

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

July 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 12:46 p.m. on Thursday, July 11, 2024, at Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Avenue North, Plymouth, MN.

Present for Shingle Creek: David Mulla, Brooklyn Center; Steve Antolak, Brooklyn Park; Burt Orred, Jr., Crystal; Karen Jaeger, Maple Grove; Ray Schoch, Minneapolis; Bob Grant, New Hope; John Roach, Osseo; and Andy Polzin, Plymouth. Not represented: Robbinsdale.

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

Also present were: Mitch Robinson, Brooklyn Park; Randy Bergstrom, Crystal; Mark Lahtinen and Chris LaBounty, Maple Grove; Nick Macklem, New Hope; James Kelly, Osseo; Amy Riegel, Plymouth; Richard McCoy, Jenna Wolf, and Cole Turbes, Robbinsdale; Diane Spector and Erik Megow, Stantec; Troy Gilchrist, Town Law Center; Judie Anderson, JASS; and Mike Sorensen, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB).

II. AGENDAS AND MINUTES.

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

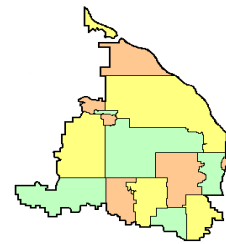
Motion by Roach, second by Butcher to approve the **West Mississippi agenda,*** *Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion by Schoch, second by Jaeger to approve the **minutes*** of the June 13, 2024, regular meeting. *Motion carried unanimously, Brooklyn Park abstaining.*

Motion by Roach, second by Jaeger to approve the **minutes*** of the June 13, 2024, regular meeting. *Motion carried unanimously.*

III. FINANCES AND REPORTS.

A. Motion by Schoch, second by Grant to approve the Shingle Creek **July Treasurer's Report*and claims** totaling \$83,097.91. Voting aye: Mulla, Antolak, Orred, Jaeger, Schoch, Grant; Roach, and Polzin, voting nay: none; absent: Robbinsdale.



B. Motion by Butcher, second by Jaeger to approve the **West Mississippi July Treasurer's Report* and claims** totaling \$15,009.48. Voting aye: Mulla, Butcher, Jaeger, and Roach; voting nay: none; absent: Brooklyn Park.

IV. OPEN FORUM.

Megow presented an update of the **Highland Gables project**.* In December 2022 Metro Blooms submitted a Partnership Cost Share Program application on behalf of Dwell Management Group for improvements at Highland Gables Apartments in the City of Brooklyn Park in the Twin Lakes watershed. The area is within the “most vulnerable area” of the Human Vulnerability map in the Hennepin County Climate Change plan

The improvements included two rain gardens and a playground constructed out of natural products. Metro Blooms was awarded a Shingle Creek cost-share amount of \$49,992.67.

The project improved water quality by annually capturing 1.9 lbs. of total phosphorus. 140 lbs. of total suspended solids, and 2,000 cubic feet of runoff from the site. The project also rated high for community engagement and outreach.

V. JOINT POWERS AGREEMENTS.

A. Responses to the draft agreement have been received from the cities of Champlin, Brooklyn Center, Maple Grove, New Hope and Plymouth. The only substantive comments were received from:

1. The City of Maple Grove:

a. Require city consent if the commission engages in a non-CIP project that is anything other than a research or feasibility study;

b. Require city consent before the commission engages in a CIP project;

c. Reduce the term of the JPA from 30 years to 10 years.

2. The City of Plymouth noted the operating budget should exclude any grant funds for the purposes of applying the cap.

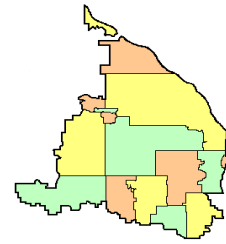
B. Maple Grove.

1. LaBounty explained the reasoning for Maple Grove’s comments. Gilchrist responded that the term of the original JPA was 30 years. The latest amendment to the JPA has been of ten-year duration. He suggested a compromise term of 20 years.

2. Gilchrist further explained that where the language speaks of “city approvals,” for the purposes of the JPA, is meant “the city representative or the city Commissioner.”

C. Plymouth. In response to comments from the City of Plymouth, Gilchrist confirmed that the Operating Budget does not include grant funds.

