



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

DRAFT Minutes of Regular Meeting

Thursday, March 17, 2022

8:30 a.m.

Via video conference due to the COVID-19 global pandemic

1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

On Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. via video conference, Vice Chair Welch brought the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (Commission) to order. Chair Cesnik could not attend due to a conflict.

Commissioners, city staff, and others present

City	Commissioner	Alternate Commissioner	Technical Advisory Committee Members (City Staff)
Crystal	Dave Anderson	Joan Hauer	Mark Ray
Golden Valley	Stacy Harwell	Jane McDonald Black	Eric Eckman
Medicine Lake	Clint Carlson	Shaun Kennedy	Susan Wiese
Minneapolis	Michael Welch	Jodi Polzin	Liz Stout, Katie Kowalczyk
Minnetonka	<i>Vacant Position</i>	<i>Vacant Position</i>	Leslie Yetka
New Hope	Jere Gwin-Lenth	Pat Crough	Nick Macklem
Plymouth	<i>Absent</i>	Monika Vadali	Ben Scharenbroich
Robbinsdale	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Vacant Position</i>	Richard McCoy
St. Louis Park	<i>Vacant Position</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Administrator	Laura Jester, Keystone Waters		
Engineers	Karen Chandler, Stephanie Johnson: Barr Engineering; Erik Bye, S.E.H.		
Recording Secretary	<i>Absent</i>		
Legal Counsel	Dave Anderson, Kennedy & Graven		
Presenters/ Guests/Public	Council Member Chris Heim, City of Medicine Lake		

Shaun Kennedy was introduced as the new alternate commissioner for the City of Medicine Lake.

2. PUBLIC FORUM ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No comments from the public were made.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Gwin-Lenth moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 6-0, with the cities of Minnetonka, Robbinsdale, and St. Louis Park absent from the vote.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda was amended to move item 4H and add it to the business agenda right before the consideration of the Jevne Park Capital Improvement Project (CIP). The following items were approved as part of the consent agenda.

- Approval of February 17, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- Acceptance of March Financial Report
- Approval of Payment of Invoices
 - i. Keystone Waters, LLC – February 2022 Administrative Services
 - ii. Keystone Waters, LLC – February 2022 Meeting Expenses
 - iii. Barr Engineering – February 2022 Engineering Services
 - iv. Kennedy & Graven – January 2022 Legal Services
 - v. Redpath – February 2022 Accounting Services
 - vi. Jan Voit – February 2022 Administrative Services
 - vii. Metro Watershed Partners – 2022 Contribution
 - viii. MPCA – CIP Project RAP Review & Implementation
- Approval of Medicine Lake Vegetation Management Plan
- Approval of Resolution of Appreciation for John Elder
- Approval of Resolution of Appreciation for Pat Crough
- Approval to Adopt Data Practices Policy
- Approval of Reimbursement Agreement with City of Minneapolis
- Approval of Grant Agreement for Medley Park Stormwater Project Clean Water Funds
- Approval of Resolution of Appreciation for Gary Holter

MOTION: Commissioner Gwin-Lenth moved to approve the consent agenda as amended. Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 6-0, with the cities of Minnetonka, Robbinsdale, and St. Louis Park absent from the vote.

Vice Chair Welch noted that Administrator Jester was able to work with the Commission’s legal counsel to get a reimbursement agreement with the City of Minneapolis for the issue with the tunnel.

5. BUSINESS

Administrator Jester explained that there were representatives of the City of Medicine Lake in attendance and that it would be prudent to move the discussion of item 4H earlier on the agenda.

Moved off consent: 4H Approval of Peninsula Road Street and Utility Improvements, City of Medicine Lake

Vice Chair Welch stated that he wanted commissioners to be sure to review the street and utility improvements because it provides some context for the Jevne Park CIP Project discussion later in the agenda.

Engineer Chandler stated that she believed the Commissioners would like to know how this is connected to the alternatives to the Jevne Park CIP project. Rain gardens were removed from the alternatives to be analyzed because if raingardens were feasible, they should have been considered as part of the Peninsula Road project to meet the city’s MS4 permit. However, there is narrow right of way and high groundwater in the area, limiting the ability for raingarden installation.

Engineer Chandler reported that in the alternatives analysis of the Jevne Park Project, they would develop a scope and budget to consider shoreline restoration and buffers, street sweeping, and other structural or non-structural practices.

