

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 14, 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 12:45 p.m. on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Avenue North, Plymouth, MN.

Present for Shingle Creek: David Mulla, Brooklyn Center; Silas Harris, Brooklyn Park; Randy Bergstrom, Crystal; Karen Jaeger, Maple Grove; Ray Schoch, Minneapolis; Bob Grant, New Hope; John Roach, Osseo; Andy Polzin, Plymouth; and Wendy Scherer, Robbinsdale.

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

Also present were: Mitch Robinson, Brooklyn Park; Ben Perkey, Crystal; Derek Asche, Maple Grove; Nick Macklem, New Hope; James Kelly, Osseo; Ben Scharenbroich, Plymouth; Todd Shoemaker and Katie Kemmitt, Stantec; Troy Gilchrist, Kennedy & Graven; Judie Anderson, JASS; Mike Sorensen, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board; and William Kuster, Crystal.

### II. AGENDAS AND MINUTES.

Motion by Schoch, second by Jaeger to approve the **Shingle Creek agenda\*** with the addition of item 6.c. Eagle Lake Pond Resilience Grant application. *Motion carried unanimously.*

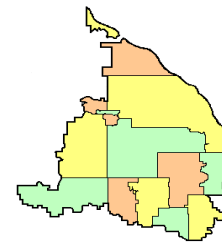
Motion by Butcher, second by Harris to approve the **West Mississippi agenda\*** with the addition of item 6.d. letter of support for the Mississippi Gateway project.\* *Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion by Schoch, second by Jaeger to approve the **minutes\*** of the February 8, 2024, regular meeting with the correction of the spelling of Ray Schoch's last name in the last sentence of item IX.D. on page 5. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion by Butcher, second by Jaeger to approve the **minutes\*** of the February 8, 2024, regular meeting. *Motion carried unanimously.*

[Mulla and Roach arrived 12:50 p.m.]

### III. FINANCES AND REPORTS.



**A.** Motion by Schoch, second by Harris to approve the Shingle Creek **March Treasurer's Report\* and claims** totaling \$61,621.62. Voting aye: Mulla, Harris, Bergstrom, Jaeger, Schoch, Grant, Roach, Polzin, and Scherer; voting nay: none.

**B.** Motion by Butcher, second by Jaeger to approve the **West Mississippi March Treasurer's Report\* and claims** totaling \$33,299.22. Voting aye: Mulla, Harris, Butcher, Jaeger, and Roach; voting nay: none.

**IV. OPEN FORUM.**

William Kuster was present to speak about a pervasive litter problem generating from the **Republic Services Minneapolis Recycling Center** located in the Camden Industrial neighborhood of North Minneapolis. He also shared photos of the scene. He stated that some of the wind-blown litter from the Recycling Center ends up in Shingle Creek, which is adjacent to the recycling center, and is then carried to the Mississippi River which is only about 1/4 mile downstream from the facility. He was provided with the appropriate phone number at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to express his concerns.

Motion by Mulla, second by Harris requesting the Commission to write a letter to the City of Minneapolis, Republic Services, and the MPCA regarding this situation. *Motion carried unanimously.* Shoemaker informed the members that Stantec wrote the permit for the facility and volunteered to write the letter.

**V. OLD BUSINESS.**

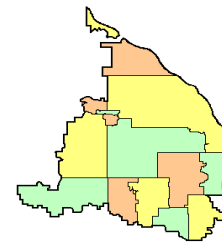
**VI. PROJECT REVIEWS.**

**VII. WATER QUALITY.**

**A. EAGLE AND PIKE LAKES INTERNAL LOAD PROJECT.** The Shingle Creek Commission has previously discussed a potential Lake Management Plan for Eagle and Pike Lakes, similar to those recently completed on Bass, Pomerleau, Meadow, and Crystal Lakes. These plans typically have included alum treatments to reduce internal phosphorus load; aquatic vegetation and fish management; and intensive monitoring over three to four years to comprehensively and systematically improve lake water quality. Eagle and Pike Lakes are slated to begin this process in 2024. The purpose of this item is to initiate the Lake Management Plan process so that monitoring and project preparation can be completed this spring/summer and alum treatments can be applied as soon as this Fall.

