

## **Technical Advisory Committee**

### **October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

#### **Attendance:**

- Andover
  - Dave Berkowitz, Director of Public Works
  - Jason Law, Assistant City Engineer
  - Kameron Kytönen, Natural Resources Technician
- Anoka County Highways
  - Rebecca Haug, Environmental Project Manager
- Coon Creek Watershed District
  - Tim Kelly, Administrator
  - Jon Janke, Director of Operations/Operations & Maintenance Coord.
  - Justine Dauphinais, Water Quality Coordinator
  - Erik Bye, Planning Coordinator
  - Jessica Lindemyer, Engagement Coordinator
  - Eileen Weigel, Senior Water Resource Engineer (Stantec)
- Coon Rapids
  - Mark Hansen, City Engineer
- Fridley
  - Jim Kosluchar, Public Works Director
- Ham Lake
  - Dave Krugler, City Engineer (RFC)
- Spring Lake Park
  - George Linngren, Public Works Director

**Absent:** Anoka Conservation District, Blaine, Board of Water and Soil Resources, Columbus

## 1. Management Situation

Jon Janke provided the TAC with a brief update on recent weather and hydrology. The District has been dry with relatively cold temperatures. Soil moisture is drying up which should help with frost this winter. Creek levels are on the low end of average for the season.

Tim Kelly informed the TAC that the District's Comprehensive Plan was approved by the BWSR subcommittee on October 7<sup>th</sup> and has been forwarded on to the full BWSR board for approval on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Tim Kelly inquired about Andover's search for a new Administrator. Dave Berkowitz could not comment on the specific individual chosen but stated that the meeting materials for the council meeting should be released soon.

Mark Hansen informed the TAC that Coon Rapids has received notice from the MPCA of an upcoming audit of their MS4 program.

## 2. Concerns

### Coordination of CIPs and External Grant Opportunities

Jon Janke asked the group for thoughts on how to coordinate CIPs with grant opportunities. Given the amount of grant opportunities popping up and the time it takes to draft strong applications it will be important to understand how we as a group would like to select and prioritize grant applications.

Erik Bye asked for input from the cities regarding their internal processes for determining which grants to apply for. There was general discussion about this topic, with a common issue being the alignment of budget timelines with grant timelines. Jim Kosluchar stated that the way city budgeting works, it is not easy to respond rapidly to new grant opportunities. Knowing what opportunities might be on the horizon can make the process a lot easier. Kameron Kytonen added that partnering with other organizations makes it easier for Andover to apply for grants, especially if the partner is able to take on the role of being the fiscal agent.

### DNR – Floodplain

Tim Kelly stated the District is still working on lining up a DNR staff member for a future meeting. Eileen Weigel added that other watersheds are in a similar spot and that on October 1<sup>st</sup> the DNR received the next round of FEMA funding for the HUC 8 floodplain study. Rebecca Haug mentioned that the delay may be due to staffing issues.

## NPDES Audits

Mark Hansen informed the TAC that Coon Rapids has received notice from the MPCA of an upcoming audit of their MS4 program. The audit is currently scheduled to occur on November 4<sup>th</sup> but the MPCA has requested all materials to be submitted by October 21<sup>st</sup>. Coon Rapids has also made a request for an extension due to the proposed timeline overlapping with MEA resulting in several staff being out of office during the preparation time leading up to the 21<sup>st</sup>. Mark stated that he has reached out to Coon Creek Staff and Rebecca Haug for initial assistance and insight into the process.

There was general discussion regarding various audit resources, including a checklist for conducting an internal audit.

Rebecca Haug provided some additional insights from her experience participating in past MS4 audits including:

- The focus is typically on MCM 1-6 and less so on TMDL & WLA details
- The biggest sticking points for other MS4s during audits have been ordinances, illicit discharge training records, and stormwater inspection reports.
- Deficiencies are typically addressed with a formal letter from the MPCA outlining the identified issues and providing a timeline for resolution.

## Other

Tim Kelly informed the TAC that while the District's Comprehensive Plan was recommended by the BWSR Central Region Subcommittee and has been forwarded on to the full Board for approval, the MN Department of Health voted against it's recommendation. During his chat with the MDH representative after the meeting, Tim learned that this vote was MDH's way of conveying their intent to be more involved in groundwater and drinking water standards at the local level. While no specific requests or actions were communicated, all TAC members should be aware that MDH may become more involved in this area.

### **3. Briefs**

Jon Janke reminded the TAC that additional information on each of the following items has been linked on the TAC Resource Webpage.

## LiDAR Update

LiDAR was flown a couple of years ago. The data has finished processing and is now available for use except for the 1-foot contours, which are expected to be posted to MnTOPO soon. TAC members who wish to receive updates on this topic should contact John Slusarczyk at the County to be added to the distribution list.

## MN Stormwater Manual – MS4 Update

MS4 program information in the MN Stormwater Manual have been consolidated onto a new landing page. The MPCA is working to update language and resources to be consistent with the current version of the MS4 permit.

## MS4 General Permit Section 9.1 Application for Reissuance

The current MS4 general permit is set to expire in 2025. In order to remain covered under the permit, current MS4s will need to reapply by May 2025. The PCA will likely be sending out reminders as this deadline gets closer.

## Anoka County Cyclomedia Street Level Imagery

The County has bought into a new software that specializes in high resolution street view imagery that also incorporates LiDAR data. The County is able to share this software with other public agencies within the County. TAC members interested in this software should contact John Slusarczyk at the County.

There was general discussion about the potential for using this software for LOMAs.

## Anoka County Hazard Mitigation Comments

Erik Bye reminded the TAC that the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan is open for comments. No deadline has been provided for the comment period. The District was not included in the last plan and will be seeking to get incorporated into this one to be eligible for FEMA grants and funding.

Tim Kelly highlighted the importance of this plan for future risk management.

Erik Bye encouraged all TAC members to review the Plan and make sure their items are included.

## Carlos Avery WMA Master Plan Update

Tim Kelly informed the TAC that the Carlos Avery WMA Master Plan is being updated for the first time since 1977. The District participated in a preliminary planning meeting earlier this year and comments are open until November 1<sup>st</sup>. Tim encouraged members to review the plan and contact the District with any questions or concerns.

## HUD 2ft Freeboard Rule

In late April, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced a final rule in the Federal Register to implement the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS). Much of the rule became effective June 24, 2024 while other aspects of it take effect January 1, 2025 – including the new 2-foot freeboard requirement.

### Public Waters Inventory Update Project

The public waters definition has not changed. However, a clarification has been made to state that it is the language in statute that determines a public water, not the map.

### Army Corps of Engineers Permits and 401 Water Quality Certifications

Late last year, the MPCA announced that they will be requiring 401 water quality certifications for all projects that will impact waters of the United States in Minnesota and that require a federal section 404 permit. The 401 certification program has been around for a long time but has not been routinely enforced. Recent projects, including the District Lower Coon Creek Corridor Restoration project, are the first to go through the 401 certification process. So far, feedback has been that the process is challenging, time consuming, and difficult to align with.

#### **4. Other Water Management Concerns**

No comments.

#### **5. Announcements**

No announcements.

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