

MINUTES
Regular Meetings
December 10, 2015

(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 meeting of the Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission and the West Mississippi Watershed Management Commission was called to order by Tina Carstens, Chair, on Thursday, December 10, 2015, at 12:45 p.m., at the Clubhouse at Edinburgh USA, 8700 Edinbrook Crossing, Brooklyn Park, MN.

Present for Shingle Creek were: David Vlasin, Brooklyn Center; Tina Carstens, Brooklyn Park; Janet Moore, Crystal; Karen Jaeger, Maple Grove; Bill Wills, New Hope; Andy Polzin, Plymouth; Wayne Sicora, Robbinsdale; Troy Gilchrist, Kennedy & Graven; Ed Matthiesen and Diane Spector, Wenck Associates, Inc.; and Judie Anderson, JASS.

Not represented: Minneapolis and Osseo.

Present for West Mississippi were: David Vlasin, Brooklyn Center; Tina Carstens, Brooklyn Park; Gerry Butcher, Champlin; Karen Jaeger, Maple Grove; Troy Gilchrist, Kennedy & Graven; Ed Matthiesen and Diane Spector, Wenck Associates, Inc.; and Judie Anderson, JASS.

Not represented: Osseo.

Also present were: Andrew Hogg, Brooklyn Center; John Roach and Jesse Struve, Brooklyn Park; Todd Tuominen, Champlin; Mark Ray, Crystal; Rick Lestina, Maple Grove; Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; and Richard McCoy, Robbinsdale.

II. **Agendas and Minutes.**

Motion by Moore, second by Vlasin to approve the revised **Shingle Creek agenda**.* *Motion carried unanimously.*

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

Motion by Moore, second by Polzin to approve the **minutes of the November 12, 2015 Shingle Creek regular and public meetings**.* *Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion by Jaeger, second by Vlasin to approve the **minutes of the November 12, 2015 West Mississippi regular and public meetings**.* *Motion carried unanimously.*

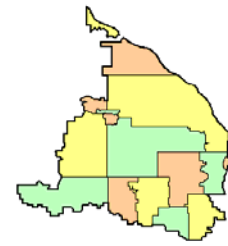
III. **Finances and Reports.**

A. Motion by Wills, second by Polzin to approve the **Shingle Creek Treasurer's Report**.* *Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion by Vlasin, second by Wills to approve the **Shingle Creek December claims**.* Claims totaling \$21,284.16 were *approved by roll call vote*: ayes – Vlasin, Carstens, Moore, Jaeger, Wills, Polzin, and Sicora; nays – none; absent – Minneapolis and Osseo.

B. Motion by Butcher, second by Jaeger to approve the **West Mississippi Treasurer's Report**.* *Motion carried unanimously.*

*items are included in meeting packet



Motion by Butcher, second by Vlasin to approve the **West Mississippi December claims**.^{*} Claims totaling \$6,110.49 were *approved by roll call vote*: ayes – Vlasin, Carstens, Butcher, and Jaeger; nays – none; absent – Osseo.

IV. Open Forum.

Matthiesen presented, “**Des Moines Water Works Lawsuit Against Watershed Districts.**” Last spring the Des Moines Water Works board voted to sue three northern Iowa counties (Calhoun, Buena Vista and Sac), alleging that they are responsible for the high nitrate levels in rivers the utility uses for water. Water Works officials said the counties channel fertilizer and manure from farm fields downstream.

The counties oversee ten drainage districts north of Des Moines that help move water from fields. The lawsuit claims the drainage districts are the same as city wastewater treatment plants and should be regulated. The water source is used by a half million people. Water Works CEO Bill Stowe stated that, “While other businesses in Iowa are regulated as to their environmental impacts, agriculture is not and should not according to those who believe in the status quo,” The system to remove the nitrates costs \$7,000/day to operate.

V. Water Quality.

A. Staff’s [December 4] memo outlined the proposed **Partnership Cost Share Program Guidelines**^{*} recommended by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) at their November 30 meeting. The Commission’s 2015 CIP and levy included \$50,000 to establish a program to share in the cost of BMP retrofits. The program is intended to dovetail with the subwatershed assessments being completed in priority areas of the watersheds. Those assessments identify opportunities for retrofitting BMPs on both public and private property. The program would provide cost-share incentives for property owners to construct above-and-beyond BMPs, whether at the time of redevelopment or as a retrofit, and who agree to take on ongoing responsibility for maintaining those treatment facilities. Also included in the meeting packet were an application form^{*} and information about similar grant programs^{*} in other watersheds in the Metro area. Most of the programs are open to both commercial and residential property owners.

