

# HENNEPIN COUNTY

## MINNESOTA

## Recommendation to approve the amendment to the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission's Watershed Management Plan

### 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 Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission's (Commission) Watershed Management Plan (Plan).

### Staff review and recommendations

Hennepin County Environment and Energy staff reviewed the Commission's proposed minor plan amendment and found it to be consistent with the Surface Water Management section of the Hennepin County 2040 Comprehensive Plan and the Hennepin County Natural Resources Strategic Plan.

The Commission held a public hearing regarding the proposed minor plan amendment at its regular meeting on May 14, 2025. No public comment was received on the proposed amendment.

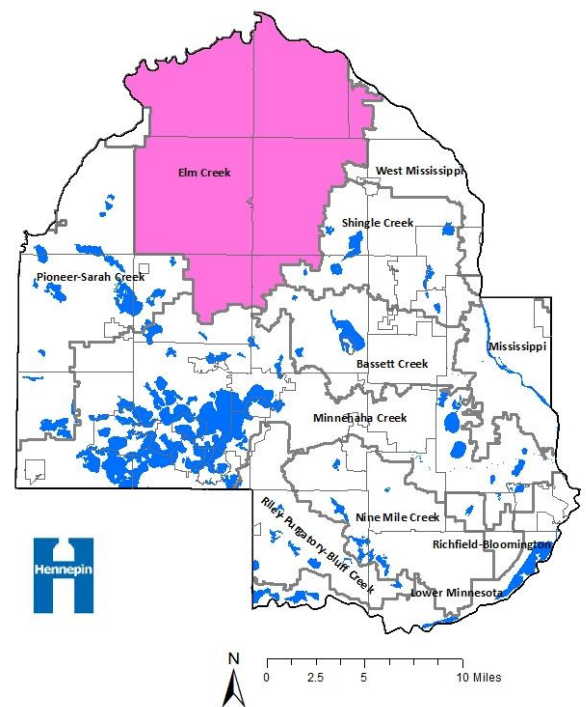
Staff recommends approval of the proposed minor plan amendment to the Plan.

### Background

The Elm Creek watershed is located in the northern part of the county and includes all or portions of the cities of Champlin, Corcoran, Dayton, Maple Grove, Medina, Plymouth, and Rogers (Figure 1).

The Commission has proposed a minor plan amendment to revise the Plan's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, subd. 7, the commission forwarded the proposed amendment 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.

Figure 1. Elm Creek Watershed Location



The amendment adds two new water quality projects to the Plan's CIP.

## New projects

1. The Rush Creek Stream Restoration-Rush Hollow to Fernbrook Project will restore and repair erosion along 1,600 linear feet of Rush Creek downstream of Rush Hollow to Fernbrook Lane in Maple Grove. Altered hydrology, physical habitat, and excess phosphorus are identified water quality concerns in this reach. This project will help to address water quality concerns, improve riparian environment, improve floodplain connectivity, and improve recreation and access to the creek.
2. The Corcoran Sweeper Project will assist in purchasing a street sweeper to begin a more targeted and systematic municipal street sweeping program to reduce pollutant loading to Rush Creek and Elm Creek. Street sweeping is one of the most cost-effective best management practices for improving water quality. There are approx. 100 curb miles in the City of Corcoran within the Elm Creek watershed and the City will complete two sweeps per year. Pollutant reduction estimates associated with this expanded street sweeping are 30 pounds of phosphorus, 150 pounds of nitrogen, and 6 pounds of chloride per sweep.

The amendment also revises the levy amount for the following CIP projects in 2026:

- Cost Share Program – removed from levy
- Partnership Cost-Share BMP Projects – removed from levy
- Diamond Lake Alum Treatment (Dayton) – revised scope and reduced cost

Hennepin County collaborates with the Commission and uses funds from the Partnership Cost-Share BMP Projects CIP to support the County's Cost Share for Conservation program, which implements conservation projects on public and private lands. Currently, the Commission has sufficient funds available to support projects the county is actively designing and implementing. County staff confirmed with the Commission that once the available funds are fully encumbered, the Commission plans to add the Partnership Cost-Share BMP Projects back to the CIP.

## Contact

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