

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 8, 2024 **CORRECTED** (see item IX.D.2.)

(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, February 8, 2024, at Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Avenue North, Plymouth, MN.

Present for Shingle Creek: David Mulla, Brooklyn Center; Silas Harris, Brooklyn Park; Burt Orred, Jr., Crystal; Karen Jaeger, Maple Grove; Ray Schoch, Minneapolis; Bob Grant, New Hope; James Kelly, Osseo; Andy Polzin, Plymouth; and Wayne Sicora, Robbinsdale.

Present for West Mississippi: David Mulla, Brooklyn Center; Silas Harris, Brooklyn Park; Gerry Butcher, Champlin; Karen Jaeger, Maple Grove; and James Kelly, Osseo.

Also present were: Mitch Robinson, Brooklyn Park; Randy Bergstrom, Crystal; Derek Asche, Maple Grove; Nick Macklem, New Hope; Amy Riegel, Plymouth; Wendy Scherer, Richard McCoy, and Jenna Wolf, Robbinsdale; Todd Shoemaker and Katie Kemmitt, Stantec; Troy Gilchrist, Kennedy & Graven; Judie Anderson, JASS; and Mike Sorensen, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

II. AGENDAS AND MINUTES.

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

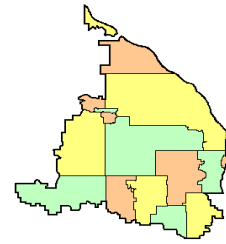
Motion by Butcher, second by Jaeger to approve the **West Mississippi agenda**.* *Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion by Schoch, second by Grant to approve the **minutes* of the January 11, 2024, regular meeting**. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion by Mulla, second by Butcher to approve the **minutes* of the January 11, 2024, regular meeting**. *Motion carried unanimously.*

III. FINANCES AND REPORTS.

A. Motion by Schoch, second by Jaeger to approve the Shingle Creek **February Treasurer's Report*and claims** totaling \$28,354.35. Voting aye: Mulla, Harris, Orred, Jaeger, Schoch, Grant, Kelly, Polzin, and Sicora; voting nay: none.



B. Motion by Butcher, second by Jaeger to approve the **West Mississippi February Treasurer's Report* and claims** totaling \$5,029.20. Voting aye: Mulla, Harris, Butcher, Jaeger, and Kelly; voting nay: none.

IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS.

A. Election of Officers. No additional nominations were received.

1. Shingle Creek. Motion by Schoch, second by Harris to elect the following officers: Andy Polzin, Chair; Wayne Sicora, Vice Chair; Karen Jaeger, Secretary; and Burt Orred, Treasurer. *Motion carried unanimously.*

2. West Mississippi. Motion by Butcher, second by Jaeger to elect the following officers: Gerry Butcher, Chair, David Mulla, Vice Chair; and Karen Jaeger, Secretary-Treasurer. *Motion carried unanimously.*

B. Annual Appointments.

1. Shingle Creek. Motion by Schoch, second by Harris to make the following appointments: Official Newspaper – Osseo-Maple Grove Press; Official Depositories – U.S. Bank and the 4M Fund; Deputy Treasurer – Judie Anderson; and Auditor – Johnson Company Ltd. *Motion carried unanimously.*

2. West Mississippi. Motion by Butcher, second by Jaeger to make the following appointments: Official Newspaper – Osseo-Maple Grove Press; Official Depositories – U.S. Bank and the 4M Fund; Deputy Treasurer – Judie Anderson; and Auditor – Johnson Company Ltd. *Motion carried unanimously.*

V. OPEN FORUM.

VI. OLD BUSINESS.

VII. PROJECT REVIEWS.

VIII. 2024 WORK PLANS.

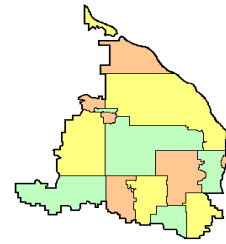
At the January meeting, Staff presented their January 5, 2024, memos listing suggested activities for the Commissions' 2024 Work Plans, organized by Goal Areas identified in the Fourth Generation Plan and as general Commission business. Both Commissions directed Staff to return the Work Plans to the February meeting for final approval. Staff's February 2, 2024, memos* are iterations of the January memos, with no revisions.

