



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

MEMO

To: Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commissioners
From: Technical Advisory Committee
Date: April 10, 2018

RE: TAC Recommendations – 4/9/18 TAC Meeting

The BCWMC Technical Advisory Committee met at 8:30 a.m. on April 9th to discuss the 2020-2024 CIP project list and the 2019 operating budget; and to consider a request for use of Channel Maintenance Funds from the City of Golden Valley. They forward the following recommendations to the Commission.

TAC Members and Others attending 4/9/18 TAC Meeting:

Liz Stout, Minneapolis
Eric Eckman, Golden Valley
Erick Francis, St. Louis Park
Richard McCoy and Marta Roser, Robbinsdale
Megan Albert, New Hope
Mark Ray, Crystal
Tom Dietrich and Will Manchester, Minnetonka
Derek Asche, Plymouth
Susan Wiese, Medicine Lake
Laura Jester, Administrator
Karen Chandler, Commission Engineers

1. 5-Year Capital Improvement Program 2020 – 2024 (see 5Di CIP list and fact sheets)

The TAC reviewed an updated 5-year CIP which incorporated new projects that were introduced and discussed at the March TAC meeting including

- 2020: Crane Lake Improvement Project via Ridgedale Drive - \$300,000
- 2024: Bassett Creek Main Stem Restoration - Regent Ave to Golden Valley Rd - \$500,000 (over 2 years)
- 2024: Bassett Creek Park Water Quality Improvement Project - \$500,000
- 2024: Ponderosa Woods Stream Restoration - \$500,000

Project fact sheets were reviewed and city staff provided overviews of the new projects. The TAC noted that the levy amount of \$1.3 - \$1.4 million per year may need to increase slightly each year to keep up with rising construction costs. It was suggested that the construction cost index be used as a guide for gradual increases in the levy amount. Administrator Jester reviewed the Commission's current CIP fiscal policy of keeping the levy amount stable. She said she would add the recommendation to gradually increase the levy according to the construction cost index to a future Budget Committee or Administrative Services Committee meeting agenda.

The TAC recommends that the Commission approve the 2020 – 2024 CIP list as presented and directs staff to begin a minor plan amendment process to incorporate the new projects.

2. 2019 Operating Budget

Administrator Jester reported that the Budget Committee met on March 23rd and asked for input in a few areas. The TAC provided the following:

- Question: Should a budget line be added to begin saving for the 2025 Watershed Plan development, rather than having a much larger increase in a few years when plan development begins?
 - TAC Response: Yes – it's a good idea to begin saving for the next plan by setting aside a few thousand dollars every year.
- Question: How much budget should be included for aquatic plant management and aquatic invasive species prevention/management? (2017 = \$35,000; 2018 = \$32,000) These issues have the potential to utilize a large portion of the budget. What level of funding "feels" appropriate for the Commission?
 - TAC Response: Current levels of \$30,000 - \$40,000 seems appropriate considering the breadth of the issue. This level allows the Commission to perform significant activities and implement the recommendations of the APM/AIS committee, while leveraging partnerships with other agencies and organizations.
- What increase in city assessment is palatable for 2019 over 2018?
 - TAC Response: A 2 – 3 % increase in assessment levels is justifiable and would generally be in line with city budgets.

3. Channel Maintenance Fund Request (see 5Dii for materials)

Eric Eckman reviewed a request from the City of Golden Valley to use \$15,000 of its available Channel Maintenance Funds to repair and restore a portion of streambank on the Sweeney Branch Bassett Creek. The city would cost share the project with the landowner.

The TAC recommends approval of the Golden Valley's request to use \$15,000 of its available Channel Maintenance Funds for the proposed restoration project.

4. Biennial Budget Request (BBR)

Administrator Jester reminded city staff to get their CIP project information to her today or tomorrow if they want those projects submitted to the BBR through the Commission.

5. Update on Watershed Based Funding Pilot Program

Administrator gave an update on the new Watershed Based Funding Pilot Program and reviewed the options considered and the option preferred by the 11 Hennepin County watershed organizations for disseminating Clean Water Funds in this biennium. She reported that cities would be invited to a meeting on May 16th where they can weigh in on their preferred method of disseminating funds.

The TAC meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m.