

**PARKS AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING October 1, 2024**  
**MINUTES**

The October 1, 2024, meeting of the Parks and Natural Resources Committee was called to order in city hall at 6:03 p.m.

**Attendees:** Committee Members Zac Michalk, Jennifer Arsenault, Mary Sue Simmons, Amy Hullett, and Alan Mitchell. Council members Justin McCarthy and Kathy Weier.

**Others.** Lori Tella of the Washington (County) Conservation District.

**Purpose.** The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the upcoming steps required to implement the \$75,000 grant the City recently received from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BOWSR) to help fund certain Tighe-Schmitz Stormwater Projects.

**Discussion.** The Committee focused on the tasks identified by Tella in an email to the Committee dated 9/16/24. For convenience, these tasks and a tentative timeline are summarized below:

- Meeting with the Parks Committee (this is the meeting).
- Finalize the Work Plan and Agreement (October)
- Finalize Encumbrance (November)
- Finalize Birchwood approvals (November).
- Develop Design Work (Fall/Winter 2024).
- Conduct Design Review (Spring 2025)
- Apply for Rice Creek Watershed District grant.
- Solicit Bids (June 2025).
- Preconstruction Meeting (Summer 2025).
- Construction (Fall 2025/Winter 2026).
- Grant Close Out and Reimbursement (2026).

The specific stormwater projects to be implemented using grant funds are referred to as BMP 5, BMP 6, and BMP 22 in a report prepared by the Washington Conservation District for the Rice Creek Watershed District in May 2017. The relevant parts of this report are on file with the City.

Project BMP 5 is a filtration basin above an existing catch basin in Tighe-Schmitz Park near the hockey rink and Lake Avenue. BMP 6 also involves the installation

of a catch basin, this one south and east of the hockey rink. BMP 22 calls for the installation of a swale and a riprap sump along the public right-of-way on the western edge of the Park.

**Action.** Tella stated that the Washington Conservation District will undertake the responsibility to prepare a Work Plan. Tella and the Committee stated they were anxious to get going on the projects and all expressed a desire to see the design work completed over the upcoming winter, by spring 2025.

Councilmembers McCarthy and Weier stated that at the next City Council meeting in November they would ask the Council to authorize funding to begin the engineering design work. The Committee also discussed that the City should apply to the Rice Creek Watershed District for an additional grant to fund more water quality enhancements and this might actually cover the City's required 10% (\$7500) of the BOWSR grant. Simmons and Hullett agreed to work with RCWD regarding an application for a separate water quality grant.

The Committee further agreed that it should proceed to look into what specific project might be undertaken to utilize the \$10,000 HELP grant that the city was also recently awarded by BOWSR. HELP stands for Habitat Enhancement Landscape Project so the City needs to identify a project in a meadow or forested area that would help improve water quality in and around White Bear Lake.

Adjourn. 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Mitchell  
Secretary