



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Meeting Notes of the Watershed Plan Steering Committee

June 12, 2024 @ 8:30 a.m.

Brookview, Golden Valley

Meeting Attendees:

Committee Chair Kennedy; Commissioners Pentel, Hauer, and Welch; Community Member Loomis; TAC Members Eckman and Scharenbroich; Administrator Jester; Commission Engineers Chandler, Johnson, and Williams

1. WELCOME

Committee Chair Kennedy opened the meeting at approximately 8:30 a.m.

2. REVIEW MAY 1 MEETING NOTES

The May 1, 2024 Plan Steering Committee meeting notes were approved by consensus with no changes.

3. REVIEW PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS TRACKER

Staff briefly reviewed the progress of plan development. They noted the tracker was adjusted to account for actual and predicted progress and shows the schedule slipping by a month. Chair Kennedy indicated the PSC should concentrate on the big, important decisions to keep moving forward.

4. DISCUSS STRATEGIES AND POLICIES SECTION

The group discussed terminology that would be appropriate to describe the various actions to be taken by the BCWMC or by member cities. Originally, staff recommended using the term "strategy" and/or "action" for implementation performed by the BCWMC, and "policy" for activities required of cities. It was acknowledged that the term "policy" is broad and generic and might not be useful to describe requirements of cities. Committee Member Welch noted the Commission is a policy-driven organization. Committee members agreed that "policies", if used, should be a broad term and that responsible parties should be identified in the implementation section. There was a suggestion for the "big picture" of implementation to be presented indicating that it's a watershed plan with different entities responsible for different activities. Committee member Welch also noted that the term "responsible party" is antiquated, and that implementation work should be integrated between cities and the Commission. He noted that more and more projects will require partnerships with public and private entities through a collaborative approach. It was recognized that subwatershed analyses will be a good tool to identify and prioritize potential BMPs and partnerships. Engineer Chandler noted that collaboration is a two-way street and the plan should articulate how the cities and BCWMC will work together.

Staff indicated they will work with this input and develop a draft of the activity section of the plan for review at the next PSC meeting.

5. REVIEW ISSUE STATEMENTS AND DRAFT GOALS FOR FLOODING & CLIMATE RESILIENCE CATEGORY

The committee discussed use of the terms "natural resources" and "stewardship" in the Plan with Committee Member Eckman noting that these terms imply human dominance over nature and the use of nature as a resource. There was a comment that the plan needs to clearly communicate ideas, goals and priorities despite language with varied interpretations. It was noted the plan could acknowledge the evolving terminology and thinking about human relationships with nature.

There was also a discussion about the term "resiliency." Golden Valley staff assumes the term refers to current and past changes and that "sustainability" refers to future practices. After discussion it was agreed that "climate resiliency" is a commonly used term to refer to improving conditions to withstand current and changing climatic

conditions and that the Plan should clearly define the term.

The group developed final recommended goals, issue statement, and desired future conditions for the remaining issues in this category.

6. REVIEW ISSUE STATEMENTS AND DRAFT GOALS FOR EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The committee developed the goals, issue statements, and desired future conditions for several of the issues in this category. Committee Member Welch recommended that the Commission first adopt a policy about engaging diverse communities in order to clearly articulate how watershed work connects with equity issues. Development of a policy will then inform the appropriate goals and activities for this issue. Staff indicated the Commission did begin that discussion last summer but it can be discussed again at the July or August Commission meeting. It was also pointed out that although BWSR reported the Commission needs more outreach and education, there are actually many activities happening through the BCWMC and other partners and the Commission is good at stretching its education budget efficiently and effectively.

7. ADJOURN – The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:30 a.m.