

BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Improvements Contained in the

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission's 2015 Watershed Management Plan

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) will hold a public hearing during its regular meeting on

Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

Online Via WebEx

Interested persons are invited to attend. The purpose of the hearing is to hear testimony and comments from the public and cities regarding four capital improvements proposed to begin in 2021.

1. **Mt. Olivet Stream Restoration Project:** This project in the city of Plymouth will stabilize eroding stream banks along a reach from Old Rockford Road and continuing downstream (south) 1,300 feet. The Mt. Olivet drainage area flows into Medicine Lake and will improve water quality and habitat by reducing total phosphorus by approximately 5.3 lbs/year and restoring 0.15 acres of wetlands. The project has a total estimated cost of \$178,100. Funding is proposed to come from the BCWMC's Capital Improvement Program funds through a 2021 ad valorem property tax collected by Hennepin County on property within the Bassett Creek Watershed. Learn more at: www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/mt-olivet-stream-restoration-project
2. **Parkers Lake Drainage Improvement and Chloride Reduction Project:** This project in the City of Plymouth will stabilize slopes along an intermittent stream beginning at 18th Avenue North and continuing downstream 1,100 feet. Stabilizing banks will reduce sediment and nutrients reaching Parkers Lake and will improve habitat along the drainage way. Expected pollutant reduction to the lake is 20.1 pounds/year of total phosphorus.

Because Parkers Lake is impaired for chlorides, this project also includes approximately \$300,000 for chloride management and reduction practices or programs in the area draining from the north. Water monitoring indicates that this area contributes a high amount of chloride pollution to the lake. Landuse in this area consists of multi-family residential, commercial and industrial with large areas of impervious surfaces. Chloride reduction measures may include upgrading plowing and deicing equipment, installing automated pavement anti-icing systems or snowmelt systems below high use walks/drives, conversion of impervious surfaces to permeable surfaces, and education and training.

This project has a total estimated cost of \$485,000. Funding is proposed to come from the BCWMC's Capital Improvement Program funds through a 2021 ad valorem property tax collected by Hennepin County on property within the Bassett Creek Watershed. Learn more at: www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/parkers-lake-drainage-improvement-project

3. **Cost Share Purchase of High Efficiency Street:** The BCWMC will provide approximately 25% of the purchase price for a high-efficiency regenerative air street sweeper for the city of Plymouth to improve street sweeping effectiveness and reduce pollutant loading to waterbodies including Plymouth Creek and Medicine Lake. Street sweeping is one of the most cost-effective best management practices for

improving water quality and reducing pollutant loading to streams and lakes. This sweeper is also expected to be used during winter thaws to remove salt from streets and reduce chloride pollution to waterbodies. This project has a total estimated cost of \$81,600. Funding is proposed to come from the BCWMC's Capital Improvement Program funds through a 2021 ad valorem property tax collected by Hennepin County on property within the Bassett Creek Watershed.

4. **Dredging Accumulated Sediment in Main Stem Bassett Creek:** This project will remove almost 40,000 cubic yards of accumulated sediment from three of seven "lagoons" created along the Main Stem of Bassett Creek in Theodore Wirth Regional Park, between Golden Valley Road and Highway 55. These lagoons were originally created in the mid-1930s by Civilian Conservation Corps crews. The project will improve flow capacity, floodplain storage, and habitat, and will result in significant water quality improvements by removing 600 lbs/year total phosphorus and 156,000 lbs/year total suspended solids which currently flow downstream through the Bassett Creek Valley and into the Mississippi River.

The high project cost is due to the landfill disposal of contaminated sediment. Despite the high cost, the project results in a very low cost per pound pollutant removal of only \$270/pound of total phosphorus.

Total project costs are estimated at \$3,259,000. Of this, at least \$1,200,000 would be paid from BCWMC Closed Project Account funds. Grant funds will also be sought from a variety of sources. Levy costs are proposed to be spread over four years. Proposed 2021 levy amount is \$100,000. Levy amounts in tax years 2022 – 2024 may total \$1,959,000. Learn more at: www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/bassett-creek-main-stem-lagoon-dredging-project