



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

MEMO

Date: December 11, 2019
From: Laura Jester, Administrator
To: BCWMC Commissioners
RE: **Administrator's Report**

Aside from this month's agenda items, the Commission Engineers, city staff, committee members, and I continue to work on the following Commission projects and issues.

CIP Projects (more resources at <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects>.)

2019 Medicine Lake Road and Winnetka Avenue Area Long Term Flood Mitigation Plan Implementation Phase I: DeCola Ponds B & C Improvement Project (BC-2, BC-3 & BC-8) Golden Valley (no change since Nov): A feasibility study for this project was completed in May 2018 after months of study, development of concepts and input from residents at two public open houses. At the May 2018 meeting, the Commission approved Concept 3 and set a maximum 2019 levy. Also in May 2018, the Minnesota Legislature passed the bonding bill and the MDNR has since committed \$2.3M for the project. The Hennepin County Board approved a maximum 2019 levy request at their meeting in July 2018. A BCWMC public hearing on this project was held on August 16, 2018 with no comments being received. Also at that meeting the Commission officially ordered the project and entered an agreement with the City of Golden Valley to design and construct the project. In September 2018, the City of Golden Valley approved the agreement with the BCWMC. The [Sun Post](#) ran an article on this project October 2018. Another public open house and presentation of 50% designs was held February 6, 2019. An EAW report was completed and available for public review and comment December 17 – January 16, 2019. At their meeting in February 2019, the Commission approved the 50% design plans. Another public open house was held April 10th and a public hearing on the water level drawdown was held April 16th. 90% Design Plans were approved at the April Commission meeting. It was determined a Phase 1 investigation of the site is not required. The City awarded a contract to Dahn Construction for the first phase of the project, which involves earthwork, utilities, and trail paving and extends through June 2020. Dewatering began late summer 2019 and is ongoing for the north ends of Ponds B & C. Last week tree removal began and continues through this week. Test trenching for further environmental investigations is happening this week in the area north of DeCola Pond B to help determine disposal requirements for this area once excavation begins. Once the tree removal is complete Dahn plans to start excavation on the SE side of the site (along Pond C) at the end of this week or next week, and then will work their way north. This will start the major earthwork efforts! The schedule provided by Dahn suggests this will likely be complete in January 2020 assuming everything goes as anticipated. Project website: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=433>.

2020 Bryn Mawr Meadows Water Quality Improvement Project (BC-5), Minneapolis (no change since Oct): A feasibility study by the Commission Engineer began last fall and included wetland delineations, soil borings, public open houses held in conjunction with MPRB's Bryn Mawr Meadows Park improvement project, and input from MPRB's staff and design consultants. At their meeting in April, the Commission approved a TAC and staff recommendation to move this project from implementation in 2019 to design in 2020 and construction in 2021 to better coincide with the MPRB's planning and implementation of significant improvements and redevelopment Bryn Mawr Meadows Park where the project will be located. The final feasibility study was approved at the January 2019 Commission meeting. Staff discussed the maintenance of Penn Pond with MnDOT and received written confirmation that pond maintenance will occur prior to the park's reconstruction project with coordination among the BCWMC, MPRB, and MnDOT. A public hearing for this project was held September 19, 2019. The project was officially ordered at that meeting. A Clean Water Fund grant application for this project was submitted September 9th. An agreement with the MPRB and the city of Minneapolis will be considered at a future meeting. Project website: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/bryn-mawr-meadows-water-quality-improvement-project>

2020 Jevne Park Stormwater Improvement Project (ML-21) Medicine Lake (No change since Oct): At their meeting in July 2018, the Commission approved a proposal from the Commission Engineer to prepare a feasibility study for this project. The

study got underway last fall and the city's project team met on multiple occasions with the Administrator and Commission Engineer. The Administrator and Engineer also presented the draft feasibility study to the Medicine Lake City Council on February 4, 2019 and a public open house was held on February 28th. The feasibility study was approved at the April Commission meeting with intent to move forward with option 1. The city's project team is continuing to assess the project and understand its implications on city finances, infrastructure, and future management. The city received proposals from 3 engineering firms for project design and construction. At their meeting on August 5th, the Medicine Lake City Council voted to continue moving forward with the project and negotiating the terms of the agreement with BCWMC. Staff was directed to continue negotiations on the agreement and plan to order the project pending a public hearing at this meeting. Staff continues to correspond with the city's project team and city consultants regarding language in the agreement. The BCWMC held a public hearing on this project on September 19, 2019 and received comments from residents both in favor and opposed to the project. The project was officially ordered on September 19, 2019. On October 4, 2019, the Medicine Lake City Council took action not to move forward with the project. At their meeting on October 17th, the Commission moved to table discussion on the project. The project remains on the 2020 CIP list. Project webpage: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=467>.

