



3235 Fernbrook Lane N • Plymouth, MN 55447
Phone (763) 553-1144 • Fax (763) 553-9326

www.shinglecreek.org

MINUTES

June 12, 2008

I. A meeting of the West Mississippi Watershed Management Commission was called to order by Vice Chair Kathleen Carmody on Thursday, June 12, 2008, at 3:25 p.m., at Lancer at Edinburgh, 8700 Edinbrook Crossing, Brooklyn Park, MN.

Present were: Kathleen Carmody, Brooklyn Center; Mark Gustafson, Champlin; Karen Jaeger, Maple Grove; Ken Schreiber, Osseo; Ed Matthiesen, Wenck Associates, Inc.; and Judie Anderson, JASS.

Not represented: Brooklyn Park.

II. Motion by Jaeger, second by Schreiber to **approve the agenda**. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Motion by Jaeger, second by Gustafson to approve the **minutes of the May 8, 2008 meeting**. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Motion by Jaeger, second by Schreiber to approve the **minutes of the May 8, 2008 special meeting**. Motion carried unanimously.

V. Motion by Jaeger, second by Gustafson to approve the **Treasurer's Report**. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Motion by Gustafson, second by Schreiber to approve the **June claims**. Claims totaling \$13,621.87 were approved by roll call vote: ayes – Carmody, Gustafson, Jaeger and Schreiber; nays - none; absent – Brooklyn Park.

VII. Open Forum. No one wished to speak.

VIII. Communications. The Commissioners received copies of the following:

A. May Communications Log. No action required.

B. Announcement of Workshops for Water Resource Protection.

C. Motion by Jaeger, second by Gustafson to adopt **Resolution 2008-02 Nonwaiver of Monetary Limits on Tort Liability**. Motion carried unanimously.

IX. The proposed **2009 Operating Budget** was reviewed by the Commission at the last meeting and by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) at its May 22, 2008 meeting. The proposed budget continues existing activities while limiting the increase in the total member assessment to the increase in the Consumer Price Index (4.0%). The TAC recommends to the Commission that the P8 model for the watershed be developed starting in 2009. The Commission will not allocate any 2009 operating funds to an account dedicated to funding the upcoming Third Generation Plan but will use \$9,870 in excess revenues over expected costs for that purpose. Motion by Jaeger, second by Schreiber to approve an operating budget of \$147,620, with member assessments of \$130,620. Motion carried unanimously.

X. Water Quality.

A. Bischoff presented the **2007 Annual Water Quality Report** at the Shingle Creek meeting. The report presents the findings of the various monitoring programs in the Shingle Creek/West Mississippi watershed, including stream, lakes, biological and wetland monitoring. Ongoing monitoring allows the Commission to evaluate the effectiveness of best management practices, especially as TMDL implementation proceeds, and provides a baseline for reasonable water quality goals. The report can be viewed on the Commission's website.

B. Upper Mississippi River Bacteria TMDL Project. The first meeting of the Stakeholder Advisory Team (SAT) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members is scheduled for Tuesday, July 22, 2008 from 8:30-12:30 at the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board room, 2117 West River Road, Minneapolis.

XI. Project Reviews. There were no projects.



XII. Watershed Management Plan.

A. The Commissioners received the fourth and final draft of the Shingle Creek and West Mississippi WMC **Rules and Standards revisions** as recommended by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The Commissions directed the TAC to review and if necessary recommend revisions to the current rules to address the effectiveness of the regulatory program in meeting the TMDL requirements. As a part of this process, the Commissions agreed to review the current pollutant removal performance standard and to consider expanding the current infiltration requirement into a more broad volume management rule that will reduce runoff to the lakes, thereby reducing the associated phosphorus loads.

In general, the TAC recommends that the current infiltration requirement be revised as a volume management requirement, with infiltration one potential means of providing that volume management. There was considerable discussion as to whether this should remain as 0.5" from new impervious or be increased to 1" as several other Metro WMOs have already adopted or are considering adopting. Staff reviewed literature regarding the average pollutant removal through the abstraction of runoff and found that retaining the runoff from a 1" event across a site appears to be the most cost-effective volume management threshold. At depths greater than 1" the amount of additional water quality benefit diminishes rapidly. The Commissions' current 0.5" of runoff from new impervious surface in A and B soils may actually result in more volume management than retaining 1" across the site because A and B soils more readily infiltrate and there is less runoff from a 1" event on the site than a comparable development on C or D soils. For C or D soils, the current requirement is similar to or slightly less than retaining 1" across the entire site. After considerable discussion, the TAC recommends that the current volume management requirement of 0.5" from new impervious be unchanged. It appears that applying this standard on average achieves the goal of retaining the 1" event across all developed sites.

