



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE: 3235 Fernbrook Lane N • Plymouth, MN 55447
763.553.1144 • Fax: 763.553.9326

May 10, 2024

Representatives
Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed
Management Commission
Hennepin County, Minnesota

*The meeting packet for this meeting
may be found on the Commission's website:
[http://www.pioneersarahcreek.org/minutes--
meeting-packets.html](http://www.pioneersarahcreek.org/minutes--meeting-packets.html)*

Dear Representatives:

A regular meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission will be held Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. This will be an **in-person** meeting held at Maple Plain City Hall, 5050 Independence Street, Maple Plain, MN.

A light supper will be served. **RSVPs are requested** so that the appropriate amount of food is available. At the time of your response, please let us know if you will be eating supper with us.

In order to ensure a quorum for the regular meeting, please telephone 763.553.1144 or email me at amy@jass.biz to indicate if you or your Alternate will be attending. It is your responsibility to ascertain that your community will be represented at the meeting

Regards,

Amy A. Juntunen, Administrator
AAJ:tim

cc: Alternates	Andrew Vistad, Hakanson-Anderson	
Roz Davis, Kris Guentzel, HCEE	City Clerks	MPCA
Brian Vlach, TRPD	Met Council	BWSR
Joel Jamnik, Attorney	official newspapers	DNR

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REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

May 16, 2024 • 6:00 p.m.

The meeting packet can be found on the Commission's website:

<http://pioneersarahcreek.org/pages/Meetings/>

1. Call to Order.
 - a. Approve Agenda.*
2. Consent Agenda.
 - a. April meeting minutes.*
 - b. May Claims/Treasurer's Report.*
3. Open forum.
4. Action Items.
 - a. 2025 Proposed Budget.*
 - b. 2025 Member Assessments.*
 - c. Letter of Support – Hennepin County LCCMR Grant.*
5. Old Business.
6. New Business.
7. Education.
 - a. Soil Health Programming.*
8. Staff Reports.
 - a. Engineer's Report.
 - b. HCEE Report.*
 - c. TRPD Report.
9. Commissioner Reports.
10. Other Business.
11. Adjournment. (Next scheduled meeting: June 20, 2024).

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REGULAR MEETING
Minutes
April 18, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER. A regular meeting of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was called to order by Chair Joe Baker at 6:04 p.m., Thursday, April 18, 2024, at Maple Plain City Hall, 5050 Independence Street, Maple Plain, MN.

Present: Mark Workcuff, Greenfield; Joe Baker, Independence; Brenda Daniels, Loretto; Andrew Burak, Maple Plain; Pat Wulff, Medina; Roz Davis and Kris Guentzel, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE); Andrew Vistad, Hakanson-Anderson; Brian Vlach, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD); and Amy Juntunen, JASS.

2. AGENDA. Motion by Daniels, second by Wulff to approve the agenda* as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

3. CONSENT AGENDA. Motion by Burak, second by Daniels to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

a. **March 21, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.***

b. **April Treasurer's Report/Monthly Claims *** totaling \$11,671.93.

4. OPEN FORUM.

5. ACTION ITEMS.

a. **2023 Annual Report.*** The annual report details the activities the Commission undertook in 2023. It is required by statute to be submitted to the Board of Soil and Water Resources by April 30, 2024. Motion by Daniels, second by Wulff to approve the 2023 Annual Report as presented. *Motion carried unanimously.*

b. **2024 Hennepin County Services Agreement.*** The 2024 agreement is similar to the 2023 agreement. The county's attorney has recommended moving to two-year agreements due to the low level of changes from year to year. The activities and costs can be changed by amendment as necessary from year to year. The 2024 agreement states a not-to-exceed amount for Tasks 1 and 2 of \$17,000. These tasks include landowner contact and outreach services, grant reporting, meeting attendance and project opportunity development. The Commission's 2024 budget includes \$14,000 for county services, \$2,500 for general education, and \$500 for educational events. The County would like to include the education budget within their services agreement in hopes of hosting a workshop in 2024. The County is currently working with Metro Blooms to host workshops for residents in the Shingle Creek and Elm Creek WMOs. Pairing with a workshop, the Commission could offer design support and stipends to residents who install shoreline or water quality improvements on their property with WBIF funds. The County is creating a scope of work to determine those costs currently.

Baker noted that, while education is needed for landowners, it may be more beneficial to

focus on city councils and planning commissioners in cities where development is occurring and to fund above and beyond stormwater treatment during development. This may be a good option to partner with Elm Creek WMO to have a broader reach in more rural areas. There is opportunity to coordinate with city and private sector partners to incentivize above and beyond practices during development and improve wetland protection through WCA.

Task 3 includes managing projects using WBIF funds and includes grant and matching funds in the amount not-to-exceed \$263,588, or 80% of documented project costs, whichever is lower.

Motion by Baker, second by Burak to approve the 2024-2025 Hennepin County Services Agreement after revision to separate the \$3,000 included in Tasks 1 and 2 to specifically note education initiative and the expectation that an amendment will occur in 2025 to update not-to-exceed amounts for that calendar year. *Motion carried unanimously.*

c. Adelmann Shoreline Restoration. This is a residential lot in the Bridgevine development on the south side of Lake Independence. The landscape plan has changed considerably from the original presentation, removing native shoreline plantings and installing a sand beach with some shrubs and a rock channel to convey water from the settling basin at the bottom of the ravine to the lake. The project will involve grading which will reduce the steepness of the hill. The homeowner will divert stormwater from the lot via a french drain to the settling basin and install an infiltration basin. The sand beach will improve current lakeshore conditions, but not to the extent the native plantings would have. County staff will use a MIDS model of the new plans to determine water quality benefits and return at the May meeting with findings and recommendations.

d. Kingston Shoreline Restoration. This is a residential lot in the Bridgevine development on the south side of Lake Independence. This landowner will also be regrading and installing a sand beach and retaining wall. There is an unnatural berm that has been created on this lot in the past that retains some water on the land. County staff will review the designs for water quality benefit or other opportunities to restore natural resources on the bluff area of this lot and return at the May meeting with findings and recommendations.

6. OLD BUSINESS.

7. NEW BUSINESS.

a. Hakanson-Anderson 2024 Rates.* Hakanson-Anderson provided a memo detailing increases to their hourly rates in 2024. While there is an 8.7% increase to the hourly rates, staff believe that there will not be a budget concern since most engineering costs are offset with project review fees and interest revenues have already exceeded budget for 2024. Hakanson-Anderson recently hired a new wetland specialist. Commissioners expressed their satisfaction with the services provided by Vistad and Hakanson-Anderson over the past few years.

b. 2025 Proposed Budget3.* Included in the packet was a proposed 2025 budget. Many activities remain the same with minimal increases to the operating budget for Engineering, Administration, Insurance, Audit, and Monitoring. Hennepin County has expressed a need to increase their fees to cover at least 50% of staff time spent within the watershed, or an increase from \$14,000 in 2023 to a minimum of \$25,000. County staff have agreed to stretch this large increase over a two-year period. The proposed 2025

budget includes an increase of \$6,000 for County services to bring that budget line to \$20,000 in 2025. Staff propose a \$1,200 increase to member assessments in 2025 and offset the rest of the overage, \$16,195, with a contribution from unreserved capital. Unreserved capital will also be used to fund the Lake Sarah TMDL update beginning in 2025 at an estimated cost of \$15,000. There is currently approximately \$254,000 in unreserved funds. Baker noted that the budget has remained flat since 2020 and, while there is a desire to remain flat, the services provided by the County are necessary and of good value. Baker and Burak will meet with administrative staff in a separate budget session to review the proposed budget and future budget forecast. The budget must be approved and delivered to cities by June 30, 2024.

