

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

Recommendation to approve the amendment to the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission's Watershed Management Plan

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform the county board of staff's review and recommendations to approve a proposed minor plan amendment to the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission's (Commission) Watershed Management Plan (Plan).

Staff review and recommendations

Hennepin County Environment and Energy staff reviewed the Commission's proposed minor plan amendment and found it to be consistent with the Surface Water Management section of the Hennepin County 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update and the Hennepin County Natural Resources Strategic Plan by funding projects that support Hennepin County's goals of protecting and improving surface water quality.

The Commission held a public hearing regarding the proposed minor plan amendment at its regular meeting on May 11, 2022. No public comment was received on the proposed amendment.

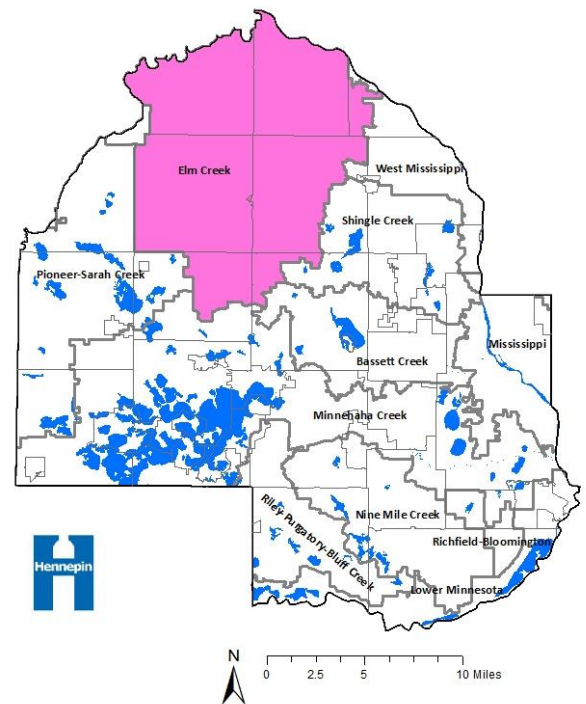
Staff recommends approval of the proposed minor plan amendment to the Plan.

Background

The Elm Creek watershed is located in the northern part of the county and includes portions of the cities of Champlin, Corcoran, Dayton, Maple Grove, Medina, Plymouth, and Rogers (Figure 1).

The commission has proposed a minor plan amendment to revise the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) included in its Plan. This minor plan amendment seeks to certify funding to add new water quality and quantity projects to its CIP pursuant to Minnesota Statute section 130B.251 and pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.231, subd. 7. the commission forwarded the proposed amendment to the county for review and action.

Figure 1. Elm Creek Watershed Location



The amendment adds three new water quality projects to the CIP and makes minor revisions to the watershed's Rules and Standards.

New projects

1. The South Fork Rush Creek Stream Restoration Project (Maple Grove) will restore 7,200 linear feet of the South Fork of Rush Creek and re-establish floodplain from 101st Avenue North to the confluence with the North Fork of Rush Creek. This project will improve riparian habitat for fish and other aquatic life, floodplain connectivity, access to the creek for recreational purposes, and include public education elements. Estimates indicate that it will reduce phosphorus pollution by nearly 425 pounds per year. The total cost of the project is \$3,250,000 and the commission's share is \$812,500. The commission is requesting \$430,828 in its 2023 levy request. The city has requested that the commission consider levying for the remaining amount of the commission's share in 2024. The remainder of project costs will be paid by the City of Maple Grove.
2. The City Cost Share Best Management Practices Project provides cost share for projects that provide additional infiltration and water quality treatment by retrofitting best management practices into already developed publicly owned areas throughout the Elm Creek Watershed. The commission's Technical Advisory Committee developed policies and procedures to administer these funds and makes recommendations to the commission on projects to fund. The commission requests a 2023 levy of \$106,500 for this project.
3. The Partnership (Private) Cost Share Best Management Practices Project provides cost share for projects that provide additional infiltration and water quality treatment by retrofitting best management practices into already developed privately-owned areas throughout the Elm Creek Watershed. The commission's Technical Advisory Committee developed policies and procedures to administer these funds and makes recommendations to the commission on projects to fund. The commission requests a 2023 levy of \$53,250 for this project.

Rule Revisions

The plan amendment also revises the watershed's Rules and Standards to make them consistent with the most recent update to the Minnesota General Stormwater Permit and clarifies the commission's standards regarding the required difference between high water elevations and the low floor or lowest opening of a proposed structure.

Contact

Karen Galles
Supervising Environmentalist – Land and Water Unit
Office: 612-348-2027
Karen.Galles@hennepin.us

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