



Item 5D.  
BCWMC  
3-15-18

March 7, 2018

Laura Jester  
Administrator  
Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission  
16145 Hillcrest Lane  
Eden Prairie, MN 55346

Dear Laura Jester,

The recent discovery of zebra mussels in Medicine Lake this past fall of 2017 has become an immediate concern due to the potential recreational and ecological impacts on the lake. The lake should be considered high risk for new infestations of new AIS and the potential to infest other lakes within the area due to its high recreational use. It was proposed by the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission and supported by the Three River Park District to provide a decontamination unit at the French Regional Park access in order to prevent additional AIS infestations in the lake and to prevent the lake's newly discovered zebra mussels from being spread to other lakes in the area. The Three Rivers Park District has already committed (letter of support to the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission – January 12, 2018) to the staffing and operation of a decontamination unit as part of our existing watercraft inspection program.

In 2018, the Three Rivers Park District has currently budgeted approximately \$20,000 from our general operation funds and the Hennepin County AIS Prevention Grant dollars to allocate towards our existing watercraft inspection program. The current budget will provide approximately 2000 hours invested toward Level I watercraft inspections. The operation of the decontamination unit will require additional funding to staff/train Level II inspectors as well as to increase inspection hours for incoming/outgoing watercraft at the access.

Based on previous discussions, the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission expressed an interest in providing financial support to assist with increased inspection staffing hours that will be required for the operation of the decontamination unit. Consequently, the Three Rivers Park District is requesting funding of \$5000 from the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission to help facilitate the operation of a decontamination unit at French Regional Park. The financial contribution would provide an additional 400 to 450 Level II staffing hours that would be required for the operation of the decontamination unit as well as augmenting the existing watercraft inspection program at the French Regional Park boat access. The Three Rivers Park District would be looking to secure more stable funding in the future from other interested partners or through budget increases in our general operations fund. All inspection outcomes and staffing hours will be tracked and measured through the use of tablets loaded with the application developed by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The results from the watercraft inspection program will be available for your review and the data will be used to improve the existing watercraft inspection program.

Three Rivers Park District appreciates the partnership and collaboration with the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission on Medicine Lake issues, and looks forward to the further collaboration as AIS threats require the implementation of ever increasing management efforts.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.

Sincerely,

*Brian Vlach*

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Three Rivers Park District  
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