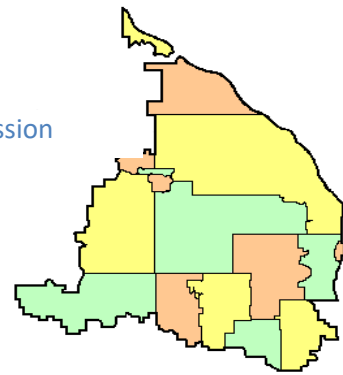




Watershed Management Commission



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MINUTES Regular Meeting December 12, 2019

(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 Shingle Creek Chairman Andy Polzin at 12:45 p.m. on Thursday, December 12, 2019, at Edinburgh USA, 8700 Edinbrook Crossing, Brooklyn Park, MN.

Present for Shingle Creek were: David Vlasin, Brooklyn Center; Adam Quinn, Brooklyn Park; Burton Orred, Jr., Crystal; Karen Jaeger, Maple Grove; Bill Wills, New Hope; Harold E. Johnson, Osseo; Andy Polzin, Plymouth; Wayne Sicora, Robbinsdale; Ed Matthiesen, Wenck Associates, Inc.; Troy Gilchrist, Kennedy & Graven; and Judie Anderson, JASS.

Not represented: Minneapolis.

Present for West Mississippi were: David Vlasin, Brooklyn Center; Steven Chesney, 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, JASS.

Also present were: Mitch Robinson, Brooklyn Park; Todd Tuominen, Champlin; Mark Ray, Crystal; Derek Asche, Maple Grove; Shahram Missaghi, Minneapolis; Bob Grant and Megan Hedstrom, New Hope; Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; Richard McCoy and Marta Roser, Robbinsdale; and Laura Scholl, Rich Harrison, and Yordi Solomone, Metro Blooms.

II. Agendas and Minutes.

Motion by Orred, second by Wills to approve the revised **Shingle Creek agenda**.* *Motion carried unanimously.*

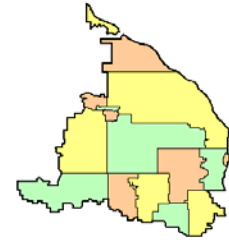
Motion by Butcher, second by Vlasin to approve the **West Mississippi agenda**.* *Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion by Orred, second by Jaeger to approve the **minutes of the November regular meeting**.* *Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion by Johnson, second by Chesney to approve the **minutes of the November regular meeting**.* *Motion carried unanimously.*

III. Finances and Reports.

A. The Commissioners discussed the expenses v. revenue for the Project Review line item. This item will be considered in more detail during operating budget discussion in the spring. Motion by Jaeger, second by Johnson to approve the Shingle Creek **December Treasurer's Report**.* *Motion carried unanimously.*



Motion by Wills, second by Jaeger to approve the **Shingle Creek December claims.*** Claims totaling \$340,191.57 were *approved by roll call vote: ayes –Vlasin, Quinn, Orred, Jaeger, Wills, Johnson, Polzin, and Sicora; nays – none; absent – Minneapolis.*

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

Motion by Johnson, second by Chesney to approve the **West Mississippi December claims.*** Claims totaling \$10,121.99 were *approved by roll call vote: ayes – Vlasin, Chesney, Butcher, Jaeger, and Johnson; nays – none.*

IV. Open Forum.

Scholl, Harrison, and Solomone from Metro Blooms presented the final report for Phase II of the **Autumn Ridge Project.** It is Metro Blooms' intent to apply for Cost Share funding for Phase III of the project as well as funding for other similar projects in the watershed.

Motion by Jaeger, second by Orred to accept the final report. *Motion carried unanimously.*

V. Project Reviews.

VI. Watershed Management Plan.

Annual Progress Report.* The Third Generation Watershed Management Plan states that the Commissions will annually review progress toward Third Generation goals, and that this evaluation will become part of the Annual Report. Since the Third Generation Plan was adopted, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) adopted revised Minnesota Rules 8410 that require WMOs to review progress every two years.