Motion by Schoch, second by Grant to forward the Shingle Creek JPA to the member cities with those three revisions/clarifications. *Motion carried unanimously.*



Motion by Mulla, second by Jaeger to forward the West Mississippi JPA to the member cities with those three revisions/clarifications. *Motion carried unanimously.*

D. At the TAC meeting, Spector presented a **cover piece*** that will accompany the JPAs when they are sent to the member cities. It discusses topics such as: What do the watersheds do?; What is the history of the watersheds?; Why are Shingle Creek and West Mississippi separate WMOs? It also describes water quality in the lakes and streams, water improvement projects, and upcoming activities. Riegel did some wordsmithing of the piece and it [has been] further modified by Stantec's marketing department.

[Butcher departed 1:09 p.m.]

VI. PROJECT REVIEW.

Blue Line LRT Supplemental EIS Review.* In 2015 and 2016, the Shingle Creek and West Mississippi Watershed Management Commissions reviewed the Blue Line Extension Project, resulting in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) published in 2016. In June 2022, a new alignment was chosen, prompting the Metropolitan Council to seek input from agencies and the public for design and environmental review. In November 2023, Staff met with the LRT design team to discuss stormwater management options.

A. Since the last Commission update, the Metropolitan Council has released the Blue Line Light Rail Transit Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (**SDEIS**) for public comment on June 24, 2024. While the Commissions previously submitted project comments as part of an informal public agency comment period in late 2023, the current public comment review is a required step and part of the federal National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process.

Stantec, on behalf of the SC/WM Commissions, reviewed the SDEIS and has developed comprehensive comments for review and acceptance. If authorized by the Commissions, Stantec will submit the final comments to the Metropolitan Council via email prior to the close of the public comment period on Monday, August 5, 2024.

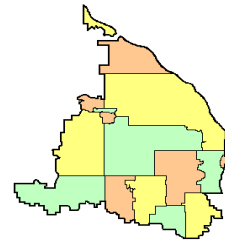
B. SC/WM Commission Draft Comments.

1. Coordinate with the Commission regarding floodplain impacts at Shingle Creek north of Brooklyn Blvd. Future submissions should quantify these impacts and align with SCWMC's Rules and Standards Rule F - Floodplain Alteration.

2. The SDEIS ranks potential contamination areas (Section 5.5) and high infiltration areas (e.g., karst features in Section 5.4). Consider these areas when siting infiltration practices or justifying alternative compliance under Rule D.3.g.2.i.

3. Section 5.9.4.1 outlines permanent Best Management Practice (BMP) options, including filtration and infiltration BMPs. Future submittals should address pretreatment requirements to ensure proper functionality of filtration and infiltration practices.

4. Section 5.9.4.1 notes underground filtration practices as potential Best Management Practices (BMPs). However, underground filtration practices lack sufficient access for



media maintenance or replacement and would not meet the Commission's criteria for acceptable BMPs.

5. Some locations along the corridor will be adjacent to regional stormwater systems. Modifications to regional stormwater BMPs should be explored if onsite practices are not achievable.

6. Due to potential groundwater impacts, no infiltration practices are allowed within the emergency response areas (ERAs), in accordance with the Minnesota Construction Stormwater Permit and Commission rules.

7. The project anticipates impact to wetlands and notes potential mitigation could include the purchase of wetland banking credits within the Hennepin County area. Prioritize the sequencing under Rule G - Wetland Alteration.

8. Implement buffer strips for wetlands and water courses. The Commission requires a minimum of a 20-foot buffer strip measured around the ordinary high-water level of a water course or wetland.

Motion by Schoch, second by Jaeger directing Staff to submit the comments on behalf of the Shingle Creek Commission to the Metropolitan Council by the August 5, 2024, deadline. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion by Roach, second by Mulla directing Staff to submit the comments on behalf of the West Mississippi Commission to the Metropolitan Council by the August 5, 2024, deadline. *Motion carried unanimously.*

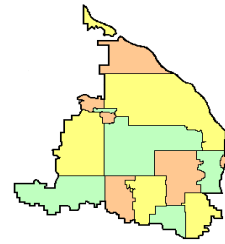
Mulla mentioned that the MPCA has begun work to implement a new law on Cumulative Impacts of Pollution caused by exposure to air and water pollutants in Environmental Justice areas. They are developing criteria to address adverse environmental and health impacts of industries who are exempt from the EAW or EIS process on people in nearby homes, schools and parks. Staff will provide more information about the proposed Cumulative Impact rules at a future meeting.

VII. WATER QUALITY.

A. Work Order 24-05* authorizes Staff to research and identify funding sources for the **Brookdale Park Shingle Creek Remeander and Enhancement project**. The goal of the next phase is to create a road map to fund and ultimately implement the Shingle Creek stabilization and enhancement improvements proposed.

