



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Minutes of Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Thursday, September 16, 2021 8:30 a.m.

Via video conference due to the COVID-19 global pandemic

1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

On Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 8:31 a.m. via video conference. Chair Cesnik brought the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) to order.

Commissioners, city staff, and others present

City	Commissioner	Alternate Commissioner	Technical Advisory Committee Members (City Staff)
Crystal	Dave Anderson	<i>Vacant Position</i>	Mark Ray
Golden Valley	<i>Absent</i>	Jane McDonald Black	Eric Eckman, Jeff Oliver, Drew Chirpich
Medicine Lake	Clint Carlson	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Minneapolis	Michael Welch	Jodi Polzin	Katie Kowalczyk
Minnetonka	Mike Fruen	<i>Vacant Position</i>	<i>Absent</i>
New Hope	<i>Absent</i>	Patrick Crough	Dave Lemke
Plymouth	Catherine Cesnik	<i>Absent</i>	Ben Scharenbroich
Robbinsdale	Wayne Sicora*	<i>Vacant Position</i>	Marta Roser, Richard McCoy
St. Louis Park	Jim de Lambert*	Angela Lawrence*	Erick Francis
Administrator	Laura Jester, Keystone Waters		
Engineers	Karen Chandler and Greg Wilson, Barr Engineering		
Recorder	<i>Absent</i>		
Legal Counsel	Dave Anderson, Kennedy & Graven		
Presenters/ Guests/Public	None present		

*Partial attendance

2. PUBLIC FORUM ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No members of the public were present for the public forum.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Alternate Commissioner McDonald Black moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Welch seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 7-0, with the cities of Robbinsdale and St. Louis Park absent from the vote.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were approved as part of the consent agenda. Item 4A was pulled from the agenda for further review and discussion.

- B. Acceptance of September 2021 Financial Report
- C. Approval of Payment of Invoices
 - i. Keystone Waters, LLC – August 2021 Administrative Services
 - ii. Keystone Waters, LLC – August 2021 Printing Expenses
 - iii. Barr Engineering – August 2021 Engineering Services
 - iv. Kennedy & Graven – July 2021 Legal Services
 - v. Shingle Creek WMC – West Metro Water Alliance Contribution
 - vi. Redpath – August Accounting Services
 - vii. We All Need Food and Water – August 2021 Administrative and Education Services
- D. Approval of Maryland Avenue Deck Improvements Project, Golden Valley

The general and construction account balances reported in the September 2021 Financial Report are as follows:

Current Assets	Capital Improvement Projects	Construction Fund	General Fund	TOTAL
Checking	\$354,473.23	\$32,272.00	\$139,728.62	\$526,473.85
4MP Fund Investment	\$ 3,501,105.22	\$0.00	\$262.12	\$3,501,367.34
4M Fund Investment	\$1,483,511.82	\$0.00	\$37.42	\$1,483,549.24
Total Checking/Savings September 2021	\$5,339,090.27	\$32,272.00	\$140,028.16	\$5,511,390.43

MOTION: Alternate Commissioner McDonald Black moved to approve the consent agenda as amended. Alternate Commissioner Crough seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 7-0, with the cities of Robbinsdale and St. Louis Park absent from the vote.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Receive Comments on Proposed 2022 CIP Projects (15 min)
 - i. Medley Park Stormwater Treatment Facility (ML-12)
 - ii. SEA School-Wildwood Park Flood Reduction Project (BC – 2, 3, 8, 10)

[Alternate Commissioner Lawrence joins the meeting]

Chair Cesnik opened the public hearing at 8:36 a.m. Administrator Jester provided a brief overview of the reason for the hearing. With no members of the public in attendance and no questions or comments by commissioners or others, Chair Cesnik closed the public hearing at 8:40 a.m.

