

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

Recommendation to approve the amendment to the Watershed Management Plan submitted by the Shingle Creek and West Mississippi Watershed Management Commissions

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 Watershed Management Plan submitted by the Shingle Creek and West Mississippi Watershed Management commissions.

Staff review and recommendations

Staff reviewed the commissions' proposed minor plan amendment and found it to be consistent with the Surface Water Management section of the draft Hennepin County 2040 Comprehensive Plan and the Hennepin County Natural Resources Strategic Plan.

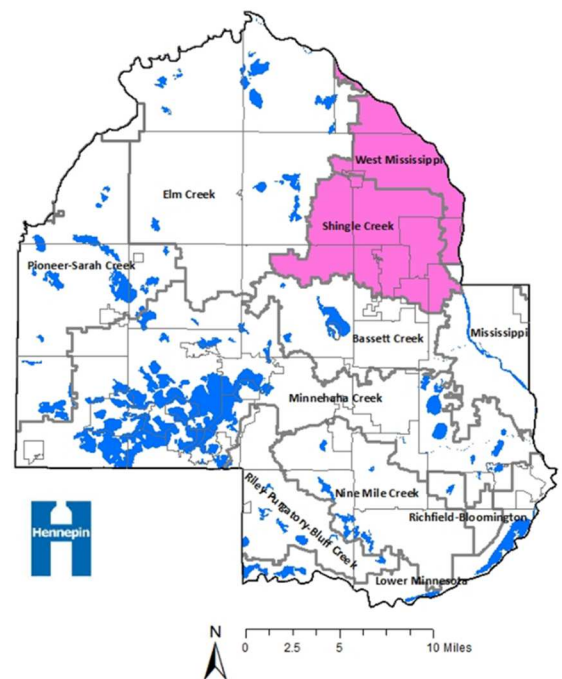
The commissions held a public hearing regarding the proposed minor plan amendment on May 9, 2019. They received no public or state agency comments on the proposed amendment.

Staff recommends approval of the proposed minor plan amendment.

Background

The Shingle Creek watershed is located in the east-central part of the county and includes portions of the cities of Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Maple Grove, Minneapolis, New Hope, Osseo, Plymouth, and Robbinsdale. The West Mississippi watershed includes portions of the cities of Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Champlin, Maple Grove, and Osseo (Figure 1). These two commissions have a joint Watershed Management Plan and joint meetings but maintain two separate boards and levy for and complete projects only within their respective watershed boundaries.

Figure 1. Shingle Creek and West Mississippi Watershed Locations



The commissions have proposed a minor plan amendment to revise the Plan's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.231, subdivision 7, the proposed amendment was forwarded 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.

The amendment revises the cost share policy and specifies that Crystal Lake will receive an internal phosphorus load reduction project in 2020 (previously a generic project).

Cost-share policy revision

The revision removes the maximum cost-share amount, previously set at \$250,000. Under the proposed amendment, the commission's share of a capital improvement project will continue to be 25 percent of the final cost of the project, with a minimum of \$25,000, but there will be no maximum. The revision also revises the voluntary \$500,000 annual levy guideline from \$500,000 to \$750,000.

Revise projects already in CIP

1. The general Lake Internal Load Improvement Project scheduled to be levied in 2020 will be revised to the Crystal Lake Management Plan Project. The Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission is implementing 13 Total Maximum Daily Load studies for lakes in the watershed. Several of these studies recommend internal load improvements for several lakes. The commission has included a general Internal Load Reduction Project in the CIP every other year and adds specificity to that project as specific project plans are prepared.
2. The Crystal Lake Management Plan Project will treat the lake with alum (a chemical that reacts with phosphorus in the water and makes it unavailable to algae), remove carp from the lake, and restore healthy native aquatic vegetation to the lake. With this treatment and efforts already completed by the city, commission, and county, Crystal Lake will achieve 92 percent of its goal for phosphorus reduction. Outcomes of this project include improved lake clarity, healthier aquatic vegetation communities, and improved recreational experiences for users in and around the lake. The estimated cost of the project is \$392,915, all of which will be paid by the Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission using levy proposed for 2020.

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