



## Bassett Creek Watershed Management

### MEMO

To: BCWMC Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners  
From: Laura Jester, Administrator  
Date: September 7, 2021

**RE: Main Stem Lagoon Dredging Project EAW, Future Permits, and Signatories**

The design of the Main Stem Lagoon Dredging Project is underway. Commission Engineers have developed preliminary design plans using the survey and other data collected from the feasibility study. Using that initial plan set they are drafting the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) document. The EAW is a brief document designed to lay out the basic facts of a project to determine if an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required for the proposed project. In addition to the legal purpose of the EAW in determining the need for an EIS, the EAW also provides permit information, informs the public about the project, and helps identify ways to protect the environment. The EAW is not meant to approve or deny a project, but instead act as a source of information to guide other approvals and permitting decisions.

The project proposer (in this case, the BCWMC) is responsible for preparing the EAW. The Responsible Government Unit (RGU) is responsible for evaluating the EAW and making the final determination on the need for an EIS. Under Subpart 27 of MN Rules 4410, the RGU for the EAW is the party who serves as the Local Government Unit (LGU) for administering the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) in the area the project is located. Because this project lies in Golden Valley, and the city is the LGU for WCA, the City will be the Responsible Government Unit for the EAW.

Once the EAW document is completed, the RGU will publicly notice the EAW and submit it to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) for a 30-day comment period. Responses to comments are then prepared and a final determination on the need for an EIS is made by the RGU.

In addition to the EAW process, there are several additional (more specific) permit applications that will be needed for this project, including WCA/USACE Joint Permit, MPRB Construction permit, MnDNR public waters work permit, and City of Golden Valley Stormwater Management Permit.

Staff recommends the following process regarding the EAW and future permits.

1. BCWMC Board of Commissioners reviews and considers approval to submit the draft EAW to the RGU for review and approval by the RGU (suggested for the October consent agenda).
2. BCWMC Board of Commissioners reviews and provides input on the RGU's responses to comments on the EAW. Alternatively, Board of Commissioners could delegate this task to the Administrator.
3. BCWMC Board of Commissioners delegates the review and signing of all other permit applications related to this project to the Administrator.