Motion by Schoch, second by Grant to approve the 2024 Shingle Creek Work Plan as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion by Butcher, second by Mulla to approve the 2024 West Mississippi Work Plan as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

IX. WATER QUALITY.

A. Shingle Creek 2024 Monitoring Plan.* Staff's February 8, 2024, memo presents the proposed 2024 monitoring plan for the Shingle Creek watershed. The proposal is consistent with the joint Commissions' Fourth Generation Management Plan and includes routine monitoring tasks as well as specific monitoring efforts in support of Commission-administered grants and monitoring to evaluate pro-



gress toward various TMDLs. The 2024 budget for routine stream monitoring is \$36,000; for routine lake monitoring, \$30,000.

In 2024 the Commission will complete five-year Biotic and DO TMDL reviews for Shingle and Bass creeks and intensive lake monitoring of Eagle and Pike lakes. Intensive lake monitoring includes collecting water quality data, updating surveys of aquatic vegetation, and collecting and comparing phytoplankton and zooplankton samples.

In 2024 Staff will also undertake monitoring tasks as part of ongoing grant projects:

1. A fully curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) delineation will be done in the spring on **Bass Lake**.
2. A third season of CLP delineation and potential treatment, as well as two vegetation surveys and water quality sampling, will occur as part of the **Meadow Lake** grant project.
3. The **Crystal Lake** Management Plan grant has been extended to mid-2024. Activities will include a visual survey of CLP abundance and a CLP treatment if necessary. WSB has also been contracted to complete another summer of carp removals in 2024.

Volunteer monitoring, under the guise of Metropolitan Council's Citizen Assisted Lake Monitoring Program (CAMP) and Hennepin County's macroinvertebrate stream monitoring program (RiverWatch), is also included in the 2024 budget. The CAMP budget is \$5,000 to monitor Cedar Island, Bass and Pomerleau lakes. The RiverWatch budget includes \$2,000 to monitor two sites.

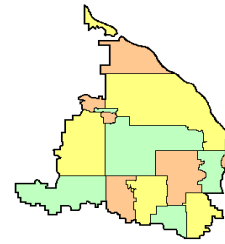
The foregoing program was recommended for approval by the Technical Advisory Committee at their meeting earlier today. Motion by Schoch, second by Harris to approve the 2024 Shingle Creek monitoring plan as recommended. *Motion carried unanimously.*

B. West Mississippi 2024 Monitoring Plan.* Staff's February 8, 2024 memo presents the proposed 2024 monitoring plan for the West Mississippi watershed. The Commissions' Third Generation Management Plan and subsequent budgets have incorporated routine monitoring that includes monitoring **stream flow and water quality** at two sites per year on a rotating basis. The Commission will continue that monitoring under the Fourth Generation Plan. In 2024 the Environmental Preserve site and the 65th Avenue stormwater pipe will be monitored for flow and water quality, with the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) contracted to perform the monitoring at the 65th Avenue site. The 2024 budget for routine stream monitoring is \$24,000.

Volunteer monitoring as part of Hennepin County's macroinvertebrate stream monitoring program(RiverWatch) is also included in the 2024 budget with \$1,000 to monitor the site at Mattson Brook.

Again, the foregoing was recommended for approval by the Technical Advisory Committee at their meeting earlier today. Motion by Mulla, second by Butcher to approve the 2024 West Mississippi monitoring plan as recommended. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion by Jaeger, second by Butcher to approve the **Professional Services Agreement** between the West Mississippi Watershed Management Commission and the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization to perform the stormwater monitoring services described above in an amount not to exceed \$11,201.80. *Motion carried unanimously.*



C. Metropolitan Council Draft 2050 Water Policy Plan. Met Council is in the initial stages of developing its 2050 Policy Plan to guide housing and development; parks; transportation; and water and wastewater planning in the seven county Metropolitan Area. The 2050 Plan will set forth the core vision, values, and goals for the region and guide both Met Council operations and the Comprehensive Plans of cities, which must be consistent with and implement actions toward achieving those goals. Staff’s February 1, 2024 memo* provides a high-level overview of the issues that the Met Council is considering and taking input on for the draft 2050 Water Policy Plan. The Council’s goal is to complete the Plan by March 2025.

While Met Council is an advisory body to watershed management organizations (WMOs) in the Metro Area and does not approve watershed plans, there is an expectation by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), which does govern WMOs, that watershed plans be consistent with the Met Council Water Policy Plan. City Local Stormwater Management Plans, which are a required component of their Comprehensive Plans, must be consistent with both the relevant watershed plans and the Met Council Water Policy Plan.