The purpose of the annual review is first to determine progress towards the goals, and second to be sure the Commissions stay on track to reach them. The annual review is also an opportunity to discuss whether the goals and actions in the Plan still make sense or if they should be modified or enhanced, perhaps to add new priorities. Ideally, this annual review is also an opportunity to start thinking about next year's work plan. Some highlights of the past year include:

A. Routine Business.

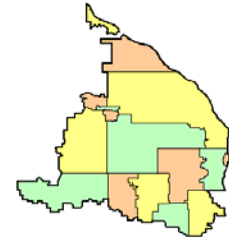
1. Shingle Creek completed ten reviews of development/redevelopment projects. The Commission acted as the WCA LGU for four wetland delineation/wetland type reviews; three no or incidental loss determinations; and one wetland mitigation plan (for upcoming CSAH 81 reconstruction).

2. West Mississippi also completed ten reviews of development/redevelopment projects. The Commission acted as the WCA LGU for four wetland delineation/wetland type reviews; four no or incidental loss determinations; one exemption; and one mitigation plan (for the TH 169 and 101st Avenue North interchange).

3. Completed routine flow and water quality monitoring on Shingle and Bass Creeks at three locations, Mattson Brook and the Environmental Preserve (West Miss), and partnered with the USGS to maintain the USGS real-time site.

4. Undertook water quality monitoring on Lower, Middle, and Upper Twin Lakes; Bass and Pomerleau Lakes; and Schmidt Lake.

5. Performed aquatic vegetation surveys on Bass, Pomerleau, and Schmidt Lakes.



6. Completed a fish survey on Schmidt Lake.

7. About 587 fourth-grade students in 23 classrooms participated in Watershed PREP classroom lesson one (What is a watershed?) through November 2019, and 477 of those students in 19 classrooms learned lesson two (The incredible journey).

B. Studies.

1. The Shingle Creek Commission continued to work with the DNR to update the Special Flood Hazard Areas in the watershed (“the HUC8 Study”). The TAC recommended and Commission approved adding a detailed study of the Twin and Ryan chain and Ryan Creek to the Study.

2. The City of Robbinsdale worked with the Commission to evaluate the ability of Ryan Creek to adequately control water levels in Lower Twin and Ryan Lakes, and to assess the potential impact of routing overflow pumping from Crystal Lake to Ryan.

3. Completed the Magda and Meadow Lakes nutrient TMDL 5-year reviews.

4. Worked with the City of New Hope and Meadow Lake Watershed Association to undertake a Meadow Lake Management Plan feasibility analysis and to prepare and submit a Clean Water Fund grant application.

5. Completed work on a subwatershed assessment for that part of Minneapolis that is within the Shingle Creek watershed.

C. Projects.

1. Completed the biochar- and iron-enhanced sand filters project. The catch basin filters and the filter box have been removed, and monitoring is complete.

2. Removed 3,800 pounds of carp from Ryan Creek and from spawning areas on Lower and Upper Twin Lake.

3. Designed and installed the SRP Reduction Project treatment system, and monitored effectiveness.

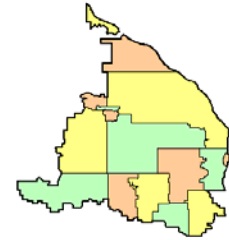
4. Worked with the City of Plymouth to undertake alum treatments on Bass and Pomerleau Lakes.

5. Worked with the City of Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center to develop concepts and 30% design and to prepare and submit a Clean Water Find grant application for the Shingle Creek Connections II stream restoration project.

6. Worked with the City of Crystal to help fund the Becker Park Infiltration Project.

7. The Shingle Creek Commission received a \$216,066 Section 319 grant for the Crystal Lake Management Plan. Work on carp and SAV management will begin in 2020, with a first alum treatment in spring 2021 and the second in spring 2022.

Included with Staff’s memo are tables showing each Third Generation Plan goal, noting progress to date and expected completion. Each of the strategic actions identified for the goal areas are also shown, noting work completed in 2019 and to date, as well as expected completion as general status. For the most part the Commissions are on track to meet goals, with the following exceptions:



8. 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.

