



Item 7C.
BCWMC 12-17-15

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Ms. Rebecca Rice
Metro Blooms
310 East 38th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55409

Dear Ms. Rice,

The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) fully supports the EPA Urban Small Waters grant application by Metro Blooms for the Northside Neighborhood Engagement and Opportunities for Participation in Clean Water Initiatives.

This project would result in improved water quality in Bassett Creek and would engage residents in understanding and caring for the creek in their community. Bassett Creek is an important natural resource in Minneapolis and the BCWMC has classified it as a high priority (Priority 1) waterbody in its 2015 Watershed Management Plan. While the BCWMC works to implement large projects that improve water quality throughout the watershed, the work of protecting and improving the creek cannot rest with one organization or group. It takes the collaborative effort of multiple groups and the cooperation of residents to improve water quality because the everyday activities of homeowners have a significant effect on the health of the creek.

For this reason, it's imperative that the community come to understand the resource in their neighborhood, their effects on water quality, and ways in which they can positively impact the creek. The program proposed by Metro Blooms brings together all of the important elements for a successful program with goals that align perfectly with those of the BCWMC.

The BCWMC will provide logistical and marketing support by assisting with developing marketing materials and recruiting participants, and will provide water quality and quantity data, as needed. Additionally, the BCWMC's 2016 budget includes \$3,000 earmarked for Metro Blooms projects. All or part of these funds may be utilized by Metro Blooms as matching funds for this grant.

Good luck with the project proposal as it moves forward. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with you on projects that engage watershed residents in improving water quality and caring for natural resources in their community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Jester".

Laura Jester, Administrator
Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission