

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 11, 2024

(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 Chair Andy Polzin at 12:48 p.m. on Thursday, January 11, 2024, at Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Avenue North, Plymouth, MN.

Present for Shingle Creek: David Mulla, Brooklyn Center; Greg Spoden, Brooklyn Park; Burt Orred, Jr., Crystal; Karen Jaeger, Maple Grove; Ray Schoch, Minneapolis; Bill Wills, New Hope; John Roach, Osseo; Andy Polzin, Plymouth; and Wayne Sicora, Robbinsdale.

Present for West Mississippi: David Mulla, Brooklyn Center; Melissa Collins, Brooklyn Park; Karen Jaeger, Maple Grove; and John Roach, Osseo. Not represented: Champlin.

Also present were: Mitch Robinson and Silas Harris, Brooklyn Park; Randy Bergstrom and Ben Perkey, Crystal; Derek Asche, Maple Grove; Liz Stout and Felicia Merkson, Minneapolis; Robert Grant and Nick Macklem, New Hope; James Kelly, Osseo; Amy Riegel and Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; Wendy Scherer and Jenna Wolf, Robbinsdale; Todd Shoemaker and Diane Spector, Stantec; Troy Gilchrist, Kennedy & Graven; Judie Anderson, JASS; Mike Sorensen, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board; Brian Jastram, Rock Leaf Water Environmental LLC; and (guest speaker) Andy Erickson, St. Anthony Falls Lab, University of Minnesota.

II. AGENDAS AND MINUTES.

Motion by Schoch, second by Jaeger to approve the **Shingle Creek agenda**.* *Motion carried unanimously.*

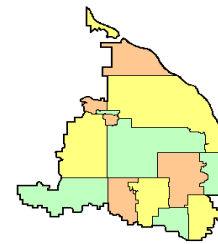
Motion by Jaeger, second by Collins to approve the **West Mississippi agenda**.* *Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion by Schoch, second by Wills to approve the **minutes* of the December 14, 2023, regular meeting**. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion by Roach, second by Jaeger to approve the **minutes* of the December 14, 2023, regular meeting**. *Motion carried unanimously.*

III. FINANCES AND REPORTS.

A. Motion by Schoch, second by Jaeger to approve the **Shingle Creek January Treasurer's**



Report* and claims totaling \$17,500.23. Voting aye: Mulla, Spoden, Orred, Jaeger, Schoch, Wills, Roach, Polzin, and Sicora; voting nay: none.

B. Motion by Collins, second by Roach to approve the West Mississippi January Treasurer's Report* and claims totaling \$146,381.65. Voting aye: Mulla, Collins, Jaeger, and Roach; voting nay: none; absent: Champlin.

IV. OPEN FORUM.

Andy Erickson, PhD, PE, is the Research Manager of the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory at the University of Minnesota. He discussed the "Five Things We Learned About Chloride: A Summary of Road Salt Research."

- Do we have a salt legacy problem?
- Can permeable pavements reduce road salt?
- Which anti-icing chemicals work best?
- Do road salt alternatives have environmental impacts?
- What else can we do?

Erickson's full presentation is available on the Commissions' website, www.shinglecreek.org. A link can be found on the home page.

V. OLD BUSINESS.

VI. PROJECT REVIEWS.

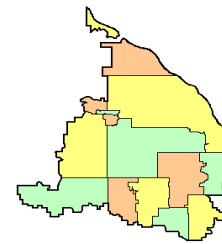
VII. WATER QUALITY.

VIII. GRANT OPPORTUNITITES.

SRP Channel Project.* The Commission and cities have a long history of undertaking projects to reduce phosphorus loading from a large wetland north of Upper Twin Lake on land owned by the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) but not used for operations at the Crystal Airport. The wetland and some surrounding uplands are leased to the cities of Crystal and Brooklyn Center and used as open space. Most of the area is in Crystal and is known as the MAC Wildlife Area. This wetland is DNR catalog number 27-639W and is typically referred to as Wetland 639W.