6. BUSINESS

A. Consider Approval of Resolution 21-05 Ordering 2022 Improvements

- i. Ordering 2022 Improvements
- ii. Making Findings Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.251
- iii. Certifying Costs to Hennepin County
- iv. Approving Agreement with City of Golden Valley for Construction of Medley Park Stormwater Treatment Facility (ML-12)
- v. Approving Agreement with City of Golden Valley for Construction of SEA School-Wildwood Park Flood Reduction Project (BC – 2, 3, 8, 10)

Administrator Jester walked through the provisions of the resolution and noted that this is the same resolution that is adopted each year to order the next year’s CIP projects and set the final levy. Commissioner Welch noted an error in provision 3 of the resolution and requested a slight change to language in provision 7 to note that no *additional* costs will be charged *to the Commission* or other members of the Commission.

MOTION: Commissioner Welch moved to approve the resolution with the amendments. Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 8-0, with the city of Robbinsdale absent from the vote.

[Commissioner Sicora arrives.]

B. Consider Recommendations on Carp Control Options for Schaper Pond and Sweeney Lake

Commission Engineer Chandler provided background noting that at the February 2021 meeting, the Commission Engineer presented results of the 2020 carp removal efforts from Schaper Pond and Sweeney Lake. She noted that removals were successful at lowering carp populations to levels below the threshold that impacts water quality. However, it was also learned that Schaper Pond was likely a nursery area for carp. In February, staff was directed to evaluate various options for long term control of carp in Schaper Pond and Sweeney Lake. She introduced Greg Wilson with Barr Engineering.

Commission Engineer Wilson walked through the matrix of options with the Commission and noted that several different options were evaluated including constructing electric and non-electric barriers. He noted they also considered stocking panfish in Schaper Pond to predate carp eggs. After reviewing the benefits, limitations and costs of various options, he noted staff currently recommends adaptive management to reassess the carp population and their movements by repeating the carp assessment performed in 2019. This action would help us understand how quickly the carp population might rebound in these waterbodies to pre-removal levels and which permanent solution would be most cost effective. He recommended performing the work in May – September 2022 and reporting back in fall 2022.

Alternate Commission McDonald Black appreciated the detailed matrix of options and noted that the Commission has invested a lot of money in Sweeney Lake so it’s important to protect that investment by finding a long-term carp management strategy. She wondered if carp would impact the alum treatment. Engineer Wilson noted that was unlikely because the alum settled mostly in the deep areas of the lake where carp are less likely to spend time.

Alternate Commissioner McDonald Black noted that she would like to move forward with constructing barriers to ensure the investment in Sweeney Lake is protected. Administrator Jester reported that barrier construction, whether electric or not, would be a huge and expensive undertaking due to the railroad property, routing electricity to the site, and ongoing maintenance. She indicated the recommended approach would tell us if perhaps removing carp every few years would be an acceptable option if the populations don’t rebound too quickly.

There was discussion about the option to introduce panfish in Schaper Pond to eat carp eggs. It was noted that although that may open other opportunities such as a community fishing pier, the pond isn't good panfish habitat and would likely need to be stocked annually. Further, the timing of the stocking might be too late for carp egg predation.

Commissioner Welch indicated his support for additional monitoring but also suggested that the Commission have contracts and approvals in place to perform another round of carp removal in 2022 in case carp numbers are found to have rebounded already. Engineer Wilson noted that was a good approach saying if carp numbers are found to be high in May and June, then action would switch to box netting and electrofishing to protect the investment in Sweeney Lake. Commissioner Sicora indicated that he thought that adaptive management was a good approach because of the complexity of the site and the different variables involved.

There was further discussion about introducing panfish; staff agreed they could contact the MnDNR about the option.

MOTION: Commissioner Welch moved to approve the adaptive management approach by gathering additional carp population data in 2022 and directed staff to prepare a scope of work with Carp Solutions or a similar company for approval at a future Commission meeting for carp removal in 2022, and to contact the MnDNR regarding panfish stocking in Schaper Pond. Alternate Commissioner McDonald Black seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote the motion carried 9-0.

C. Consider Recommendations on Watershed Based Implementation Funding Comments

Administrator Jester reported that the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) requested that watershed organizations consider providing comments to the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) on how Watershed Based Implementation Funding is distributed in the metro area. She recommended sending a letter to BWSR with comments as outlined in her memo in the packet.

