

Technical Advisory Committee MINUTES | December 14, 2023

A meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Shingle Creek and West Mississippi Watershed Management Commissions was called to order by Chair Richard McCoy at 11:18 a.m., Thursday, December 14, 2023, at the Plymouth Community Center, 14800 34th Avenue North, Plymouth, MN.

Present: James Soltis, Brooklyn Center; Mitchell Robinson, Brooklyn Park; Heather Nelson, Champlin; Ben Perkey, Crystal; Derek Asche, Maple Grove; Liz Stout, Minneapolis; Nick Macklem, New Hope; Amy Riegel, Plymouth; Richard McCoy, Robbinsdale; Todd Shoemaker and Katie Kemmitt, Stantec; and Judie Anderson, JASS.

Not represented: Osseo.

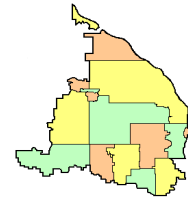
Also present: Burt Orred, Crystal, Andy Polzin, Plymouth; and Jenna Wolf, Robbinsdale.

I. Motion by Riegel, second by Robinson to **approve the agenda**. *Motion carried unanimously.*

II. Motion by Robinson, second by Soltis to **approve the minutes*** of the November 9, 2023, meeting. *Motion carried unanimously.*

III. **FRANCE AVENUE CARP BARRIER REMOVAL.*** City of Robbinsdale staff receive frequent requests to remove accumulated debris at the France Avenue carp barrier on Ryan Creek. The debris reduces flow capacity and, since the Ryan Creek floodplain extends into the backyards of adjacent properties, this could cause additional inundation of turf areas adjacent to the creek. City and Shingle Creek staff remove debris from the barrier after each complaint, but this approach may not be sustainable. Staff's December 7, 2023, memo considers removal of the carp barrier in the winter months when carp are less active. The barrier would be reinstalled for spring and summer to prevent migration between Twin Lake and Ryan Lake, when carp movement is highest.

The Ryan Creek carp barrier at France Avenue was installed to prevent the migration of carp between Ryan Lake and Lower Twin Lake. Carp barriers are most effective in the spring months when carp travel to shallow marshes to spawn like the ones on the northern part of Ryan Lake. The carp and their young then swim upstream back into the Twin Lake system. The barrier also aids in carp removal during the summer months by corralling the carp. However, during winter months the carp barrier is less effective since the carp move to deeper, warmer waters until spring.



Staff recently inspected the barrier to determine the feasibility of removing it during winter months. This is not an “off the shelf” product; it was custom designed and fitted to this unique location. They found that the gauge wire and square metal tubing that make up the top and front nose of the barrier are welded together and cannot be removed. There are four side panels pinned between the metal tubing and lower concrete weir that bolt to the panels. These panels could be removed, but it is unknown how difficult they would be to lift once unbolted given they are sandwiched between the tubing and concrete weir with water pressure on the opposite side. Some of the central bolts that anchor the two inner removable panels have become rust-welded and would be difficult to remove without cutting.

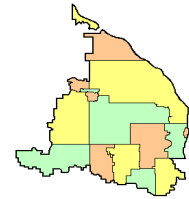
Given their findings, Staff is offering three options for the TAC to consider for recommendation to the Commission:

1. Continue current maintenance approach of responding as able to resident requests and manually clearing the barrier of debris.
2. Investigate repair or modification of current barrier to facilitate winter removal and less regular maintenance.
3. Investigate design and installation of new barrier.

It was the consensus of the members to recommend Option 2 to the Commission.

IV. MPCA RESILIENCE GRANT.* The MPCA is now taking applications for the Planning Grants for Stormwater, Wastewater, and Community Resilience program. \$750,000 is available to support climate-planning projects in communities across Minnesota. This funding will help communities assess vulnerabilities and plan for the effects of Minnesota’s changing climate in three areas: (1) Improving stormwater resilience and reducing localized flood risk; (2) Improving the resilience of wastewater systems; and (3) Adapting community services, ordinances, and public spaces.

