Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Aquatic Plant Management/Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Agenda and Notes from Previous Meetings

Wednesday, November 30, 2016 ~ 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Council Conference Room, Golden Valley City Hall (2nd Floor)

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Attendance at meetings

Committee Member	September Meeting	October Meeting
Commissioner Black	X	X
Alt. Commissioner Tobelmann	X	X
Commissioner Welch	X	
Commissioner Hoschka		X
Commissioner Carlson		
Tony Brough, Hennepin Co.	X	
Rachael Crabb, MPRB	X	X
Rich Brasch, TRPD	X	X
Brian Vlach, TRPD	X	X
Jen Kostrzewski, Met Council	X	
Shanna Hanson, Sweeney Lake	X	X
Kip Leonard, AMLAC		X
Dave Musliner, Parkers Lake	X	
Derek Asche, City of Plymouth	X	X
Tom Hoffman, City of Golden Valley	X	X
Karen Chandler, BCWMC Eng.	X	X
Meg Rattei, BCWMC Eng.	X	X
Laura Jester, BCWMC Administrator	X	X

2. **Review Objectives of BCWMC Role in APM/AIS from September Meeting (Answering the "WHY?")**

At the September 27th meeting, the committee discussed and completed the following table to indicate PRIMARY objectives for the BCWMC's possible future role in APM/AIS. The committee discussed the fact that improving water quality and aquatic habitat, and reducing flooding were the main objectives of the Commission's work and should be the primary objectives in dealing with APM/AIS - hence the "X" in these categories.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE	Commission Should Be Involved	Commission Should NOT Be Involved
Activities that improve water quality	**X**	
Activities that improve habitat and the overall ecology of the waterbody	**X**	
Activities that improve recreation		**Partnering only; not primary obj.**
Activities that improve aesthetics		**X**
Activities that improve or protect human health and safety		**Partnering only; not primary obj.**
Protect function/capacity of Flood Control Project	**X (Likely a maintenance activity by cities)**	

The committee noted that "recreation" is a broad term that means different things to different people and that improving water quality, in turn improves recreation. There was consensus that effects on recreation would be taken into consideration for any Commission project or program and the Commission could partner with others on recreation-based projects. However, there was consensus that projects which have the primary objective of improved recreation would not be led by the Commission.

It was noted that improved aesthetics may be an outcome of some Commission projects but that they wouldn't be considered an objective of a Commission project and it was noted the Commission doesn't have the statutory authority to focus on aesthetics.

Improving or protecting human health and safety was added as a possible objective due to blue green algae blooms and dense aquatic plants tangling swimmers. Again, there was consensus that the Commission wouldn't lead a project with a primary objective to improve or protect human health and safety, but may partner with others.

Finally, it was noted that dense vegetation may decrease the functionality of flood control structures. Since the Commission is charged with maintaining its Flood Control Project structures, this was added as a possible reason to take the lead on an APM project. (Although it was also noted that vegetation management is typically a city responsibility.)

The committee then reviewed a map and description of the different classifications of waterbodies in the watershed (to help consider the "WHERE"):

A. Priority 1 Lakes– "MDNR Public Waters" Lakes, greater than 10 acres, with public access or adjacent to public land
B. Priority 2 Lakes – "MDNR Public Waters" Lakes, greater than 10 acres, without public access or adjacent to public land
C. Priority 1 Streams – "MDNR Public Waters" Watercourses
D. MDNR Public Waters, no BCWMC priority
E. Non-MDNR Public Waters, no BCWMC priority

The committee also reviewed the locations of different AIS already within the watershed and in nearby waterbodies (to help consider the "WHAT"):

Species already known in BCWMC:

A. Curly-leaf Pondweed in lakes Crane, Lost, Medicine, Northwood, Parkers, Sweeney, Twin, Westwood, Wirth; and Main Stem Bassett Creek at Irving Avenue
B. Eurasian Watermilfoil in Medicine Lake, Parkers Lake, Wirth Lake
C. Yellow Iris in Sweeney Lake
D. Chinese Mystery Snail in several ponds in Golden Valley
E. Carp in Sweeny Lake, Twin Lake, Medicine Lake and likely several other lakes and streams
F. Purple loosestrife : ubiquitous
G. Hybrid cattails: ubiquitous

Species in nearby waterbodies: Zebra mussels, Flowering rush, Starry stonewort

3. **Continue to Discuss Possible Commission Roles per Activity (Answering the "HOW?")**

At the September and October meetings the committee discussed and began completing the table on the following pages to indicate how the Commission **should** be involved with various activities.

The committee can and should concentrate on where gaps exist and determine if the BCWMC should fill those gaps.

