



# Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Watershed Plan Steering Committee Meeting

Monday July 11, 2022

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Plymouth City Hall

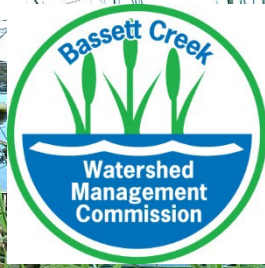
3400 Plymouth Blvd., Plymouth MN

## AGENDA

1. **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS** (10 min)
2. **APPOINT COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON** (5 min) Consider appointing a committee chairperson or assume Commission chair is committee chair until smaller committee is developed in 2023 and meeting more regularly.
3. **REVIEW PLAN PURPOSE, IMPORTANCE, DEVELOPMENT PROCESS & EQUITY LENS** (15 min)
  - A. See Plan Process Overview attached
  - B. See Equity Workshop Notes attached
4. **REVIEW INPUT FROM AGENCIES** (10 min)
  - A. See Agency Input Summary attached (original input letters from each agency available under “Initial Input from State and Local Agencies” at [www.bassettcreekwmo.org/document/2025-plan-update](http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/document/2025-plan-update) )
5. **REVIEW INPUT FROM CITIES** (10 min)
  - A. See City Input Summary attached
6. **REVIEW GAPS ANALYSIS** (20 min)
  - A. See Gaps Analysis attached

### BREAK & ARRANGE FOR SMALL GROUPS

7. **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS** (25 min) Small groups will discuss and categorize issues as:
  - 1) High priority issue where Commission takes lead or a significant role in addressing; these issues could be viewed as being part of the Commission’s “core” work; or
  - 2) An important challenge that needs more analysis to better understand Commission’s potential role; or
  - 3) An important issue but outside of the Commission’s responsibility; Commission may partner with others but will not take the lead in addressing the issue
8. **REPORTS FROM SMALL GROUPS** (20 min)
9. **NEXT STEPS AND ADJOURN**



# Planning Together to Improve & Protect Our Waters 2025 - 2035

April 2022

The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) is embarking on the development of its next Watershed Management Plan that will guide programs and projects to address challenges and meet measurable goals from 2025 to 2035 (see page 2 for process). Development of a 10-year plan is a great opportunity to take a step back and assess where the organization has been and where it's going; to evaluate what's been working well and where are challenges remain. Your input is needed to help us understand the issues so that appropriate goals and priorities can be developed over the next few years.

## WHAT

Right now, BCWMC is in the initial stages of gathering input on

- How watershed stakeholders view the condition of our lakes and streams
- How they use or enjoy lakes, streams, and natural resources in their community
- What concerns they have or what challenges or opportunities they see regarding lakes, streams, and other natural resources

## WHO

Input is being sought from a variety of stakeholders including

- City staff
- Elected officials
- Appointed officials
- Residents
- Lake & Environmental groups
- Neighborhood and community groups
- Historically underserved communities
- Ethnic and minority groups
- Park districts and boards
- Users of lakes, streams, natural areas

## HOW

Input from stakeholders will be gathered in different ways throughout the spring, summer, and fall of 2022. There's no wrong way to give us your thoughts. Watch for information in city communications, local news outlets and at [www.bassettcreekwmo.org](http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org). Some input opportunities will include:

- Presentations and discussions at meetings like city council meetings, city commission meetings, community group meetings, etc.
- Community events and farmers markets
- Online survey
- Public meetings

*The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission is a local unit of government formed in 1969 to address flooding along Bassett Creek. It now operates under the 1982 Surface Water Management Act and is also focused on improving and protecting the water quality of Bassett Creek, Plymouth Creek, Medicine Lake, and the other lakes and streams throughout the watershed. The BCWMC is a joint powers organization among nine member cities: Crystal, Golden Valley, Medicine Lake, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, New Hope, Plymouth, Robbinsdale, and St. Louis Park and is governed by a Board of Commissioners with one commissioner appointed from each city. Funding for BCWMC programs and studies comes directly from cities while funding for large capital projects comes from property taxes levied by Hennepin County on behalf of the BCWMC. Learn more at [www.bassettcreekwmo.org](http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org).*

# Plan Development Process

APRIL – DECEMBER 2022

## Gather Initial Stakeholder Input

- Hear about issues and concerns from cities
- Get input from agencies, Hennepin County, and technical partners
- Collect input from residents and communities through events and surveys
- Prioritize issues

APRIL 2022 – APRIL 2023

## Analyze More Challenging Issues

- Perform gaps analysis
- Gather data and options to address challenging issues

MAY 2023 – DECEMBER 2024

## Develop Plan Content

- Define issues and priority resources
- Develop measurable 10-year goals
- Craft targeted policies, programs, and standards
- Develop 10-year implementation schedule and budget

JANUARY – SEPTEMBER 2025

## Gather Feedback and Finalize Plan

- Submit draft plan for official 60-day review
- Gather feedback and respond to all comments
- Hold public hearing
- Submit plan for final agency review
- Adopt final plan – **TARGET: September 2025**

# Equity in Watershed Management Workshop

## Learning and Discussion Notes

April 25, 2022 ~ 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Crystal Community Center

