while also addressing the creek's impairments for aquatic life (chlorides) and aquatic recreation (bacteria) through runoff reduction and smart salting training for the community's maintenance staff and resident caretakers. Funding for additional native plantings, shrubs and trees was provided by the Lawn to Legumes demonstration neighborhoods grant program. The plantings were completed last month and a sustainable tree canopy will be planted in Spring 2021 with a Hennepin County Healthy Tree Canopy grant.

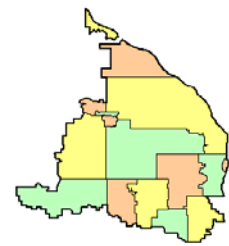
V. Project Reviews.

VI. Watershed Management Plan.

VII. Water Quality.

A. One of the West Mississippi Commission's pieces of monitoring equipment is no longer functional and Staff is recommending that it be replaced. The equipment is an **In-Situ AquaTroll data logger** which is used to continuously monitor temperature and conductivity in streams. This unit has been deployed in the channel flowing out of the Brooklyn Park Environmental Preserve and into the Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park to the Mississippi River. Staff uses conductivity to estimate chloride concentrations in streamflow. The Preserve is one of the Commission's ongoing monitoring stations in the watershed and there is a large area upstream that has developed over the last 20 years. The base price of this equipment is \$1,695. With shipping the estimated cost for replacement is \$1,750. The unit that is being replaced lasted for six years in harsh conditions; Staff expects similar longevity for the replacement unit. Staff recommends funding this equipment replacement from cash reserves. Motion by Jaeger, second by Butcher to purchase the data logger per Staff's recommendations. *Motion carried unanimously.*

B. McCoy presented on the topic of **Ryan Lake and Supplemental Pumping from Crystal Lake**. He related the needs for remedial action to reduce/better control high water levels in Crystal Lake. Crystal Lake has no natural outlet and increasing pumping into Minneapolis using the existing discharge pipe is limited by downstream capacity. During extended periods of very high water in Crystal Lake groundwater/lake water inundates the low-lying areas and infiltrates residents' basements.



McCoy identified the two apparent options: 1) reduce the water coming into the lake and/or 2) increase the water going out of the lake. In addressing the first option, the City of Robbinsdale has been building raingardens and underground storage as opportunities arise and is looking to the City of Minneapolis to assist with infrastructure in their jurisdiction, although this involves a long lead time for discussion and construction. With the second option, the City cannot increase pumping using the existing discharge point. The Twin Lake/Ryan Lake system is the only viable short-term option.

McCoy's presentation showed the "temporary" route used in 2019 to re-direct the water into Twin Lake, avoiding disruption to local traffic. It also showed the "permanent" route employed in 2020. With the more direct route, this alternative reduced the high water issues on Twin Lake by discharging the water to Ryan Lake directly. It is the intention to maintain this route for 2021 and beyond.

He also listed the requirements of the DNR: a) that the Operational Plan does not cause problems to Ryan Lake; b) that the addition of water will not exceed the capacity of the downstream infrastructure; c) that the water quality will not be adversely impacted; and d) that the Ryan Lake riparian land owners have been consulted.

C. Shoemaker's presentation described the significant flood mitigation benefits realized from the **Becker Park and Kentucky Avenue underground infiltration projects** undertaken in the City of Crystal. The analysis used a two-dimensional computer model to predict street flooding depth surrounding the Bass Lake Road and Broadway Ave intersection. The model was calibrated to monitoring data recorded in the Becker Park system. Improving water quality within Twin Lake was the primary motivation for both projects, but modeling shows the two projects also reduce street flooding. For example, the depth of street flooding is reduced by up to three inches during a one-hour, 1.8-inch rainfall.

D. Spector provided an update regarding the **Meadow Lake drawdown**. Because the DNR application was unable to be submitted on time, the drawdown will not occur this fall. Staff has received feedback that there are turtles in the lake that are concerning the residents. A spring drawdown will allow time for Staff to do a wildlife assessment prior to commencing.

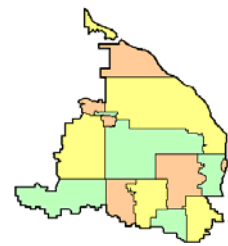
VIII. Grant Opportunities.

A. Hennepin County has announced another round of applications for its **Opportunity Grants*** for projects that protect and restore habitat, improve stormwater management, and reduce erosion and sedimentation. The deadline for this solicitation is December 2, 2020.

Last June the Commission authorized submitting an Opportunity Grant application for the **Channel Modification to Enhance the SRP Removal project**, requesting \$100,000 to be matched by \$10,000 from SRP project funds. The grant would be used to partially fund the project to line the outlet channel with two of the media tested in the SRP Reduction project. That application was not funded, primarily because it did not leverage enough match and because it was very early in the design phase.

Staff recommends that the project be resubmitted, this time for \$75,000 with a \$50,000 match, with the match coming from either the Closed Projects account or the Cost Share account. There are still some match funds available in the SRP Reduction budget that could be used to fund eight hours of design time to bring the plans from 30% to 60%. These monies would fund the first phase of the project, about half the channel. The results of the project would determine whether to proceed with the second phase.

Motion by Roach, second by Schoch to authorize Staff to submit an application for this project, using matching funds from the Cost Share account. *Motion carried unanimously.*



B. Roser inquired whether a contemplated project in the City of Robbinsdale would be eligible for an Opportunity Grant. It involves shoreline restoration on private property on the south shore of Ryan Lake. There is no public access on the lake and minimal boat traffic. Staff responded that this project may be eligible for a partnership Cost Share Grant and would likely require an easement-type agreement.

IX. Education and Public Outreach.

The **West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA)** will meet on Tuesday, December 8, 2020. The WMWA Zoom number is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/922390839> or call in at any of these numbers using meeting ID **922 390 839**: (1) +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown); (2) +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); (3) +1 929 205 6099 US (New York); or (4) +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma) The passcode is **water**. The members will be discussing the education components of the revised NPDES permit.

Final proofs of the native plant roots sign are attached to the Staff Report (item X., below). The sign makers will begin fabricating the tabletop versions with pull-out roots

X. Staff Report.*

A. Crystal Lake Management Plan. Staff are currently processing data acquired this year and will present a full status report at the December Commission meeting.

B. Bass and Pomerleau Lakes. The second alum treatment was applied. The BWSR grant expires at the end of 2020; Staff are working with BWSR to extend the expiration date by a year. Next spring, Staff will take final sediment cores to determine if they have successfully reduced sediment release to the goal rate. They will also survey the curly-leaf pondweed and complete a third treatment.

C. Education and Outreach. Mary Amsden, one of the two WMWA educators, announced her retirement in October, so the members will be looking for another contracted educator. Amsden worked primarily with schools in the southern part of the WMWA area, while Sharon Meister continues to focus on the northern part. Since there are limited in-classroom opportunities at this time, Meister's focus has been on online resources available both to teachers and families looking for content or enrichment as they learn from home.

XI. Communications.

October Communications Log.* No items required action.

XII. Other Business.

XIII. Adjournment. There being no further business before the Commissions, the joint meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Judie A. Anderson
Recording Secretary
JAA:tim

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