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**Technical Advisory Committee  
MINUTES | December 8, 2022  
CORRECTED – See Section VII.**

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 11:07 a.m., Thursday, December 8, 2022, in the Aspen Room, Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Avenue North, Plymouth, MN.

Present: Kim Wahl, Brooklyn Center; Mitchell Robinson, Brooklyn Park; Heather Nelson, Champlin; Mark Ray, Crystal; Mark Lahtinen, Maple Grove; Katie Kowalczyk, Minneapolis; Nick Macklem, New Hope; Amy Riegel, Plymouth; Richard McCoy and Mike Sorensen, Robbinsdale; Diane Spector, Todd Shoemaker, and Katie Kemmitt, Stantec; and Judie Anderson, JASS. Not represented: Osseo.

Present for item III were Laura Scholl, Erin Bogle, and Chris Otto, Metro Blooms, and Tyra Ramse, Dwell Management Group.

Also present: Burt Orred, Jr., Crystal, and Andy Polzin, Plymouth.

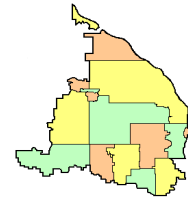
- I. Motion by Ray, second by Riegel to **approve the agenda\*** as revised. *Motion carried unanimously.*
- II. Motion by Ray, second by Robinson to **approve the minutes\*** of the November 10, 2022, meeting. *Motion carried unanimously.*
- III. **Highland Gables Cost Share Request.\***

Representatives from Metro Blooms and Dwell Management Group presented a Partnership Cost Share Program application for improvements at Highland Gables Apartments in Brooklyn Park. Proposed improvements include two rain gardens and a playground constructed out of natural products. Metro Blooms requests a cost-share amount of \$49,992.67. Other cost share matches include a Brooklyn Park Community Grant - \$20,000; Hennepin County Good Steward Grant - \$24,955; Lawns to Legumes Grant - \$2,300; and Dwell Management - \$11,710. The total project cost is estimated at \$108,957.16.

The cost of the nature playground is \$12,524.00 and includes the removal of 480 square feet of turf lawn for native plantings in the nature play area. Metro Blooms considers the nature play area integral for families and youth to be able to connect with nature and learn through play and realizes that 100% of the mulch, edging, and fabric don't pertain directly to a stormwater BMP. Metro Blooms is asking the Commission to consider funding these items as part of broader goals of community engagement and education. The cost for the construction of the two raingardens and community engagement is \$37,468.67.

Stantec has reviewed the preliminary plans and notes the following benefits of the project:

1. Improving water quality by capturing untreated impervious area. (See Table 1.)
2. Community engagement and outreach.
3. Project is in the "most vulnerable area" of the Human Vulnerability map in the Hennepin County Climate Change plan.



**Table 1. Water quality benefits of the proposed project.**

	Volume Captured (cf)	TSS Reduction (lb/yr)	TP Reduction (lb/yr)	Normalized Cost (\$/lb TP)
Two Raingardens*	2,000	140	1.9	\$670*

\*Assumes cost-share is limited to raingarden construction and community engagement (\$37,468.67).

Stantec recommends approval with the following conditions:

1. Conduct soil borings to verify design infiltration rates.
2. Execute and record an Operations and Maintenance Agreement prior to release of any funds.

With the conditions noted above, Staff recommends approval of this cost share application with the amount to be determined based on TAC and Commission discussion. The balance in the Partnership Cost Share Fund is \$104,000.

Members questioned the implications should the status/ownership of the property in the rear area change. The Commission’s attorney will be asked if there are ways to protect this area.

Motion by Ray, second by Riegel to recommend to the Shingle Creek Commission approval of this application in the amount of \$49,992.67, pending Commission attorney review. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**IV. Linear Project Review Threshold.\***

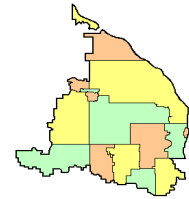
During the November 10, 2022, meetings, the TAC and Commissions discussed implementation of new thresholds for linear projects that became effective on October 1, 2022. TAC and Commission members agreed that review of linear projects would be conducted by the Commissions for projects that create one or more acres of new impervious surface. Member cities would review projects that fully reconstructed one or more acres of new impervious surface. This is consistent with past implementation of Commission project reviews.

TAC members discussed in more depth the definition of “fully reconstructed” and how the Commission standards may apply, specifically related to project disturbance area, disconnected project locations, mill and overlay projects, and full depth reclamation projects. Staff has reviewed Commission rules, definitions, and available guidance and notes the following considerations and recommendations.

**A. Considerations.** The “Project Review Thresholds” document serves as a “cheat sheet” for the Commission rules. That document had not been updated based on the new rules, and, therefore, still referenced using disturbed area as the threshold for linear projects. An updated version,\* attached to Staff’s memo, specifically identifies that linear project review thresholds are based on impervious area.

Staff also reviewed definitions stated in the October rules. They have suggested a few refinements to improve clarity regarding linear projects: fully reconstructed impervious; full depth reclamation; and a figure to better show the differences between mill & overlay, full depth reclamation, and full reconstruction.

Another clarification requested by the TAC was regarding a project that may disturb several disconnected locations (i.e., bus stops for a new bus route or a linear utility project). Collectively,



the locations could exceed the Commission project review threshold but not individually. Staff added the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's "Common Plan of Development" definition to Rule A.\*

**B. Recommendation.** Staff recommend that the TAC recommend to the Commissions approval to clarify the current versions of "Rule A Definitions" and "Project Review Thresholds" in accordance with the documents as revised.

