



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

MEMO

Date: March 13, 2019
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: A feasibility study for this project was completed in May 2018 after months of study, development of concepts and input from residents at two public open houses. At the May 2018 meeting, the Commission approved Concept 3 and set a maximum 2019 levy. Also in May 2018, the Minnesota Legislature passed the bonding bill and the MDNR has since committed \$2.3M for the project. The Hennepin County Board approved a maximum 2019 levy request at their meeting in July 2018. A BCWMC public hearing on this project was held on August 16, 2018 with no comments being received. Also at that meeting the Commission officially ordered the project and entered an agreement with the City of Golden Valley to design and construct the project. In September 2018, the City of Golden Valley approved the agreement with the BCWMC. The [Sun Post](#) ran an article on this project October 2018. Another public open house and presentation of 50% designs was held February 6, 2019. An EAW report was completed and available for public review and comment December 17 – January 16, 2019. At their meeting in February 2019, the Commission approved the 50% design plans. Project website: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cid=433> .

2020 Bryn Mawr Meadows Water Quality Improvement Project (BC-5), Minneapolis (No change since January): A feasibility study by the Commission Engineer began last fall and included wetland delineations, soil borings, public open houses held in conjunction with MPRB's Bryn Mawr Meadows Park improvement project, and input from MPRB's staff and design consultants. At their meeting in April, the Commission approved a TAC and staff recommendation to move this project from implementation in 2019 to design in 2020 and construction in 2021 to better coincide with the MPRB's planning and implementation of significant improvements and redevelopment Bryn Mawr Meadows Park where the project will be located. A draft feasibility study was presented at the October meeting. At direction of the Commission, staff discussed Penn Pond function and maintenance with MnDOT to better understand treatment options. The final feasibility study was approved at the January 2019 Commission meeting. Project website: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/bryn-mawr-meadows-water-quality-improvement-project>

2020 Jevne Park Stormwater Improvement Project (ML-21) Medicine Lake: At their meeting in July 2018, the Commission approved a proposal from the Commission Engineer to prepare a feasibility study for this project. The study got underway last fall and the city's project team met on multiple occasions with the Administrator and Commission Engineer. The Administrator and Engineer also presented the draft feasibility study to the Medicine Lake City Council on February 4, 2019 and a public open house was held on February 28th. A draft feasibility study is expected to be presented at the April Commission meeting. Project webpage: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cid=467>.

2019 Westwood Lake Water Quality Improvement Project (WST-2) St. Louis Park (No change since Nov 2018): At their meeting in September 2017, 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. After months of study, several meetings with city consultants and nature center staff, and a public open house, the Commission approved Concept 3 (linear water feature) and set a maximum 2019 levy at their May meeting. 50% designs were approved at the July meeting and 90% design plans were approved at the August meeting. The Hennepin County Board approved a maximum 2019 levy request at their meeting in July. A BCWMC public hearing on this project was held on August 16th with no comments being received. Also at that meeting the Commission officially ordered the project and entered an agreement with the City of St. Louis Park to design and construct the project and directed the Education Committee to work with the Commission Engineer and city staff to develop a BCWMC educational sign for inside the nature center. The draft sign was presented at the October meeting and will be finalized soon. The Sun Sailor printed [an article](#) on the project in October. 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)(See Item 5G): The final feasibility study for this project was approved at the May 2017 meeting and is available on the project page online at <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=403>. 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. Hennepin County approved the 2018 final levy request at their meeting in November 2017. The City of Crystal hired Barr Engineering to design the project. At their meeting in April, the Commission approved 50% design plans. A public open house on the project was held May 24th where four residents asked questions, provided comments, and expressed support. 90% design plans were approved at the June 2018 meeting. An Environmental Assessment Worksheet was recently approved and a construction company was awarded the contract. A pre-construction meeting was held December 14th and construction began in January. A large area of contamination was discovered during excavation in February 2019. At their meeting February 21, 2019 the Commission approved additional funding for this project in order to properly dispose of the contamination and continue building the project as designed.