8. EDUCATION.

9. STAFF REPORTS.

a. Engineer's Report.* Photos of the nearly complete GS68 project were shared with the Commission showing the riprap-stabilized banks and cross vanes. Rock that hasn't yet been placed will be used to fill in a few places and armor the upstream portion. This spring the topsoil will be added on top of the riprap and vegetation established as weather allows. Next steps are to finish the pond scrape plans for the bottom of this gully. Baker noted that the landowner on the west side of the pond will allow the removed sediment to be placed on his land to dry. The landowner will later use that sediment on his property. Final design will be finished in July or August and construction bids will be solicited in September.

b. HCEE Report.* AIS detector training will be held at French Park in Plymouth on May 3. Green Partners grants and Opportunity grants are now open for applications.

c. TRPD Report. Lake sampling begins next week and stream monitoring sites are already up and running. TRPD is working on a partnership agreement with Hennepin County for the Kingswood Park erosion project. TRPD is proceeding with final design for the project so it will be ready to implement when funding is available.

Vlack will make a presentation on the Lake Independence TMDL update at the Lake Independence Citizen's Association (LICA) annual meeting this coming Saturday. The update requires modeling data to complete but is nearly finished. The DNR will also have a staff presentation regarding the fishery. Vlach is in the process of creating a presentation for the Lake Sarah Improvement Association (LSIA) regarding the sediment core analysis.

d. Admin Report. The first convene meeting for the FY 25 WBIF will be scheduled in May.

10. COMMISSIONER REPORTS.

a. Baker noted that the LSIA Board has turned over and the new Board have not started collecting annual membership dues or donations yet. LSIA changed vendors for their CLPW/EWM herbicide treatments and did not receive a grant this year for those treatments. Also, the treatment in 2024 focused on EWM instead of CLPW. A request for reimbursement of the herbicide treatments will be submitted later this spring. The Lake Sarah outlet does have some beaver activity.

b. Wulff noted that the city hired a beaver trapper for Lake Ardmore. Joel Settles has

volunteered to do Secchi disk monitoring on Lake Ardmore. Juntunen will connect with him to see if he is able to perform the CAMP monitoring for the lake, rather than just Secchi disc monitoring.

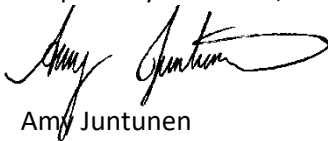
11. OTHER BUSINESS.

a. A Lake Sarah board member has asked to install a sign at the boat landing soliciting donations to LSIA.

b. The **next regular meeting** is scheduled for May 16, 2024, at Maple Plain City Hall.

12. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, motion by Burak, second by Baker to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Juntunen
Administrator
AAJ:tim

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Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed
Income Statement
Compared with Budget
For the Three Months Ending March 31, 2024

	Current Month Actual	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Year to Date Variance
Revenues				
Member Dues	\$ 0.00	\$ 103,800.00	\$ 103,800.00	0.00
Project Review Fees	1,050.00	2,100.00	1,500.00	600.00
CIP Income	0.00	28,000.00	28,000.00	0.00
Interest and Dividend Income	4,020.51	11,118.58	2,125.00	8,993.58
Total Revenues	5,070.51	145,018.58	135,425.00	9,593.58
Expenses				
Engineering/Consulting-General	1,696.25	1,696.25	6,250.00	4,553.75
Administrative Expense	3,745.66	5,937.23	9,000.00	3,062.77
Admin-Project Reviews	0.00	58.62	187.50	128.88
Admin-CIP Mgmt	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00
Admin - Eng/Tech Support	0.00	0.00	187.50	187.50
Legal Expense	0.00	0.00	124.99	124.99
Insurance	0.00	285.00	257.00	(28.00)
Website	68.75	106.25	375.00	268.75
TAC Meetings	0.00	0.00	1,250.00	1,250.00
Grant-FY21 WS-Based Funding	23,254.09	24,588.34	0.00	(24,588.34)
Total Expenses	28,764.75	32,671.69	17,881.99	(14,789.70)
Net Increase/(Decrease)	(\$ 23,694.24)	\$ 112,346.89	\$ 117,543.01	5,196.12

Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed
 Balance Sheet
 March 31, 2024

ASSETS

Current Assets		
Cash-4M Fund	\$	878,414.01
Accounts Receivable		<u>22,422.35</u>
Total Current Assets		900,836.36
Property and Equipment		<u> </u>
Total Property and Equipment		0.00
Other Assets		<u> </u>
Total Other Assets		<u>0.00</u>
Total Assets	\$	<u><u>900,836.36</u></u>

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

Total Liabilities		0.00
Capital		
Next Generation Plan Fund	\$	25,000.00
Retained Surplus		382,765.28
CIP Fund		188,126.86
BWSR Project Assurance Fund		15,000.00
Grant Fund-Whaletail Alum		19,472.00
FY21 WBIF Grant		78,513.83
FY23 WBIF Grant		79,611.50
Net Increase/(Decrease)		<u>112,346.89</u>
Total Capital		<u>900,836.36</u>
Total Liabilities & Capital	\$	<u><u>900,836.36</u></u>

**Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed
Cash Disbursements Journal
For the Period From May 1, 2024 to May 31, 2024**

Filter Criteria includes: Report order is by Date. Report is printed in Detail Format.

Date	Check #	Account ID	Line Description	Debit Amount	Credit Amount
5/16/24		51100	Administration	1,337.98	
		51100	Meeting-related	936.87	
		51100	Bookkeeping/TR/Audit Prep	691.17	
		51100	Annual Report	150.00	
		51400	Website	18.75	
		51120	Project Review Support	47.11	
		10100	Judie Anderson's Secretarial Service		3,181.88
		Total		3,181.88	3,181.88
				3,181.88	3,181.88



3235 Fernbrook Lane
Plymouth MN 55447

Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission
3235 Fernbrook Lane Plymouth, MN 55447