The Commission previously studied the Eagle Lake subwatershed through the Cedar Island, Pike, and Eagle Lakes Nutrient TMDL completed in 2010 and in the TMDL 5-year review. The TMDL concluded that internal load management, biological management, and reduction of nonpoint sources of phosphorus in the watershed by retrofitting Best Management Practices (BMPs) would have the most impact on reducing phosphorus load and improving water quality. The TMDL 5-Year review identified 39% and 29% reductions in TP for Pike and Eagle lakes, respectively. Pike Lake Subwatershed Assessments were completed in 2017 and 2019 and identified general practices to reduce the watershed load to that lake.

In 2023, the Commission authorized Stantec to complete the Eagle Lake Subwatershed Assessment that built on the previous studies to identify specific locations for BMPs in the Eagle Lake



subwatershed and evaluate internal loading in both lakes. The Eagle Lake SWA is still being finalized, but sediment core data collected in Summer 2023 and presented to the Commission in August indicated a need for internal load management in both lakes. The Commission’s Fourth Generation Plan includes a 2024 project to complete Lake Management Plans for Eagle and Pike Lakes, including targeted monitoring; alum treatments to control internal phosphorus load; aquatic vegetation monitoring and treatment; and, if necessary, rough fish management.

The Commission submitted a Clean Water Fund Projects & Practices grant to BWSR in August 2023 for \$527,500 (\$337,500 grant and \$190,000 match) to fund the Eagle and Pike Lakes internal load project but did not receive an award. Based on the findings of the internal load assessment for the lakes and discussions with the City of Maple Grove and the Commission, Staff recommend proceeding in 2024 with the Lake Management Plan for these lakes using Commission funding.

Similar to previous projects, Staff recommend that at this meeting the Commission consider ordering the overall project, which would proceed in three actions: first, approve the project; second, authorize a work order for Stantec to perform the professional services associated with the project; and third, authorize entering into a cooperative agreement with Maple Grove to serve as the contracting agent for the alum treatments. Future aquatic vegetation management would be completed under separate contract with a specialized contractor.

This project is listed on the Shingle Creek Capital Improvement Program for 2024, and typically the Commission would consider levying for it in Fall 2024. The Commission maintains the Closed Projects account in which to deposit levy funds that are “left over” when CIP projects are completed for less than the amount levied. The Commission has designated that those funds are to be used for limited purposes: to cover overages when CIP projects exceed the budget; to fund additional projects; or to complete special studies such as feasibility studies to help define and scope future CIP projects and to prepare them for grant applications. Staff recommend this project be funded through the Closed Projects Account rather than being levied for in 2024.

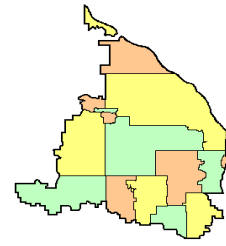
Stantec’s **Work Order 24-02** dated March 7, 2024, and revised March 12, 2024, provides a Scope of Work comprised of four tasks:

**Task 1** – Engineering Support for alum treatments, with the City of Maple Grove acting as the contracting agent for the treatments from Fall 2024 to Fall 2026. \$11,424.

**Task 2** – Phosphorus Monitoring. Additional monitoring outside regularly scheduled monitoring comprised of collecting sediment cores and conducting water quality monitoring over two summers, 2025 and 2027. \$31,850.

**Task 3** – Submersed Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Monitoring. 2025 and 2027 early and late summer monitoring following alum treatments to assess response of the aquatic plant community. \$32,140.

**Task 4** – Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Delineations and Permitting. Herbicide treatment and hand-pulling of curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil. Early spring/summer for up to five years. \$47,890.



Total labor costs = \$105,544; total expenses = \$17,760. Total Stantec fee = \$123,304.

**Contractor Fee Estimates.**

**Task 1** – Alum Application for both lakes - \$340,000.

**Task 2** – Herbicide treatments and hand-pulling for up to five years - \$12,000.

Estimated contractor fees = \$352,000.

At its meeting earlier today, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended that the Commission approve this project, authorize the work order, enter into a cooperative agreement with the City of Maple Grove, and fund the project from the Closed Project Account.

Motion by Schoch, second by Grant to approve the TAC’s recommendation. *Motion carried unanimously.*

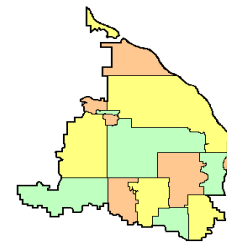
**B. 2024 Proposed Maintenance Fund Activities.**

In 2022 the Commissions approved a Maintenance Fund intended to maintain, repair, or replace Commission-led projects to continue providing water quality benefits. Projects considered for Commission funding under the Maintenance Fund are described in the policy\* (included in the meeting packet for reference).

