

### **12.1.1.3 Dispute Resolution Process**

If watershed management disputes should arise between the BCWMC member cities, these disputes may be referred to the BCWMC for resolution. Although the BCWMC's joint powers agreement does not specifically give the BCWMC the power to decide such disputes, the BCWMC will hear the disputes and endeavor to reach a mutually agreeable solution whenever possible. Under the joint powers agreement, the BCWMC's findings and recommendations would not be binding unless the parties to the dispute wish to make a prior agreement to that effect. The BCWMC has established the following policies regarding the procedures for the hearing of such disputes:

1. The BCWMC will mediate inter-community disputes relating to watershed management problems within the Bassett Creek watershed.
2. Disputes will be referred to a committee of three BCWMC members or alternate members from member communities who are not parties to the dispute. Members will be appointed by the BCWMC chair or vice-chair, which will also appoint one of the three members as the chair of the committee.
3. The committee chair will call a meeting where each party to the dispute will be allowed to present its suggestions to resolve the dispute.
4. The committee may consult with the members of the BCWMC staff and will prepare findings and recommendations to resolve the dispute.
5. The committee's recommendation will be presented to the full BCWMC, which may accept, reject, or amend the recommendation before forwarding the findings and recommendations to the parties of the dispute.