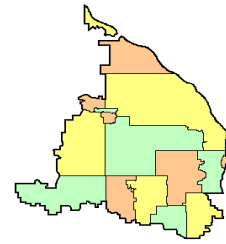
The Commissions just completed a 10-year update of their joint Watershed Management Plan in 2023. There is no requirement that the Commissions update the Fourth Generation Watershed Management Plan to reflect the 2050 Water Policy Plan when it is done. Watershed planning is on a different cycle than comprehensive planning. When the Commissions began the Fourth Generation Plan process, Met Council provided input on the policies and goals that would be considered in the 2050 Policy Plan. Many of those issues were considered by the Commissions in developing their Fourth Generation Plan.

Four of the six draft policy papers are relevant to the two Commissions: (1) Protecting Our Region’s Water Quality; (2) Exploring Water Reuse; (3) Protecting Source Water Areas; and (4) Water and Climate Change. The other two are (5) Wastewater Planning and (6) Protecting Rural Waters. Staff’s memo goes on to describe the individual concerns and the Commissions’ policies and actions focusing on those issues.

More information and the full draft policy papers, executive summaries, and feedback forms can be found at: [2050 Water Policy Plan Update - Metropolitan Council \(metro council.org\)](https://metro council.org/2050-Water-Policy-Plan-Update) and [Water Policy Plan Research - Metropolitan Council \(metro council.org\)](https://metro council.org/Water-Policy-Plan-Research).

D. France Avenue Carp Barrier Removal.* The Twin chain of lakes (Upper, Middle, and Lower Twin Lakes, and Ryan Lake) was designated by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) as impaired for water quality in 2002. Ryan and Lower Twin Lake have since been removed from the impaired waters list. Management efforts now generally focus on reducing internal loading sources within the lakes. A significant contributor to internal loading is the common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), which uproot and displace aquatic plants and reduce habitat structure, leading to increased turbidity, sediment phosphorus release, and poor water quality conditions.

1. The Shingle Creek Commission and its partners invested \$110,000, with matching funds from the Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR), to study and remove carp within the Twin chain of lakes between 2016 and 2019. The carp study evaluated population, migration habits, control of reproduction and migration, and the effect of carp removal.



A 2017 study of migration habits showed the carp tend to stay in the deep waters of Middle and Upper Twin in the winter months and move to shallow areas for spawning in spring, including Ryan Lake via Ryan Creek. Tracking also indicated carp are freely moving in and out of the Twin Lakes system. Ryan Lake is connected via Ryan Creek and storm sewer to Shingle Creek, where there are additional spawning areas. This better understanding of carp movement resulted in the installation of two fish barriers in 2017, at Bass Lake Road and at France Avenue, to prevent the migration of carp. Seven carp removal events in 2018 and 2019 resulted in the removal of approximately 14,450 lbs. (44% of the goal) of carp from the lakes.

Since the barriers aid in carp removal by corralling the carp during the summer and are less effective during the winter when the carp move to deeper, warmer waters, Staff recently inspected the barrier to determine the feasibility of removing it during winter months. At the December TAC meeting, Staff offered options for the members to consider for recommendation to the Commission: The members recommended that the Commission investigate repairing or modifying the current barrier to facilitate winter removal and decrease the amount of regular maintenance.

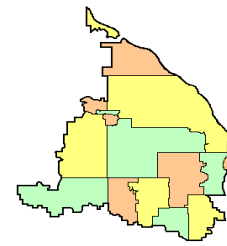
2. The fish barrier at France Avenue (outlet of Twin Lakes to Ryan Lake) frequently clogs, reducing flow capacity through the barrier, and resulting in flooding the backyards of adjacent properties. In their January 31, 2024 memo* Staff describes five options to reduce maintenance of the existing barrier:

- a. Dredge a channel** upstream of the barrier to reduce vegetation and debris movement downstream, capital cost \$100,000-\$150,000; timeline 1-4 years, questionable effectiveness because debris and dead vegetation will likely still reach the barrier, requiring dredging every ten years;
- b. Install low voltage fish barrier;** capital cost \$100,000-\$200,000; timeline 1-2 years, most effective at low stream velocity, which would be exceeded relatively frequently, allowing carp to pass;
- c. Install high voltage fish barrier;** capital cost \$500,000-\$1,000,000; timeline 2-4 years, most effective of the five options but likely too robust of a solution for this situation;
- d. Replace existing physical barrier,** capital cost \$50,000-\$100,000; timeline 1-2 years, debris accumulates but does not reduce flow, impedes fish passage in both directions, and allows for flow of small debris. Assume three maintenance visits/year.
- e. Modify existing physical barrier;** capital cost \$15,000-\$30,000; timeline 0.5-2 years, impedes fish passage in both directions and allows for flow of small debris. Assume three maintenance visits/year.

