



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

MEMO

Date: December 13, 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.>)

2019 Medicine Lake Road and Winnetka Avenue Area Long Term Flood Mitigation Plan Implementation Phase I: DeCola Ponds B & C Improvement Project (BC-2, BC-3 & BC-8), Golden Valley: At their meetings in September and October, the Commission approved a proposal and additional proposed actions (respectively) from the Commission Engineer to complete a feasibility study for this project. Feasibility study field work began in late September. A project kick-off meeting was held October 6th, a public open house was held November 9th, and a meeting with permitting agencies was held December 8th. The Commission Engineer submitted the workplan to the MPCA related to the environmental investigation, documentation, and reporting tasks, including the participation in the VIC program. City staff continue to communicate with Dover Hills Apartment property manager about the easement adjacent to Pond B and possible uses within the easement. Project website: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=433>

2019 Bryn Mawr Meadows Water Quality Improvement Project (BC-5), Minneapolis: At their meeting in September, the Commission approved a proposal from the Commission Engineer to complete a feasibility study for this project. A project kick-off meeting was held on October 23rd. Preliminary concepts were developed. The development and implementation of the project will coincide nicely with the MPRB's planning and implementation of significant improvements and redevelopment of Bassett Creek Park where the project will be located. Project website: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/bryn-mawr-meadows-water-quality-improvement-project>

2019 Westwood Lake Water Quality Improvement Project (WST-2), St. Louis Park: At their meeting in September, the Commission approved a proposal from the Commission Engineer to complete a feasibility study for this project. The project will be completed in conjunction with the Westwood Hills Nature Center reconstruction project. A kick-off meeting was held November 21st. Project website: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/westwood-lake-water-quality-improvement-project>

2018 Bassett Creek Park Pond Phase I Dredging Project: Winnetka Pond, Crystal (BCP-2) (No change since November): The final feasibility study for this project was approved at the May 2017 meeting and is now available on the project page online at <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=403>. Hennepin County Commissioners approved the 2018 maximum levy request for this project and will consider the final levy request at their meeting in November. At the September 2017 meeting, the Commission held a public hearing on the project and adopted a resolution officially ordering the project, certifying costs to Hennepin County, and entering an agreement with the City of Crystal for design and construction. The City is hiring Barr Engineering to design the project which will get underway this winter.

2017 Plymouth Creek Restoration Project, Annapolis Lane to 2,500 feet Upstream (2017CR-P): All project documents including the feasibility study and 90% design plans are available online at <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=284>. The BCWMC executed agreements with the BWSR for a

\$400,000 Clean Water Fund grant and with Hennepin County for a \$50,000 Opportunity Grant and a subgrant agreement with the City was executed. Project design was recently completed by the city's contractor, Wenck Associates, with 60% and 90% design plans being approved by the Commission at the April and August 2017 meetings, respectively. Plymouth City Council awarded a construction contract earlier this month and construction got underway on December 11th. Landowners adjacent and their attorney continued to communicate with Plymouth City Council members and staff, BCWMC Commissioners, and me about their objections to the project. No legal action has been taken to date and the project continues to move forward.

2017 Main Stem Bassett Creek Streambank Erosion Repair Project (2017CR-M) (No change since October): 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 Commission was awarded an Environmental Response Fund grant from Hennepin County for \$150,300 and a grant agreement is in the process of being signed by the county. A subgrant agreement with the City will be developed. The City hired Barr Engineering to design and construct the project. Fifty-percent and 90% designs were approved at the August and October Commission meetings, respectively. In September, design plans were presented by Commission and city staff to the Harrison Neighborhood Association's Glenwood Revitalization Team committee and through a public open house on the project.

2016 Northwood Lake Improvement Project, New Hope (NL-1): (No change since August.) Northwood Lake Improvement Project is nearing completion with all major work complete. The storm water tank was fully operational in June and will be irrigating the fields for the summer. The educational sign is being designed and will be installed soon. The 2nd rain garden was planted with the fescue grass in June.

I recently submitted grant audit materials to MPCA which were approved. A grand opening of the park was held on May 15th. Friends of Northwood Lake disseminated water quality educational materials, including BCWMC materials. A semi-annual grant report was submitted to the MPCA in July.

2016 Honeywell Pond Expansion Project, Golden Valley (BC-4) (No change since October): 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 force main work was recently completed. The lift station and pumps have been installed and will be connected to the Sandburg Athletic complex this fall. Park Construction is working with Excel Energy to complete the final connection of power to the lift station. Final stabilization of the pond is set to be completed later this month. The area will be seeded with a mix of natives including wetland and upland species.

2015 Main Stem Restoration Project 10th Avenue to Duluth Street, Golden Valley (2015CR) (No change since October): 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 project has been seeded and stabilized and maintenance mowing and spot treatments have been completed. Applied Ecological Services (AES) installed live stakes and fascines this spring and completed the tree and shrub planting along the restoration project. 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.

2014 Schaper Pond Diversion Project, Golden Valley (SL-3) (No change since October): Last August (2016), the Commission Engineer reported that the structure had been vandalized and repair was needed. The City executed a change order with Sunram Construction to add weights to some of the baffle anchors; which was accomplished this spring. After another anchor pulled out earlier this year, the City's utility department added 200 pounds to the remaining anchors and replaced and reinstalled the anchor that had pulled out. The city continues to monitor the baffle and check the anchors. Vegetation around the pond was planted last year. Final inspection of the vegetation will be completed this fall to see if there is any necessary action needed from the contractor. Once final vegetation has been completed, erosion control will be pulled and the contract will be closed. This summer, the Commission Engineer began monitoring the effectiveness of the pond.

2014 Twin Lake In-lake Alum Treatment, Golden Valley (TW-2): (No change since January 2017) 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.

2013 Four Season Area Water Quality Project/Agora Development (NL-2) (No change since August): At their meeting in December 2016, 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 2017 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. At the August 2017 meeting, the Commission approved the 90% design plans for the CIP portion of the project.

Other Work

CIP Project Work and Technical Assistance

- Attended DeCola Ponds Improvement Project public open house and agency permitting meeting
- Corresponded with multiple partners and staff about zebra mussels in Medicine Lake and possible next steps and attended meeting with Commission Engineers and Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center staff
- Corresponded with Plymouth staff, Commission attorney, Hennepin County staff, BWSR staff and landowners regarding landowners' concerns and questions on Plymouth Creek Restoration Project
- Developed brief presentation on BCWMC monitoring program and participated in (and gave presentation) Met Council's first Water Monitoring Data Group meeting
- Participated in Hennepin County Natural Resources Partnership meeting

Administration and Education

- Organized, reviewed, culled Commission's paper files and prepped some files for scanning and others for transfer from Plymouth City Hall
- Reviewed press release on Harrison Neighborhood Project and reviewed Metro Bloom's communication plan

- Communicated with D. Pape re: outreach efforts
- Attended WMWA meeting
- Met with new Watershed Steward from Golden Valley and new alternate commissioner from Minnetonka to review Commission, its work and history
- Prepped for and attended BCWMC Administrative Services Committee meeting; completed self-evaluation/reflection questionnaire
- Attended 1.5 days of Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts annual meeting in Alexandria
- Attended Hennepin County Commissioners Committee meeting re: 2018 levy
- Communicated with Met Council regarding amendment to reimbursement agreement for Blue Line LRT work and new reimbursement agreement for Southwest LRT work