It was the consensus of the Commissioners to begin the rules and standards public review process at this time. Rule M requires that major revisions to the rules be submitted to the member cities for a 45-day comment period, after which the Commissions would consider the comments, make any necessary revisions, and approve the revised rules and standards by resolution.

B. The fieldwork portion of the **wetland functions and value assessment of the priority wetlands** in the Shingle Creek/West Mississippi WMO began in May. Six "reference" wetlands were selected to complete a MnRAM function and value assessment. The wetlands, strategically selected in various locations to obtain the most data possible, are Meadow Lake, New Hope; Brooklyn Park wetland located along the northern border of Brooklyn Park and southern portion of Champlin; Brooklyn Center wetland adjacent to Shingle Creek in an area of a proposed trail project behind city hall; Plymouth wetland located in the northeast quadrant of 50th and Zachary Lane; Robbinsdale wetland located east of Lower Twin Lake; and a series of wetlands acting as storm water basins located in southern Crystal.

C. Except for those with land in the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District or the Mississippi WMO, all the cities in Shingle Creek/West Mississippi should have completed a **local water management plan** update by the end of 2006. Currently, Brooklyn Center has a completed and approved plan; Brooklyn Park anticipates completing their plan by the end of 2007; and Maple Grove will complete their LWMP in tandem with their Comprehensive Plan. The Commission received a draft of the **Osseo** Local Water Management Plan on June 11, 2008. The status of the Champlin plan is unknown.

D. The **next TAC meeting** will be held at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, June 26, 2008, at Crystal City Hall.

XIII. Education and Public Outreach Program.

A. Water Quality Education Grants.

1. As part of its upcoming summer session on Shingle Creek **Patrick Henry High School** has requested a \$1,000 grant to cover the expense of water testing kits, programming at the Kroening Interpretive Center at North Mississippi Regional Park, bus for the field trip to stream restoration sites, and art materials and



professional artist-facilitator time to create a Shingle Creek-themed permanent art exhibit at the school. Motion by Jaeger, second by Schreiber to approve this grant in the amount of \$1,000. Motion carried, Carmody voting nay.

2. The **Riverwood Association**, which lies between TH 252 and the Mississippi River from I-694 to 73rd Avenue in Brooklyn Center, is an active group of residents involved in many neighborhood improvements. The streets in this neighborhood were reconstructed last year and eight rain gardens were incorporated into the project. The residents are responsible for maintaining the gardens. The Association has submitted a grant request for \$273 to purchase the Blue Thumb rain garden guide and maintenance tools for each of the eight rain gardens; and for \$820 to print and deliver newsletters to the homes in the neighborhood. The Association currently has a newsletter and they propose printing articles on water quality topics in each of four issues. Since there was no detail in the proposal about what the Association hoped to achieve with the news articles, the EPOC declined to recommend this part of the grant request, but would be open to funding if the Association set some goals and used the newsletter to provide information on how to achieve those goals. The EPOC noted that since the Commission is a member of Blue Thumb, the Commission could purchase the rain garden guides at almost half the retail cost proposed by the Association. Motion by Jaeger, second by Schreiber to approve the EPOC recommendation to provide the Association with 8 Blue Thumb rain garden guides and a \$25 allowance per rain garden to purchase specialized maintenance tools, for a total of \$200 cash and 8 books from the Commission's supply. Motion carried unanimously. (Included in the revised meeting packet was an invitation to attend Riverwood's Water Quality Day, Thursday June 12, 2008.)

B. Partnership Opportunities.

1. The joint EPOC subcommittee met on May 16, 2008 to begin formulating an education and public outreach program for 2008-09 based on the results of the **opinion survey**. Recommendations will be submitted to the Commissions at a future meeting.

2. **Rain Garden Workshops.** Attendance figures were provided by Metro Blooms. Preliminary numbers show 157 persons attended the three workshops and 36 persons attended the two seminars. A complete report with demographics will be provided in the fall.

3. **The Great Shingle Creek Watershed Cleanup** was held April 19-26, 2008. Staff is soliciting feedback from the city coordinators. Next year, EPOC will explore ways to "green-up" this event by incorporating a recycling element.

C. The **next EPOC meeting** is scheduled for 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, September 16, 2008, at the City of Plymouth.

XIV. Grant Opportunities.

XV. **Other Business.** There being no further business before the Commission, motion by Carmody, second by Jaeger to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 3:31 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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