



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

MEMO

Date: May 10, 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 and project information are available online at <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=284>. The BCWMC recently executed agreements with the BWSR for a \$400,000 Clean Water Fund grant and with Hennepin County for a \$50,000 Opportunity Grant. A subgrant agreement with the City will be developed and executed. Project design is underway through a contract between the City and Wenck Associates. The City will soon apply for permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Natural Resources. Sixty-percent designs will be reviewed by the Commission Engineer and presented at the June Commission meeting. The project is slated for construction next winter.

2017 Main Stem Bassett Creek Streambank Erosion Repair Project (2017CR-M): (No update since March) 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 and a grant agreement being. 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/Agora Development (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 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. The developer recently submitted plans for the wetland restoration portion of the project to the Commission Engineer for review. These plans are slated for presentation at the June Commission meeting. At this time, the development parcel has not yet been sold to Rock Hill Management.

2014 Schaper Pond Diversion Project, Golden Valley (SL-3): Last 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 last fall. 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 returned to the site in Mid-April to reinstall baffle anchors. The contractor also added weights to the baffle anchors to hold them in place in windy conditions. Staff will continue to monitor the baffle and anchors to ensure that they stay in place. The contractor has some final vegetation establishment to complete before the contract can be closed. Erosion control will be removed once the final stabilization is completed. Effectiveness monitoring by the Commission Engineer will begin soon.

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): The restoration project is being constructed in two phases, each under separate contract. Phase one included 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 2016. Repairs to some areas where flooding impacted rocks or biologs were completed and accepted in mid-December 2016. Phase 1 of the construction project has entered the warranty period.

Phase 2 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) has installed live stakes and fascines this spring. Shrubs and trees will be planted later this month. The contractor also will touch up some areas that were damaged by high water and ice over the winter and will replace erosion control blanket where needed. AES 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): Northwood Lake Improvement Project is nearing completion with all major work complete. The storm water tank was fully operational as of yesterday and will be irrigating the fields for the summer. The educational sign is being designed and will be installed within the next two months. Grading and seed touch ups will occur over the next month. The 2nd rain garden will be planted with the fescue grass this month.

Grant reporting is up to date although I need to perform a grant audit with MPCA per the grant agreement. 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. At a Friends of Northwood Lake annual meeting last week, Hennepin County Commissioner Opat mentioned the project and indicated it was a good example of a partnership.

Photos and construction progress are available at: <http://www.ci.new-hope.mn.us/departments/publicworks/2016infrastructure.shtml>

2016 Honeywell Pond Expansion Project, Golden Valley (BC-4): 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 next month. Final grading and stabilization will also be completed within the next month.

2018 Bassett Creek Park Pond & Winnetka Pond Dredging, Crystal (BCP-2) (See Items 6A and 6B): A feasibility study for this project has been underway since last August. A technical stakeholder/permitting agency meeting was held January 17th. A public open house for the project was held on February 16th with over 19 residents in attendance. The Commission Engineer attended a Crystal City Council workshop on April 13th and the Commission discussed the draft feasibility report and heard staff and city recommendations at their April 2017 meeting. The final feasibility study will be presented at this meeting. The Commission also needs to approve a maximum levy amount for this project at this meeting.

Other Work

Financial:

- Posted 2016 financial audit online
- Continued to refine the 2018 proposed operating budget
- Received pay year 2017 taxable market value and updated assessment table
- Prepared for and attended April 24th Budget Committee meeting
- Prepared committee recommendations for this meeting

Volunteers and Education:

- Gathered additional information and estimated costs for various educational programming ideas for committee consideration
- Prepared for and attended April 24th Education Committee meeting
- Prepared committee recommendations for this meeting
- Sent email to Commissioners with upcoming events and volunteer opportunities
- Delivered education materials to Metro Blooms for use at Earth Day clean up event
- Gathered, edited and submitted newsletter articles for WMWA spring newsletter

Curly-leaf Pondweed Control on Medicine Lake:

- Executed contract with PLM Lake and Land Management
- Coordinated with DNR to submit final requirements to receive herbicide application permit
- Received daily updates from PLM on water temperature and plans/timing of herbicide treatment

Other Activities:

- Prepared agenda and meeting materials for May 4th TAC meeting; attended meeting, drafted TAC recommendations, submitted draft recommendations to TAC members for review and comment
- Fielded phone calls and emails from residents (and coordinated with appropriate city) about high water conditions, possible blue green algae, activities near Fruen Mill, etc.
- Fielded phone calls from developers with questions about project review process and fees