

## MINUTES

September 24, 2020

A virtual meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Shingle Creek and West Mississippi Watershed Management Commissions was called to order by Chairman Richard McCoy at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, September 24, 2020.

Present were: Andrew Hogg, Brooklyn Center; Mitch Robinson, Brooklyn Park; Mark Ray, Crystal; Derek Asche, Maple Grove; Megan Hedstrom, New Hope; Nick Waldbillig, Osseo; Ben Scharenbroich and Amy Riegel, Plymouth; Richard McCoy and Marta Roser, Robbinsdale; Ed Matthiesen and Diane Spector, Wenck Associates, Inc.; and Judie Anderson and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

Not represented: Champlin and Minneapolis.

- I. Motion by Ray, second by Hogg to **approve the agenda**. \* *Motion carried unanimously.*
- II. Motion by Ray, second by Riegel to **approve the minutes**\* of the July 23, 2020 meeting. *Motion carried unanimously.*
- III. **Project Review Fees.**

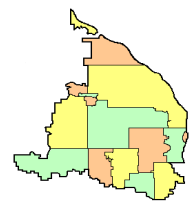
A. As part of the 2021 budget process Staff looked at the project review fees to see if they are adequately covering costs. Tables 1 and 2 in their September 17, 2020 memo\* compare the review fees received to the costs of performing the project reviews. The costs may also include meetings with developer's representatives, agencies, etc. The review fee structure is intended to *on average* recapture all those costs and limit overcharging for individual projects.

The TAC has discussed the project review fee structure a few times, looking at the schedules for Bassett Creek and Elm Creek as well for comparison. Staff also looked more closely at the effort to complete the reviews where the cost exceeded the fee received. There was no particular reason why, but projects with floodplain impacts, stream crossings, or complicated, lengthy highway projects generally required more effort to review. In addition, some projects required the applicant to rework and resubmit details, quickly increasing the time required to review.

The TAC had previously discussed two options: a structure that charges a base fee and then adds additional fees for specialized reviews such as Bassett; and an escrow structure where the applicant pays the actual cost to complete the review such as Elm Creek. The TAC had leaned toward the former.

B. The following table shows the current fee structure and Staff's recommendations.

1. Condense the top two tiers for both residential and commercial sites to a single tier. Most of the very largest developments left in the watersheds are in areas such as Arbor Lakes or the 610 Corridor, where there is significant regional treatment. Those project reviews tend to be simpler so that the cost of completing the review usually is much less than the review fee.



2. Separate city street and county/state linear projects into separate tiers. The county and state projects often require one or more meeting with those agencies at various design stages, requiring more work than city projects.

3. Add separate add-on fees for projects needing analysis of manufactured treatment devices, floodplain impacts or crossings that may require H & H modeling and verification.

**CURRENT REVIEW FEES, Effective October 1, 2014**

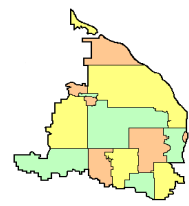
Project Fees		Current	Suggested
Single Family Lot		\$300	\$300
Single Family Residential Development, density less than 3 units per acre			
	Total Site <15 acres	1,500	1,800
	Total Site <del>15-29.99</del> 15+ acres	1,800	2,000
	<del>Total Site ≥30 acres</del>	<del>2,500</del>	
All Other Development			
	Total Site <5 acres	1,700	1,800
	Total Site 5-9.99 acres	2,200	2,200
	Total Site <del>10-19.99</del> 10+ acres	2,200	2,500
	<del>Total Site ≥20 acres</del>	<del>3,000</del>	
Variance Escrow		2,000	2,000
City street or utility project		1,100	1,100
<u>County or state highway project</u>			<u>2,000</u>
<u>Add-ons:</u>			
<u>Projects using Manufactured Treatment Devices</u>			<u>500</u>
<u>Projects with floodplain impacts</u>			<u>300</u>
<u>Projects with stream crossings</u>			<u>1,000</u>

This topic is on the agenda for discussion and eventual recommendation to the Commissions with the goal of having the new fees in place by January 1, 2021.

Motion by Ray, second by Riegel to recommend to the Commissions adoption of the suggested fee schedule, including add-ons, and specifying that projects using MTDs be an add-on per *type* of device. Motion carried, Maple Grove voting nay, and Osseo abstaining.

**IV. Cost Share Program.**

Spector informed the members that the cost-share programs in both Commissions have robust fiscal balances (\$217,894 in Shingle Creek, \$251,770 in West Mississippi at FY-end 2019). Cities are encouraged to bring forward eligible projects.



**V. Other Business.**

**A.** The Meadow Lake Management Plan and the Connections II stream restoration project for **Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF)**. These projects had previously been submitted to the BWSR Clean Water Fund (CWF) grant program. Staff submitted as the WBIF grant request the Commission match portion of the CWF projects' costs. Should both the CWF and WBIF grants be approved, the Commission would be able to fully fund those projects from grants. No projects from West Mississippi were advanced.

**B.** Riegel reported that the **Bass and Pomerleau alum treatments** will occur the week of October 11, 2020.

**C.** Matthiesen asked the members if there was any interest in making a **mandatory buffer requirement standard** if a lake or stream-front property owner was doing any shoreline restoration. The Commission rules require a buffer if there is a new or redevelopment but not for shoreline work. A current project review on Bass Lake in Plymouth involves a property owner repositioning some boulders and voluntarily creating a wetland section on the shoreline. The City of Plymouth currently does not have a mandatory buffer requirement for this work. The TAC agreed to keep the existing policy of encouraging property owners to incorporate a buffer and the Commission and member city to pass along Minnesota Department of Natural Resources buffer design information.

**D.** McCoy shared a picture of the current status of construction at the new **Robbinsdale Centralized Water Treatment Facility on Lee Avenue**. The work is focused on forming up the floor of the proposed 750,000 gallon clear well. An 80 CY concrete pour is scheduled for tomorrow. Matthiesen queried whether the City would consider hosting a tour for interested parties during construction. McCoy advised he would ask the contractor if a group with appropriate protective equipment would be allowed on the site.

**VI. Next Meeting.**

The next Technical Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for 8:30 a.m., Thursday, October 22, 2020. This also will be a virtual meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Judie A. Anderson in black ink.

Judie A. Anderson  
Recording Secretary  
JAA:tim

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