MOTION: Commissioner Welch moved to approve the Peninsula Road Street and Utility Improvements submitted with the condition that field delineations and WCA approvals must be completed before the start of construction. Commissioner Gwin-Lenth seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 6-0, with the cities of Minnetonka, Robbinsdale, and St. Louis Park absent from the vote.

Commissioner Carlson requested that the discussion of item 5D be moved earlier in the agenda.

D. Consider Directing Commission Engineer to Develop Scope and Budget for Analysis Alternatives to Jevne Park CIP Project

Vice Chair Welch stated that this discussion should have a very narrow focus that will be explained by Commission Engineer Chandler. Engineer Chandler explained that the Commission is being asked to consider directing the engineer to develop a scope and budget for analyzing possible alternatives to the Jevne Park Water Quality Improvement Project. Some of the things that the engineer believes could provide water quality benefits include shoreline restoration and buffers along properties adjacent to Medicine Lake. Determining the water quality benefits of these practices, as well as expanded or augmented street sweeping, is the intent so the Commission can make an informed decision about whether it is worth pursuing. The scope and budget would be developed using the CIP funds that are still available.

Administrator Jester reminded the Commissioners that the Jevne Park project was officially ordered, but the agreement with the City of Medicine Lake was never approved because the city did not want to move forward with it at the time. The project was only designed to capture approximately four pounds of phosphorus and lower the floodplain by a few inches. There is the possibility that alternative best management practices (BMPs) could capture as much or more phosphorus, but we do not know that for certain. We believe it is prudent to analyze the alternatives.

Commissioner Harwell said that in terms of the benefits, cost per pound, and lake level, it seemed like the project was less than desirable. She would be in favor of the analysis. Commissioner Gwin-Lenth stated that he is intrigued about the alternatives. Looking at cost-benefit for how much benefit there is for lakeshore buffers and street sweeping would be beneficial for other areas of the watershed as well. Commissioner Carlson said that he was in agreement.

Council Member Heim responded that when the City of Medicine Lake first looked at the Jevne project, it did not seem there was enough benefit. There has been an ongoing need to do whatever they can to improve stormwater. They worked very closely with S.E.H. as they were redesigning the road and the topic of stormwater came up several times. He appreciated the Commission considering the analysis and redirecting the funds. With the new engineering plan, they know how the water will flow and how the road will perform. There was little opportunity for rain gardens along the road, otherwise they would have done that. They would love to have a study done so they can inform property owners that shoreline restoration could be done on their property. He wondered if rain gardens could be done between the homes to capture water before it gets to the lake.

Vice Chair Welch said that to be clear, what is before the Commission will specifically not include rain gardens because if that was possible, it should have been done in conjunction with the road project and it was determined not to be possible.

There was discussion about raingardens, including noting that there are two types: one is where water can be infiltrated for volume reduction of stormwater and one where the soils are amended such as bioretention ponds. The infiltration type won't work in this area because of poorly drained soils and high ground water. The bioretention basins could potentially work. Commissioner Harwell noted that we are talking about flood reduction and water quality with this project. Raingardens don't provide any flood reduction benefit, so she did not want an extensive study to locate small pockets where rain gardens could be placed. She would like to see a study that shows the best options for flood reduction and water quality.

Vice Chair Welch said that he wants to be clear that our engineer is not looking at rain gardens. We are discussing an item that was previously removed from the scope.

MOTION: Commissioner Harwell moved to authorize the Commission Engineer to develop a scope of work and budget in accordance with the recommendation presented in the Administrator's memo. Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 6-0, with the cities of Minnetonka, Robbinsdale, and St. Louis Park absent from the vote.

A. Consider Approval of 90% Design Plans for Bryn Mawr Meadows Water Quality Improvement Project

Administrator Jester explained that the Commission reviewed the 50% plans for the Bryn Mawr project in January. This project is being built in conjunction with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's (MPRB) redevelopment of Bryn Mawr Meadows Park in the City of Minneapolis. Since the park is being redeveloped, this is an opportunity to capture stormwater that previously flowed untreated into Bassett Creek. In January, the Commission heard that the estimated construction costs had risen considerably. There was discussion about how to pay for this at the last

two meetings. Estimated costs have increased even more since January. The estimated construction cost is now close to \$1.6 million. The Commission Engineers and Administrator continue to recommend approval of the original design for the project. There are some cost reduction options that have been considered. However, they believe it is important to take this opportunity to capture as much stormwater as possible. With the original design, the cost of phosphorus removal is about \$2,500 per pound. Other projects have had higher phosphorus removal costs.