The flow out of this wetland has been a major source of nutrients to the lake, and previous projects have been successful at reducing the export of particulate phosphorus, but less successful at reducing dissolved phosphorus. In 2021, following a research project to test various methods to reduce "soluble reactive phosphorus" (SRP), the Commission established the "SRP Channel Modification Project" to implement the most cost-effective option. This involved modifying a channel on the Crystal Airport property that conveys high flows around the wetland and lining it with iron-enhanced sand. The Commission allocated \$50,000 in Closed Projects Account funding as match to a \$75,000 grant from Hennepin County, and then levied \$125,000, for a total of \$250,000, to undertake the project.

The City of Crystal was unable to secure approval from MAC to modify the channel, which was constructed by the City with approval by MAC as part of the previous Commission-funded project "Wetland 639W Outlet Modification." Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) was planning to reconstruct the boardwalk



adjacent to the project area in 2024 and the Commission explored the possibility of partnering with TRPD to complete its project with theirs. However, Staff were recently advised that the boardwalk project has been postponed until later this decade.

The Hennepin County grant funds expired December 31, 2023. The County offered to extend the grant to the end of 2024, but it is now impossible to construct the project by that time. Staff recommends that the Commission (1) thank Hennepin County, advising them that the project cannot be completed by December 31, 2024, and no extension is necessary; and (2) close project 2021-04 and authorize transferring the accumulated levy funds (estimated at \$131,343.98) to the Closed Projects Account.

Motion by Schoch, second by Spoden to approve Staff's recommendation. *Motion carried, Crystal voting nay.*

IX. EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH.

A. The **West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA)** met on January 9, 2024, to discuss the following initiatives.

1. Hennepin County Joint Education and Outreach Coordinator Grace Barcelow presented a draft of the **ArcGIS Survey123 form** Hennepin County has been developing. The map-based form will be used as a guide when meeting with property owners to discuss winter salting and help them develop a more sustainable management strategy.

2. Barcelow continues work on other initiatives, including developing a **Pet Waste Campaign** and materials for WMWA's member cities and a combined calendar of outreach materials to guide community outreach and education for WMWA, Watershed Prep, cities, and Hennepin County.

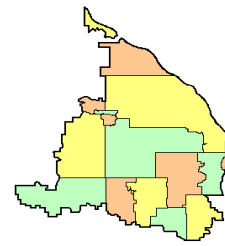
3. Amy Juntunen, JASS, is scheduling the next **steering committee meeting** that will guide the joint education and outreach coordinator's work in the coming year. The meeting is expected to occur in February.

4. WMWA educator Jessica Sahu Teli has a number of **Watershed Prep** classroom lessons planned for January and February before her schedule starts to get busy in the spring. The 2024 budget for the WMWA educator has been increased from 2023, allowing her to reach more students and attend more community events like festivals and tabling events.

5. WMWA will have a booth at **Discover Plymouth** on March 23 and will display educational materials, handouts, and native plant roots, as well as have native seeds for visitors to take home. Contact Amy Juntunen, amy@jass.biz, if you are interested in volunteering at the event for any amount of time.

6. WMWA discussed whether there was interest in allocating Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) to help continue achievement of the Hennepin County **Chloride Initiative's No Salt Low Salt campaign**. The primary need is to fund staff assistance in facilitating meetings and coordinating strategies between the 11 watersheds and Hennepin County and whether it should be broadened to include other entities in the Metro Area.

B. The **next WMWA meeting** is scheduled for 8:30 a.m., February 13, 2024, via Zoom.



X. 2024 WORK PLANS.

Staff's January 5, 2024, memos* list suggested activities for the 2024 Work Plan, organized by Goal Areas identified in the Fourth Generation Plan and as general Commission business. The lists include routine, ongoing activities as well as expected Commission-funded construction projects. In addition, Staff will bring a proposed 2024 Monitoring Plan to the Commissions' February meeting. Staff's memos also include the proposed activities in calendar form.

