

## **Land and Water Acknowledgement Statement**

**Adopted May 2024**

We acknowledge that the waterways of the Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ, located in Mnisota Makoće, the homeland of the Dakota peoples, are living waters which are part of a larger living ecosystem.

Historically, the Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ provided material, nutritional, and spiritual sustenance to the Dakota peoples. We acknowledge the forced removal of the

Dakota from the lands and waterways that nurtured them as relatives. And, we recognize the environmental degradation that continues in the watershed today.

The living waters of Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ remain significant to the Dakota and other Native peoples, including many who presently live in the watershed. The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission seeks to identify and integrate Native wisdom by collaborating with Indigenous peoples and communities to reduce the impacts of climate change and improve the ecosystem health for all living beings in the watershed.

Acknowledging the complex past and present traumas and triumphs is a step toward healing for the land, watershed, and peoples who live in the watershed today.

## **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility Policy**

**Adopted August 2024**

The BCWMC is committed to understanding issues and prioritizing improvements in diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility as they relate to the Commission's work in improving and protecting aquatic ecosystems, building climate resiliency, and reducing flood risk. The BCWMC strives for diverse representation in decision making, robust engagement and communication with historically underrepresented communities, equitable access to information and resources, and use of social vulnerability and similar indices in prioritization of its projects and programs.

## **Creek Co-Naming Practices**

**Approved December 2024**

- a. For simplicity right now use both the Dakota and English names only for the creek and only on the main stem of the creek. (Some lakes or other streams have Dakota names and others either don't have Dakota names or they are unknown.)
- b. Be consistent with format. Place the Dakota name first, then use a slash (rather than a hyphen), and then list the English name: Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ / Bassett Creek.
- c. Use co-naming wherever possible, particularly on public facing documents and places including signs at road crossings; signs at project sites, in parks, and at Utepils; on the BCWMC website; on the BCWMC letterhead.
- d. Consider using Dakota artwork (in addition to the name) on signs, on website, and other appropriate places.
- e. Consider where both creek names should be used in the Watershed Management Plan.