



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

MEMO

Date: November 8, 2016
From: Laura Jester, Administrator
To: BCWMC Commissioners
RE: **Administrator's Report**

Aside from this month's agenda items, the Commission Engineers, city staff, committee members, and I continue to work on the following Commission projects and issues.

CIP Projects (more resources at <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects.>)

2017 Plymouth Creek Restoration Project, Annapolis Lane to 2,500 feet Upstream (2017CR-P): The final feasibility study is now available online at <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=284>. The Hennepin County Board approved the 2017 maximum levy request at their meeting on July 28th. Applications for a [Clean Water Fund grant](#) and a [Hennepin County Opportunity Grant](#) were submitted in August and September, respectively. At the September meeting, the Commission held a public hearing on the project and adopted a resolution ordering the project and certifying a final levy to Hennepin County. Also at that meeting, the Commission entered an agreement with the City of Plymouth to design and construct the project. At their meeting on October 11th, the city council approved the agreement. City staff will develop an RFP in the coming weeks for implementation and expects project design to occur over the winter.

2017 Main Stem Bassett Creek Streambank Erosion Repair Project (2017CR-M) (See Item 8C): The feasibility study for this project was approved at the April Commission meeting and the final document is available on the project page at: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=281>. A Response Action Plan to address contaminated soils in the project area was completed by Barr Engineering with funding from Hennepin County and was reviewed and approved by the MPCA. The County Board approved the 2017 maximum levy request at their meeting on July 28th. At the September meeting, the Commission held a public hearing on the project and adopted a resolution ordering the project and certifying a final levy to Hennepin County. Also at that meeting, the Commission entered an agreement with the City of Minneapolis to design and construct the project. The Commission recently submitted an Environmental Response Fund grant application to Hennepin County to help fund the environmental response for the project.

2013 Four Season Area Water Quality Project (NL-2): Since November 2015, the City of Plymouth has considered different options for this area including the original stream restoration, using only rock to stabilize the channel, and a flocculation facility. The City received comments on these options at a public meeting in January. Recently, a developer has proposed a redevelopment project (Agora) for the site that includes several innovative stormwater management features for the site. At their meeting in August, Commissioners received a presentation from Solution Blue and considered the developer's request for a partnership with the BCWMC to share in the cost of stormwater management that goes above and beyond the requirements. The developer recently submitted a complete development application to the City which will be reviewed by the city and then by the BCWMC. City staff are also analyzing alternate water quality improvement projects in the area. We anticipate a presentation of these projects to be presented at the December meeting in conjunction with further information about partnering opportunities between Agora and the Commission.

2014 Schaper Pond Diversion Project, Golden Valley (SL-3): In August, the Commission Engineer reported that the structure had been vandalized and repair was needed. The City and the Commission Engineer are in the process of working with Sunram Construction (the contractor for the project) on a change order to add weights to some of the baffle anchors. The weights will provide more support against wind loading on the baffle. The contractor performed more seeding in the two access areas, which improved vegetation coverage, but more coverage is required to achieve final stabilization. Erosion control will be pulled once the final stabilization is completed.

2014 Twin Lake In-lake Alum Treatment, Golden Valley (TW-2): NO UPDATE SINCE MAY: At their March 2015 meeting, the Commission approved the project specifications and directed the city to finalize specifications and solicit bids for the project. The contract was awarded to HAB Aquatic Solutions. The alum treatment spanned two days: May 18- 19, 2015 with 15,070 gallons being applied. Water temperatures and water pH stayed within the desired ranges for the treatment. Early transparency data from before and after the treatment indicates a change in Secchi depth from 1.2 meters before the treatment to 4.8 meters on May 20th. There were no complaints or comments from residents during or since the treatment. Water monitoring continues to determine if and when a second alum treatment is necessary.

2015 Main Stem Restoration Project 10th Avenue to Duluth Street, Golden Valley (2015CR): The restoration project is being constructed in two phases, each under separate contract. Phase one includes stream bank shaping, placement of field stone rock and 12-inch bio-logs, and repair of storm sewer outlets. The first phase of the project began in November 2015 and was finished in June 2016. Turf establishment and minor restoration repairs in Phase 1 were accepted in late October.

The City assessed the condition of the bank stabilization practices following the large rain events in July and August and found a handful of isolated areas where rocks and bio-logs were displaced enough where repairs are necessary. Repairs are scheduled for early December, weather dependent. It is anticipated that the project will enter the one-year warranty period following the completion of these repairs.