Vice Chair Welch set a framework for discussion to help set expectations from our engineer for what the Commission would like to hear. He is frustrated with the alternatives that are solely based on cost and are not recommended by the engineer. The cost seems to increase every time this item is on the agenda. He would like to hear why the costs continue to increase. He asked if Commissioners had any other information they would like to hear in the review.

Alternate Commissioner McDonald Black asked if this was the new reality in terms of cost. Will we continue to bump up against costs doubling? If that is the case, we can't take the time to rethink every project. To take a project in a fully developed watershed and strip components seems counterproductive.

Commission Engineer Johnson gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the project components including the goals and feasibility study recommendation for the design as presented in the memo. The feasibility study recommended Concept 3, which included two stormwater ponds in the park and two diversion structures in the city right of way. The 50% and 90% design plans reflect the base components of Concept 3.

She highlighted things that have changed since the 50% design plans were approved, including an upsized diversion pipe that increased pollution reduction. The grading around the southern pond was modified as requested by the MPRB. Some of the drainage and equalizer pipes were relocated as well as the northern pond outlet structure.

There is known contamination on the site. Barr Engineering is developing a Response Action Plan (RAP) that will address the needs of the MPRB project as well as the Commission's water quality project. The MPRB is the lead agency in submitting the RAP to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and implementing the RAP.

The 90% cost estimates are approximately \$1.6 million. This includes all the items previously explained. The Commission Engineer has looked at cost estimates submitted for other projects in early 2022. This information, along with standard bid prices, was used to develop the cost estimate. They cannot predict or control what is submitted on bid sheets. They give a range for decision makers, acknowledging that uncertainty remains in the process.

She provided an explanation for the increased costs. There have been significant increases in construction costs over the past three and a half years. The pond footprints and grading require increased excavation. The lack of environmental data within the pond areas requires additional contingency. There have been additional requirements for street work and storm sewer design as the work has progressed. Landscaping around the pond edges was updated to account for pond bounce during establishment.

Vice Chair Welch wanted to focus on what happened between 50% and 90% cost-wise. In particular, it is important to recognize that there are suggestions for project improvement.

Engineer Johnson replied that based on comments from the MPRB and the city, there were design modifications including moving the outlet structure and the 12" pipe. The costs have increased from the 50% to the 90% design stage. Now we are looking at bids from early 2022, which give a better picture of the actual market prices. At the 90% design, the annual estimated phosphorus removal is 37 pounds per year at a cost of \$2,552 per pound. With the cost increases, the estimated phosphorus removal cost is not significantly higher than what was previously estimated. She reviewed the project schedule. Permitting will be done by the MPRB. Estimated 100% plans and specifications will be complete in April, with bidding in April and May.

Vice Chair Welch said there are a couple of points he wanted to make. In the memo on page two, the approved concept would capture and divert stormwater runoff from 45.1 acres of residential area west of Bryn Mawr Meadows Park and low flows that discharge from the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT's) Penn Pond. Stormwater runoff from the residential area currently flows to Bassett Creek untreated. This is an amazing opportunity. We had an estimate of 30 pounds of phosphorus removal. We are going up from that, which is great. At the same time, the cost increases are nerve-wracking. He asked if the approval of the RAP was included in the cost estimate and asked for a status update. Engineer Johnson responded that the RAP is in draft form, once approved by MPRB it will be submitted to MPCA.

It was noted that bidding is currently “all over the map” but that Hennepin County Commissioner Fernando encouraged the Commission to be ambitious.

Engineer Johnson explained that the sanitary sewer project for the City of Minneapolis is currently under construction in the area between where the ponds are planned. Barr Engineering is doing the environmental engineering work for this. The Barr team has been working on the environmental considerations for both projects.

Minneapolis TAC Member Liz Stout said the sanitary sewer alignment was planned in conjunction with the park master plan and the Commission’s water quality project. The designs were planned to work together so the projects could be done within the same footprint.

Alternate Commissioner Polzin asked if the engineers had explored with the MPRB how you can do some sharing or savings or doing things jointly to reduce costs? For example, taking some of the good soils and spreading them on the site rather than hauling them away. Engineer Johnson responded that is a good question and that those conversations are continuing. Because the Commission’s water quality project is further along than the park redesign, we have made conservative cost estimates based on that type of collaboration. We continue to work to identify opportunities for cost savings.

