



## Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

### MEMO

Date: January 11, 2017  
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 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 28<sup>th</sup>. 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 11<sup>th</sup>, the city council approved the agreement. The BCWMC recently received a \$400,000 Clean Water Fund grant from BWSR for this project. A work plan for the grant will be developed soon. Also, Hennepin County staff reported their recommendation to the County Board to provide a \$50,000 opportunity grant for the project. The County Board is expected to approve that recommendation this month. A request for proposals was developed and distributed by the City to design and construct the project; proposals are due January 13<sup>th</sup>. The project will be designed in the next few months, with construction likely next winter.

**2017 Main Stem Bassett Creek Streambank Erosion Repair Project (2017CR-M):** 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 28<sup>th</sup>. 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 was recently informed that the Environmental Response Fund grant application to Hennepin County for \$150,300 is recommended for approval by staff to the County Board. Board approval is expected this month.

**2013 Four Season Area Water Quality Project (NL-2) (See Item 5D):** 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 December, the Commission took action to contribute up to \$830,000 of Four Seasons CIP funds for stormwater management at the Agora development. An agreement for construction is expected to be presented at the February meeting.

**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 executed a change order with Sunram

Construction (the contractor for the project) to add weights to some of the baffle anchors. The weights will provide more support against wind loading on the baffle. Ice formed on the pond before the contractor could perform the work. It is expected that the contractor will add the weights soon after ice-out, which would allow some time to observe how the system/baffle functions before the Schaper Pond monitoring project begins in June. 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 removed once the final stabilization is completed.

**2014 Twin Lake In-lake Alum Treatment, Golden Valley (TW-2):** 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. Lake monitoring this summer will help determine if a second dose of alum is needed to retain water quality.

**2015 Main Stem Restoration Project 10th Avenue to Duluth Street, Golden Valley (2015CR) (See Item 4D):** Aside from a reimbursement request from Golden Valley (Item 4D), there are no changes since the November report: 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):** No update since November. A final reimbursement request and final report are expected at the February meeting. 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 in November.

- Mulch and seed were installed across the entire site and grass is established. The park was opened to the public in October. The official park opening event will be held spring of 2017.
- Jordan Pond and the overflow structure to Basset Creek at Hwy 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. In spring 2016, 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 2016. To date, the contractor has cleared and graded the area near Douglas Drive and completed temporary stabilization. The diversion structure and outlet pipes were constructed from the pond to the street. Dewatering and excavation of the pond began recently and will continue for the next several weeks. It is expected that work on the water reuse system will begin next week.

**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 type and boundary report was recently completed and approved. A technical stakeholder/permitting agency meeting is scheduled for January 17<sup>th</sup> and will include BCWMC staff, city staff, USACE, MN DNR, and MPCA. BCWMC and city staff will also begin planning a public input/open house meeting for residents.

## Other Projects

### Education Tasks:

I recently met with Dawn Pape, a.k.a. the Lawn Chair Gardener, to receive and review the new educational display materials she created. These will be presented at the February meeting along with a proposal for Dawn to continue coordinating some of the Commission's outreach efforts and communications

I continue to participate in the West Metro Water Alliance consortium at their monthly meetings, including gathering and editing articles for their quarterly electronic newsletter. I will also help WMWA coordinate with native plant growers to help promote the organization's Pledge to Plant campaign.

### Additional Activities:

I spent time preparing for and attending a meeting on the Agora development and preparing for and coordinating the Bassett Creek Park Pond Dredging Project. I also prepared the first draft of the AIS prevention grant, drafted and submitted the solicitation for legal and technical services, developed a webpage for the Bassett Creek Park Pond Dredging Project, communicated with the new Plymouth commissioners, and worked with the Commission Engineer to plan for 2017 activities.