Motion by Sicora, second by Moore to approve the guidelines with the addition of the words, “as determined by the Commission” to guideline 9. *Motion carried unanimously.*

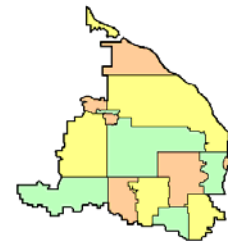
Motion by Butcher, second by Jaeger to approve the guidelines with the same addition. *Motion carried unanimously.*

B. The **Connections at Shingle Creek**^{*} project was bid a few months ago and construction is underway. The cities of Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park are discussing how much each will be contributing to the project. Staff has calculated the quantities of each bid item by city and their total cost based on the as bid quantities and unit prices. The final split of costs will be based on the actual, final quantities. Engineering and administration costs will be split between the two cities in the same ratio as the construction cost.

The Commission won a \$200,000 Clean Water Fund grant to help fund the project, and levied \$87,500 for the Commission’s 25% cost share based on the feasibility study cost estimate prepared in 2013. Since that time, the project has been designed and bid and the construction costs are significantly less than were anticipated, as outlined in Staff’s memo dated December 4. Should the final quantities be less than as bid, the total project cost will fall below the minimum needed to use the full grant, and the Commission would have to return some of the grant. At its November 30, 2015 meeting the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) discussed whether there were other elements of the Connections project that could be funded from the grant, keeping within the project description in the grant application.

The grant noted that this project location has been a long-term stream monitoring site for Park Center High School students and that the grant funds project elements such as stabilized paths down to the water’s edge for the students’ and public’s use. There is an amphitheater-style outdoor classroom being installed

^{*}items are included in meeting packet



as part of the larger Connections trail project. It was suggested that since that classroom would likely be used during stream monitoring activities, it would be appropriate to share in its \$33,325 cost. For example, sharing in 25% of the cost would result in a total estimated project cost of \$233,729. The Commission's levy could fund the balance of \$33,729. The leftover Commission funds would revert to the Closed Projects Fund for use on other projects. The cities' share would be zero, and their budgeted funds could be used on other projects, such as the Public Art Reaeration Structures project. The TAC recommends to the Commission that the Commission share in the cost of the outdoor classroom to maximize the use of the Clean Water Fund grant. The exact amount of levy used would depend upon the final cost of the project as built. Those final cost figures will be available next spring, when restoration is complete.

Motion by Wills, second by Sicora to approve the TAC's recommendation as outlined above.
Motion carried unanimously.

C. Tiered Aquatic Life Use (TALU) rules.* The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is currently updating the State's water quality standards to incorporate a tiered aquatic life use (TALU) framework for rivers and streams and has posted new information about the changes being considered in the "Rulemaking documents" tab on the TALU rulemaking webpage at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/zihy1082>. Interested parties are invited to review an overview document that explains the expected effect of the TALU changes and pre-proposal draft rule language.

VI. Watershed Management Plan.

Annual Review.* The Third Generation Watershed Management Plan states that the Commissions will annually review progress toward their Third Generation goals, and that this evaluation will become part of the Annual Report. Since the Third Generation Plan was adopted, BWSR adopted revised Minnesota Rules 8410 that requires WMOs to review progress every two years.

At the October meeting Staff provided a simple format with some draft evaluation language for Commissioners to consider. The draft review charted the Plan's stated goals for water quantity, water quality, groundwater, wetlands, drainage systems, and operations and programming; the Commissions' action in 2015; completion to date; and progress toward the goals. Based on that discussion, Staff have added two columns to the tables for each goal area: "Expected Completion" and "Status." For the most part the Commission are on track to meet goals, with the following exceptions:

A. Work has not yet begun on the "sustainable water budget" project. Staff have had some discussions with USGS staff about this, but have not yet identified a funding source for this project.

B. While Lower Twin, Ryan, and Schmidt Lakes have been delisted from the draft Impaired Waters list, there is a stretch goal of achieving delisting for Bass, Eagle, Crystal, and Middle Twin Lakes. As Upper Twin improves, Middle Twin is likely to reach the state standard. Some BMPs have been or will be implemented for Bass and Crystal, but it is not clear yet whether that will be sufficient for delisting or if more needs to be done.

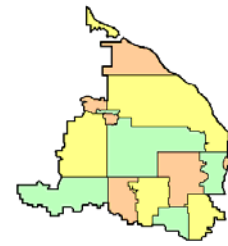
C. P8 models for the lakesheds are being reviewed as the Commission goes through the TMDL review process, so that is an ongoing task.

D. The Commissions have a goal to have completed subwatershed assessment for at least 25% of that part of the watersheds that developed prior to Commission rules in 1984. West Mississippi is on track to complete this goal; but Shingle Creek has completed only 4% of pre-1984 development areas. A more achievable goal would be 10%.

E. The Commissions have a goal of maintaining the functions and values of priority wetlands, but have not established a process by which that would be evaluated.

Motion by Sicora, second by Polzin to approve the revised annual review document dated December 4, 2015.* *Motion carried unanimously.*

*items are included in meeting packet



Motion by Vlasin, second by Butcher to approve the revised annual review document date December 4, 2015. *Motion carried unanimously.*

VII. Education.

A. The next **West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA)** meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2016.