9. While Lower Twin, Ryan, and Schmidt Lakes have been delisted from the draft Impaired Waters list, the Commission has 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, although not in the short term. It is hoped the alum treatments on Bass and Pomerleau Lakes and Crystal Lake will restore them to the water quality standard, but not in time to be delisted prior to the expiration of the Third Generation Plan.

10. The Commissions have a goal to complete subwatershed assessments for at least 25% of that part of the watersheds that developed prior to Commission rules in 1984. *Members are on track to complete this for West Mississippi, but will have completed only 14% of pre-1984 development Shingle Creek when the Minneapolis Subwatershed Assessment is completed. A more achievable goal would be 15%.*

11. 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 Orred, second by Wills to accept the Annual Progress Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Jaeger, second by Chesney to accept the Annual Progress Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Water Quality.

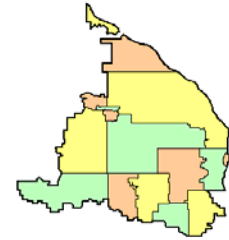
Minutes* of the November 14, 2019 TAC meeting were included in the meeting packet for information. The **next TAC meeting** is tentatively scheduled for prior to the January 9, 2020 regular meeting.

VIII. Education and Public Outreach. The West Metro Water Alliance (**WMWA**) met on Tuesday, December 10, 2019. (Their next meeting is scheduled for 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, January 14, 2020, at Plymouth City Hall. Please check for the location of the meeting room due to building remodeling.)

A. Watershed PREP and Education and Outreach Events. Educators have completed 2019 school visits, which are detailed in Staff’s memo.* A reminder that the educators are available to table at city and school events; contact Amy Juntunen at amy@jass.biz. The educators, working with local cable provider CCX Media, filmed one of their classroom presentations and are preparing a short promotional video for Watershed PREP for use both in marketing to schools in the four watersheds as well as informing other watersheds about the program.

B. Website/Social Media. The new WMWA Coordinator, Catherine Cesnik, will be reviewing the WMWA website to refresh and update content. Any input is appreciated. westmetrowateralliance.org/. In addition, the coordinator will take over social media posting duties when the contract with Armchair Gardener expires at the end of the year.

The website Google Analytics for October-November 2019 are also included in the memo, as are the Facebook insights for the last 30 days for both Shingle Creek and WMWA and the WMWA Twitter metrics. Facebook Impressions are the number of times a post was viewed in a feed, Engagement is an action - a click, comment, share, or reaction.



C. **Other.** Cesnik is compiling a list of city contacts and will be reaching out to them over the next few months to better understand how WMWA can be a resource. The WMWA steering committee particularly discussed the new education and outreach requirements in the draft MN NPDES General Permit.

D. The steering committee discussed options for submitting an application to Hennepin County and its **AIS grants program** for coordinated signage at boat launches. It was noted that the DNR standard AIS signs are generic, and signage that includes photos of AIS species of particular concern would be helpful. The group will contact Hennepin County staff to further explore options.

IX. Grant Opportunities and Updates.

A. The **Crystal Becker Park Infiltration Project** is complete. The final report* included in the packet is submitted in fulfillment of the Commission's grant agreement with the Metropolitan Council. The grant agreement requires this final report to specify how this project furthers Total Watershed Management as set forth in MN Statute Section 473.505. That section defines Total Watershed Management as "identifying and quantifying at a watershed level the 1) sources of pollution, 2) causes of conditions that may or may not be a result of that pollution, and 3) the means of reducing pollution or mitigating adverse conditions."

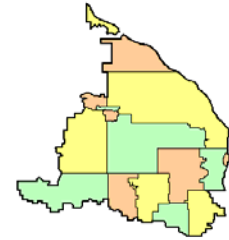
The Becker Park Infiltration Project resulted from many years of monitoring and study relating to water quality conditions in the Twin Lake chain of lakes in the cities of Crystal/Brooklyn Center/Robbinsdale. When those three lakes were designated by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) as Impaired Waters due to excess nutrients, the Commission worked with the MPCA and the cities to prepare a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study. The TMDL identified the sources of excess nutrients, quantified the amount of reduction necessary to return the lakes to State water quality standards, and broadly identified actions to achieve those reductions. Among those actions were recommendations to reduce the amount of stormwater runoff being delivered from the watershed to the lakes.