**1. Bass Lake Curly-leaf Pondweed Management.** Bass Lake has been treated with diquat herbicide for four consecutive years for curly-leaf pondweed (CLP). CLP is persistent and often requires up to seven years of treatment per DNR recommendation. Bass Lake requires additional CLP management in 2024. This additional year of management includes: (1) Curly-leaf pondweed delineation and mapping; (2) Herbicide treatment permitting and coordination; and (3) Contract with herbicide applicator and application oversight.

The cost of the herbicide treatment will depend on the applicator, the delineated area of CLP growth, and the unit price of diquat herbicide, which is market-dependent. The expected cost of the herbicide application including applicator fees and materials is \$4,000. Because the window between when the delineation area is approved by the DNR and when the optimal treatment window occurs is narrow, Stantec recommends that the Commission provide authorization for application to proceed immediately after obtaining the quote. The contract will be reviewed by the Commissions’ attorney before application and will be brought to the following meeting for ratification. (A draft services agreement\* is included in the meeting packet.) If the applicator fees are substantially more than estimated, Stantec will contact the Chair and get his decision and approval to proceed.

**2. Ryan Creek Carp Barrier Maintenance.** The Ryan Creek carp barrier installed on Ryan Creek off of France Avenue functions as the first step in carp population control in the Twin Lakes chain. The fish barrier at France Avenue (outlet of Twin Lakes to Ryan Lake) frequently clogs, reducing flow capacity through the barrier and flooding backyards of adjacent properties. Stantec and City staff must routinely clean the barrier when it gets clogged, particularly in the spring with snowmelt. Staff recommends budgeting \$6,664.56 from the Maintenance Fund for carp barrier cleaning and maintenance in 2024. Site



visits involve two staff entering Ryan Creek with equipment and yard waste bags for removing debris. Site visits typically last 1-2 hours. Stantec will complete up to 6 site visits in 2024 under the proposed budget.

**3. Stantec’s Work Order 24-03** dated March 7, 2024 shows Stantec fees for the Bass Lake project of \$5,200.04 and for the Ryan Lake project of \$6,664.56. Estimated contractor fee for the Bass Lake project is \$4,000.

The Technical Advisory Committee recommended approval of the 2024 maintenance activities as described and to fund them from the Commission’s Maintenance Fund.

Motion by Schoch, second by Jaeger to approve the two projects as described in Work Order 24-03. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**C. COLORADO AVENUE INFILTRATION TRENCH FEASIBILITY STUDY.\***

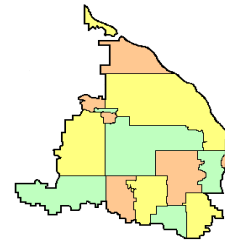
The Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission completed the Gaulke Pond Sub-watershed Assessment in 2023. That study identified eleven potential practices to reduce runoff volume within the watershed, which were ranked according to runoff reduction volume, watershed area, construction cost, lifetime cost, and cost per acre-foot infiltrated and rated the Colorado Avenue infiltration trench as the highest ranked practice to reduce flooding and improve water quality within the Gaulke Pond Watershed. The study also recommended the Commission study the trench location and design in more detail before final design because of its potential proximity to the adjacent drinking water reservoir. The Commission subsequently applied for and received a grant\* from the MPCA to study the trench feasibility. Work Order 24-01\* dated March 7, 2024, details the tasks and costs to complete the feasibility study.

The scope of work focuses on a geotechnical evaluation to guide design of an infiltration trench adjacent to an underground drinking water reservoir.

**Task 1 – Site Survey & Assessment.** The project area will be surveyed for topography, utility locations, and site boundaries. Soil borings have already been collected at the site location by the City of Crystal and will be analyzed as part of this task. Record drawings of the nearby reservoir and pump station will also be reviewed as part of this task. Timeframe: April 2024

**Task 2 – Geotechnical Evaluation.** Staff will evaluate existing information to determine the presence of potential contamination, proximity of the proposed infiltration trench to the underground drinking water reservoir, key design features, and the potential slope stability concerns during construction/excavation of the infiltration trench. It involves assessing the groundwater regime, soil stratigraphy, and hydraulic conductivity of the soil as it affects the functioning of the infiltration facility as well as an evaluation of the geotechnical stability of the facility. Timeframe: May – August 2024

**Task 3 – Reporting.** A feasibility study report will be completed that includes results/recommendations from the geotechnical evaluation. The report will also feature an update to the Shingle Creek PC-SWMM model that includes the infiltration trench and the water quantity benefit, and an updated conceptual design based on the geotechnical evaluation and design infiltration rate. Timeframe: September-February 2025



**Fee estimate.** Stantec will execute the scope of work for this project for \$20,140. Labor costs total \$19,956; expenses total \$184.