2019 Westwood Lake Water Quality Improvement Project (WST-2) St. Louis Park (No change since August): At their meeting in September 2017, the Commission approved a proposal from the Commission Engineer to complete a feasibility study for this project. The project will be completed in conjunction with the Westwood Hills Nature Center reconstruction project. After months of study, several meetings with city consultants and nature center staff, and a public open house, the Commission approved Concept 3 (linear water feature) and set a maximum 2019 levy at their May meeting. 50% designs were approved at the July meeting and 90% design plans were approved at the August meeting. The Hennepin County Board approved a maximum 2019 levy request at their meeting in July. A BCWMC public hearing on this project was held on August 16th with no comments being received. At that meeting the Commission officially ordered the project and entered an agreement with the City of St. Louis Park to design and construct the project and directed the Education Committee to assist with development of a BCWMC educational sign for inside the nature center. The draft sign was presented at the October meeting and was finalized over the winter. Construction on the new building started this spring. The Sun Sailor printed [an article](#) on the project in October 2018. All educational signs were finalized and are currently in production. Some slight modifications to the project plans may be necessary to satisfy city inspectors. More information on that coming soon! Project website: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/westwood-lake-water-quality-improvement-project>.

2018 Bassett Creek Park Pond Phase I Dredging Project: Winnetka Pond, Crystal (BCP-2) (No change since Nov): The final feasibility study for this project was approved at the May 2017 meeting and is available on the project page online at <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=403>. At the September 2017 meeting, the Commission held a public hearing on the project and adopted a resolution officially ordering the project, certifying costs to Hennepin County, and entering an agreement with the City of Crystal for design and construction. Hennepin County approved the 2018 final levy request at their meeting in November 2017. The City of Crystal hired Barr Engineering to design the project. At their meeting in April, the Commission approved 50% design plans. A public open house on the project was held May 24th where four residents asked questions, provided comments, and expressed support. 90% design plans were approved at the June 2018 meeting. An Environmental Assessment Worksheet was recently approved and a construction company was awarded the contract. A pre-construction meeting was held December 14th and construction began in January. A large area of contamination was discovered during excavation in February 2019. At their meeting February 21, 2019 the Commission approved additional funding for this project in order to properly dispose of the contamination and continue building the project as designed. An amended agreement with the city of Crystal was approved at the March Commission meeting. Pond dredging and other storm sewer work was completed in early summer. The landscaping contractor completed a final herbicide treatment in preparation for seeding in late October and was set to perform dormant seeding in late October or early November.

2017 Plymouth Creek Restoration Project, Annapolis Lane to 2,500 feet Upstream (2017CR-P) (See Item 4D): All project documents including the feasibility study and 90% design plans are available online at <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=284>. The BCWMC executed agreements with the BWSR for a \$400,000 Clean Water Fund grant and with Hennepin County for a \$50,000 Opportunity Grant and a subgrant agreement with the City was executed. Project design was completed by the city's contractor, Wenck Associates, with 60% and 90% design plans approved by the Commission at the April and August 2017 meetings, respectively. Plymouth City Council awarded a construction contract in early December 2017 and construction got underway on December 11, 2017. Streambank restoration work is complete in all three reaches. Vegetation is currently being established.

Requests for reimbursement to the city were approved at the June and July BCWMC meetings. A Clean Water Fund grant interim report was submitted in February. Some vegetation management and minor streambank repairs are happening this summer. A reimbursement request was approved at the November meeting. The city recently approved closing this project a final reimbursement request is on this month's consent agenda. A final report will be submitted to the Commission in January along with a final grant report to BWSR.

2017 Main Stem Bassett Creek Streambank Erosion Repair Project (2017CR-M) (No change since Oct): The feasibility study for this project was approved at the April Commission meeting and the final document is available on the project page at: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=281>. A Response Action Plan to address contaminated soils in the project area was completed by Barr Engineering with funding from Hennepin County and was reviewed and approved by the MPCA. The Commission was awarded an Environmental Response Fund grant from Hennepin County for \$150,300 and a grant agreement is in the process of being signed by the county. A subgrant agreement with the City will be developed. The City hired Barr Engineering to design and construct the project. Fifty-percent and 90% designs were approved at the August and October Commission meetings, respectively. In September 2017, design plans were presented by Commission and city staff to the Harrison Neighborhood Association's Glenwood Revitalization Team committee and through a public open house on the project. Bidding for construction is complete and a pre-construction meeting was recently held. Construction was to begin summer of 2018 but will be delayed until summer 2019 due to the unanticipated need for a field based cultural and historical survey of the project area required by the Army Corps of Engineers and the preference for Pioneer Paper (a significant landowner and access grantor) for a spring/summer construction window. The cultural and historical survey fieldwork is complete and a final report was sent to the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) in February. Sunram. The Hennepin County ERF grant agreement was amended to extend the term. Construction was scheduled to begin in September but will be pushed to late November. City staff updated the Commission on the latest developments with this project at the Sept 19 and Oct 17, 2019 meetings (see memos in those meeting packets). The section along Pioneer Paper will no longer be stabilized/restored due to lack of access and cooperation from Pioneer Paper.