[Commissioner de Lambert joins the meeting.]

Commission Engineer Chandler asked which entities prepare plans under MN Statute 103B. Commissioner Welch responded that watersheds and cities prepare these plans. He also noted his belief that the efficacy of the collaborative work by cities and watersheds is undermined if projects in "non-103B plans" are funded with watershed based funding. Commissioner Welch also indicated that it is important for the Commission to submit its own comments on this matter rather than having MAWD necessarily speak for the Commission.

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to direct Administrator Jester to submit a letter to BWSR with the Chair's review and approval. Commissioner Welch seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 9-0.

[Chair Cesnik called for a 5-minute break. Alternate Commissioner Lawrence departs the meeting.]

4A. (From Consent Agenda) Approval of Minutes – August 19, 2021 Commission Meeting

Administrator Jester answered Commissioner Welch's question about the August meeting minutes.

MOTION: Commissioner Welch moved to approve the minutes from the August 19, 2021 Commission meeting. Alternate Commissioner McDonald Black seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 9-0.

D. Consider Recommendations for Main Stem Lagoon Dredging Project Permitting Process

Administrator Jester reminded commissioners that the memo in the printed meeting packet had been revised and that the new memo was posted online and emailed with the meeting announcement.

Commission Engineer Chandler briefly reviewed the Main Stem Lagoon Dredging Project and described the development of an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW). She noted the Responsible Government Unit (RGU) is the City of Golden Valley and they would be the EAW signatory. She also noted other permits needed for the project. Engineer

Chandler reviewed staff's recommended approach for signing and submitting the EAW and other permits. There was some discussion on whether the MnDNR is actually the RGU.

MOTION: Commissioner Welch moved to approve the following:

1. BCWMC Board of Commissioners reviews and considers approval to submit the draft EAW to the RGU for review and approval by the RGU
2. Administrator reviews and provides input on the RGU's responses to comments on the EAW; brings matters to the Commission, as appropriate
3. Administrator is delegated to review and sign all other permit applications related to this project; bringing matters to the Commission, as appropriate

Alternate Commissioner McDonald Black seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 9-0.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Administrator's Report

- i. Update on BCWMC Bicycle Tour – Invitations sent; responses requested; no rain date planned; approval to reserve space at Utepils for up to \$300
- ii. Indigenous Voices Oral History Project – Church in Golden Valley near the creek developed a land acknowledgement statement and is planning to interview native people about the importance of the creek in their culture. Will be interesting project and good to include these voices and interests in the 2025 watershed plan.
- iii. Update on CAMP monitoring for chlorides – Initially Met Council said chloride holding time isn't conducive to CAMP monitoring; staff is looking into this more

B. Chair—none

C. Commissioners

- Commissioner Carlson noted that the Global Water View presentation shows how fortunate we are in this area with regards to clean water
- Commissioner Welch noted the second open house on the Bryn Mawr project was well attended and there is interest in the BCWMC's CIP project. He noted support of a buffer around the ponds to deter geese.

D. TAC Members—none

E. Committees

F. Education Consultant—none

G. Legal Counsel—none

H. Engineer

- A trickle of water is currently coming over the Medicine Lake dam.
- Staff began discussions on planning for development of the 2025 Plan and will meet soon.
- The City of Minneapolis is reviewing a proposed development that would be constructed over the double box culvert and over a key access point to the deep tunnel. Staff will bring additional information to the Commission as appropriate.

7. INFORMATION ONLY (Information online only)

- A. BCWMC Administrative Calendar
- B. CIP Project Updates <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects>
- C. Grant Tracking Summary and Spreadsheet
- D. [Consider Providing Input on Hennepin County Natural Resources Strategic Plan](#)
- E. WCA Notice of Decision, Golden Valley
- F. WCA Notices of Application, Plymouth
- G. [MAISRC Research & Management Showcase – Registration Open](#)

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.