Motion by Riegel, second by Ray to make this recommendation to the Commissions.  
*Motion carried unanimously.*

**V. Legal Boundaries.\***

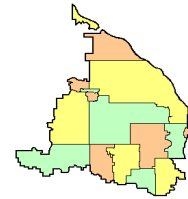
**A. Updates.**

1. Bassett Creek WMC issued their concurrence letter on November 16, 2022.
2. An amendment to the Bassett Creek WMC letter may be necessary due to a forthcoming City of Robbinsdale project.
3. Staff completed final boundary edits based on comments from the City of Champlin and the Elm Creek WMC.
4. Staff expect the Elm Creek WMC will consider the boundary update at their December 14, 2022, meeting.
5. Staff expect the Mississippi WMC will consider the boundary update at their January 1, 2023, meeting.
6. After preparation by legal counsel, Staff will distribute concurrence letter templates to affected cities and request official action.
7. After receipt of all watershed and municipal concurrence letters, the boundary update will be submitted to Hennepin County, so the County can update the watershed's special taxing district. Submittal by July 1st of an updated boundary map and a list of parcels within the new boundaries will ensure the update is included in the following year's taxes.

**B. Contract Amendment.** Updating the legal boundary has required more time than originally budgeted by Staff. Therefore, Staff are requesting the TAC and Commission to consider authorizing an additional \$10,000 to complete the update.

At the June 2022 meeting, the SC and WM Commissions authorized a scope of work and budget of \$27,900, split equally between each Commission, for the legal boundary update. The approved budget included \$19,000 for the boundary analysis and reporting and was based on adjusting approximately 200-300 parcels. Upon completion of the analysis, the actual number of parcels evaluated was between 1,000 and 1,500. Related to that number, Staff found more discrepancies than expected between the existing hydrologic boundary for the Shingle Creek and Elm Creek WMCs. These two factors, in turn, resulted in more time to evaluate "micro" features between hydrologic boundaries:

1. Areas with storm sewer intersecting the defined hydrologic boundary,
2. Discrepancies/gaps between neighboring hydrologic boundaries,
3. Outlets not clearly identified,
4. Pumped systems, and
5. Multiple storm sewer lines with an unclear drainage direction.



Should the Commissions approve this amendment, Staff recommend that the additional \$10,000 cost be split equally between the two Commissions and funds be reallocated from each Commission's Cost Share Projects accounts, both of which are carrying balances well above the maximum recommended by the Cost Share Policy. (Shingle Creek has about \$330,000 and West Mississippi has about \$390,000.)

Motion by Ray, second by Riegel to recommend this amendment to the Commissions, with the cost being split evenly between them. *Motion carried unanimously.*

#### **VI. MPCA Climate Resilience Grants.\***

**A.** The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is now taking applications for Planning Grants for the Stormwater, Wastewater, and Community Resilience program.\* \$395,000 is available to support climate-planning projects in communities across Minnesota. This funding will help communities assess vulnerabilities and plan for the effects of Minnesota's changing climate in three areas: (1) Improving stormwater resilience and reducing localized flood risk; (2) Improving the resilience of wastewater systems; and (3) Adapting community services, ordinances, and public spaces.

**B.** This was a new grant program in 2021, and the Shingle Creek Commission submitted a grant application to use its HUC8 model to estimate the potential impacts of future precipitation patterns. The application was not funded. In November the Commission authorized development of an application for submittal this year using the same general work plan as last year. Last year the grant program funded grants to a few other WMOs and cities to undertake essentially the same activities:

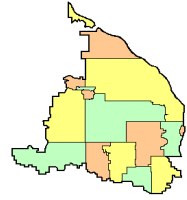
**1.** Model and map midcentury precipitation scenarios to create projected flood inundation areas for the 1%+ 24-hour rainfall event and the 1%+ 10 day event. A 'plus' is a rainfall depth taken from the 90th percentile estimate for the given rainfall frequency. FEMA often evaluates not only the 1% storm event but also the 1%+ storm event as a way to provide perspective on the range of values one COULD expect in the 1% event. The State Climatology Office also suggests using the 90th percentile as a proxy for midcentury precipitation.

**2.** Identify potential future flooding risks in the watershed by reviewing known flooding areas, infrastructure, structures, and emergency vehicle routes in or in close proximity to predicted future hazardous flood conditions.

**3.** Develop policy recommendations for using the scenario data. For example, this modeling could be used to help the cities and county better understand how to properly design new infrastructure such as culverts, bridges, etc. that would be expected to have a mid-century useful life.

One modification to last years' application, added to the attached draft,\* is some planning time to work with city Diversity and Inclusion (D & I) coordinators to conduct outreach to vulnerable communities that may be more at risk from potential future flooding. This grant prioritizes (but is not limited to) communities with higher concentrations of low-income residents, people of color and non-English speakers, including tribal communities. Much of the lower watershed including large parts of Minneapolis, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and New Hope are located in these MPCA-identified areas for Environmental Justice. Hopefully, adding some more active outreach to better understand needs and impacts will be the oomph this application needs to be selected for funding.

Completing this type of resiliency modeling is called out in the Fourth Generation Plan as a priority implementation action. The cost of undertaking this work is estimated as \$29,710, with a grant request of \$26,200 and a local match of \$3,510. (A minimum 10% match is required.)



Applications are due January 12, 2023. Staff suggest the TAC recommend and the Commission approve submittal of the grant application.

Motion by Riegel, second by Ray to make this recommendation to the Shingle Creek Commission. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**VII. Other Business.**

~~A.~~ Diane, I missed the awards you mentioned — one from MAWD and one from ??.

~~B.~~ A. The Technical Advisory Committee will not meet in January 2023.

~~C.~~ B. There being no further business, the TAC meeting was adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Judie A. Anderson  
Recording Secretary  
JAA:tim

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