



Item 5G.
BCWMC 4-21-16

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

April 10, 2016

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 Metro Blooms for the Northside Neighborhood Engagement and Opportunities 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 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.

At their December 17, 2015 meeting, the Board of Commissioners of the BCWMC voted to support the project with financial and in-kind support. In their discussion at the meeting, Commissioners expressed strong support, recognizing this project's potential to improve Bassett Creek water quality, increase environmental awareness, and engage and train youth in this highly underserved community.

The BCWMC's 2016 budget includes \$4,000 as cash match for this project. The BCWMC will provide additional in-kind support and can also provide water quality and quantity data and other technical assistance to help implement and evaluate the project.

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. If you have questions or would like to discuss BCWMC's involvement further, please contact me at 952-270-1990 or laura.jester@keystonewaters.com.

Sincerely,

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

Laura Jester, Administrator