Phase two of the project includes the establishment of native vegetation along the stream, including grasses, wildflowers, shrubs, live stakes and fascines, and cordgrass plugs. The second phase of the contract, Native Buffer Vegetation installation is underway. The project has been seeded and stabilized and maintenance mowing and spot treatments have been completed. Applied Ecological Services (AES) will complete the tree and shrub planting in spring 2017 and will continue to monitor and maintain the native vegetation through 2018. It is anticipated that the total contract amount for both Phase one and Phase two will be within the Watershed's overall project budget.

2016 Northwood Lake Improvement Project, New Hope (NL-1): Construction on this project began this spring. Photos and construction progress are available at: <http://www.ci.new-hope.mn.us/departments/publicworks/2016infrastructure.shtml>

Northwood Lake Improvement Project is nearing completion with all major work complete. Minor punch list items remain and the tank will be left dry until next spring when it is started up for the season.

- The storm tank is complete, along with all pretreatment structures.
- The overflow rain gardens are complete and functional and planted, minor work remains on a clogged drain tile pipe in one rain garden bed.
- The irrigation box was installed Monday 11/7.
- Mulch and seed have been installed across the entire site and grass is established. The park was opened to the public the week of 10/24. The official park opening event will be held Spring of 2017.

- Jordan Pond and the overflow structure to Basset Creek at 169 is complete and established. Trees were planted to help screen neighboring properties.

2016 Honeywell Pond Expansion Project, Golden Valley (BC-4): Design plans for this project were approved by the Commission in November 2015. This spring, the Honeywell Pond Project was bid as part of the City of Golden Valley and Hennepin County's Douglas Drive (CSAH 102) Reconstruction Project. The reconstruction project began in June. To date, the contractor has cleared and graded the area near Douglas Drive and completed temporary stabilization. The diversion structure and outlet pipes have been constructed from the pond to the street. The force main work is scheduled to be constructed in November/December of this year with the lift station, controls, and irrigation system being installed later. It is anticipated that the excavation and expansion of the pond will begin after January 1, 2017 depending on weather conditions.

2018 Bassett Creek Park Pond & Winnetka Pond Dredging, Crystal (BCP-2): At their July meeting the Commission approved a [proposal](#) from the Commission Engineer to complete the feasibility study which is now underway. The field investigations are complete, including bathymetric surveys, wetland delineations, and sediment sampling. Winnetka Pond West was dropped from further investigation when review of the bathymetric survey data indicated very little sediment accumulation. Sediment sample results indicate that all material at Winnetka Pond East is Level 1, indicating the excavated sediment can be reused at most sites. One sample at Bassett Creek Park Pond is a Level 2 and three samples are Level 1, which indicates limitations to reuse of the excavated sediment. The wetland delineation report is underway. The next steps include a comparison of previous survey or as-built data to the recently completed bathymetric survey to estimate sediment excavation volumes. This, along with sediment sample results and the wetland delineations will be used to develop project options and concept plans. During this time, a meeting will be held with stakeholders, including BCWMC staff, city staff, USACE, MN DNR, and MPCA to review permit requirements and discuss concept alternatives.

Other Projects

Education Tasks: I took time to review the Blake School's project to photograph and describe four BCWMC CIP projects and will soon be in contact with Blake's Communication Department to submit a joint press release on the project.

Dawn Pape, a.k.a. the Lawn Chair Gardener, continues to write monthly article for local papers and is now a guest columnist with Lakeshore Weekly News on behalf of the BCWMC. She also continues to develop new BCWMC educational displays and is managing BCWMC's social media. I continue to participate in the West Metro Water Alliance consortium at their monthly meetings.

I recently attended two Watershed Partners meetings to learn how to utilize their Clean Water MN media campaign materials including blog posts (which can be used as press releases), social media posts, and their new website. The BCWMC is a member of the Watershed Partners, contributing approximately \$3,500 per year to the media campaign. The Commission should take advantage of the material created by professionals.

Hennepin County Natural Resources Partnership: I attended the meeting of this group on August 23rd and participated in a workshop to "envision the future of environmental education for youth." I plan to continue regular attendance at these meetings held about every other month to connect with other watersheds, agencies, cities, and environmental organizations.