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 8:31 a.m., Thursday, November 30, 2017, at Crystal City Hall, 4141 Douglas Drive North, Crystal, MN.

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

Not represented: Champlin, New Hope and Osseo.

I. Motion by Ray, second by Scharenbroich to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

II. Motion by Scharenbroich, second by Hogg to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2017 meeting.* Motion carried unanimously.

III. SCWM FEMA Updates.

Shingle Creek Model Update. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has awarded the MnDNR a grant to update the Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) in the Twin Cities HUC8 watershed. Representatives from the DNR were present at the October 26 TAC meeting to discuss the project and present the scope of the grant. A map of the FEMA Study Areas in the SCWM hydrologic boundary showing which reaches should be studied was also distributed at that meeting.

In their November 28, 2017 letter,* Wenck staff has put together a draft scope of work and cost estimate for consideration by the DNR. It sets forth eight tasks and includes a line item budget and schedule for key meetings and deliverables.

Matthiesen queried whether any member cities will have surveying personnel available to assist with this project.

IV. Twin Lake Carp Project. Matthiesen showed the presentation given to the Twin/Ryan Lake residents at their December 13, 2017 community meeting. He stated that residents indicated they did not want to get involved in vegetation management. Future steps must include educating the residents. It was suggested that one way to accommodate the residents may be to create a channel for recreation. It was also suggested that a lake improvement district be created for long term maintenance. Currently the lake associations are paying for fish stocking.

A. Staff’s November 24, 2017 memo* recapped their discussion with MnDNR. The primary objective of the meeting was to discuss and determine the best management strategy to remove the carp from the system, limit recruitment post removals, and develop submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) response options.

B. The following next steps were identified:
1. Determine whether Ryan Lake will be included in the carp management actions. If yes, then aeration should occur on Ryan Lake in addition to Upper Twin. A barrier will be installed at the outlet of Ryan Lake at the Osseo Road culvert to prevent movement of fish into Ryan Lake from Shingle Creek. If no, then Ryan Lake will not be aerated and the fish barrier will be placed on the France Avenue bridge. This will be determined by a review of project budget for design and construction costs and the cities/commission willingness to operate and fund annual aeration and barrier maintenance related tasks.

2. Contact commercial fisherman and schedule tentative winter seine removals. Establish terms and compensation of removals. Determine needed assistance and volunteers.

3. Determine whether aeration will be pursued and who will operate and pay for electricity, maintenance, and other operating costs/labor.

4. Finalize location and design of barrier(s).

5. Apply for aeration permits through Ecology and Water Resources division of MnDNR (if applicable).

6. Apply for permanent barrier permits through Ecology and Water Resources division of MnDNR (if applicable). Any temporary barriers are permitted through the Fisheries division (if applicable).

7. Discuss and review SAV management options. If treatment is pursued, who will fund? A variance application to go above standard treatment limits need only be pursued if available funds are sufficient to treat greater acreage. (Standard treatment acreage is equal to 15% of the littoral habitat within a lake.)

[Scharenbroich departed 9:32 a.m.]

V. Biochar Project.

Matthiesen provided a preview of the Wenck presentation, “Biochar/iron/sand filters to remove bacteria and nutrients in an urban watershed,” which will be given at the 2018 International Erosion Control Association’s Annual Conference in January. The presentation will discuss the use of biochar, iron and sand filters to remove bacteria and phosphorus from urban runoff. Catch basin inserts, pond filter benches and a filter box were installed and stormwater inflow and outflow were monitored for two years. Results will be discussed.

VI. Local Water Management Plan Updates.

Revisions to Minnesota Rules 8410 adopted in 2015 include significant changes in the timing of local water plan revisions. Per 8410.0105 sub-paragraph 9 and 8410.0160 subparagraph 6:

A. Local water plans must be prepared by metropolitan cities and towns (municipalities) and a local water plan must become part of the local comprehensive plan for a municipality.

B. Local water plans must be revised essentially once every ten years in alignment with the local comprehensive plan schedule.

C. A municipality has two years before its local comprehensive plan is due to adopt its local water plan.

D. Prior to adoption, a municipality must prepare its local water plan, distribute it for comment, and have it approved by the organization with jurisdiction in the municipality.

E. The next local comprehensive plans are due December 31, 2018. All cities and towns in the seven-county metropolitan area must complete and adopt their local water plans between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2018. Thereafter, add ten years to each of the previous dates.
F. Local water plans may be updated more frequently by a municipality at its discretion.

VII. Other Business.

A. Stout announced that the City of Minneapolis’s NPDES MS4 Phase I permit has been issued for public comment thorough January 10, 2018. There is new language in the permit regarding prohibitions to infiltration that the MPCA has indicated will also be added to the upcoming reissuance of the General Construction Permit and the MS4 Phase II permit for smaller cities. This language will increase the prohibitions for where infiltration practices can be implemented. These new prohibitions include a prohibition against constructing infiltration practices in Drinking Water Supply Management Areas (DWSMAs) that have a high or very high vulnerability per the MN Department of Health.

B. Staff have been contacted by Steve Woods of the Freshwater Society, which has been facilitating a loose coalition of organizations and individuals called StopOverSalting (SOS). Their primary purpose is to promote and lobby for legislation which would limit the liability of salt application contractors that are certified by the MPCA through its training program. The coalition is looking for additional parties to support this effort.

The MPCA put forward a proposal to the Governor's office to include action on chloride in recommendations to the legislature. Governor Dayton's decision will be announced the first week of March. Brooke Asleson (who led the Metro Chloride TMDL), in her new full-time chloride position at the MPCA, has been working on a sustainable “Smart Salting” education component and draft legislation that more closely aligns with Minnesota liability law - requested earlier this fall by Clean Water Council.

The group is working with potential authors and strategies for legislative presentations. SOS has met with four legislators in the last several weeks who are supporting the bill: Representatives Dario Anselmo and Frank Hornstein and Senators Melisa Franzen and Scott Dibble. Members are encouraged to contact their cities as well. Two contact persons are: Sue Nissen, (n.sue4408@gmail.com) or Larry Johnson at MNLA (larry@mnla.biz).

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

D. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judie A. Anderson
Recording Secretary

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