



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

MEMO

Date: March 8, 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) (See items 4F and 4G): 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 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 Plymouth to design and construct the project. At their meeting on October 11th, the city council approved the agreement. The BCWMC recently received a \$400,000 Clean Water Fund grant from BWSR and a \$50,000 Opportunity Grant from Hennepin County for this project. Agreements are ready for execution (Items 4F and 4G) and workplans for the CWF grant is near completion. Subgrant agreements with the City will be developed. The City contracted with Wenck Associates to design the project. Surveys and tree inventories were recently completed. The project is slated for construction next winter.

2017 Main Stem Bassett Creek Streambank Erosion Repair Project (2017CR-M)(See Item 4E): 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 was awarded an Environmental Response Fund grant from Hennepin County for \$150,300. A grant agreement is ready for execution (see Item 4E). A subgrant agreement with the City will be developed. The City recently received a proposal from Barr Engineering to design and construct the project.

2013 Four Season Area Water Quality Project (NL-2): 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 on the old Four Seasons Mall location. At their January 2017 meeting, the Commission took action directing staff to enter an agreement directly with the developer, Rock Hill Management. At their February meeting the Commission approved an agreement with Rock Hill Management and an agreement with the City of Plymouth allowing the developer access to a city-owned parcel to construct a wetland restoration project and to ensure ongoing maintenance of the CIP project components.

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. The contractor performed more seeding in the two access areas, which improved vegetation coverage, but more coverage is required to achieve final stabilization. The contractor will be onsite after ice out to add weights to the baffle anchors and complete final establishment of seed later this year. Erosion control will be removed once the final stabilization is completed. Effectiveness monitoring by the Commission Engineer will begin in June.

2014 Twin Lake In-lake Alum Treatment, Golden Valley (TW-2): (No update since January.) 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): (No updates since January.) 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. The repairs were completed and accepted in mid-December and therefore the Phase 1 construction project has entered the warranty period.

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): 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.

Grant reports were recently submitted to the MPCA and BWSR. Commission Administrator and city staff met with BWSR staff in late February for a Clean Water Fund grant reconciliation meeting. All information was accepted and approved by BWSR. A grand opening of the park is scheduled for the evening of May 15th. Friends of Northwood Lake will disseminate water quality educational materials, including BCWMC materials.

2016 Honeywell Pond Expansion Project, Golden Valley (BC-4): No update since January. 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. Excavation of the pond basin is complete and the disturbed soils around the pond were temporarily stabilized. The contractor will finish installation of the storm sewer and install the pumps for the water reuse system. Final grading and stabilization will be completed later this year.

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 was held January 17th. A public open house for the project was held the on February 16th. Over 19 residents attended the open house. There were no objections to the project, just questions about the timing of construction and the trail closures, etc. Two residents did voice concerns about the deterioration of Winnetka Pond overtime and the condition of the creek downstream of that pond after large rains. The Commission Engineer continues to work on the feasibility study; a draft study will be presented at the April Commission meeting.

Other Work

Agora Development:

- Worked through various iterations of the agreements with Rock Hill Management and the City of Plymouth for the Agora development
- Attended a meeting with Commission Engineer and Solution Blue staff to review Commission comments on development plans and discuss the wetland restoration project
- Gathered signatures on agreements

Committee Meetings:

- Prepared draft 5-year CIP and Channel Maintenance Fund memo for March TAC meeting
- Gathered technical and policy-related questions/issues regarding XP-SWMM model for discussion at TAC meeting
- Coordinated individual city meetings to review XP-SWMM model with Commission Engineer
- Prepared Administrator recommendations for education spending for Education Committee meeting
- Attended TAC meeting and Education Committee Meeting

- Scheduled Budget Committee meeting, April Education Committee meeting, May TAC meeting

Volunteers and Education:

- Gathered information on events in need of volunteers
- Gathered volunteers for Plymouth Home Expo and St. Louis Park Rain Barrel Distribution
- Contacted past CAMP volunteers, solicited new volunteers where needed
- Coordinated with Hennepin County to get renewed River Watch contract
- Instructed contractor on news article posting on BCWMC website

Other Meetings:

- Attended Blue Line LRT meeting
- Discussed regional water issues with Met Council staff at their request to gather information from watershed organizations
- Met with new Hennepin County Land and Water Supervisor to review BCWMC work, policies, CIP, etc.

In the next month:

- Attend Clean Water Fund Grant training: March 14th
- Coordinate with Plymouth and Three Rivers Park District for curlyleaf pondweed treatment, Medicine Lake
- Develop 2016 Annual Report
- Prepare invoice to Blue Line LRT
- Finalize grant tracking spreadsheet at auditor's request
- Schedule APM/AIS meeting
- Post 2016 water quality reports online and update online graphs