May 9, 2024

				Total Project Area	
General Administration					
Administrative	6.38	75.00	478.500		
Administrative - virtual		80.00	0.000		
Handbook		75.00	0.000		
Office Support	10.00	75.00	750.000		
Public storage	1.00	109.48	109.480		
Data Processing/File Mgmt		75.00	0.000		
Archiving		70.00	0.000		
Reimbursable Expense		1.00	0.000	1337.98	Administration
Meeting packets, attendance, Minutes and Meeting follow-up					
Administrative	3.83	75.00	287.250		
Admin - offsite	4.33	80.00	346.400		
Reimbursable Expense	303.22	1.00	303.220	936.87	Meeting-related Activities
Bookkeeping, Budget, Audit Prep, Treas Report					
Bookkeeping, budget, audit requests	5.25	75.00	393.750		
Budget - virtual	1.08	80.00	86.400		
Treasurer's Reports	0.50	75.00	37.500		
Bookkeeping Subscription	1.00	60.00	60.000		
Audit Prep	1.25	75.00	93.750		
Reimbursable Expense	19.77	1.00	19.770	691.17	Bookkeeping/TRs Audit Prep
Annual Report/Work Plans					
Secretarial		70.00	0.000		
Administrative	2.00	75.00	150.000		
Reimbursable Expense		1.00	0.000	150.00	Annual Report Work plans
Website					
Weebly hosting - 1 year		1.00	0.000		
Pages, links, uploads		75.00	0.000		
Administrative	0.25	75.00	18.750	18.75	Website
Project Reviews					
Administrative	0.58	75.00	43.500		
File Management/Archiving		70.00	0.000		
Reimbursable Expense	3.61	1.00	3.610	47.11	Project Reviews
				3,181.880	3181.88

**Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission
2024 Proposed Budget**

	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	Approved 2023 Budget	Actual 2023	Approved 2024 Budget	Projected 2025 Budget
Operating Revenues							
Member Dues	103800	103800	103800	103800	103800	103800	105000
Project Review Fees	12500	3950	51812	6000	6250	6000	6000
Interest and Dividend Income	2129	69	10609	70	42406	8500	8500
Total Operating Revenue	118429	107819	166221	109870	152456	118300	119500
Operating Expenses							
Engineering/Consulting-General	11359	15479	43373	25000	21343	25000	27175
Administrative Expense	31855	22939	23884	36000	31016	36000	38400
Adm-Project Reviews	598	377	1512	750	527	750	750
Adm-CIP Mgmt	394	126	0	1000	0	1000	1000
Adm - Tech Support	0	249	0	750	319	750	750
Legal Expense	62		75	500	248	500	500
Audit Expense	4500	4500	4700	4500	4700	4700	5000
Insurance	2580	2067	2435	2800	2970	2800	3000
Website	1015	389	585	1500	1017	1500	1500
TAC Meetings	0		1019	5000	513	5000	5000
Lakes Monitoring - TRPD	8100	8100	10500	11164	11164	11920	12960
Lakes Monitoring - CAMP	760	0	760	760	0	760	760
Stream Monitoring	9500	9500	12200	12200	12200	13300	13900
Education	1670	1020	725	2500	540	2500	2500
Education-Events	0		0	500	0	500	500
Grant Writing	0		399	1000	2925	1000	1000
Fifth Gen Plan	0		0	0		0	0
Management Plan - Admin	2467		393	1000	451	1000	1000
Fourth Gen Plan	29417		0	0		0	0
Lake Sarah TMDL Update							15000
Hennepin County Outreach	0	8026	10000	12000	12000	14000	20000
Operating Expenses	104287	72771	112560	118924	101933	122980	150695
Net Operating Incr/(Decr)	14142	35047	53661	(9054)	50523	(4680)	(31195)

**Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission
2024 Proposed Budget**

	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	Approved 2023 Budget	Actual 2023	Approved 2024 Budget	Projected 2025 Budget
Grant/CIP Revenue							
CIP Income	28,000	28,000	28,000	28,000	28,000	28,000	28,000
CIP Partner Cost-Share	38,500						
Lake Sarah TMDL Imple	4,901	3,416	4,792	0	0	0	0
Grant - Baker Park Ravine	225,900		21,372	0	0	0	0
WBIF FY19		5,831					
WBIF FY21	23,327	135,585					
WBIF FY23				79,612	79,612	79,612	
WBIF FY25							120,208
Grant - Whaletail Alum					202,500	202,500	202,500
Grants - From Fund Balance	93,956						
Total CIP/Grant Revenues	414,584	172,832	54,164	107,612	310,112	310,112	350,708
CIP/Grant/Fund Expenses							
Capital Improvement Project	11,925	5,176	17,278	28,000	5,000	28,000	28,000
WBIF FY21	49,979		35,447	79,612	44,428		
WBIF FY23						79,612	
WBIF FY25							120,208
Grant - Whaletail Alum					183,028	202,500	202,500
Lake Sarah Implementation	4,901	3,416	4,792	0	0	0	
Baker Park Ravine	342,205		21,761	0	0	0	0
Total CIP/Grant Expenses	409,009	8,592	79,279	107,612	232,456	310,112	350,708
Net CIP/Grant Income	5,575	164,240	-25,115	0	77,655	0	0
Net Fund Increase	19,718	199,287	28,546	-9,054	128,178	-4,680	-31,195

Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission
Proposed 2025 Member Assessments

2022	2021 Market Value PSC Basin	Increase in MV over Prev Year	2022 Op Budget		Increase over Prev Year	
			%age	Amount	%age	Amount
Greenfield	522,787,116	6.13%	29.78	39,249.05	0.41%	159.86
Independence	634,578,595	6.06%	36.15	47,641.96	0.35%	164.59
Loretto	71,882,465	2.89%	4.09	5,396.69	-2.66%	(147.35)
Maple Plain	139,787,990	5.68%	7.96	10,494.80	-0.01%	(1.31)
Medina	183,452,639	1.84%	10.45	13,772.99	-3.65%	(521.12)
Minnetrissa	203,053,025	8.15%	11.57	15,244.52	2.32%	345.33
TOTALS	1,755,541,830	5.70%	100.00	131,800.00	-3.24%	(0.00)
2023	2022 Market Value PSC Basin	Increase in MV over Prev Year	2023 Op Budget		Increase over Prev Year	
			%age	Amount	%age	Amount
Greenfield	670,597,971	28.27%	30.24	39,857.93	1.55%	608.88
Independence	807,025,180	27.17%	36.39	47,966.67	0.68%	324.70
Loretto	91,101,430	26.74%	4.11	5,414.74	0.33%	18.05
Maple Plain	171,633,500	22.78%	7.74	10,201.28	-2.80%	(293.52)
Medina	223,678,840	21.93%	10.09	13,294.66	-3.47%	(478.32)
Minnetrissa	253,459,640	24.82%	11.43	15,064.73	-1.18%	(179.79)
TOTALS	2,217,496,561	26.31%	100.00	131,800.00	0.00%	0.00
2024	2023 Market Value PSC Basin	Increase in MV over Prev Year	2024 Op Budget		Increase over Prev Year	
			%age	Amount	%age	Amount
Greenfield	729,852,100	8.84%	29.97	39,496.41	-0.91%	(361.52)
Independence	893,785,400	10.75%	36.70	48,367.76	0.84%	401.09
Loretto	98,831,000	8.48%	4.06	5,348.30	-1.23%	(66.44)
Maple Plain	197,707,100	15.19%	8.12	10,699.04	4.88%	497.77
Medina	238,002,900	6.40%	9.77	12,879.68	-3.12%	(414.99)
Minnetrissa	277,347,100	9.42%	11.39	15,008.81	-0.37%	(55.91)
TOTALS	2,435,525,600	9.83%	100.00	131,800.00	0.00%	(0.00)
2025	2024 Market Value PSC Basin	Increase in MV over Prev Year	2025 Op Budget		Increase over Prev Year	
			%age	Amount	%age	Amount
Greenfield	730,087,100	0.03%	29.90	39,769.37	0.69%	272.96
Independence	897,562,800	0.42%	36.76	48,892.12	1.08%	524.36
Loretto	98,833,200	0.00%	4.05	5,383.65	0.66%	35.35
Maple Plain	198,274,300	0.29%	8.12	10,800.41	0.95%	101.37
Medina	239,318,600	0.55%	9.80	13,036.18	1.22%	156.51
Minnetrissa	277,541,500	0.07%	11.37	15,118.26	0.73%	109.45
TOTALS	2,441,617,500	0.25%	100.00	133,000.00	0.00%	1,200.00