Following completion of the TMDL, the Commission and the City of Crystal partnered to undertake a subwatershed assessment of potential projects in the Crystal Shopping Center commercial area centered around Bass Lake Road (County Road 10), West Broadway (County Road 8), and Bottineau Boulevard (CSAH 81). This area is tributary to Upper Twin Lake, and stormwater is mostly untreated. The subwatershed assessment identified 34 potential projects and ranked them by cost-effectiveness. One, an underground infiltration gallery proposed to be installed in Becker Park to treat runoff from 28 acres of commercial area, was the highest-ranking project, achieving the largest load reduction at the lowest life cycle cost per pound. Becker Park is on the downstream edge of the commercial district and was ideally located as a regional project site. Further study showed that an expanded project footprint could also accommodate runoff from another 119 acres of residential drainage area with little to no stormwater treatment.

The report goes on to describe the activities completed. Construction at the project site was documented several times using an aerial drone. Future activities, project budget and funding were also described.

Motion by Sicora, second by Johnson to accept the final report, submit it to Metropolitan Council, and authorize payment to the City of Crystal. *Motion carried unanimously.*

[Jaeger departed 1:55 p.m.]



B. Earlier this year the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) was awarded \$900,000 from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) to fund the “**Lawns to Legumes**” program.* Lawns to Legumes is part of the state of Minnesota’s pollinator initiative, and is aimed particularly at enhancing rusty-patched bumble bee and other at-risk pollinator habitat. This program has three legs: (1) grants to individuals to assist them with planting new or enhanced plantings; (2) Demonstration Neighborhood Grants to groups to undertake larger projects; and (3) public education and outreach, including creation and dissemination of educational materials. More information can be found at <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/lawns-legumes-your-yard-can-bee-change>.

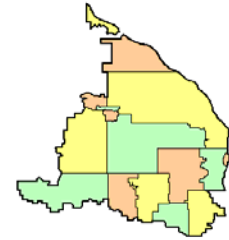
Staff’s memo* provides an overview of the programs as well as a request from a neighborhood group to partner in submitting a Demonstration Grant proposal.

1. Individual Grants. BWSR has developed guidance to help individuals who would like to be (or bee) part of the change. Individual grants of up to \$350 are available for technical assistance and plant materials. Approximately 300 individual grants will be awarded statewide to help in the installation of four specific types of habitat: pocket plantings (small areas, such as a native garden): flowering trees and shrubs; pollinator lawns; and pollinator meadows. Applications will be taken during three application periods. The first period is already open and will accept applications until February 28. The second period will start March 1, 2020. Metro Blooms is administering this part of the program. More information and the application can be found at: <https://bluethumb.org/lawns-to-legumes/>.

2. Demonstration Grants. Up to \$450,000 of the funding will be awarded to larger projects called “Neighborhood Demonstration Projects.” Grants between \$20,000 and \$40,000 will be made to cities/counties/watersheds/SWCDs/and nonprofits to achieve pollinator pathways. The RFP for proposals for this program was released December 3, with applications due January 10, 2020. These grants require a 25% match, or 10% if the site is within an area the US Fish and Wildlife Service has identified as being a high potential area for the presence of rusty-patched bumble bees.

The Victory Neighborhood Association (VNA), through its Environment Committee, has requested that the Shingle Creek Commission submit a grant application on its behalf for their proposal to convert the eastern shoreline of Ryan Lake into a pollinator meadow and woodland area that includes foraging, nesting, and overwintering habitat. This site is just to the south of a USFWS high potential area. The intent of the project is to create additional high-quality habitat that would expand the high-potential area and start to link the high potential area around the Shingle Creek corridor in Brooklyn Center and Minneapolis with the zone identified in Wirth Park to its south.