2014 Schaper Pond Diversion Project, Golden Valley (SL-3) (No change since Oct): Repairs to the baffle structure were made in 2017 after anchor weights pulled away from the bottom of the pond and some vandalism occurred in 2016. The city continues to monitor the baffle and check the anchors, as needed. Vegetation around the pond was planted in 2016 and a final inspection of the vegetation was completed last fall. Once final vegetation has been completed, erosion control will be pulled and the contract will be closed. The Commission Engineer began the Schaper Pond Effectiveness Monitoring Project last summer and presented results and recommendations at the May 2018 meeting. Additional effectiveness monitoring is being performed this summer. At the July meeting the Commission Engineer reported that over 200 carp were discovered in the pond during a recent carp survey. At the September meeting the Commission approved the Engineer's recommendation to perform a more in-depth survey of carp including transmitters to learn where and when carp are moving through the system. A Federal 319 grant for management of carp in relation to Schaper Pond and Sweeney Lake was recently approved by the MPCA and the grant agreement may be available by the December Commission meeting. At the October 17th meeting, the Commission received a report on the carp surveys and recommendations for carp removal and management. Project webpage: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=277>.

The grant-funded project (the [Sweeney Lake Water Quality Improvement Project, SL-8](#)) was added as a separate CIP project for 2020/2021 levy funding and was officially ordered after a public hearing on September 19, 2019.

2014 Twin Lake In-lake Alum Treatment, Golden Valley (TW-2): (No change since June 2018) At their March 2015 meeting, the Commission approved the project specifications and directed the city to finalize specifications and solicit bids for the project. The contract was awarded to HAB Aquatic Solutions. The alum treatment spanned two days: May 18- 19, 2015 with 15,070 gallons being applied. Water temperatures and water pH stayed within the desired ranges for the treatment. Early transparency data from before and after the treatment indicates a change in Secchi depth from 1.2 meters before the treatment to 4.8 meters on May 20th. There were no complaints or comments from residents during or since the treatment. Water monitoring continues to determine if and when a second alum treatment is necessary. Lake monitoring results from 2017 were presented at the June 2018 meeting. Commissioners agreed with staff recommendations to keep the CIP funding remaining for this project as a 2nd treatment may be needed in the future. Project webpage: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=278>.

2013 Four Seasons Area Water Quality Project/Agora Development (NL-2) (No change since Aug): At their meeting in December 2016, the Commission took action to contribute up to \$830,000 of Four Seasons CIP funds for stormwater management at the Agora development on the old Four Seasons Mall location. At their February 2017 meeting the Commission approved an agreement with Rock Hill Management (RHM) and an agreement with the City of Plymouth allowing the developer access to a city-owned parcel to construct a wetland restoration project and to ensure ongoing maintenance of the CIP project components. At the August 2017 meeting, the Commission approved the 90% design plans for the CIP portion of the project. At the April 2018 meeting, Commissioner Prom notified the Commission that RHM recently disbanded its efforts to purchase the property for redevelopment. In spring 2019, a new potential buyer/developer is preparing plans for redevelopment at the site. Alternate Commissioner Cesnik and I attended the neighborhood meeting and briefly discussed opportunities for funding above and beyond stormwater management features to improve water quality leaving the area and entering Northwood Lake. The Commission Engineer and I met with city staff and the redevelopment team to review potential “above and beyond” stormwater management techniques. The redevelopment team continues to work through Plymouth city permitting, etc. Project webpage: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=282>.

2020 Crane Lake Improvement Project (CL-3) (No updates at this time): This project will be constructed in conjunction with the reconstruction of Ridgedale Drive in the City of Minnetonka. At their meeting on March 21, 2019, the BCWMC approved the project's feasibility study and chose to implement Option 3 from the study. At their meeting on May 16, 2019, the BCWMC approved the 90% design plans for the project. Construction is expected in early 2020. A public hearing on this project was held on September 19, 2019. No persons commented on the project. The project was officially ordered and an agreement with the city of Minnetonka was approved at the same meeting. Project webpage: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=490>.

Other Work

CIP Project Work and Technical Assistance

- Set technical stakeholder meeting for Mt. Olivet/Parkers Lake Drainage Improvement Projects, sent agenda
- Attended meeting to review St. Louis Park Wetland Management Plan/Inventory
- Revised and distributed meeting minutes for Main Stem Lagoon Dredging Project
- Reviewed/commented on Bassett Creek Valley Study handout
- Drafted TAC memo on October and November meetings
- Reviewed 2020 monitoring plans for Sweeney Branch
- Discussed MPCA monitoring plans with MPCA staff and Commission engineers

Administration and Education

- Attended WMWA meeting; reviewed meeting materials
- Attended MN Association of Watershed Administrators meeting
- Attended MAWD annual meeting and conference
- Prepared for and presented at Sweeney Lake Association Meeting on upcoming carp/alum project
- Prepared and sent 2020 assessment invoices to member cities
- Reviewed agreements for Dominionium project and 319 grant agreement
- Prepared final report for Hennepin County AIS grant
- Reviewed accounting for Winnetka Pond Dredging Project, requested corrections
- Reviewed education budget and drafted amendment to education services agreement