



## Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

### MEMO

To: BCWMC Commissioners  
From: Laura Jester, Administrator  
Date: February 13, 2019

**RE: 319 Grant Funds Available**

**Recommendation:** Direct Commission staff to apply for 319 grant funds for up to \$700,000 for an alum treatment in Sweeney Lake and carp management in Schaper Pond.

**Background:** Applications are now being accepted for the [Federal "319 Grant" program](#) administered through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Applications are due February 26<sup>th</sup>. The Commission Engineer, Greg Wilson, and I recommend that the Commission apply for these funds for an alum treatment in Sweeney Lake and carp management in Schaper Pond. We believe these two activities have the best chance of "flipping" the lake from a turbid, algae dominated lake to a clear, plant dominated lake. More information follows:

- 319 grant funds are only available for projects that address water quality issues in waterbodies with an approved TMDL (Sweeney Lake has an approved TMDL)
- 319 grant funds are rarely available for distinct water quality improvement projects; this may be the last opportunity to apply for these funds
- If awarded, funds are available for use spring 2020 – August 2022
- Commission Engineer estimates \$500,000 for the alum treatment (alum costs are on the rise)
- Commission Engineer estimates \$200,000 as very general high figure for carp management in Schaper Pond including modifying the outlet and removing carp (figure to be refined during grant application development)
- 40% local match is required (or \$280,000 of \$700,000 project)
- Local match could be added to BCWMC CIP for 2021
- Project may also score well for competitive Clean Water Funds and/or Hennepin County Opportunity Grant Funds

The TAC and the City of Golden Valley are in favor of applying for these funds and performing an alum treatment in Sweeney Lake and carp management in Schaper Pond if:

- Total project costs are not higher than \$700,000 and the Commission share is not higher than \$280,000.
- Project implementation does not impact CIP funding or schedule for other flood mitigation or water quality projects in Golden Valley
- Golden Valley's Finance Department approves adding this project to the City's CIP as it would add city costs to manage project, etc.

- The Commission and the city continue to engage with the Sweeney Lake residents and the Homeowners Association in 2019-2020, particularly with respect to expectations of water clarity vs. aquatic plant growth in the lake.
- The Commission continues to monitor the water quality of Schaper Pond and Sweeney Lake in 2019 and 2020 for additional information about water quality and trends.

Estimated costs to prepare the grant application = \$360 Administrator + \$1,500 Commission Engineer

Grant reporting may be paid through the grant or the local match.