



Bassett Creek Watershed Management

June 26, 2020

District Engineer
St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers
ATTN: Regional Planning and Environment Division North
180 Fifth Street East
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1638

Dear District Engineer,

The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) fully supports the temporary drawdown of the Mississippi River at the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam in Minneapolis, MN. In addition to allowing the USACE to inspect critical infrastructure, the drawdown would facilitate the BCWMC's inspection of the Bassett Creek Tunnel from its outlet near the Stone Arch Bridge (positioned below the Mississippi River elevation) and extending 8,900 feet upstream to the southwest.

A recently updated inspection schedule recommends Bassett Creek Tunnel inspections once every ten years due to the aging nature of the infrastructure. The last inspection of this section occurred in 2008. A drawdown of the intermediate pool this fall or next spring offers an opportunity to complete this necessary inspection.

If you have any questions about the Bassett Creek Tunnel or inspection schedule, please contact BCWMC Engineer, Jim Herbert, at 952-832-2784 or jherbert@barr.com.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

James Prom, Chair

Cc: Laura Jester, BCWMC Administrator
Elizabeth Stout, Minneapolis Water Resources Regulatory Manager
Jim Herbert, BCWMC Engineer