At the TAC meeting earlier today, the members recommended that the Commission update the estimate of the carp population within the Twin Lakes chain to quantify the effectiveness of past efforts and to use the information gathered to modify the existing fish barrier (option 5).

Motion by Sicora, second by ~~Schoek~~ Schoch to concur with this recommendation.
Motion carried unanimously.

X. GRANT OPPORTUNITITES.



A. Crystal Lake Management Plan.* The Crystal Lake Management Plan was initiated in 2020, funded by a federal 319 grant. Since then, two alum treatments have been applied to the lake and three years of carp management have taken place. In addition, water quality and sediment core sampling, zooplankton and phytoplankton collection, and sediment, fish, and vegetation surveys have been completed. Sediment phosphorus release has been significantly reduced after the two alum treatments.

The 319 grant was scheduled to expire in December 2023; however, the Commission had remaining match funds that needed to be spent in order to close out the grant. The Commission was awarded an extension to the grant through June 30, 2024, in order to spend the remaining match, approximately \$40,000.

Stantec recommends the Commission contract for a fourth year of carp management with WSB Engineering. The contract would include carp removals in early summer 2024 using box netting techniques. Included in the meeting packet is WSB’s proposed scope of work and contract* with a budget of \$19,964. Payment for the contract with WSB will come from match funds and contribute to the Commission’s total match required for the grant. Stantec’s assistance with 2024 carp baiting and removals, as well as additional project work (i.e., sediment coring and analysis) that occurred between October and December 2023 is expected to fulfill the remainder of the Commission’s match requirement.

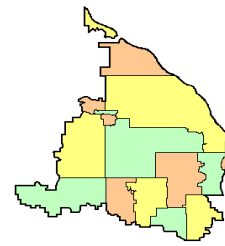
Motion by Schoch, second by Grant to accept WSB’s contract and proposal pending review by the Commission’s attorney. *Motion carried unanimously.*

B. 2024-2025 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF).* The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) biennially appropriates funding for a program called Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF). WBIF is allocated to targeted watersheds, distributed according to guidelines agreed upon by the eligible entities in the allocation area (“the Partnership”). The BWSR Board has approved the allocations for fiscal year 2024-2025, including \$191,662 to the Shingle Creek allocation area and \$152,299 to the West Mississippi allocation area. Funds will become available July 1, 2024. A minimum 10% match is required.

The BWSR Funding Policy specifies that each Partnership will be comprised of one decision-making representative from each (1) watershed district/organization, (2) soil and water conservation district, and (3) county with a current groundwater plan, and (4) up to two decision-making representatives from municipalities within the allocation area. Other parties may participate in discussions regarding the use of the funding, but only the decision-making representatives may make the final recommendation to BWSR. The city and watershed representatives may be TAC members or Commissioners.

Today, Staff recommends that members discuss who will fill the roles of (1) and (4) above. The County will also be asked to designate a representative and BWSR will be formally represented as well. At that meeting the group will begin discussing options for the use of the funds. At the TAC meeting, James Soltis, Brooklyn Center; Mitchell Robinson, Brooklyn Park; and Nick Macklem, New Hope, volunteered to represent the watersheds. Katie Kemmitt will serve as moderator.

Schoch and Sicora volunteered to represent the cities in Shingle Creek. Mulla and Harris, volunteered to represent the cities in West Mississippi.



Activities eligible for funding must be focused on prioritized and targeted cost-effective actions with *measurable water quality results*. Funding is not limited to capital projects; anything in the Fourth Generation Plan's Implementation Plan may be eligible as long as its end goal is the protection and improvement of water quality. The Implementation Plan included several broad areas that would be eligible:

1. Implementing an education and outreach program.
2. Implementing TMDL management actions.
3. Completing subwatershed assessments and follow-up implementation cost share.
4. Matching grants.
5. Capital improvement projects

Other projects to consider:

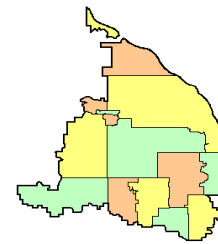
6. Fund the shared education and outreach coordinator.
7. Continue Hennepin County Chloride Initiative.
8. Feasibility studies for Oxbow Creek or Mattson Brook in West Mississippi.

