

Technical Advisory Committee

April 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

- Andover
 - Kameron Kytonen, Natural Resources Technician
- Anoka Conservation District
 - Chris Lord, District Manager
- Blaine
 - Megan Hedstrom, Water Resources Coordinator
- Coon Creek Watershed District
 - Tim Kelly, Administrator
 - Jon Janke, Director of Operations/Operations & Maintenance Coord.
 - Justine Dauphinais, Water Quality Coordinator
 - Jessica Lindemyer, Engagement Coordinator
 - Erin Margl, Watershed Development Coordinator
 - Abbey Lee, Watershed Development Manager
 - Tyler Thompson, Field Operations Manager
 - Eileen Weigel, Senior Water Resource Engineer (Stantec)
- Coon Rapids
 - Tim Himmer, Public Works Director
- Fridley
 - Jim Kosluchar, Public Works Director
- Ham Lake
 - Dave Krugler, City Engineer (RFC)

Absent: Anoka County Highways, Columbus, Board of Water and Soil Resources, Spring Lake Park

1. Management Situation

Jon Janke provided the TAC with a brief update on recent weather and hydrology.

2. Briefs

Legislative Updates

Tim Kelly provided a brief update on relevant legislation, including bill HF3550. Chris Lord provided an update on ACD's funding bill.

Budgets

Tim Kelly asked for budget updates, particularly related to stormwater. All members confirmed that they are still very early in the process, most are currently tackling the topic staffing at this time.

FEMA Community Assistance Visits

Jon Janke gave an update on the FEMA Community Assistance Visits which audit local community flood programs, evaluating current programming and providing technical assistance to bring communities up to standard. This has been delegated to the DNR, which plans to visit all 600 communities over the next five years.

Long Eared Bat Update

Jon Janke noted that the long-eared bat is now federally listed as an endangered species. Since their original listing as a threatened species in 2015, tree removal has been limited between March and November. Now that they have been elevated to an endangered species, any projects using federal dollars, or requiring federal permits, may require an environmental review in relation to the long eared bat.

There was general discussion about how tree removal restrictions may interact with the removal of ash trees and the exemption of boulevard trees.

Recent City Activities

Tim Kelly informed the Committee that Engagement Coordinator, Jessica Lindemyer, will be connecting with all members of the TAC to review and discuss current and upcoming projects related to the TMDL. The goal will be to get an idea of the collective progress being made toward the TMDL and developing a standard reporting framework that is efficient and practical.

Stream Signs

Tim Kelly mentioned that the District is working with Anoka County Highways to develop and install signage at creek crossings along major roadways

throughout the Watershed District. This effort is intended to draw public attention to the creeks and increase awareness of these resources.

Street Sweeping Study

Justine Dauphinais presented the methods and findings of the District's street sweeping study, noting that the full report will be sent out to all TAC members later in the day. This presentation has already been given to the CCWD Board of Managers, CCWD Citizen Advisory Committee, and the Fridley Environmental Commission. Justine noted that the District would be happy to give a more tailored version of this presentation to any staff, councils, or committees interested in learning more about improving their street sweeping program.