The Technical Advisory Committee recommended that the Commission accept the MPCA Community Resiliency Grant for the Colorado Avenue Infiltration Trench Feasibility Study in the amount of \$18,309, provide \$1,831 matching funds from the Closed Project Fund, and approve the Scope of Work as outlined.

Motion by Schoch, second by Mulla to approve the recommendation by the TAC. *Motion carried unanimously.*

### VIII. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES.

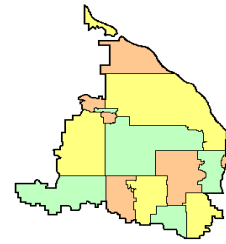
**A.** The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is soliciting applications for their **Implementation Grants for Stormwater Resilience** program. Over \$35 million is available to fund implementation of stormwater projects such as retention ponds, rain gardens, and infiltration basins. Applications are due April 11, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. As part of the nearly completed Eagle Lake Subwatershed Assessment, the Commission identified a project in Maple Grove as a top priority watershed BMP. The project is an infiltration basin in Eagle Woods Park. Stantec will draft a grant application for the pond project to be reviewed at the April Commission meeting ahead of submittal. The TAC recommended that the Commission authorize Staff to proceed with the grant application.

Motion by Jaeger, second by Schoch, to authorize Staff to proceed with the application. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**B.** Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District, has requested a letter\* from the West Mississippi Watershed Management Commission in support of TRPD's application for a **Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) Environment and Natural Resources Trust grant** for the Mississippi Gateway Shoreline Stabilization project. Last fall, the Commission wrote a letter of support to fund this project through the DNR's Conservation Partner's Legacy program; however, it did not receive funding. The request from the Trust is for \$735,000, with partners (City of Brooklyn Park, the National Park Service, and the Commission) also contributing funds to the project. The total cost of the project is \$1,315,936.

### IX. EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH.

**A. Chloride.** Grace Barcelow, the shared Education and Outreach Coordinator with Hennepin County, has developed a new media kit,\* included in the meeting packet, for use by the WMWA watershed and city partners. This is the first of what she hopes will be monthly communications. This kit is focused on the chloride consultations that are underway with managers of faith-based facilities. It provides background information on the purpose of these consultations, what is hoped to be gained through the consultations, and resources to further educate and engage users regarding the proper use of chloride, including sample newsletter articles and social media posts. The kit includes a link to a flier and drives readers to the WMWA web page on chloride use. She is developing a mailing list of contacts at each of the member cities and will be providing similar types of media kits on various topics throughout the year.



**B. Watershed PREP 2023 Statistics.** WMWA staff have compiled the participation statistics for 2023 for education and outreach efforts through Watershed PREP. These were provided by Jessica Sahu Teli, the WMWA educator. Classroom activities have bounced back from the pandemic levels, and Jessica is developing new lessons and opportunities for outreach.

In 2023 about 1,800 students participated in each of the two standardized lessons: *What is a Watershed?* and *The Incredible Journey*. In addition, Jessica interacted with an additional 1,300 students in elementary and middle school classes learning about topics such as native plants, how to maintain a rain garden, and hands-on planting a rain garden. Just over 200 students played the “Watershed Game,” which is a hands-on board game where participants learn about what causes water pollution and what can be done to help prevent and treat it.

Since the program began in 2013, over 22,000 students have participated in Lesson 1 and over 9,000 in Lesson 2. While not all eligible schools participate, there has been a core group of schools over the years, and Jessica continues to work to broaden the program and its reach.

**C.** Registration for the **Blue Thumb Spring Workshops** is now open.\* Register for the workshops at <https://bluethumb.org/events/>.