The Partnerships may choose to award the funds to one high-priority project or make numerous awards for various objectives. Or they may decide to focus on one or two priority lakes and undertake a suite of activities focused on making a measurable improvement in water quality. They may also add one or more projects to the CIP by Minor Plan Amendment for eligibility for the WBIF funding if approved prior to submitting their WBIF work plan.

The secondary purpose of this discussion is to provide broad guidance and direction to the designees to consider during the Convene meeting. For example, the Commissions may want to make it known to the Partnerships that their preference is to fund capital projects.

At the March Convene meeting the Partnerships will complete procedural details and discuss desired objectives and outcomes from the use of the funding before determining how fundable activities will be solicited and selected. Recommended activities approved by BWSR may then be detailed in a work plan starting approximately June 2024. Funding will be available July 1, 2024, following submittal and approval of the work plan. Recommended Convene Meeting objectives:

1. Choose a decision-making process.
2. Decide how to select activities for funding. Note that partnerships may also want to choose funding targets for different categories (e.g., projects, studies, education).
3. Partnerships may select activities by:
 - a. Developing a list of potential activities from eligible plans,
 - b. Dividing funding among eligible entities in an equitable manner,
 - c. Selecting waterbodies (lake, streams) and/or groundwater areas to prioritize activities,
 - d. Using agreed upon criteria to select activities, or
 - e. Using a process approved by the BWSR Central Region Manager.



4. Select the highest priority, targeted, measurable, and eligible activities to be submitted to BWSR as a budget request.

5. Confirm which entity will serve as grantee and/or fiscal agent for each selected activity and decide on the source of the 10% required match.

XI. EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH.

The **West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA)** will meet on February 13, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom.

XII. COMMUNICATIONS.

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

B. **February Staff Report.***

1. **Metropolitan Council Metro Area Water Supply Plan.** During development on the 2015 *Water Supply Plan*, the Met Council recognized a need for “subregional” plans rather than one plan for the entire Twin Cities metropolitan area. Staff attended a workshop on January 19 so Met Council staff could gather information to guide development of the next Metro Area Water Supply Plan for the Northwest subregion. To date, Met Council has engaged more than 135 participants representing more than fifty local governments, state agencies, and nonprofit partners across seven subregions.

At the workshop, Met Council staff noted the *Water Supply Plan* is not a regulatory effort but rather encouraging collaboration between communities to achieve a shared understanding of issues/barriers and goals/strategies for success. Participants offered the following thoughts on each:

a. Issues/barriers: chloride impacts; PFAS/emerging contaminants; ecosystem impacts (i.e., White Bear Lake); “cheap” water.

b. Goals/strategies: see decreasing trend for summer water demand; accepted water balance using collected data; improved education (brown lawns are okay); increased staffing, creating career pathways for operators; regional coordination with state agencies.

c. What does success look like? Well-understood water balance; strong, regional education program; proactive funding.

Next, Met Council will bring the local participants of the subregions together to hear from each other and make any final changes to their input before final drafting of the plan begins.

2. **Grant Reporting.** Staff completed year-end reporting for several grants, including:

a. [Crystal Lake Management Plan \(MPCA 319 Grant\)](#)

b. [Meadow Lake Drawdown \(FY21 \(WBIF\)\)](#)

c. [Bass Creek Restoration \(FY21 WBIF\)](#)

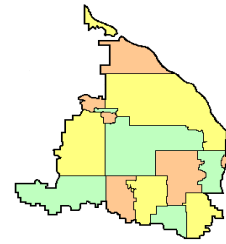
d. [Connections II Shingle Creek Restoration \(BWSR Clean Water Fund \(CWF\)\)](#)

e. [Meadow Lake Management Plan \(BWSR CWF\)](#)

f. [Palmer Creek Stream Stabilization \(BWSR CWF\)](#)

g. [Eagle Lake and Gaulke Pond Subwatershed Assessments \(FY23 WBIF\)](#)

h. [Mississippi River Streambank Stabilization \(FY23 WBIF\)](#)



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

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS.

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 that reads "Judie A. Anderson".

Judie A. Anderson
Recording Secretary
JAA:tim

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