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

DATE: May 10, 2024

TO: Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission

FROM: Karen Galles, Kris Guentzel, Kevin Ellis, and Roz Davis; Hennepin County Department of Environment and Energy

RE: REQUESTED COMMISSION ACTION, Letter of Support for grant proposal “Planning for long-term natural resource protection”

LCCMR Proposal “Planning for long-term natural resource protection”

Protecting and connecting the last-best natural areas within Hennepin County is a vision that has long been shared by Hennepin County, Three Rivers Park District and its natural resource partners like the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission and its member communities. The data and tools to accomplish this however are difficult to access, have become outdated, and are not easily understood and applied by those who are routinely making and influencing land use decisions and investments.

This proposal is part of a multi-phase partner coalition aimed at better facilitating collaboration and enhancing vital natural resource networks across the county. (See more about the long-term goals of this coalition below.) The proposal will develop better interactive mapping tools, a centralized clearinghouse for natural resources data and best practices and provide technical assistance from trusted partners that is more readily available and tailored to local needs.

Crucially to the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission’s purpose and future objectives, the project will help the Commission, its member cities, and county staff evaluate and prioritize opportunities to work with communities and developers to find opportunities to go above and beyond Commission requirements. Identification of these opportunities has become an important theme in county and Commission cooperative agreements over the last several years as we seek to align goals and actions to eliminate water quality impairments and make progress toward TMDL goals. Knowing where these opportunities exist (e.g. projects from SWAs) and influencing projects has become increasingly important as our region has started to experience the impacts of climate change. Building climate resiliency into new construction and redevelopment when possible will insulate water quality improvements from the effect of changing precipitation patterns. It will also help protect public infrastructure from the impacts of climate change and mitigate current and future flooding.

Hennepin County Environment and Energy

701 Fourth Ave S., Suite 700, Minneapolis, MN 55415

612-348-3777 | hennepin.us/environment



This work would also contribute to supporting goals outlined in PSCWMC's Fourth Generation Plan, including:

- Goal Area A. Water Quantity
 - o Goal A. 1. Maintain the post-development 2-year, 10-year, and 100-year peak rate of runoff at pre-development level for the critical duration precipitation event.
 - o Goal A. 2. Maintain the post-development annual runoff volume at pre-development volume.
- Goal Area B. Water Quality
 - o Goal B. 2. Meet state standards in Spurzem, Half Moon, Ardmore, Independence and Sarah Lakes, making progress towards their removal from the list of Impaired Waters.
 - o Goal B. 3. Improve water quality in the impaired lakes by 10% over the average of the previous ten years by 2030.
 - o Goal B. 4. Maintain or improve water quality in the lakes and streams with no identified impairments.
 - o Goal B. 6. Foster implementation of Best Management Practices in the watershed through technical and financial assistance.
- Goal Area C. Groundwater
 - o Goal C. 1. Promote groundwater recharge by requiring abstraction/infiltration of runoff from new development and redevelopment.
- Goal Area D. Wetlands
 - o Goal D. 1. Preserve the existing functions and values of wetlands within the watershed.
 - o Goal D. 2. Promote the enhancement or restoration of wetlands in the watershed.

Natural Resources Partner Coalition Long-Term Goals and Objectives

Hennepin County and Three Rivers Park District are building a coalition of partners to elevate the role of natural systems in ensuring that Hennepin County remains resilient, healthy, and thriving as rainfall patterns become more extreme in a changing climate. Coalition partners will include cities, park districts, watersheds, nonprofit organizations, and private developers. Advancing a unified and deliberate countywide vision for protecting, restoring, and managing natural resources will contribute to a sustainable and healthy community that supports well-being, housing, economic prosperity and engaged communities.

The Coalition will:

- Improve data to be ready for the 2050 comprehensive plan cycle, which will set land use, transportation, housing, parks, and water resources policy for the next few decades.
- Create a countywide natural resources priority and opportunity map that is informed by local knowledge and data, not limited by jurisdictional boundaries, and reflects the interconnectedness and complexities of natural communities and waterways.

- Build a collaboration framework that identifies how each partner can remain dedicated to their jurisdictional role while identifying opportunities and potential partners for broader impact
- Develop tools that are readily accessible and easy to understand when opportunities and challenges arise
- Share resources and expertise to help partners integrate the map, data, and tools into day-to-day operations and decision making
- Practice bold and courageous leadership in advocating for changes to policies and priorities that center the full value of natural systems

Upcoming Opportunities to Engage

County and Park District staff are hosting an interactive workshop for planning and natural resources staff. The workshop will begin the process of expanding the Coalition and will gather local knowledge and data that will inform the countywide priority and opportunity map. Staff from several PSCWMC member communities received invitations. Space is limited, but reach out to Karen Galles (Karen.Galles@hennepin.us) if you are interested in attending. Additional opportunities to provide input will also be available over the next several months. County staff will provide routine updates on the activities of the Natural Resources Partner Coalition in the monthly staff report, and Coalition representatives are available to provide periodic updates to the Commission or the TAC if desired.

Commission Action Request: County and Park District staff are requesting a Letter of Support for the grant proposal to the Legislative Citizens Commission on Minnesota's Resources (LCCMR). A suggested template has been provided along with a 2-pager describing the grant proposal.

Note that a Letter of Support does not imply financial commitment or a commitment of any other kind on the part of the Commission.)

Planning for long-term natural resource protection

Hennepin County Natural Resources Partner Coalition

Project description

Protecting and connecting the last, best natural areas within Hennepin County is a vision shared by cities, agencies, nonprofit organizations, developers, and property owners. However, the necessary data and tools to do so are difficult to access, outdated, and not easily understood and applied.

The 2050 comprehensive plan cycle will set land use, transportation, housing, parks, water resources, and similar policy for the next few decades. This leaves a small window of opportunity to address these gaps by developing better interactive mapping tools, a centralized clearinghouse for natural resources data and best practices, and technical assistance that is more readily available and guided by local input and trusted partnerships. Developing these tools and resources will:

- Establish a unified and deliberate countywide vision for protecting, restoring, and managing natural resources.
- Improve prioritization of natural resources protection, data-driven collaborative planning, and decision-making.
- Increase resiliency to climate change, improve water quality, and protect critical habitat.
- Increase the preservation of and connection to natural areas for all residents.