**D.** **West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA)** will meet via Zoom at 8:30 a.m., April 9, 2024.

**X. COMMUNICATIONS.**

**A.** **March Communications Log.\*** No items required action.

**B.** **March Staff Report.\***

**1.** The **Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Convene Group** identified at the Commissions’ February meeting held their first meeting for the FY2025 funding round on Wednesday March 6, 2024. Funding requests can be made as soon as July 1, 2024. During the meeting, the group generated a list of ideas for funding, which included:

**a.** Continuing and expanding the Hennepin County Shared Education & Outreach Coordinator position

**b.** Continuing and expanding the Hennepin County Chloride Initiative work, including potentially incorporating a chloride lesson into WMWA programming

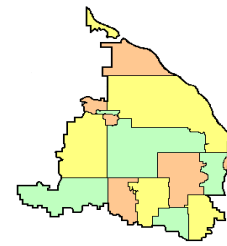
**c.** A stream assessment of Oxbow Creek in West Mississippi

**d.** Purchasing of new ice/snow removal equipment for City of New Hope

Stantec staff will work with BWSR, County staff, and other adjacent watersheds to scope out project milestones and costs associated with some of the generated ideas. The next convene meeting will be held in mid- to late April.

**2.** **FAIR School, Crystal, MN.** Staff met with Kayla Westerlund from the Trust for Public Land (TPL) on February 27, 2024. TPL is working with Brooklyn Center Elementary and the FAIR School in Crystal to improve play space, landscaping, and stormwater management. TPL goals generally align with the Shingle Creek Partnership Cost Share program, so applications for each project may be forthcoming.





Additionally, TPL staff will be conducting environmental education at the FAIR School from March through May. At TPL's request, Shingle Creek staff will be assisting with the water unit on March 15. Staff will discuss "green careers" related to watershed management and use the nearby and recent Gaulke Pond subwatershed study as an example exercise.

**3. Metropolitan Council Metro Area Water Supply Plan.** During development of 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 workshops on January 19 and February 29, so Met Council staff could gather information to guide development of the next Metro Area Water Supply Plan for the Northwest subregion. The purpose of the Water Policy Plan is to guide the region towards a future where water is clean and abundant, the benefits of water services are maximized, risks and negative outcomes are minimized, and uses are sustainable, ensuring the needs of future generations can be met. The Metro Area Water Supply Plan will be a section within the Water Policy Plan.

Met Council prepared the draft Northwest Subregional chapter (included in the meeting packet) prior to the February 29 workshop. A revised draft is being prepared as a result of that workshop, which allowed participants to review issues and action steps from other regions as a way to refine their own subregional plan.

**4. Education and Outreach.** Staff met with the Maple Grove Lake Quality Commission to discuss upcoming potential improvements on Eagle and Pike Lake and to gain input on a WMWA proposal to provide targeted shoreline restoration/resilient yard workshops and technical/financial assistance through the WBIF grant funds. Staff will attend the April 2, 2024, Eagle Lake Association Annual Meeting to discuss upcoming improvements.

**5. Project Updates.**

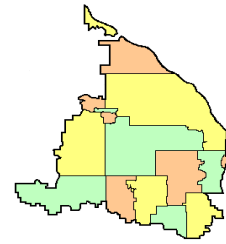
**a. Brookdale Park, Shingle Creek.** Stantec is currently developing preliminary (30%) design plans for stabilization and remainder of the creek within this project area. The City of Brooklyn Park will review the draft plans mid-March and Staff anticipate presenting the plans at the April Commission meeting.

**b. Mississippi Riverbank Stabilization Feasibility Study.** Last fall, City, County and Stantec staff attempted to reach property owners (approximately 55) who were previously interested in stabilizing their Mississippi River shoreline. To date, they have only received responses from approximately eight property owners. The staffs will be meeting in the next 1-2 weeks to discuss alternative engagement strategies and next steps.

**c. Eagle Lake Subwatershed Assessment.** Watershed staff continues to coordinate with City staff on which prioritized BMP should proceed to 30% design. The highest ranked BMP is no longer viable because it is within a city park and would likely require tree removals and permanent occupation of existing green space.

Watershed and city staff will discuss the next steps during the week of March 11. They will likely proceed with the second-highest ranked option because the space is already dedicated to stormwater management and there is easy access for construction and maintenance.





6. The status of the various grant and cost share projects as well as encumbrances are shown on the last page of the report.

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS.**

There being no further business before the Commissions, the joint meeting was adjourned at 1:58 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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