



Item 5D.  
BCWMC 7-16-15

# Memorandum

**To:** Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission  
**From:** Technical Advisory Committee  
**Subject:** June 25, 2015 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting  
**Date:** June 29, 2015

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on June 25, 2015. The following TAC members, city representatives, BCWMC commissioners, and BCWMC staff attended the meeting:

City	TAC Members/Alternates	Other City Representatives
Crystal	Mark Ray	
Golden Valley	Jeff Oliver	Eric Eckman
Medicine Lake		
Minneapolis	Lois Eberhart	
Minnetonka	Liz Stout	
New Hope	Bob Paschke	Chris Long
Plymouth	Derek Asche	
Robbinsdale	Richard McCoy	
St. Louis Park	Erick Francis	
<b>BCWMC Staff &amp; Others</b>	Karen Chandler & Greg Wilson (Barr Engineering), Laura Jester (Administrator), Rachael Crabb (MPRB), Randy Anhorn & Chris Sagsveen (Hennepin County), Barb Peichel, Rachel Olmanson, Mary Hammes (MPCA), Steve Christopher (BWSR), Joe Mulchay (MCES)	

TAC Chair Francis opened the meeting at approximately 2:05 p.m. Introductions were made around the table. Mr. Anhorn briefly described the draft Hennepin County Natural Resources Strategic Plan which is intended to guide the county and its partners in responding to natural resource issues and developing policies, programs and partnerships that improve, protect and preserve natural resources. He reported that County staff is seeking feedback from partners through an online partner survey and/or emails, phone calls or meetings. He encouraged the meeting attendees to review and comment on the draft plan.

## 1. Review and Discuss Draft Implementation Plan for Upper Mississippi River Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

Ms. Peichel with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) presented an overview of the bacteria TMDL and reminded the group that the Bassett Creek Main Stem, Plymouth Creek, and North Branch Bassett Creek are all impaired for bacteria and are included in the Upper Mississippi

River Bacteria TMDL. She noted the TMDL was approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency last fall and that the MPCA was now seeking comments on the Implementation Plan for the TMDL. She noted that the bacteria impairments represent a human health issue as the public should be able to recreate in these creeks without the risk of illness. She reported that the implementation plan presents high level strategies because the TMDL encompasses such a large geographic area and includes both very rural and very urban areas. She noted that higher numbers of bacteria were found in the tributaries than in the main stem of the Mississippi River, and in the main stem of the Mississippi River, higher numbers of bacteria were found in the more urban areas. Ms. Peichel further noted that some factors associated with high bacteria levels include high storm flows, impervious surfaces, high water temperatures, high amount of ditching, and high amounts of wetland loss. She also indicated that more bacteria were present in the “first flush” of a storm event. Commission Engineer Wilson reminded the group that the Commission submitted formal comments on the TMDL which did not result in changes to the TMDL, but rather a recognition that the MPCA would work closely with the Commission during development of the Implementation Plan.

There was discussion and questions about how and where bacteria can grow within storm sewer pipes, how bacteria in surface waters might be a result of inflow and infiltration, and about how genetic markers can help identify sources of bacteria. The group also discussed future bacteria monitoring, noting that the BCWMC will collect bacteria samples through its stream water quality monitoring program and that the Met Council monitors bacteria at the watershed outlet monitoring program (WOMP) station. Commission Engineer Wilson noted that the flow data used in the TMDL was from the WOMP station (at furthest downstream end of the watershed) and may not represent actual flow in each of the streams. He said the future BCWMC stream monitoring will need to provide better flow data. He also noted that the Commission could consider genetic marking monitoring to better understand possible sources. Ms. Peichel suggested that monitoring for bacteria during dry conditions would also help identify sources and help narrow implementation strategies and locations.

Ms. Peichel indicated there are activities cities should do to help alleviate bacteria pollution including enforcing pet waste ordinances, controlling geese, infiltrating stormwater, and installing filter strips around/along water bodies. She also indicated that the BCWMC, cities, and other project proposers should think about how best management practices can be designed and implemented to help reduce bacteria pollution in addition to other pollutants. Ms. Peichel noted that BMPs that “dry out” and/or infiltrate stormwater are the most effective at removing bacteria. She reported that MS4s (cities, Hennepin County, and MnDOT) would not need to report how they intend to reduce bacteria until 2019 when their MS4 permits are renewed. However, she noted that it’s important to keep track of how the city has worked to alleviate bacteria, going back to 2012. (She also noted that the city of Minneapolis would need to start reporting in 2016 because it’s a Phase I MS4 city.)

Administrator Jester asked Ms. Peichel how she would rank the impairments facing the BCWMC with regards to implementation given multiple priorities and limited funding. Ms. Peichel recommended tackling human sources of bacteria as a priority because they have the greatest potential to transmit disease. She also recommended that the BCWMC and MS4s should NOT invest in implementing BMPs that only address bacteria; rather, she recommended that the BCWMC and MS4s work on the BMPs that can also address other impairments. She reminded the group that

bacteria numbers are very dynamic and the percent reductions in the TMDL are really meant as guidance and not as absolute numbers. She indicated the TMDL was classified as “categorical” because there wasn’t enough information to do an aerial weighting (i.e., by MS4) and that MPCA staff would help cities understand possible bacteria sources and determine ways to alleviate the pollution well into the future. She noted the Twin Cities waterbodies were slated to be monitored by MPCA again in 2020-2021 as part of the 10-year monitoring cycle. She recommended the Commission track the results of the Lambert Creek Bacteria Study.

Ms. Peichel indicated that comments on the draft Implementation Plan are due by July 6<sup>th</sup> but if the Commission wished to comment, they could send comments after the 6<sup>th</sup>. After some discussion, the TAC recommended that rather than submitting comments on the draft Implementation Plan as a Commission, that individual cities would submit comments, as warranted. And, that they (in conjunction with the Commission), would continue to seek ways to reduce bacteria in surface waters and may revisit the subject at a future TAC meeting.

### **Recommendation**

The TAC recommends that the Commission not submit formal comments on the draft Implementation Plan for the Upper Mississippi River Bacteria TMDL but that cities submit comments individually, as warranted. The TAC further recommended that the Commission continue to seek ways to reduce bacteria pollution and that the TAC revisit the issue at a future meeting.

The TAC meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.

### **Future TAC Meeting agenda items:**

1. Developing guidelines for annualized costs per pound pollutant removal for future CIP projects
2. Agreements with cities to get credit for Commission education programs in MS4 permits
3. Stream identification signs at road crossings
4. Look into implementing “phosphorus-budgeting” in the watershed – allow “x” pounds of TP/acre.
5. P8 Model updates