Project timeline

This work is part of a multi-phase partnership initiative aimed to better facilitate collaboration and enhance vital natural resources networks across the county. Partners are committed to this project, but funding is needed to support the critical work of phase 2.

Phase 1: Identify priorities and opportunities

2024 – 2025

Activity: Create a countywide natural resources priority and opportunity map informed by local knowledge and data

Funding: \$100,000 from local partners

Phase 2: Develop tools, share resources, offer training

2025 – 2027

Activities:

1. Develop interactive map
2. Create centralized clearinghouse to share data, best practices, and guiding documents
3. Offer training and support partners to integrate map, data, and best practices into everyday operations

Funding

- \$250,000 requested from LCCMR 2025 RFP
- \$100,000 anticipated match from local partners

Phase 3: Manage and support data, resources and collaboration

2027 and beyond

Activities:

- Implement iterative data management process and make mapping updates
- Raise awareness of tools and support
- Continue training and coalition building

Funding: To be determined

Location

This project will collaborate with partners throughout Hennepin County.



Applicant

Hennepin County

Primary contact

Kristine Maurer
Land and Water Supervisor
612-235-1251
kristine.maurer@hennepin.us

Lead project partners

Three Rivers Park District
University of Minnesota

Funding

Requested LCCMR funding:
\$250,000

Anticipated local match:
\$100,000

Total project cost:
\$350,000

Planning for long-term natural resource protection

Protecting and connecting the last, best natural areas within Hennepin County

Project activities

Develop interactive map

Through surveys and workshops, partners will collaborate with local jurisdictions to identify and collate existing data and knowledge. In addition, the interactive map will combine many established datasets. Potential data includes:

Important habitat

(including priority corridors, biodiversity significance, native plant communities, and high quality wildlife habitat)

Climate equity

(including areas of environmental justice concern and the Nature Conservancy's ecosystem resiliency dataset)

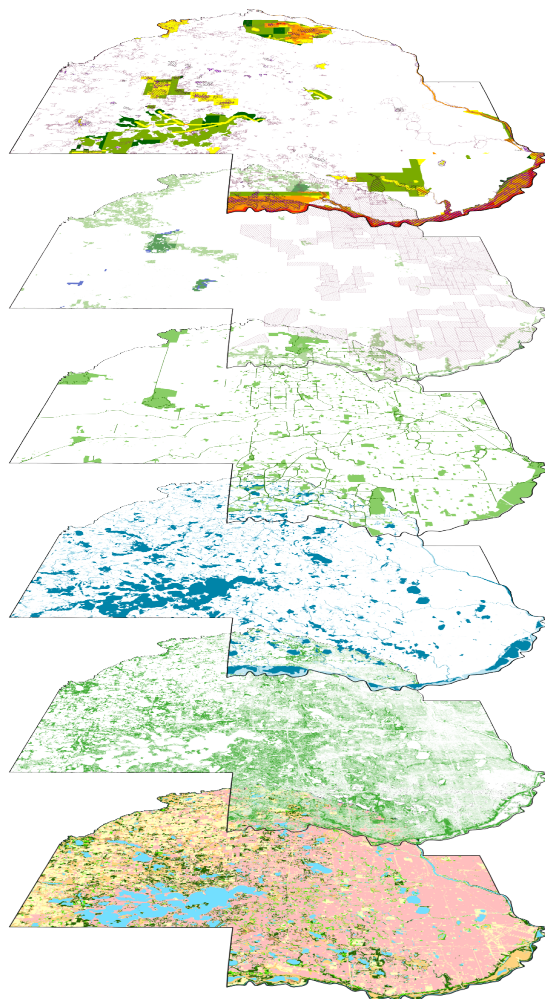
Parks and trails

Surface waters

Tree cover

Land use and zoning

(including the integration of local knowledge and priorities identified by partners through surveys and workshops)



Create centralized clearinghouse



Create centralized clearinghouse to share data, best practices, and guiding documents. The clearinghouse will be updated, supported, and maintained by trusted and highly engaged local partners and staff.

Engage and support partners



Provide ongoing training, technical assistance, and support for partners to integrate map, data, and best practices into everyday operations.

Hennepin County and Three Rivers Park District are uniquely positioned to support local jurisdictions due to our ongoing engagement with residents, partners, and systems that influence natural resource decisions in the county.

Project outcomes

Making interactive mapping tools, data, guiding documents, and additional resources easy to access, share, and use will:

- Improve data-driven collaborative planning and decision-making and guide long-term planning.
- Increase the preservation of and connection to natural areas for all residents.
- Increase resiliency to climate change, improve water quality, and protect critical habitat.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA





Re: Letter of Support, LCCMR 2025

To: Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)

Date: May 16, 2024

Dear LCCMR,

The Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission (PSCWMC) is pleased to offer this letter of support for the 2025 LCCMR proposal: Planning for Long-Term Natural Resource Protection in Hennepin County.

The PSCWMC was formed in 1984 through a Joint Powers Agreement under authority conferred to the member parties through MN Statutes 471.59 and 103B.1. The Commission is a regional governmental unit responsible for protecting the water resources of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek watershed in western Hennepin County. It is governed by a six-member board of representatives (Commissioners) from the member cities of Greenfield, Independence, Loretto, Maple Plain, Medina, and Minnetrista.

The PSCWMC's member communities have been and are continuing to experience rapid land use changes. The Commission has the authority to regulate the use and development of land and require permits for land use to ensure that development complies with the Rules and Standards of the commission.

At our core, the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission exists to protect and improve surface water and groundwater resources and to minimize public capital expenditures needed to correct flooding and water quality problems. That's why, to advance our mission, we are eager to support projects like this that will make it easier to see and anticipate opportunities at a larger scale, and connect project proposers to the right resources that might make it possible to leverage and support private investment to derive additional public benefits like stormwater management, flood mitigation, and green space creation.

Greenfield • Independence • Loretto • Maple Plain • Medina • Minnetrista

The Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission supports projects that improve coordination and planning for natural systems and conservation across jurisdictional boundaries. This proposal aims to do just that, with the development and collation of common data sets and practical tools, this project will inform the next round of local comprehensive planning in Hennepin County.

Many organizations within our geography are interested in efforts to optimize natural resource and climate resiliency outcomes, while balancing land use and development decisions. The activities and collaboration outlined in this proposal will complement our efforts by supporting the integration of data, plans, and priorities across the many jurisdictional entities in Hennepin County.

We are excited for the proposed deliverables and acknowledge the need for interactive, readily accessible planning tools and resources that can strengthen comprehensive planning in our region.

Sincerely,

Joe Baker
Chair



Soil Health Programming

Hennepin County



Factors that influence soil erodibility

- Type of soil (e.g., sand) and how easily it's carried away
- Structure
 - Organic matter (glue)
- Compaction
- Topography
- Management

What is considered soil health?

- Cover crops
 - Species mixes that build soil – grasses, legumes
- Reduced tillage and heavy machinery use
- Diverse crop rotations
 - Repetitive rotations can be taxing
- Regenerative farming
 - Using livestock for managed grazing
 - Manure

Why Soil Health?