	Activity	Current Activity by Others	Commission Role			
			Take Lead	Cooperate w/ Others	Only Provide Funds	No Role
Early Detection	Early detection training (including volunteer recruitment)	MDNR and Hennepin Co. training programs		X – BCWMC could help recruit volunteers for training		
	Early detection monitoring	TRPD does ED monitoring on Medicine Lk. for zebra mussels (could use help in expanding program) MPRB does ED monitoring on Wirth Lake Henn. Co. has grant $ to expand ED monitoring. BCWMC surveys aq. plants every 3 yrs. TRPD performs aq. plant surveys on Medicine Lk.	X – BCWMC could perform ED monitoring w/ Co. grant funds – including zebra mussel detection and expanded aq. plant surveys	X – BCWMC could cooperate with TRPD and Lake Assoc. to expand ED monitoring		
Rapid Response	Develop rapid response plan of action	Hennepin Co. has grant funding for developing rapid response plan. MPRB has Zebra Mussel Action Plan (Wirth Lk)	X – BCWMC should develop rapid response plan of action			

	Activity	Current Activity by Others	Commission Role			
			Take Lead	Cooperate w/ Others	Only Provide Funds	No Role
	Rapidly responding to new infestation	MDNR works with locals to implement rapid response.	X – BCWMC could take lead to hire contractors, provide technical expertise, and lead effort with funding & partners	X – Will take cooperation from others to implement plan of action, if needed		
Studies						
	Pathways analysis/vulnerability assessment	Henn Co. analyzed AIS risk from pet stores & nurseries Henn Co. has grant funding for developing pathways analysis	X – With grants, BCWMC could perform all three activities much like a watershed-wide TMDL for water quality. It was noted that additional water quality data may be needed to help predict suitability for invasion by particular species.	X – Partnering with others would be important component of these activities including gathering data collected by others, and/or using templates of existing prevention plans or management plans.		
	Inventory (species, current management activities)	(See early detection monitoring) TRPD, MPRB, BCWMC perform aq. plant surveys				
	Plan development (prevention plan or management plan)	MPRB has Zebra Mussel Action Plan (applies to Wirth Lk)				

	Activity	Current Activity by Others	Commission Role			
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Prevention	Boat launch/access management (inspections, washing stations, compost bins, closures)	TRPD performs inspections at Medicine Lk. launches MPRB closed Wirth Lk. launch		X –Additional funding likely needed soon (County/State funding may decrease or phase out); private accesses and lakeshore owners are missing link (inc. buying used docks from infested waters); lake associations are best partner. Decided BCWMC role would be case-by-case basis to be informed by pathways analysis. Also agreed it makes sense that launch owners should be ultimately responsible for inspections.		
	Education (signage, articles, literature, etc.)	TRPD, lake associations, MPRB – each provide some AIS education	X – BCWMC could tailor existing content to be lake specific and/or hold annual "state of the lake" event to provide more active engagement. Agreed pathways study could help refine education needs and identify jurisdictions and roles.	X – Would be inherently cooperative activity due to much existing educational content and variety of educational outlets.		
	Advocating for/assist with policy changes (Legislative, ordinances, rules)	MPRB policy: all contractors, partners,		X – Policy advocacy should be across multiple watersheds. BCWMC		

	Activity	Current Activity by Others	Commission Role			
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		staff must have AIS identification training		could help draft ordinances for cities, identifying need through pathways study		
Management	Monitoring current infestations	TRPD, BCWMC, MPRB through regular aq. plant surveys	X – Lack of fish surveys is a gap. BCWMC could survey fish in same years as water monitoring. Fish community data good for AIS and WQ analysis, TMDLs, etc. Need to determine goal of fish survey – presence vs. absence, characterizing whole fish population, and/or determining ecological threshold for fish impacts on WQ	X – Need to gather observations of others (residents, field workers)		
	Spot treatments (herbicide or mechanical or hand pulling)	TRPD, MPRB use spot treatments at access points, fishing piers, and beaches. (Plymouth previously treated CLP in Medicine Lake)	Began discussing the possible role of conducting spot treatments of curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) and debated whether or not the goal of treatments was to improve water quality or improve recreation. At the November meeting DNR staff will present information on the evolving science behind CLP treatments and outcomes. TRPD and Plymouth staff will present information on CLP treatments and results in Medicine Lake.			
	Whole lake treatments (including engaging MDNR on current treatment policies)	TRPD = whole lake treatment for CLP, Medicine Lk (2004-2006)				

	Activity	Current Activity by Others	Commission Role			
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	Carp harvesting					
	Fish barriers	MPRB (outside BCWMC)				
	Water level management/drawdown	TRPD used lake drawdown for CLP control (outside BCWMC)				
	Biological treatment	Used by multiple entities for purple loosestrife				

4. **Presentation by Keegan Lund, DNR AIS Specialist**
   Keegan will present information on the latest studies, observations, and monitoring results regarding control of curly-leaf pondweed.

5. **Discussion on Effects of Curly-leaf Pondweed Treatments in Medicine Lake**
   The committee will learn more about herbicide treatments of curly-leaf pondweed in Medicine Lake and the effects on water quality and plant communities with data and information from the City of Plymouth and Three Rivers Park District.

6. **Next Steps and Future Meetings**

7. **Adjourn**