A. Goal 1. Protect, maintain, and improve the water quality and ecological integrity of the water and natural resources within the watersheds and the downstream receiving waters.

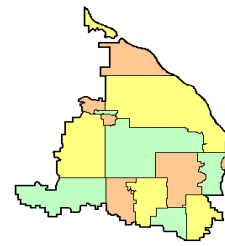
- Complete Bass and Shingle Creek Biotic and DO TMDL 5-year performance review.
- Complete Crystal Lake Management Plan, including final carp removal.
- Implement Meadow Lake Management Plan, including potential additional vegetation and fish management, alum treatment.
- Plan and design for stream restoration on Shingle Creek from Brookdale Park to downstream of Xerxes Avenue.
- Complete Eagle Lake Subwatershed Assessment (SWA).
- Initiate Eagle Lake Management Plan, implement projects identified in SWA.
- Partner with USGS to operate Queen Avenue monitoring site.
- Upkeep past project improvements; evaluate options for France Avenue carp barrier.
- Continue to identify, pursue grant funding for, and implement projects and programs addressing bacterial impairment in the Mississippi River.
- Identify boundaries of untreated areas directly connected to Mississippi River or other conveyances.
- Partner with the MWMO to undertake monitoring at the 65th Avenue outfall.
- Execute cooperative agreement with Brooklyn Park for Mississippi River stabilization project.
- Partner with a member city to complete a subwatershed BMP analysis.
- Stay abreast of other regional and state TMDLs.

B. Goal 2. Reduce stormwater runoff rates and volumes to limit flood risk, protect conveyance systems,

- Initiate Colorado Avenue infiltration trench feasibility study recommended based on Gaulke Pond SWA.
- Complete reviews of development and redevelopment projects as necessary.

C. Goal 3. Educate and engage all stakeholders in the watersheds on surface water issues and opportunities.

- Participate in the West Metro Water Alliance joint education and outreach group.
- Partner with Hennepin County and other local watersheds to fund and provide guidance to the shared Education and Outreach Coordinator.



- Work with shared E&O Coordinator to offer customized shoreline restoration workshops as part of effort to enhance outreach to lake associations.
- Develop Chloride Management Plan for the watershed.
- Develop a format and process for incorporating documentation of potential impacts to and outreach to underrepresented populations to increase engagement and help improve equitable outcomes.

D. Goal 4. Anticipate and proactively work to withstand adverse impacts from changing environmental and climate conditions.

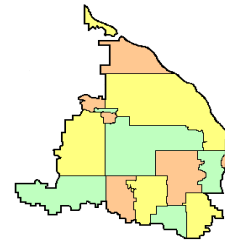
- Consider applying for an MPCA Community Resilience grant to model future precipitation scenarios in the watershed.

E. Continue ongoing administration and programming.

• Convene with BWSR and other entities eligible to receive funding from the next round of WBIF grants to establish priorities and select projects and strategies for funding. **Shingle Creek has been awarded \$191,622** and **West Mississippi has been awarded \$152,299**, which is available July 1, 2024. The Convene Group will meet in early 2024 with the goal of allocating those funds by May 1, to be contracted in May-June 2024 for expenditure starting July 1. Initial discussion at WMWA is that there is some interest in extending funding for the joint outreach coordinator, which was allocated \$30,000 from the previous WBIF grant.