- *Soil health is defined as the continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals, and humans. - USDA-NRCS Definition*
 - Physical, biological, & chemical factors
- Impacts of farming
 - Soil erosion
 - Compaction
 - Reductions in fertility
- Barriers to entry
 - Risk
 - Unfamiliarity
 - Costly (but long-term benefits!)

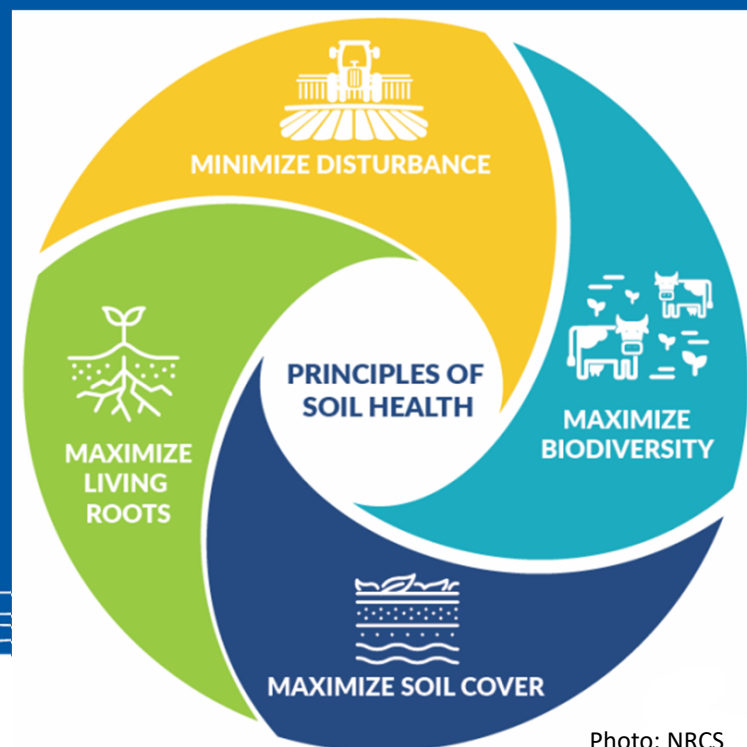
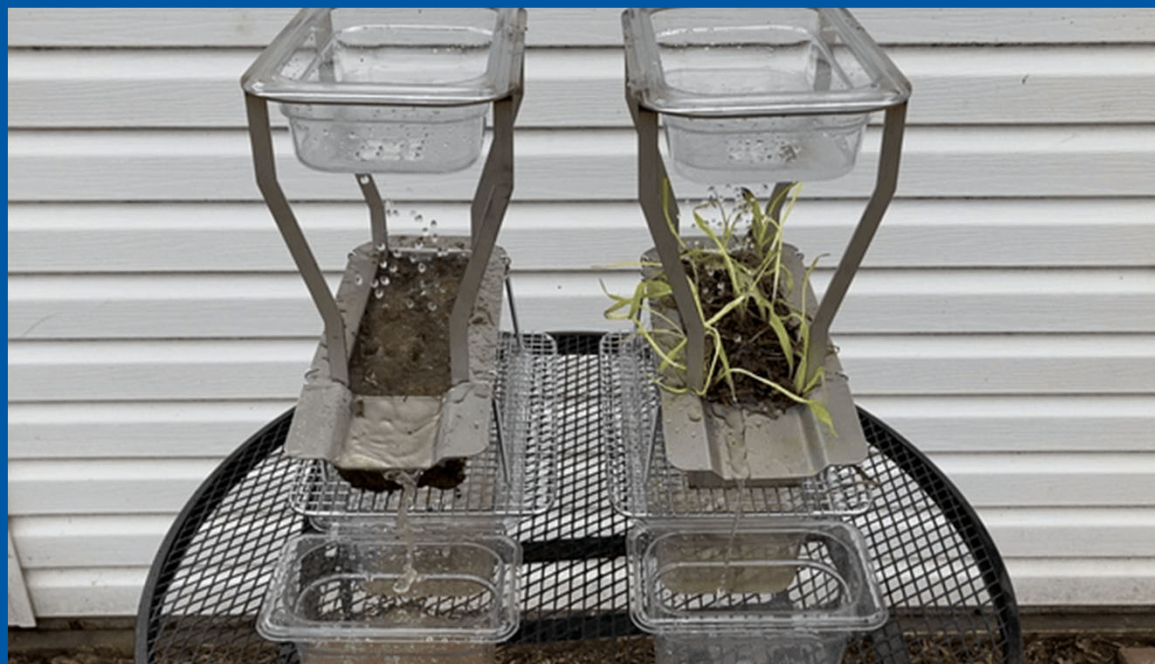
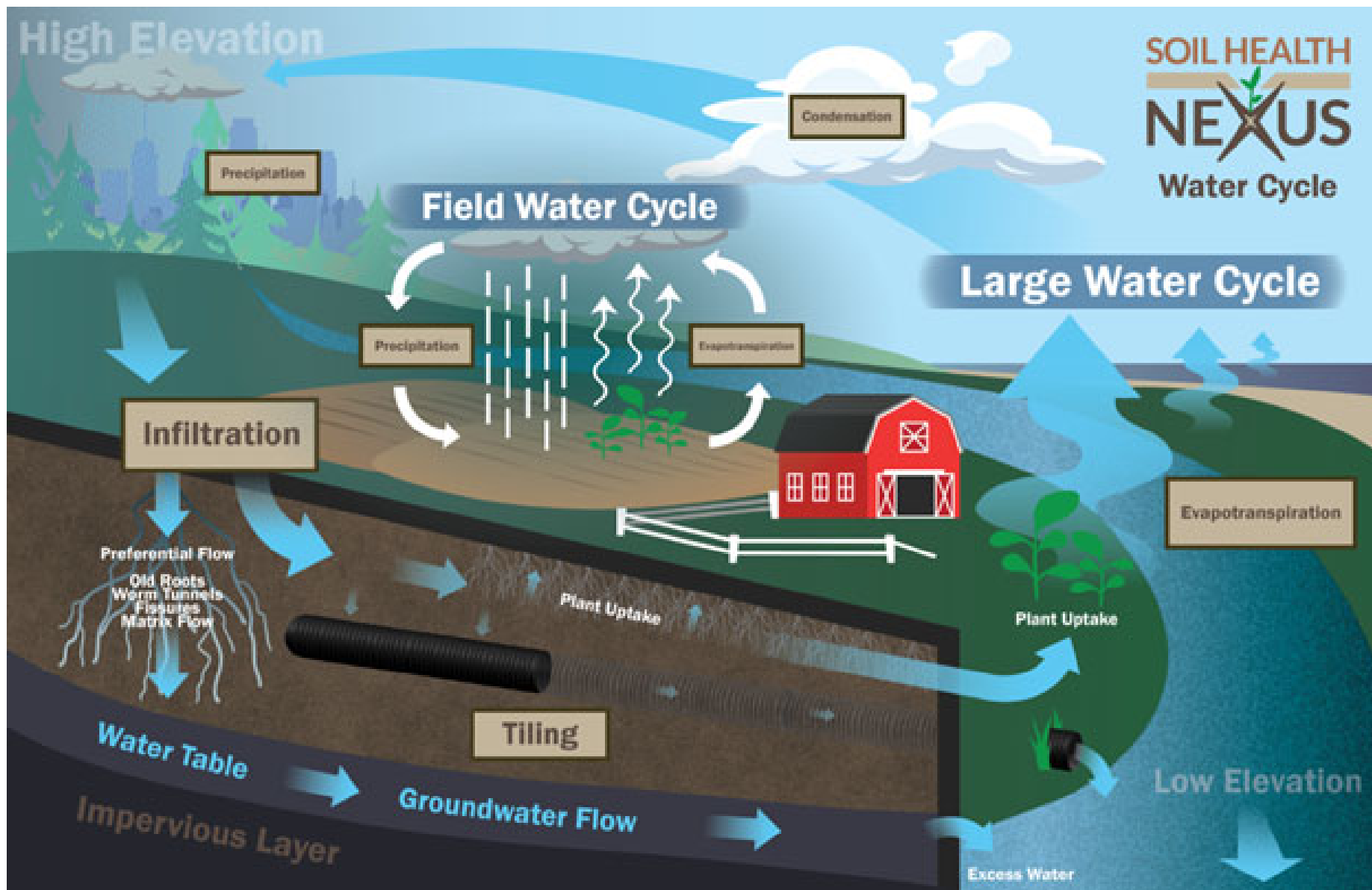