The project would clear invasive species on the shoreline and in the wooded area on the north side of the shoreline. Turf would be replaced with native grasses and forbs that not only would provide pollinator habitat, but would also filter runoff draining into the lake. Added to the meadow/buffer area and the wooded area would be nesting and overwintering habitat that includes brush piles, unraked fallen leaves, and patches of loose earth. The project would create a corridor between the high-potential zone and the lakeshore by planting flowering shrubs and trees and patches of herbaceous plants along the Ryan Creek Corridor, Victory Prairie/Dog Park, and Victory Triangle areas. Rusty-patched bumble bees typically prefer no more than 200 meters between features, so attractive and nutritious plantings would be planted like breadcrumbs leading to the lakeshore. The RFP has only been out for a few days, and the VNA Environment Committee has only started working on going from concept to detail. A very rough estimate of the cost of removing invasive species, establishing a pollinator meadow on the lakeshore, and planting trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants to create a corridor is about \$30,000. The



local match would be \$7,500. More design and analysis must be completed to provide a better cost estimate.

Because this project would have water quality enhancements to Ryan Lake by converting turf to a native buffer, Staff recommends that the Commission both 1) serve as the grant applicant and administrator and 2) contribute \$5,000 towards the local match requirement. The Committee will also be submitting a Hennepin County Good Steward grant to help fund the local match.

The grant applications are due on January 10, 2020. If the Commission is amenable to serving as the applicant and administrator and making a local match contribution, the application will be back to the Commission for final review and approval at its January 9, 2020 meeting.

Motion by Sicora, second by Orred to approve Staff's recommendation. *Motion carried unanimously.*

3. Because many people are not looking for funding, but information about *how* to create pollinator habitat BWSR has provided **free resources** as an important link for those who are not sure how to begin their pollinator planting project. A few of these include:

1. [Planting for Pollinators \(pdf\)](#) design guide
2. [Your Yard can BEE the Change: Introductory webinar](#)
3. Preparing Your Soil: easy prep with [Compost](#) or [Mulch](#)
4. Pollinator Garden Templates: [Shady Garden \(pdf\)](#); [Rain Garden \(pdf\)](#), [Sunny and Low \(Boulevard\) Garden \(pdf\)](#). These templates provide base designs for native plant pollinator gardens, including boulevard and shade garden designs. They are customizable with substitutions for each plant.

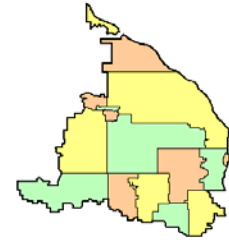
More can be found at <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/lawns-legumes-your-yard-can-bee-change>

C. Earlier this year the Commission was awarded a \$216,066 EPA Section 319 grant for the upcoming **Crystal Lake Management Plan**. The project includes carp and aquatic vegetation management in 2020 followed by alum treatments in 2021 and 2022. This grant program is administered by the MPCA. Staff recommends execution of the grant agreement* between the Commission and the MPCA, which is included in the meeting packet. The project will kick off in early 2020.

Motion by Sicora, second by Johnson authorizing the Chair to execute the grant agreement. *Motion carried unanimously.*

D. The Minneapolis Subwatershed Assessment, funded for the most part by an Accelerated Implementation Grant from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), is nearly complete. The modeling and BMP identification and the final draft report are complete. However, some additional review and discussion with Minneapolis staff remain, including discussion about methods of outreach and engagement with residents about BMPs on their properties. Since the grant contract expires on December 31, 2019, Staff have asked BWSR for an extension to allow for this final work to be completed and incorporated into the final report.

The agreement,* found in the meeting packet, would extend the grant period to December 31, 2020. However, Staff anticipate that the work will be complete within a few months, depending on Staff availability. Staff recommends the Commission authorize the Chair to execute the agreement, which must be submitted to BWSR by December 13, 2019.



Motion by Sicora, second by Orred authorizing the Chair to execute the extension of the grant agreement. *Motion carried unanimously.*

X. Communications.

December **Communications Log.*** No items required action.

XI. Other Business.

The Commissioner position from the City of Minneapolis has become vacant and a new representative must be appointed by that city.

XII. Adjournment. There being no further business before the Commissions, the joint meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judie A. Anderson".

Judie A. Anderson
Recording Secretary
JAA:tim

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