Alternate Commissioner Polzin asked if they were also being conservative with the cost and proportion of the contaminated soils that need to be removed from the site? Engineer Johnson replied that they have done their best to do that. This is an area of uncertainty for our team but they are using the best information we have on the site to inform the estimate. We are assuming about 30% of the soil is contaminated and will be removed from the site. An environmental cost contingency is also included in the estimate should additional excavation be necessary. As part of the RAP, we are recommending collection of additional samples to help inform the project.

MOTION: Vice Chair Welch made a motion to approve the 90% drawings, with no modifications to reduce costs, and authorize the Engineer to continue working with the MPRB and the City of Minneapolis to complete the plans and design documents. Commissioner Harwell seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 6-0, with the cities of Minnetonka, Robbinsdale, and St. Louis Park absent from the vote.

B. Consider Options for Funding Bryn Mawr Meadows Water Quality Treatment Project

Administrator Jester explained that because the Commission approved the 90% plans for the project, that has implications for the 2023 levy. She noted that after speaking with member cities, looking at the closed project account, and all of the cash we need to have on hand to implement current and future projects, not much can be shifted in the current CIP schedule to alleviate the impact on the 2023 budget. She did increase the closed project account from \$800,000 to \$1 million after considering the funding available because some projects came in under budget.

She noted that with the Bryn Mawr Project, the 2023 levy is estimated at \$2.2 million. Vice Chair Welch reminded the Commission that Hennepin County Commissioner Irene Fernando did express her thoughts that the Commission should be ambitious and implement what it needs. It will not be a surprise to Hennepin County Commissioners that costs have risen because they are seeing it in their projects. Administrator Jester noted the Commission is not setting the maximum levy at this meeting; she is simply asking for direction. She noted the TAC will look at the complete five-year CIP at its next meeting and other project budgets will come into focus. It is anticipated that the maximum levy will be set at the May meeting.

Vice Chair Welch recommended that the Commission “stay the course” and proceed with the levy as projected without cutting costs to Bryn Mawr or other projects. He recommended contacting Commissioner Fernando and her aide to inform them about the project status and levy. Commissioner Harwell agreed and noted she hoped the high levy wouldn’t be a big shock and won’t be viewed as the Commission is excessively spending. She noted it helps to have frequent and clear communication.

Alternate Commissioner Polzin said that there are two other significant projects that are going to be included in the 2023 budget. She asked if we have confidence that these numbers are close to what is needed or if they will also be increasing.

Administrator Jester stated that we are fairly certain about the cost projections for the Medicine Lake Road Flood Mitigation Project and the Medley Park Stormwater Treatment Facility and the Lagoon Dredging Project as all projects are between the 50% to 90% design phases. They have been watching costs during design and she noted that costs for these projects will be spread over several years so there’s still an opportunity in 2024 to make up costs

if needed. She feels comfortable with the project levy table as presented. She also noted that communication with Commissioner Fernando does not have to include exact numbers. It can be a heads up explaining that costs are rising and it looks like our levy is going to be considerably higher than it was in 2022. We will see her in person at the Equity in Watershed Management Workshop on April 25. That will be a nice opportunity to touch base with her.

No action needed.

C. Consider Approval of Agreement with Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and City of Minneapolis for Construction of Bryn Mawr Meadows Water Quality Improvement Project

Administrator Jester stated that coming to this agreement has taken a lot of conversation and negotiation with the MPRB and city staff. She noted is slightly different than other CIP reimbursement agreements because the city and MPRB will not be able to cover additional costs above the reimbursement cap.

Commission Attorney Anderson also stated that this is different from other Commission CIP projects. The Commission Engineers are doing more than they normally do. The work is being performed and contracted by both the City of Minneapolis, the Commission, and the MPRB. It provides for reimbursement up to the estimated construction maximum of \$1.6M. It builds in contingencies in case bids are above that amount. There is some flexibility in division of work between the MPRB and the city as it is not exactly known how much work each will be doing. It is expected that the MPRB is doing about 95% of the work through their contractors.

Vice Chair Welch reported that he did discuss this agreement with Administrator Jester and Commission Attorney Anderson. We looked at adding an indemnification for the Commission for site conditions since it is not in the agreement. After discussion, we agreed that it wasn't worth upsetting the process to request this change. He appreciated the work done by our administrator and legal counsel.