Photo: NRCS

Benefits

- Water quality
- Reduced GHG
- Reduced input costs (AFT, 2022)
- Long-term yield boosts (varies)





Benefits

Example:

- 130 acres in Greenfield
 - Conventionally farmed
 - Switch to cereal rye cover crop and strip tillage
- Before Soil Health Impacts
 - Soil Loss - 3.3 tons/acre/year
 - Nationwide average is 5.8 tons/acre/year
 - TP Loss – 5.28 lbs/acre/year
- After Soil Health
 - Soil Loss - 0.85 tons/acre/year
 - TP Loss – 1.36 lbs/acre/year



Reductions of:

- 2.45 tons TSS/ac/year!
- 3.92 lbs TP/ac/year!



Soil Health Incentives

- Per acre payments for:

*Free soil testing

- (For land engaged in agricultural activities)



Cover Crops



Conservation Tillage



Diversified Crop Rotations

(Photo: UMN Extension)



No-Till

(Photo: Alabama Cooperative Extension)



Goals of incentive program

- Water quality
 - Contribution to TMDL goals
- Build relationships
- Lasting behavioral change across whole county

Additional resources

- MN Office of Soil Health: <https://mosh.umn.edu/>
- NRCS's page on soil health:
 - <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/natural-resource-concerns/soils/soil-health>

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

DATE: May 10th, 2024

TO: Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission

FROM: Roz Davis, Kevin Ellis, and Kris Guentzel; Hennepin County Department of Environment and Energy

RE: May Commission Project, Program, and Outreach Updates

BridgeVine Development – Bohland Ravine and Adelman and Kingston Lakeshore Restorations

Update: Staff have calculated water quality benefits for Adelman and Kingston (see table one). Since designs have switched from riprap and native vegetation to largely regrading and sand beach installation, the water quality benefits have been reduced. County staff reached out to neighboring SWCD staff in Anoka, who stated that they do not cover conversion to sand beach when considering cost share projects.

The upland work on Adelman (rock channel) does provide some water quality benefit. Regrading on both properties will also provide a bit of water quality benefit, as the work will help detain runoff for longer than it normally would under existing conditions.

The DNR is reviewing plans for Adelman and Kingston so we are still unsure if the sand beaches will be approved or not.

Table one: comparing past pollution reduction calculations (stabilizing with native vegetation and riprap) to current pollution reduction calculations (conversion to sand beach). Water quality benefits for additional BMPs (rock channel and regrading) are displayed in the third column, although some are to be determined.

	Previous shoreline calculations	Current shoreline calculations	Other BMPs	Total current water quality benefit:
Adelman	6.49 lbs TP/yr (proposed filter strips provided an additional 0.56 lbs TP/yr)	1.72 lbs TP/yr	Rock channel: 1.24 lbs TP/yr	2.96 lbs TP/yr
Kingston	3.7 lbs TP/yr	0.71 lbs TP/yr	Regrading: TBD	TBD



Ravine restoration: Construction on the ravine is anticipated to begin in June at the latest, but possibly during late May.

Previous: County staff were on-site with the homebuilding contractor on April 4th to discuss recent changes to design plans on both the Adelman and Kingston sites. Previous design plans shared to the County and Commission proposed riprapping the existing shoreline and planting native plants further up the shoreline to create a buffer for overland runoff. New design plans instead propose a sand beach along most of the shoreline with regrading on both sites to divert water away from the lake. For the Adelman property, stormwater will be diverted towards the settling basin being installed at the base of the ravine. For the Kingston property, water will be diverted to the natural depression on the western edge of the property.

In addition, the contractor is installing a gravel subgrade below the driveway that drains into a French drain on the eastern side of the property. The drain will run below turf grass and collect water from most of parcel 10 and channel it into the settling basin downstream of the ravine.

Each of these features are shown on the updated design plans included with packet materials. The contractor still needs to secure work approvals for this project, including from the DNR.

County staff still need to model these new features to ensure they capture the same water quality benefits as the previous design conditions submitted. If they do not, the Commission may want to consider revising the proposed cost share for these projects.



Figure 1: Current conditions on the Adelman site



Figure 2: Current conditions on the Kingston site

Dance Hall Creek Updates

Update: Staff have completed a spring outreach plan for landowners in Dance Hall Creek. Staff will aim to be ready for a Clean Water Fund Grant in August this year, but it may also be strategic to wait until next year.

Previous: Staff attempted to contact all landowners that would be involved in restoration activities for BMPs #1 and #2 to obtain permission for survey work, but were only able to gain permission from four. Nine letters were also sent to landowners south of the original study area in late November informing

them of the potential projects and asking for permission to access their properties. Below is an overall timeline of outreach activities this year:

- **Early May:** Emails and phone calls to reestablish contact
- **June through July:** Site visits to three properties and one Teams call
- **August:** Sent out draft letters of support and asked for signatures; another email went out in late August to communicate decision to not apply for a CWF grant
- **November:** Scope of work signed for Dance Hall Creek. Emails, letters, and phone calls to all parties that would be involved in survey work. Removed the letter “A” from the report.

Subwatershed Assessments

Spurzem Creek Subwatershed Assessment

Update: No update.

Previous: Report was substantially completed over the winter, incorporating comments providing by partners. The County met with MPCA staff regarding concerns with BMP installations in/near the Woodlake landfill in Medina. These concerns were incorporated into the draft and staff plan to make this available to partners soon.

Lake Rebecca Subwatershed Assessment

Update: No update.

Previous: The Lake Rebecca SWA was submitted to the Commission and has been finalized.