Stantec will work with its grant assistance team to optimize the project's funding potential. We will start by facilitating two meetings with the Commission and project partners, including the City of Brooklyn Park, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD), and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) as appropriate, to share preliminary plans, identify funding gaps and discuss opportunities for grant and local match funding options. Staff will review these funding opportunities with the Commission and refine them into an overall funding strategy memo.

Stantec will execute the scope of work described above for a fee of \$6,000 on a time and materials basis and according to the Master Services Agreement between Stantec and the Shingle Creek Commission. Stantec will not exceed the amount indicated without prior authorization from the



Commission.

Motion by Schoch, second by Antolak to approve Work Order 24-05 at a cost not to exceed \$6,000. *Motion carried unanimously.*

B. Shingle Creek Regional Park. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is initiating a significant improvement project along Shingle Creek. That project will occur over the next one to three years, has multiple sources of funding, and will implement a variety of improvements, both recreational and environmental. The Shingle Creek Commission’s CIP includes \$400,000 that could be allocated to support the MPRB project.

The purpose of Work Order 24-06*is to facilitate coordination between Stantec on behalf of the Commission and MPRB staff. Specific tasks may include Staff attendance at preliminary coordination meetings, responding to data requests, and providing technical assistance to the MPRB. Stantec will also coordinate a Commission subgroup (similar to the Commission’s Highway 252/I-94 subgroup) to review and discuss MPRB requests and progress.

Stantec would execute this work order for a fee of \$10,000 on a time and materials basis and according to the Master Services Agreement with the Commission. This work order will allow Stantec to assist MPRB through December 31, 2024. If additional assistance is needed into 2025, a new work order would be prepared for approval by the Commission.

Motion by Jaeger, second by Schoch to approve Work Order 24-06 for the work described above in an amount not to exceed \$10,000. *Motion carried unanimously.*

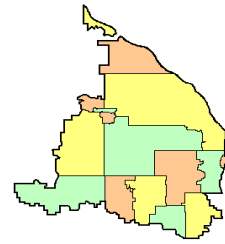
VIII. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES.

A. The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) opened the annual solicitation for **Clean Water Fund (CWF) Grants** on June 28, 2024, with applications due August 22. This \$9.6 million is funding from the ongoing Legacy Amendment and is one of the primary funding sources for surface water improvements in Minnesota. The required match is 10%. At this time there does not appear to be anything on the Commission’s CIP that would be ready for such an application.

As part of the Request for Proposals, BWSR is also offering *Accelerated Implementation Grants*, which aim to build capacity for local governments to accelerate on-the-ground projects that improve or protect water quality and perform above and beyond existing state standards for protecting and restoring water quality. Eligible proposals are pre-project identification, planning, and design tasks such as inventorying pollutant sites, using existing targeting tools to perform Subwatershed assessments, providing technical assistance, or increasing citizen interaction.

The Commissions have identified developing a Chloride Management Plan as a top priority for the next ten years in the Fourth Generation Plan. Managing chloride has become a key part of discussions when reviewing development projects in the watershed. There is a need for a comprehensive, inclusive plan for managing chloride across the watersheds and metro wide.

Staff recommend partnering with the Elm Creek WMO to submit a proposal to the CWF Accelerated Implementation Grants to develop a chloride management plan that can be used by all three



watersheds and member cities to guide chloride management. A joint plan shared by the three WMOs will ensure consistent messaging about chloride management for the member cities, private landowners, and other watersheds. Shingle Creek and Bass Creek in Shingle and Elm Creek and South Fork Rush Creek in Elm are Impaired Waters for chloride. Crystal Lake in Shingle and the North Fork Rush Creek and Diamond Creek in Elm are considered by the MPCA as High Risk, meaning there is some data indicating elevated levels but not enough to meet the Impaired Waters criteria. Some of the outfalls in West Mississippi also suggest elevated concentrations of chloride.

Staff propose that this joint Chloride Management Plan align with the model described in the Minnesota Statewide Chloride Management Plan (<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/statewide-chloride-resources>) and recommend a four-step approach:

- 1. Define and fully understand the problem.** Evaluate and interpret available monitoring data to characterize chloride conditions in the watersheds' waters and runoff.
- 2. Identify the stakeholders and partners in the watershed and define their roles and responsibilities.** Included in this effort should be an agreed-upon method of tracking progress and holding stakeholders accountable.
- 3. Identify implementation strategies and goals.** The problem analysis in step 1 will suggest areas of focus for implementation, including priority geographies, actions, and stakeholders. Specific, measurable, achievable goals will be set within the plan to track the implementation of the strategies.
- 4. Ongoing monitoring and assessment.** The goals and strategies will be reviewed and potentially revised annually to reflect progress as well as highlight new areas of focus and implementation.