MOTION: Commissioner Gwin-Lenth made a motion to authorize the Chair and Secretary of the Commission to execute the Agreement with Minneapolis PRB and City of Minneapolis for Construction of Bryn Mawr Meadows Water Quality Improvement Project. Commissioner Harwell seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 6-0, with the cities of Minnetonka, Robbinsdale, and St. Louis Park absent from the vote.

{A five-minute break was taken.}

E. Consider Recommendations from Administrative Services Committee

Administrator Jester reported the Administrative Services Committee met on March 9th and Commissioner Harwell chaired the meeting.

i. Financial Services Resolution

Vice Chair Welch noted that the Administrative Services Committee recommends adoption of this resolution. Commission Attorney Anderson assisted in drafting the resolution. This was recommended to provide more explicit guidance on roles of the Deputy Treasurer (Sue Virnig with the City of Golden Valley) and the contracted accountants.

MOTION: Commissioner Gwin-Lenth made a motion to adopt Resolution 22-05 Appointing a Deputy Treasurer and Designating Account Access. Alternate Commissioner Vadali seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 6-0, with the cities of Minnetonka, Robbinsdale, and St. Louis Park absent from the vote.

ii. Results of Staff Evaluations

Commissioner Harwell reported that she compiled the survey responses verbatim. The compilation was distributed to the Commission. There were positive responses for Administrator Jester and Barr Engineering. In terms of Administrator Jester, there are concerns about her being overloaded with things to do. She does a really good job with assigned tasks, keeping us on budget, and communication. She is willing to go above and beyond. With so many commissioners leaving, it was noted that Administrator Jester has taken time to walk new and seasoned commissioners through materials and issues that need explanation. Something to consider for the future is a format for orientation and training. For Barr Engineering, everyone is satisfied with work they are doing. There were some comments about invasive species. There were no comments regarding legal counsel.

Vice Chair Welch noted that he and Administrator Jester met to discuss their working relationship. It was a good session. As always, we maintain a robust dialogue that is appreciated. There is no action on this item. We do have an updated administrator contract that is directly related to the evaluation.

iii. Updated Administrator Contract

Vice Chair Welch stated that Administrator Jester needs more time allotted to account for her workload she has in the coming year. Administrator Jester said that her current contract was last amended in 2019. It assumed that she would be working approximately 80 hours a month for the Commission. In the last 14 months, her time for the Commission's general business, has taken closer to 88 hours a month. In addition to that, she will be working on the Watershed Management Plan (WMP) update. That will increase the time she has to spend on Commission business. An hourly rate increase was requested in 2023.

Commissioner Harwell noted her support of the contract amendment.

Vice Chair Welch noted the contract is retroactive to February 1, 2022.

MOTION: Commissioner Gwin-Lenth made a motion to authorize the Chair and Secretary to execute the Administrator Contract as it appears in the memo. Commissioner Welch seconded the motion.

Alternate Commissioner McDonald Black stated that a four percent increase over three years is an incredibly small amount for someone who has done such an incredible job. We have a great team and she is a great leader.

Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 6-0, with the cities of Minnetonka, Robbinsdale, and St. Louis Park absent from the vote.

Administrator Jester said that she and Commission Engineer Chandler appreciate the feedback, even when it is not evaluation time. We are happy to hear from Commissioners and we like to keep the lines of communication open. If the Commissioners have questions or need more information, please reach out to either of them at any time. She is very happy to work for this organization and feels she has the best job in town.

Commission Engineer Chandler noted she feels like we have great synergy and thanked the Commission for the opportunity to continue working with Administrator Jester and them.

Vice Chair Welch responded that we owe it to our Administrator, Engineer, and Legal Counsel to give them substantive feedback. The Commissioners two most important jobs are to read the information provided and to ask questions. As Commissioners, give our Administrator and Engineer a heads up on what you are thinking. If they know questions in advance, we will get better answers.

iv. Return to In Person Meetings

Commissioner Harwell explained that it seems we are entering a different phase of COVID. The question is whether to hold virtual meetings versus in-person. There are benefits to both.

Vice Chair Welch noted that the reality is we are having our workshop in-person on April 25. The immediate question is, do we have our April meeting at Brookview? The hybrid option is not viable. He was curious what legal counsel's other clients are doing.

Administrator Jester recommended that the Commission return to in-person meetings starting on April 21. She noted the room at Brookview is large. She checked with Chair Cesnik and she is comfortable going back to in-person meetings.