Projects & Outreach

Lake Rebecca/Zuhrah Shrine Horsemen (ZSH) (4505 CR 92, Independence) BMPs

Update: No update.

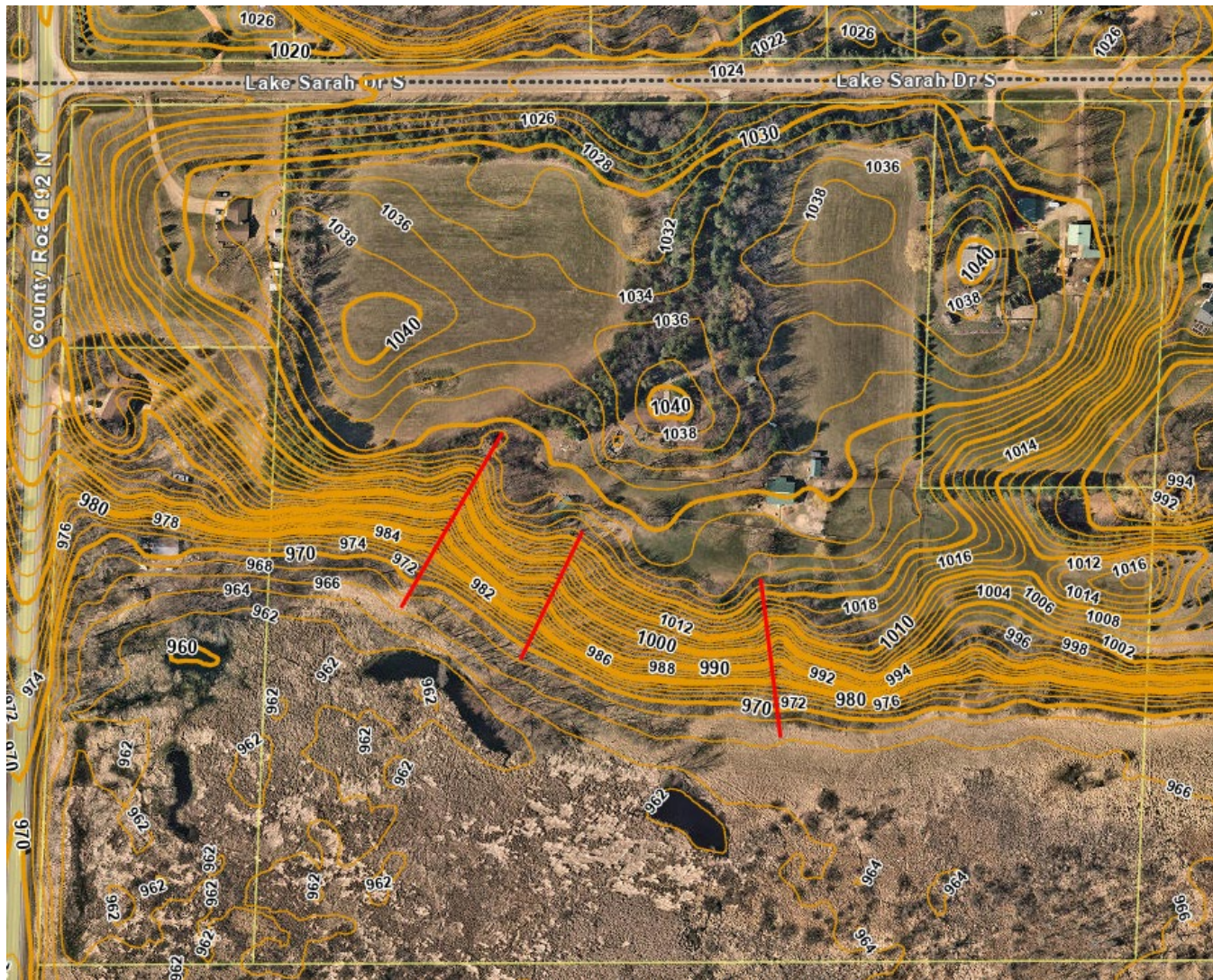
Previous: \$11,722 in total costs were incurred by Horseman for project installations in 2022-2023. All but labor expenses have been reimbursed, up to the contracted cost share amount, by NRCS and the County. Labor expenses are being held as match for additional fencing and waterer installations in 2024.

Treschel Gully Erosion (7455 Lake Sarah Drive S, Independence)

Update: No update.

Previous: County staff have been working with Laura Treschel (across the street from ZSH) who noticed several gullies forming in the wooded section of her property. The pictures below are the easternmost gully and the western gully. On average, the eastern gully is 200 feet in length and the western gully is 100 feet in length. The width for both gullies are around 15-20 feet. Pictures and approximate locations of the gullies are below.

Staff have surveyed the gullies and are working on pollution reduction estimates to see if there is an adequate water quality benefit.



Approximate location of the three gullies.

Vinland National Center

Update: Staff sent the infiltration and survey data to EOR and are waiting to hear back on possible changes to the cost estimate and designs.

Previous: County staff surveyed the wetland and conducted infiltration tests last Friday. Results from the infiltration tests will indicate if drainage tile is needed or not in the rain gardens.

Other Environment and Energy Programming Notes:

- a. **Opportunity Grants** are accepting applications now through May 30. These grants are intended for larger natural resources projects to improve water quality or preserve, establish, or restore natural areas. Opportunity Grants are ideal for projects seeking to leverage multiple funding sources, and applicants are encouraged to use these funds as required match for other funding.

For more information, contact Ellen Sones at ellen.sones@hennepin.us.

- b. **Trees and forests learning series:** Hennepin County forestry is offering free monthly learning opportunities about trees and forests for residents. These sessions require no previous knowledge, are open to the public, and rotate between virtual webinars, in-person trainings, and hybrid webinars and trainings. Recordings from webinars will be available for those who are unable to attend.

The following sessions are planned this spring and summer:

- Tree planting and selection webinar, Thursday, May 23 from 6 to 7 p.m.
- Tree identification in-person workshop, Thursday, June 20 from 6 to 8 pm.
- Diagnosing common tree defects and health issues in-person workshop, Thursday, July 25 from 6 to 8 p.m.
- Get to know your soil hybrid workshop, Thursday, August 22 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Find details and register to attend a session here: <https://www.hennepin.us/trees#learning>

- c. **Minnesota Water Stewards:** Hennepin County recently published a report showing the work and collective impact of Minnesota Water Stewards trained by county staff from 2018 to 2023. Minnesota Water Stewards is a program coordinated in partnership with Freshwater that trains residents to be water advocates in their communities. Some participants worked on urban water quality projects (rain gardens, rain barrels) and other stewardship projects used art to communicate water quality education topics.

Impacts stewards have had in the community and on water quality since 2018 include:

- 28 certified stewards, including 23 traditional stewards and five Art for Water stewards

- 1,812 people engaged through in-person outreach
- 3.15 million gallons of rain water intercepted
- 1,924 pounds of sediment reduction

See the report here: hennepin.us/-/media/hennepinus/business/work-with-hennepin-county/environmental-education/MN-water-stewards-report-2018-2023.pdf