



# Bassett Creek Watershed Management

## MEMO

To: BCWMC Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners  
From: Laura Jester, Administrator  
Date: October 8, 20220

**RE: Technical Advisory Committee Recommendations and Initial CIP Discussion**

At their meeting on October 1<sup>st</sup>, the BCWMC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) discussed a variety of topics. Below is an overview of those discussions and recommendations.

### 1. Chloride reduction strategies

TAC members were asked if they would like BCWMC assistance with education of residents, city officials, or city staff on chloride reduction strategies as we head into winter. They indicated that enough training for city staff is already available, that city councils are informed on this topic, and many cities have snow and ice removal policies they follow. Plymouth staff indicated that MPCA’s Smart Salting Assessment Tool was very useful for their city crews. No other cities reported using the tool to date.

Generally, cities are waiting to see the chloride management requirements in the new MS4 permit (expected later this fall) before deciding what strategies or changes are needed at the city level. TAC members also agreed the Parkers Lake Chloride Reduction Project (part of BCWMC’s Parkers Lake CIP Project) is likely to provide good direction for future activities in other parts of the watershed.

The TAC discussed an idea to include language in project approval letters encouraging developers to implement a chloride management plan for their developed/redeveloped site. Cities could decide to require a chloride management plan with permit approval, or reinforce the encouragement to do so. TAC members were supportive of the language in BCWMC project review letters. It was noted the Commission or permitting city could provide a template for appropriate chloride management plans.

#### **TAC RECOMMENDATION:**

When applicable, project approval letters from the Commission Engineer should include language encouraging developers and property managers to implement a chloride management plan with the goal of using best management practices for winter deicers and reducing the over application of chlorides.

### 2. Review of current CIP implementation timelines

The TAC reviewed the implementation timelines of various CIP projects over the years and noted significant differences in how long it takes some projects to be constructed. The TAC discussed the possibility of recommending timing guidelines or requirements, but in the end agreed that due to vast differences between the projects (including funding availability, partnerships, city schedules, adjacent construction schedules, etc.), the timing of CIP implementation should continue on a case-by-case basis without imposing timing constraints.

### 3. Approaches for developing 10-year CIP for 2025 watershed management plan

The TAC discussed approaches for developing the 2025 – 2035 CIP that will be included in the next watershed management plan. Staff noted that some activities may need to get started in the next year or two, ahead of actually drafting the plan. TAC members agreed that performing subwatershed analyses for priority areas of the watershed would be a good way to target specific CIP projects in specific areas. A subwatershed analysis (SWA) is a method to systematically analyze and assess a subwatershed to determine the location and cost-benefit of best management practices or projects that can be implemented to reduce pollution to a specific waterbody or to reduce flooding. It was noted that Shingle Creek WMC performs SWAs to identify the best areas for water quality improvement projects that not only help target Shingle Creek WMC CIP projects, but also help cities understand where projects would have the most benefit. This allows cities to look for improvement opportunities in those areas when city projects or development/redevelopment projects are proposed. It was noted that areas in need of SWAs could be determined through a combination of model results, hot spot and flood potential maps, known water quality issues, and Commission and city staff knowledge and input. There was discussion about the cost of developing SWAs. It was noted that the Commission's "Surveys and Studies" budget within the annual operating budget could be used, that additional operating funds in future years would likely be needed for this task, and that some grant funding may be available.

#### **TAC RECOMMENDATION:**

The Commission should explore the development of subwatershed analyses (SWAs) to assist in developing the next 10-year CIP. First steps could include reporting on successful SWAs in Shingle Creek WMC or other watersheds and developing cost estimates for SWA development.

### 4. Initial discussion on the next 5-year CIP (2023 – 2027)

The TAC reviewed the current 5-year and 10-year CIPs and began discussions on possible projects to include in the 2023 – 2027 CIP. Possible larger projects include dredging Bassett Creek Park Pond in Crystal (second phase after dredging Winnetka Pond), and an alum treatment for Medicine Lake. However, the best timing for those projects is not currently known. Chloride management projects were also mentioned.

TAC members will continue to consider possible project needs to address pressing flooding or water quality issues and will review the pollutant hot spot and flood potential maps, along with the CIP prioritization matrix.

Staff noted that per Commission [approved recommendations](#) from the TAC and the CIP Prioritization Committee (February 2019), commissioners and staff should be more involved in the development of the 5-year CIP.

**At this time, Commissioner ideas and suggestions for future CIP projects are needed to help guide further discussions by the TAC and staff on 5-year CIP development.**

- Are there significant water quality or flooding issues that have not been addressed by Commission projects or planned projects?
- What do you view as the most pressing challenges that could be addressed by Commission CIP projects?
- Are there criteria that are not typically considered for selecting CIP projects but which should be included? (e.g. climate resiliency, equity, etc.)