Commission Attorney Anderson said that the Commission has done a good job discussing this and getting perspectives from the entire group. It is a Chair decision, as that is what the statute provides. He thought it was important that everyone provides their input. The majority of his and the firm's municipal clients are trending toward in-person in April and/or May. The only legal basis to remain in remote fashion is that we are in a health pandemic. That is clearly heading in the other direction. From a legal standpoint, moving to in-person in April is a good idea. The hybrid option would be for consultants and guests to join, not Commissioners. He is fully supportive of Administrator Jester's recommendation.

Vice Chair Welch stated that he believes there are benefits to the hybrid option but there are also challenges. If we can accommodate attendance remotely, it would allow consultants to make presentations and the public to attend.

Commissioners offered their thoughts on in-person meetings vs. virtual meetings including comments from Commissioners Gwin-Lenth, Vadali, Harwell, and Kennedy. It was noted that the MN Dept. of Health continues recommending mask wearing and that cases are actually rising slightly in the U.S. and in Europe. The U of M no longer requires masks except in labs and lecture halls. It was noted that mask wearing at meetings should be recommended and that seats are appropriately spaced and that commissioners and others not feeling well should not attend the meeting.

Vice Chair Welch stated that in order to have our April meeting in-person, Chair Cesnik will need to withdraw her resolution declaring a pandemic and requiring us to meet virtually.

Vice Chair Welch stated that it would be left to the Chair's discretion, and she should work with Administrator Jester to make a statement about masking for the meeting. The consensus was that the Commission should return to in-person meetings.

v. Joint Powers Agreement

Vice Chair Welch explained that the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) will be critical in charting a path for the next 10 years in implementing the 2025 Watershed Management Plan (WMP). The committee thought it would be a good idea for Commission Attorney Anderson to provide a layman's review and presentation on what the JPA is, how it works, what it says we can and cannot do.

Commissioner Harwell replied that a presentation is a good idea. If there is a presentation, it should be in a user-friendly format that can be posted on the website. It would be useful, and another effort at transparency, for residents to understand how the Commission operates. Administrator Jester said this would be helpful and added to a Commission agenda. It could also be wrapped into an upcoming Plan Commission workshop on the WMP.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Administrative Report

Administrator Jester reiterated that the Equity in Watershed Management Workshop will be held on April 25 at the Crystal Community Center. She gave an overview of the agenda. A flyer/invitation will be distributed soon. Regarding the WMP development, the notification letter will be sent to plan reviewers in April. She is developing the outreach plan which will be on the April agenda for review and approval.

The Commission received a grant of \$10,000 from the Department of Natural Resources for curly leaf pondweed management in Medicine Lake.

The limited liability for chloride legislation bill continues to move through both the House and Senate committees. Given the Commission's interest in this and direction to support, she has signed on to two letters of support.

Vice Chair Welch said that the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) Legislative Days were held last night and today. There are advocates for this legislation that are supporting the effort.

B. Chair

No report was given.

C. Commissioners

No reports were given.

D. TAC Members

TAC meeting coming up on March 18. Golden Valley TAC Member Eckman reported on the in-person Medley Park Project open house on March 3. Over 600 letters were sent to residents but only five attendees and a few comments, mostly on park amenities like trails and benches.

E. Committees

The budget committee is meeting in-person on March 30. Administrator Jester is trying to schedule an education committee meeting.

F. Legal Counsel

Commission Attorney Anderson stated that the Declaration of Pandemic statement should be withdrawn at least three days before the committee meeting to ensure the public notice requirements for posting are met.

G. Engineer

Commission Engineer Chandler pointed out that there is a walking tour highlighting Bassett Creek projects on April 28. She encouraged Commissioners to attend. Registration is required. It is a free event. Engineer Chandler will be attending the event at no charge to the Commission. Administrator Jester will also attend.

7. INFORMATION ONLY (Information online only)

- A. BCWMC Administrative Calendar
- B. CIP Project Updates <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects>
- C. Grant Tracking Summary and Spreadsheet
- D. 2025 Watershed Management Plan Scope and Budget – Final Document
- E. MN Stormwater Committee Bassett Creek Walking Tour Flyer
- F. Blue Thumb Workshops - [Resilient Yards and Pollinator Yards](#)
- G. WCA Notice of Decision, Golden Valley

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Commissioner Jere Gwin-Lenth made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. Commissioner Harwell seconded the motion. Administrator Jester thanked Commissioner Crough for his service on the Commission. The Commission appreciates his attendance and input over the years.

Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 6-0, with the cities of Minnetonka, Robbinsdale, and St. Louis Park absent from the vote.