B. Spector presented a live demonstration of the **Commissions' updated and refreshed website**. Weebly is being used to create and host the website. It will become active within the coming week.

[Wills departed 2:35 p.m.]

VIII. Grant Opportunities and Updates.

A. Clean Water Fund (CWF) CCM Project Applications.

1. **The Cleveland Neighborhood of Raingardens**, a collaboration between Metro Blooms, the Cleveland Neighborhood Association, and the Conservation Corps of Minnesota (CCM), is requesting the Commission to sponsor a CWF application* for 6 days of crew time to excavate, soil amend, and mulch up to 15 raingardens. Metro Blooms will provide onsite consultation and the homeowners will plant the raingardens. The Cleveland neighborhood is located in North Minneapolis. Stormwater from the neighborhood eventually drains to Crystal Lake. A map* showing the site of the project is also included with the application. Motion by Polzin, second by Vlasin to sponsor this application as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

2. **Common Bond Kingsley Commons Raingarden Rehabilitation Project**. Three raingardens on the Kingsley Commons property are in need of rehabilitation due to inadequate maintenance. The CCM crew will remove woody tree and shrub growth, apply pesticide where needed, and plant native perennials. Assistance and oversight will be provided by Metro Blooms. Kingsley Commons is located at 45th and Humboldt in North Minneapolis. Stormwater from this neighborhood eventually drains to Shingle Creek and the Mississippi River. A site map* is included with the CWF application.* Motion by Jaeger, second by Sicora to sponsor this application as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

B. 319 Grant Project Applications.

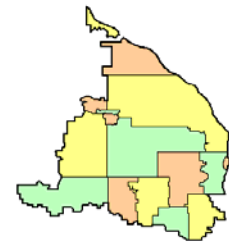
1. The Commission has been awarded \$100,000 for the **Twin Lake Carp Management Project**. This project will track carp in the lake system to determine their migration patterns and overwintering locations, remove the carp, prevent future migration and reproduction and prepare an aquatic vegetation management plan. Included in the meeting packet were the Grant Agreement* and Work Plan,* along with a Professional Services Contract* between Wenck Associates and the Commission for the former to perform technical services for the project. Motion by Sicora, second by Polzin to approve the Grant Agreement and Professional Services Contract. *Motion carried unanimously.*

[Butcher departed 2:43 p.m.]

2. The Commission has also been awarded \$199,375 for the **Biochar/Iron Sand Bacteria Filters Project**. This project will evaluate the effectiveness of adding biochar to iron-enhanced sand filters to reduce E-coli and other bacteria and phosphorus in urban stormwater runoff. The results of this field testing and monitoring will be used to develop technical design guidance and specifications for use by stormwater managers as they undertake TMDL implementation and water resource projects. Included in the meeting packet were the Work Plan* and a Professional Services Contract* between Wenck Associates and the Commission for the former to perform technical services for the project. Motion by Vlasin, second by Polzin to approve the Grant Agreement and Professional Services Contract upon receipt and review of the former by the Commission's attorney. *Motion carried unanimously.*

C. Staff has been advised that the Commission will be awarded a \$725,000 Board of Water Resources (BWSR) Clean Water Fund Grant for the **Becker Park Infiltration Project**. The project will install a 43,000 SF infiltration gallery beneath a ball field in Becker Park in the City of Crystal to infiltrate 0.5 inches of runoff from a

*items are included in meeting packet



147-acre currently untreated mixed use subwatershed with 51% impervious surface. The project will reduce total phosphorus to Upper Twin Lake by 118 pounds annually and reduce street flooding on Bass Lake Road. Awards will be officially announced mid-December.

D. A reminder* of the December 15, 2015 deadline for Clean Water Fund applications for **CCM crew labor** was included in the packet.

E. Also included in the packet was an email from BWSR announcing an update to their Grants Administrative Manual regarding **allowable costs**.* The manual is located at <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/grants/manual/index.html>.

IX. Communications.

A. Communications Log.* No action required.

B. Matthiesen informed the Commissioners of a conversation with Randy Anhorn, Hennepin County Dept. of Environment and Energy, regarding inviting **Hennepin County Commissioner Mike Opat** to meet with the SCWM Commissioners.

C. Carstens announced that she is stepping down as commissioner from Brooklyn Park.

X. Other Business.

A. The **January Shingle Creek/West Mississippi Commission meetings** will be held at Crystal City Hall.

B. Adjournment.

There being no further business before the Shingle Creek Commission, motion by Jaeger, second by Sicora to adjourn. *Motion carried unanimously.*

There being no further business before the West Mississippi Commission, motion by Vlasin, second by Jaeger to adjourn. *Motion carried unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 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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*items are included in meeting packet