2017 Plymouth Creek Restoration Project, Annapolis Lane to 2,500 feet Upstream (2017CR-P) (No change since Feb): 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 completed by the city's contractor, Wenck Associates, with 60% and 90% design plans approved by the Commission at the April and August 2017 meetings, respectively. Plymouth City Council awarded a construction contract in early December 2017 and construction got underway on December 11, 2017. Streambank restoration work is complete in all three reaches. Vegetation is currently being established. Requests for reimbursement to the city were approved at the June and July BCWMC meetings. I recently submitted a Clean Water Fund grant interim report.

2017 Main Stem Bassett Creek Streambank Erosion Repair Project (2017CR-M) (No change since June): 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. Bidding for construction is complete and a pre-construction meeting was recently held. Construction was to begin this summer but will be delayed until winter/spring 2019 due to the unanticipated need for a field based cultural and historical survey of the project area required by the Army Corps of Engineers and the preference for Pioneer Paper (a significant landowner and access grantor) for a spring/summer construction window. The cultural and historical survey fieldwork is complete and a final report is expected in mid-December.

2015 Main Stem Restoration Project 10th Avenue to Duluth Street, Golden Valley (2015CR) (Stem Items 5E and 5F): The restoration project was 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 biologists were completed and accepted in mid-December 2016.

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. Applied Ecological Services (AES) installed live stakes and fascines planted trees and shrubs along the restoration project. AES continued to monitor and maintain the native vegetation through 2018. At this meeting the Commission will review the final project report and consider the city's final reimbursement request.

2014 Schaper Pond Diversion Project, Golden Valley (SL-3) (No change since October 2018): Repairs to the baffle structure were made in 2017 after anchor weights pulled away from the bottom of the pond and some vandalism occurred in 2016. The city continues to monitor the baffle and check the anchors, as needed. Vegetation around the pond was planted in 2016 and a final inspection of the vegetation was completed last fall. Once final vegetation has been completed, erosion control will be pulled and the contract will be closed. The Commission Engineer began the Schaper Pond Effectiveness Monitoring Project last summer and presented results and recommendations at the May 2018 meeting. Additional effectiveness monitoring is being performed this summer. At the July meeting the Commission Engineer reported that over 200 carp were discovered in the pond during a recent carp survey. At the September meeting the Commission approved the Engineer's recommendation to perform a more in-depth survey of carp including transmitters to learn where and when carp are moving through the system.

2014 Twin Lake In-lake Alum Treatment, Golden Valley (TW-2): (No change since June 2018) 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 results from 2017 were presented at the June 2018 meeting. Commissioners agreed with staff recommendations to keep the CIP funding remaining for this project as a 2nd treatment may be needed in the future.

2013 Four Season Area Water Quality Project/Agora Development (NL-2) (No change since May 2018): 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 (RHM) 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. At the April 2018 meeting, Commissioner Prom notified the Commission that RHM recently disbanded its efforts to purchase the property for redevelopment. Staff will work with the City of Plymouth to determine another possible option for treatment in this area.

Other Work

CIP Project Work and Technical Assistance

- Attended Jevne Park Project public open house
- Reviewed and commented on draft Crane Lake Feasibility Study
- Assisted with drafting final report for Main Stem Restoration Project and reviewed final invoices
- Prepared for TAC meeting including gathering, reviewing, and revising potential CIP fact sheets, preparing 5-year CIP list and costs, reviewing Bassett Creek Park Pond Dredging Feasibility Study
- Drafted and submitted final report for Met Council Stormwater Grant for Harrison Neighborhood Project

Administration and Education

- Reviewed draft March education press release
- Developed and submitted 319 grant application
- Coordinated with City of Minneapolis and Commission Legal Counsel on scope and agreements related to Bassett Creek Valley Study
- Developed and distributed email of upcoming events and meetings for Commissioners
- Secured venue for 50th anniversary event
- Prepared draft 2019 Education Budget; prepared for and attended Education Committee meeting
- Coordinated with Dawn Pape re: 2019 educational activities
- Updated grant tracking spreadsheet
- Met with financial auditors to answer grant-related questions
- Attended West Metro Water Alliance meeting and Hennepin County Natural Resources Partnership meeting