

Appendix G

Public Review and Input Process

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Shingle Creek and West Mississippi Watershed Management Commissions
Third Generation Watershed Management Plan
Public Review and Input Process

The Shingle Creek and West Mississippi Watershed Management Commissions initiated work on the Third Generation Watershed Management Plan in November 2010 by discussing the planning process and establishing a general schedule and by directing consulting engineering and administrative staff to work with the member cities to prepare a Second Generation Watershed Management Plan Self Assessment. That Self Assessment was discussed and finalized in December 2010 (see Appendix B of this Plan), and the Commissioners completed an initial goal-setting and visioning exercise at their December 2010 meeting. The Commissions hosted a Plan Kickoff Meeting on February 10, 2011.

The Commissions charged their Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) with reviewing several topic areas in depth and making recommendations to the Commissions. The Commissions also charged the Education and Outreach Committee (EPOC) with reviewing the existing education and outreach plan and making recommendations for a Third Generation Education and Outreach Plan. A mid-process meeting with City Managers was also held to discuss policy and budgetary questions. Finally, rather than establish a Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) expressly for the purpose of providing input to the Third Generation Plan, the commissions asked each of the ten member cities to designate an existing city citizens advisory committee to serve in that capacity. Those groups met individually and then jointly to discuss priorities for the third Generation Plan.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Review

The TAC met on eight occasions to discuss the Plan. The following are the dates and topics of the meetings:

February 24, 2011	Identify gaps, discuss issues, preliminary goal setting
June 23, 2011	Review upcoming water quality standards, review data needs and monitoring framework
August 25, 2011	Review draft monitoring plan
October 27, 2011	Initial discussion of rule and standard revisions
December 1, 2011	Continued discussion of rule and standard revisions
February 23, 2012	Continued discussion of rule and standard revisions
April 26, 2012	Final rule and standard revisions, discuss CIP and Implementation Plan
May 24, 2012	Discuss CIP and Implementation Plan

Education and Public Outreach Committee

The Education and Public Outreach Committee (EPOC) met three times to develop an education and outreach plan for the Third Generation Plan. The EPOC was closely involved with the development of the West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA) Education and Outreach Plan, and the Third Generation EOP is modeled on it.

July 12, 2011	Discuss and establish draft education and outreach goals
August 1, 2011	Discuss stakeholder educational goals and implementation actions
March 27, 2012	Final review of educational goals and implementation actions

Policy Makers Review

On August 17, 2011 the TAC hosted a meeting for City Managers and their designees to discuss policy issues. The group discussed several policy issues and in general expressed satisfaction with the current division of responsibilities, level of operational budget funding, and the Commissions' current programming. They were very supportive of continuing Commission financial participation in capital improvement projects, and thought the 25% contribution was a reasonable percentage that should be continued. They thought the city assessment cap was working well, helped the cities manage their budgets without surprises, and should be continued.

The City Managers were very supportive of continuing to use city advisory commissions rather than trying to identify additional volunteers and maintain a Commissions' Citizen Advisory Committee.

The Managers discussed the Joint Powers Agreement and agreed that unless there was something in the Management Plan that required an immediate revision, they would not revise the JPA as part of the Third Generation Plan process but would probably wait until 2013 to address the JPA. The current JPA expires on January 1, 2015.

In general the City Managers expressed satisfaction with the Commissions and the operations and programming provided.

Citizens Advisory Committee

Rather than establish a Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) expressly for the purpose of providing input to the Third Generation Plan, the commissions asked each of the ten member cities to designate an existing city citizens advisory committee to serve in that capacity. Commission staff prepared two presentations and asked each city to convene their group twice. The Commissions provided a "Train the Trainer" session for the city representatives giving the presentations. The following meetings were held:

City	CAC	Meeting Date(s) (all in 2012)
Brooklyn Center	Planning Commission	April 26, May 31
Brooklyn Park		
Champlin	Environmental Resources Commission	April 2, May 7
Crystal	Environmental Quality Commission	March 15, May 17
Maple Grove		
Minneapolis		
New Hope	Planning Commission	May 1, June 5
Osseo		

City	CAC	Meeting Date(s) (all in 2012)
Plymouth	Environmental Quality Commission	May 9, June 13
Robbinsdale	Planning Commission	May 17

The Commissions convened a third, joint CAC meeting to which each city was asked to send representatives to report on their individual city discussions, issues, and priorities. The joint meeting was held on July 30, 2012. Sixteen people representing seven of the ten member cities attended, including some Commissioners and TAC members. No one representing Minneapolis, New Hope, or Osseo was in attendance.

In summary the following issues were common between the cities:

1. A need for a more robust public education and outreach program;
2. Assistance in finding ways to retrofit BMPs in developed areas;
3. Monitoring to verify BMP performance; and
4. Interest in developing a whole-watershed sustainable water budget.

To help understand member city priorities, prior to the CAC meeting, participants were asked to respond to a SurveyMonkey poll asking them to rate the importance of various issues and suggest a timeframe for addressing them – in the next 10 years, in the next 10-20 years, in the next 20+ years.

The issue that scored highest as most important/most urgent was “Getting more pollutant load reduction from developers and redevelopers.” Education to raise general awareness as well as to provide specific information about BMPs on private property also scored highly on both metrics. “Meeting state water quality standards” was ranked as very important but slightly less urgent, perhaps recognizing that it will take many years to achieve those goals. Finally, increasing groundwater recharge was seen as being very important. Two issues stood out as being of lower importance and less urgency – restoring fishing in Shingle Creek and providing financial assistance to residents to undertake BMPs.

Plan Review

The draft Plan was submitted to the member cities and review agencies for informal review in August 2012. Revisions were made based on those initial comments, and the Plan was submitted to the member cities and review agencies for 60-day review in October 2012 and comments taken through December 21, 2012. A public hearing was held at the Commissions’ January 10, 2013 meeting. The Metro Committee of the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) reviewed the Plan at its March 7, 2013 meeting, and recommended the Plan to the full Board for approval. The Board approved the Plan at its March 27, 2013 meeting.