Motion by Schoch, second by Mulla to collaborate with the Elm Creek and West Mississippi Commissions to prepare the CWF grant application as proposed using funds from the Grant Application Writing line item. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion by Mulla, second by Roach to collaborate with the Elm Creek and Shingle Creek Commissions to prepare the CWF grant application as proposed using funds from the Grant Application Writing line item. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Mulla volunteered to serve on the grant writing committee.

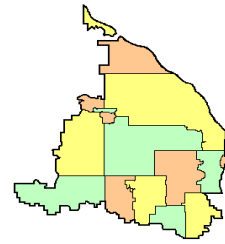
B. The next **2024 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF)** Convene Group meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Monday, July 22, 2024, via Zoom.

IX. EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH.

A. Grace Barcelow's July Update.*

What have we been working on since the June WMWA Meeting?

- 1.** Released media kit about Pet Waste. This media kit educates residents on pet waste pollution and encourages people to pick up pet waste. There is a newsletter and set of social media posts with a focus on summer, and another newsletter and set of social media posts with a focus on early spring. There is also a mailer that will be sent out within the next couple of weeks which cities



can use it as they see fit.

2. Continued planning efforts for Fish Lake and Eagle Lake workshops.

3. Hosted second engagement event at Southgate Apartments June 29, continuing to receive ideas from apartment residents. The next engagement will be held on August 24 and Metro Blooms will propose a design and ask for feedback from residents.

4. Applied for the Pollinator Pathways Grant through BWSR to support water quality and pollinator-friendly projects in Maple Grove and Bloomington.

What work will be happening before the August WMWA meeting?

5. Continue outreach to involve middle school classrooms in Adopt-a-Drain K-12 program throughout WMWA watersheds.

6. Continue planning for fall 2024 workshops with Metro Blooms.

7. Continue engagement process for the Southgate Apartment project in Bloomington.

8. Create August media kit. This was initially going to be about drought friendly practices, but after all the rain we have had, we may need to switch gears... content is TBD! Happy to take any ideas.

B. **West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA)** will meet via Zoom at 8:30 a.m., August 13, 2024. WMWA is still looking for applicants for the Watershed PREP Educator position. The job is posted at https://www.westmetrowateralliance.org/uploads/5/8/3/0/58303031/job_posting2.pdf

X. STAFF REPORT.*

A. **July Communications Log.*** No items required action. It was suggested that upcoming meeting dates be added to the calendar.

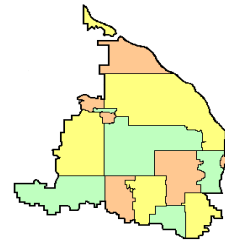
B. Staff Report.*

1. **The Crystal Lake Management Plan 319 grant** expired on June 30, 2024. Staff worked with MPCA and WSB to complete final carp removals funded under the grant.

2. **Eagle and Pike Lakes Internal Load Management.** Stantec has been working with the City of Maple Grove to draft bid documents for the alum treatments on Eagle and Pike Lakes. A bid opening was scheduled for July 9 and a Fall alum treatment on both lakes is expected.

3. **Colorado Infiltration Trench Feasibility Study.** Stantec completed the boundary, topographic and utility survey of the project area and have begun the geotechnical analysis by evaluating construction suitability using the preliminary design plan, survey data, utility and reservoir record plans, and local soil borings.

4. **Project Updates.** The status of the various grant and cost share projects and fund balances are shown on the last page of the report.



5. Upcoming Stormwater/Watershed Management conferences:

Date	Conference	Sponsor	Location
Sept 8-11	Water Infrastructure Conf	American Water Works Association	Phoenix, AZ
Sept 10-11	Iowa Water Conf	Iowa Water Center	Coralville, IA
Sept 17-20	AWWA MN Section Annual Conf	American Water Works Association	Duluth, MN
Sept 26-29	MN Recreation & Park Association	MN Recreation & Park Association	Mankato, MN

XI. OTHER BUSINESS.

There being no further business before the Commissions, the joint meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Judie A. Anderson
Recording Secretary

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