

Technical Advisory Committee

May 8, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

- Andover
 - Dave Berkowitz, Director of Public Works
 - Kameron Kytonen, Natural Resources Technician
 - Jason Law, Assistant City Engineer
- Anoka County Highways
 - Rebecca Haug, Environmental Project Manager
- Blaine
 - Megan Hedstrom, Water Resources Coordinator
- Coon Creek Watershed District
 - Jon Janke, Director of Operations
 - Jessica Lindemyer, Engagement Coordinator
 - Erik Bye, Planning Coordinator
 - Justine Dauphinais, Water Quality Coordinator
 - Abbey Lee, Watershed Development Manager
- Coon Rapids
 - Tim Himmer, Public Works Director
 - Olivia Dorow Hovland, Sustainability Planner
- Ham Lake
 - Dave Krugler, City Engineer (RFC)
- Fridley
 - Jim Kosluchar, City Engineer/Public Works Director

Absent: Anoka Conservation District, Board of Water and Soil Resources, Columbus, Department of Transportation, Spring Lake Park

1. Management Situation

Hydrology

Jon Janke provided the TAC with a brief update on recent weather and hydrology indicating that water levels across the District are on the low end of normal. District staff will continue to keep an eye on water levels and weather conditions as we approach potential drought conditions.

Legislative Update

Rebecca Haug mentioned that the Minnesota Cities Stormwater Coalition (MCSC) has been in communication with the state regarding changes to the “waters of the state” definition to ensure that stormwater ponds are not classified as waters of the state.

Agency Stormwater Activities

Jon Janke asked for brief updates from each agency regarding their recent stormwater activities.

Rebecca Haug reported for Anoka County Highways:

- ACHD will be applying to the Monarch CCAA program and is currently assessing the best locations for implementation
- ACHD has started street sweeping. Due to safety considerations, sweeping county roads often requires up to seven vehicles for a single sweep.
- The county has a meeting scheduled with the DNR in June to discuss the potential for a general permit related to threatened and endangered species.

Megan Hedstrom reported for Blaine:

- First round of street sweeping has been completed for the season.
- Working with Anoka Conservation District on several buffer restorations.
- Twenty stormwater ponds have been inspected and maintenance, including buckthorn removal, seeding, and tree planting, is in the works.
- Several outlet replacements and lining projects are in the works
- Currently pursuing a grant application to fund a flood management plan for the Park of Four Seasons

Dave Krugler reported for Ham Lake:

- First round of street sweeping has been completed for the season.

Tim Himmer reported for Coon Rapids:

- First round of street sweeping has been completed for the season.
- Working with Anoka Conservation District on native plant conversions in city parks
- The new Water Resource Specialist position has been filled and will be starting June
- Contributed to funding for AIS management activities on Crooked Lake

Jim Kosluchar reported for Fridley:

- First round of street sweeping has been completed for the season.
- New weather station installed at water treatment plant by Anoka County Emergency Management.
- Sand filters have been cleaned and run.

Dave Berkowitz reported for Andover:

- First round of street sweeping has been completed for the season
- Currently conducting bathymetry mapping on three stormwater ponds
- Contributed to funding for AIS management activities on Crooked Lake
- A portion of the stormwater utility fee has been used to fund a seedling giveaway for Arbor Day on May 10th

Justine Dauphinais report for Spring Lake Park that they have completed their first round of street sweeping for the season, mentioning that this is the first round of sweeping Spring Lake Park has completed internally rather than utilizing outside contractors thanks to their new grant-funded sweeper.

2. Concerns

None.

3. Briefs

CCWD Water Quality Cost-Share Program Amendments

Justine Dauphinais provided an overview of the water quality cost-share program and stating that the purpose of this agenda item is to obtain feedback from the TAC regarding proposed changes to the program language that would allow for the consideration of time-sensitive applications after the first application deadline. The proposed revised language is as follows:

Application & Award Process

- A competitive RFP is released each year with applications accepted on a rolling basis. Proposals are scored and awarded semiannually until all funds are depleted. If surplus cost-share funds remain in any cost share category after the initial round of awards, CCWD reserves the right to reallocate dollars between cost-share categories in subsequent rounds and to consider time-sensitive proposals on a case-by-case basis prior to the second application deadline.

Application Deadlines	Awards Announced
1: February 7, 2025 2: July 25, 2025	2 nd CCWD Board meeting after each deadline

Justine provided the TAC with the following three options for discussion:

- Option 1: No changes; keep 2/7 and 7/25 semiannual deadlines only
- Option 2: Accept proposed redlines; allow CCWD staff to exercise discretion for “time-sensitive” proposals on a “case-by-base basis” after initial deadline & prior to second deadline
- Option 3: Propose an agreeable alternative (e.g., add additional deadline(s) ~5/30, 10/31)

There was general discussion regarding the need for this change and a consensus to move forward with Option 2.

Justine clarified that no changes would be made to the first application round, the consideration of time-sensitive applications would only apply if cost-share funds remain after the first round of grants have been awarded.

Jim Kosluchar and Tim Himmer both praised the cost-share program for its quick turnaround time.

There was discussion regarding the need for time-sensitive applications to be related to a plan in order to be considered outside of the usual application window.

Justine indicated that she will develop a qualified option 2 for the CCWD board to consider and will bring updates to a future TAC meeting.

2026 Budgeting

Jon Janke provided an overview of the CCWD budget timeline stating that discussions surrounding funding needs for equipment and capital projects will occur in June. The District is also looking at updating its Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) – if cities have any projects on their radar that are not yet in the plan, please communicate those to CCWD staff for incorporation.

As part of its budgeting process, CCWD will provide all cities with a rundown of anticipated expenses for collaborative projects to reference during their budgeting process.

NPDES permit/MS4 Permit Reissuance

Jon Janke reminded TAC members that the current permit is set to expire in November and the deadline to submit the Part 1 permit application (with \$400 application fee) is May 20th.

The MPCA's goal is to reissue the permit by its expiration date of Nov. 16, 2025. The MPCA plans to provide three opportunities for stakeholders to provide input throughout the MS4 General Permit reissuance process:

- Provide written feedback based on the 2020 permit
- Informal pre-public notice
- Formal public notice

The following concepts are planned to be incorporated into the next draft MS4 General Permit:

- Clear, specific, and measurable requirements.
- Prohibition of PFAS-containing firefighting foams.
- Water quality trading.

More details regarding the permit reissuance can be found online at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/ms4-general-permit>

Jim Kosluchar inquired about chlorides in relation to the [water quality trading](#) program.

Rebecca Haug provided a summary of the discussions Minnesota Cities Stormwater Coalition (MCSC) has been having regarding the collective feedback it intends to provide on the 2020 permit. MCSC members will be receiving a survey via email to provide any further input for MCSC to consider.

4. Other Water Management Concerns

Springbrook 2D Modeling

Jon Janke reminded the TAC that CCWD is working on a 2D flood model for the Springbrook Subwatershed and asked that cities share any data or photos they may have from significant storm events in the area. This information would be used to help calibrate the model.

MN Stormwater Seminar – May 15th

Jon Janke highlighted the upcoming stormwater seminar on using winter chloride management to reduce impacts of winter maintenance operations. Details regarding this seminar can be found online at

<https://wrc.umn.edu/events/mn-stormwater-seminar>

5. Announcements

None.

All handouts, materials, and presentations for this meeting can be found on the TAC Resource Webpage: <https://www.cooncreekwd.org/tac/>