- **Undertake routine flow and water quality at two outfalls into the Mississippi River.**
- **Conduct routine lake water quality monitoring and aquatic vegetation monitoring on Eagle and Pike Lakes and grant funded monitoring on Meadow Lake.**
- **Conduct Commission routine flow and water quality monitoring at SC-0 and SC-3 on Shingle and Bass Creeks.**
- If available in 2024, sponsor volunteer stream monitoring through RiverWatch.
- **Sponsor volunteer lake monitoring through CAMP (Met Council) on up to four lakes.**
- Prepare an annual water quality report.
- **Solicit cost-share projects from member cities funded from the Cost Share Fund and the annual \$100,000 levy and the Partnership Cost Share Fund and the annual \$50,000 levy.**
- **Solicit cost-share projects from member cities funded from the Cost Share Fund and the annual \$50,000 levy.**
- Review feasibility studies for 2024 proposed capital projects, undertake Plan Amendments, hold public hearings, order projects, and certify levies.
- Initiate review process for the revised Joint Powers Agreement, which may require a focused education and outreach effort for city staff and councils.
- Prepare a 2025 annual budget.
- Invite three guest speakers to make lunchtime water resources presentations.

Motion by Wills, second by Schoch to return the Shingle Creek 2024 Work Plan to the February meeting for final approval. Motion carried unanimously.



Motion by Mulla, second by Jaeger to return the West Mississippi 2024 Work Plan to the February meeting for final approval. *Motion carried unanimously.*

XI. COMMUNICATIONS.

A. January Communications Log.* No items required action.

B. January Staff Report.*

1. Metropolitan Council Metro Area Water Supply Plan. Met Council recently invited state, county, municipal, and watershed staff to participate in one of two workshops (Jan 19 and Feb 8) that will guide development of the next Metro Area Water Supply Plan. Per the email invite: *In collaboration with a Core Team made up of a few local water resource leaders from the Northwest Metro, a two-workshop series is being planned for early 2024 to create space for locally driven creation of Metro Area Water Supply Plan content. The intent of this process is to lead to a shared vision for the Northwest Metro, prioritized areas of focus, and an action plan to further progress on local priorities.*

Staff will attend the January 19 workshop, provide a summary at the February 8 Commission meeting, and discuss if continued Staff involvement may be necessary.

2. Metropolitan Council 2050 Water Policy Plan. Met Council is updating its current Water Policy Plan as part of the region’s long-range plan, Imagine 2050. The plan outlines water supply, water resources, and wastewater policies to align local and regional water priorities. It also sets guidelines and expectations about our regional wastewater system, and helps the region plan for future water needs.

Over the past two years, Council staff have written six research papers that investigate current and future water concerns and offer recommendations for the metro region. Staff will review four of the six papers over the next month, evaluate alignment with watershed goals, and provide a summary at the February Commission meeting.

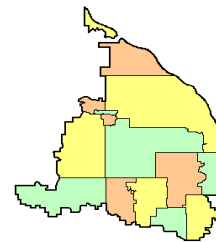
3. The Clean Water Fund Projects and Practices Competitive Grant Application submitted in August for the Eagle Lake Management Plan was not selected for funding, as announced by the Board of Water and Soil Resources. The selected projects lean heavily towards out-state organizations and not many metro-area projects are being selected. Staff will continue planning for internal load management on Eagle and Pike Lakes despite not being awarded the grant.

4. An addendum to the Staff Report includes an update of the **financial status of the grant and cost-share projects** currently in progress.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS.

A. Reminder: Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners must review, update and certify their statements of economic interest with the **Minnesota Campaign Finance Board*** by January 29, 2024.

B. Chair Polzin and Attorney Gilchrist have exchanged email communications regarding the **use of Closed Project Account funds.** Gilchrist noted that the policy is very broad as it pertains to potential uses of the funds, including their use before the receipt of tax funds from the County. A default provision of the policy is also very broad in that the Account can be used for any lawful purpose upon a majority vote of the Commission. He further noted that the language was unclear as to whether the Commission could include a completed and paid for project in a future tax levy request and would recommend conferring with the County



on this scenario. He suggested the Commissions consider what goes into deciding which CIP projects are funded with these funds (why this project rather than another).

C. Election of officers and annual appointments for 2024 will occur at the February meeting. If you are willing to serve as an officer, please contact Administrator Anderson.

D. There being no further business before the Commissions, the **joint meeting was adjourned** at 2:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judie A. Anderson".

Judie A. Anderson

Recording Secretary

JAA:tim

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