

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 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update and the Hennepin County Natural Resources Strategic Plan.

The commission held a public hearing regarding the proposed minor plan amendment at its regular meeting on May 9, 2018. No public comment was received on the proposed amendment.

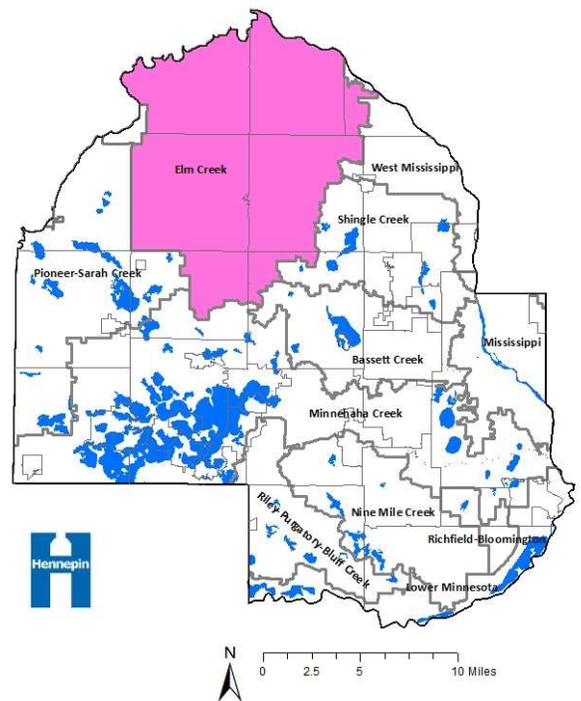
Staff recommends approval of the proposed minor plan amendment to the plan.

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 plan's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 103B.231, subd. 7, the commission forwarded the proposed amendment to the county for review and action on water quality and quantity projects in the CIP where it may seek to certify funding to implement the water quality and quantity projects under Minnesota Statutes section 103B.251.

Figure 1. Elm Creek Watershed Location



The amendment adds eight new water quality projects to the plan's CIP.

New projects

1. The Hickory Drive Stormwater Improvement Project (Medina) will install a stormwater pond in an existing commercial area that has 50 percent coverage by impervious surfaces. It will reduce nutrient loads to Elm Creek by approximately 27 pounds per year. The estimated cost of the project is \$225,000 with the commission's share being \$56,250 (to be levied in 2020).
2. The SE Corcoran Wetland Restoration (Corcoran) will improve an 800 acre wetland complex just west of County Road 101. It will improve the diversity, water retention capacity, and water quality of the wetland. The estimated cost of the project is \$400,000 with the commission's share being \$100,000 (to be levied in 2020).
3. The Downtown Regional Stormwater Pond Project (Corcoran) will clean out an existing stormwater pond that treats 25 acres of industrial and commercial property. The project will retrofit the pond with filtration for enhanced water quality treatment and restore the pond's capacity for water storage. The estimated cost of the project is \$50,000 with the commission's share being \$10,000 (to be levied in 2020).
4. The Elm Creek Stream Restoration Phase III Project (Champlin) will stabilize and restore 3,850 linear feet of streambank to reduce sediment and nutrient loading from streambank erosion and improve habitat for fish and other aquatic life. The estimated cost of the project is \$400,000 with the commission's share being \$100,000. This project will be included in the 2019 levy request if the plan amendment is approved.
5. The Downs Road Trail Rain Garden Project (Champlin) will construct rain gardens and other stormwater treatment practices for areas that contribute runoff directly to Mill Pond and Elm Creek. The project will also include an educational component. The estimated cost of the project is \$300,000 with the commission's share being \$75,000. This project will be included in the 2019 levy request if the plan amendment is approved.
6. The Elm Creek Stream Restoration Phase IV Project (Champlin) will restore 5,000 linear feet of streambank along Elm Creek. It will stabilize the bank and improve aquatic habitat by installing root wads, boulder vanes, toe-wood, boulder clusters, and rock riffles with varied substrate. Nutrient-laden sediments will be removed, reducing internal nutrient loading to the creek and downstream resources. The estimated cost of the project is \$600,000 with the commission's share being \$150,000 (to be levied in 2020).
7. The Lowell Road Rain Garden Project (Champlin) will install a series of rain gardens to treat water runoff from a 23-acre watershed. The project will reduce phosphorus and total suspended solids from this area by 75 percent. The estimated cost of the project is \$400,000 with the commission's share being \$100,000 (to be levied in 2020).
8. The Rush Creek Headwaters SWA Best Management Practices Implementation Project (Corcoran and Rogers) will install several high priority best management practices identified in the Rush Creek Headwaters Subwatershed Assessment. Benefits will vary depending on the specific best management practices installed but will generally be 5 to 10 pounds phosphorus per year for smaller practices and up to 100 pounds per year or more for some of the larger, more costly best management practices. The estimated cost of the project is \$200,000 with the commission's share being \$50,000 (to be levied in 2021).

Contact

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