A. Gaulke Pond drains 890 acres of urban landscape and is land-locked. During wet periods, the pond is pumped to Twin Lake to increase pond storage and mitigate upstream flooding. The City of Crystal has studied the pond and its watershed extensively to identify and prioritize efforts to reduce flooding within Gaulke Pond and other connected ponds just upstream. The Cities of Robbinsdale and Crystal and the Shingle Creek Commission collaborated in 2021 to more extensively study and establish an emergency pumping plan for Gaulke Pond. The City implemented the Central Core Stormwater project in 2022 to provide additional flood storage within the chain of ponds. In 2023, the Cities of New Hope and Crystal and the Commission further collaborated to conduct an assessment of the Gaulke Pond subwatershed. The Gaulke Pond Subwatershed Analysis identified eleven potential practices to reduce runoff volume within the watershed. The eleven opportunities were ranked according to runoff reduction volume, watershed area, construction cost, lifetime cost, and cost per acre-foot infiltrated. The Colorado Avenue infiltration trench, Opportunity A2, was determined to be the most effective in terms of cost per acre-foot infiltrated.



B. At their August meeting the Shingle Creek Commissioners selected Opportunity A2 as the preferred BMP. Stantec was authorized to proceed with development of 30% design plans and the project was also to be submitted for Resilience Grant consideration. Grant proceeds, if awarded, would be used to complete a feasibility study for an underground infiltration trench that will contribute to a climate resilient pond drainage area. The trench location was identified during the subwatershed study, but its location adjacent to an underground drinking reservoir warrants further investigation to ensure constructability.

Motion by Riegel, second by Macklem to recommend to the Commission submittal of this project for an MPCA Planning Grant for Stormwater, Wastewater and Community Resilience. The application would be in the amount of \$18,309, with a match of \$1,831. *Motion carried unanimously.*

V. The Commissions will establish their **2024 work plans*** at their January 2024 meeting. Staff are soliciting input from the TAC and Commissioners about potential items for consideration in 2024. The Commissions already have very full plates lined up for 2024 from both routine and carryover activities, so the capacity (and the budget) to take on new activities is relatively limited.

A. The routine items include such things as project reviews, the monitoring program, ongoing administration of the CIP/capital projects and the cost share programs, grant and project administration, education and outreach work with WMWA, etc. The Commissions also have a number of ongoing subwatershed assessments (SWAs) and feasibility studies that are likely to turn into levy and/or grant projects, and some lake management plans with ongoing maintenance needs.

B. Some notable additional actions for 2024 include:

1. Working with the Joint Outreach Coordinator to offer customized workshops on shoreline restoration to lakeshore residents as part of an effort to enhance outreach to lake associations. This will focus on the lakes that already have or will have Lake Management Plans in implementation (Eagle, Bass, Meadow, and Crystal), although it will be open to all.

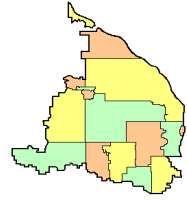
2. For capital projects and potentially other Commission activities, developing a format and process for incorporating documentation of potential impacts to and outreach to underrepresented populations to increase engagement and help improve equitable outcomes.

3. Continuing to work with WMWA and the Joint Coordinator to identify and implement additional targeted messaging on the proper use of chlorides for ice control.

4. Implementing the Eagle Lake Management Plan, including a potential fall 2024 alum treatment and one or more small projects identified in the subwatershed assessment.

5. Initiating the review process for the revised Joint Powers Agreement, which may require a focused education and outreach effort for city staff and councils.

Staff are seeking feedback and suggestions for any additional high-priority activities in 2024. They will bring a complete workplan to the January meeting.



VI. OTHER BUSINESS.

A. McCoy announced that the City of Robbinsdale received an American Public Works Association – Minnesota Chapter (APWA-MN Chapter) **Project of the Year Award** in the Environmental category for its new Water Treatment Plant, new Wells and new Water Tower. More information at: [Robbinsdale Water Treatment Plant Wins Environmental Project of the Year \(ccxmedia.org\)](https://www.ccxmedia.org)

B. The **next TAC meeting** is scheduled for Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 11:00. There being no further business, the TAC meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judie A. Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Judie A. Anderson
Recording Secretary
JAA:tim

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