



## Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

### MEMO

To: BCWMC Commissioners  
From: Laura Jester, Administrator  
Date: August 7, 2019

**RE: BCWMC Monitoring Program Review: Workshop vs. Committee vs. TAC**

The BCWMC has a robust water monitoring program to determine and track the health of its priority waterbodies. The monitoring program can be found in [Appendix A](#) of the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Plan. Every March and April as the Commission develops its operating budget for the following year, one of the items that gets a lot of discussion is the water monitoring budget. Monitoring - including water quality, water quantity, and WOMP (watershed outlet monitoring program) station monitoring - is one of the biggest expenses for the Commission, this year comprising almost 16% or \$108,500 of the operating budget.

Therefore, it makes sense to check-in every so often to make sure the Commission has appropriate goals for its monitoring program and that those goals are being met without unnecessary effort and expense.

This is complex issue due to the number of partners performing monitoring in the area (TRPD, MPRB, MPCA, MnDNR, Met Council, Hennepin County, cities) and the wide variety in the types of monitoring being performed including:

- Lake water quality
- Lake vegetation
- Lake phytoplankton/zooplankton
- Lake levels
- Stream water quality
- Stream flows
- Stream macroinvertebrates and habitat
- WOMP
- Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP)
- Wetland Health Evaluation Program (WHEP)
- Groundwater (by other agencies)
- Fish bioassessments (MnDNR)
- MPCA 10-year monitoring and assessments

Staff recommends that the Commission review its monitoring program between now and March 2020 (so that it can inform the 2021 budget). The goals of the review include:

1. Learning the history of the BCWMC monitoring program and how and why it changed over time
2. Articulating specific monitoring goals for the BCWMC monitoring program
3. Gaining a better understanding of all the monitoring taking place in the watershed
4. Determining if there are gaps in the data collection
5. Learning about how other watersheds are monitoring (their goals and practices)
6. Learning if there are alternatives to our current monitoring techniques
7. Determining the right level of BCWMC monitoring including parameters and frequency

There are several different ways the Commission can perform this review:

1. Hold one 3-hour workshop for the whole Commission with a brief overview of current programs, development of monitoring goals, and determination of appropriate methods to reach the goals.
2. Form a committee of commissioners/alternate commissioners, TAC members, partners (similar to the APM/AIS committee) with an estimated three 2-hour meetings to review the information in more depth.
3. Request that the TAC review the BCWMC monitoring program and present a report and recommendations to the Commission during a regular meeting.