### **Welcome and Introductions**

About 35 people attended the workshop including people from Shingle Creek WMC, Bassett Creek WMC (7 commissioners/alternates; 7 TAC members; 3 staff), Hennepin County, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources, Nine Mile Creek Watershed District

Hennepin County Commissioner Irene Fernando kicked off the event and asked participants to get out of their comfort zones; connect in ways that aren't typical

### **Vulnerable Communities and Environmental Justice: Locations and Definitions**

Karen Galles, Land & Water Supervisor  
Hennepin County Environment and Energy

- County is working on land and water issues through equity lens
- Mapping of environmental justice areas – several datasets available
- Emphasized importance of “full and fair” participation in decision making
- Mitigate disproportionality and share equal benefits with all communities
- Demonstrated differences in individual resiliency to environmental damage (such as a flooding event) – ranging from an inconvenience for some, to a manageable problem for others, to a catastrophic event for those without resources or means to address
- Could prioritize work and projects to help those for whom event would be catastrophic
- Improving and protecting natural resources and investing in equity are not mutually exclusive activities

### **Reflecting on Personal and Professional Experiences with Environmental Injustice**

Kristel Porter, Executive Director  
Minnesota Renewable Now

- Statewide, 6% of the population live near pollution; in communities of color, 20% live near pollution
- Populations at risk for impacts from air pollution: statewide = 32%; low income = 46%; communities of color = 91%
- Urban areas are often “concrete jungles” with few green spaces
- Relayed a story of seeing a consistent blue haze in the air above the Mississippi River from the metal processing plant nearby
- Relayed the difference in the air temperature driving through the city and then into Wirth Park and Golden Valley

**Small Group Discussion**

*What stood out for you with the information you’ve heard so far? Did anything surprise you? What are you still curious about?*

Some responses:

- High percentage of Shingle Creek Watershed identified as vulnerable.
- Differences and similarities between public health and water quality. Statistics on respiratory disparities by demographic. Industrial impact on air quality. Links between health and environment. Use of data to identify connections and visualization.
- No Mississippi River access in North Minneapolis, data is so striking, differences between North Minneapolis and other areas. Data set that tells us about who lacks access and “enjoyment” opportunities. Prevalence of nebulizers at child’s daycare.
- Available data, use of GIS for analysis.
- First person experiences help explain inequalities, watersheds can help address air quality.

**Environmental Healing in Relationship with Community**

Laura Scholl, Associate Director and Director of Development at Metro Blooms  
Erika Schlaeger dos Santos, Director of Community Relations at Metro Blooms

- Advocate for decisions made in partnership with communities; “nothing about us without us”
- Relationships and trust take time to establish and evolve; one-to-one conversation and outreach is best
- Authentic, meaningful outreach takes time (example of canvassing a neighborhood and taking 30 minutes per household to discuss raingardens)
- Renters are an important group to remember; they are often left out of conversations and decision making
- Prioritize input from communities when planning and implementing
- Come to situations ready to learn

**Small Group Discussion**

*If your organization were to write an equity statement or develop goals to help improve environmental equity, what are some key words or phrases that would be important to include?*

Access	Paired outcomes	Relationship
Right to water	Cross-generational/age	Vulnerable
Clean drinking water	Participatory	Health
Availability of water	Person-centered	Coordination
Health	Empathy	Support
Equitable/equality/equity	Gratitude	Community
Inclusive/inclusion	Translate	Touchpoint
Collaborate	Communication	Future
Indigenous land	Outreach	Background
acknowledgement	Commitment	Science
Developed with public	Meet needs	Encouragement
Take time to establish trust		

Safety	Resiliency	Acknowledge privilege and biases
History	Quality	Investigate impacts
Refocus	Data	Undo harm
Many small projects	Awareness	Environmental justice
Prioritization on community	Be a neighbor to everyone	Reduce disparities
Opportunity	Reach out	Long-lasting/durable
Partnership	Advocate	Evolving
Curiosity	BIPOC	Adaptive
Education	Support	Decision-making
Flexibility	Ask then listen	Human
Connectivity	Learn	Non-transactional
Engagement/authentic engagement	Comprehensive	People centered
Easy communication	Increase diversity	

### [Moving Toward Equity in Watershed Management](#)

Abby Moore, Training and Community Learning Specialist  
Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization

The MWMO is:

- Increasing engagement and working to build trust and resiliency in underserved communities
- Tailoring outreach to specific communities and taking time with small groups
- Working to be responsive to actual community needs
- Incorporating workforce development and training for green jobs
- Incorporating Restorative Development principles

### **Discussions by Watershed**

BCWMC Commissioners' Comments:

- Review all projects with an equity lens
- Help address air quality with more plantings
- Have an honest discussion about priorities and how equity fits into BCWMC work
- Continue the discussion of equity throughout planning process

**Adjourn**

## Memorandum

**To:** Commissioners, Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission  
**From:** Karen Chandler, Greg Williams (Barr), and Laura Jester, BCWMC Administrator  
**Subject:** Summary of Plan Review Agency Responses to Plan Update Notification Letter  
**Date:** June 27, 2022

This document summarizes information received in response to the Plan update notification letter sent to Plan review agencies and select partners by the BCWMC Administrator on April 14, 2022. The Plan update notification letter is required per Minnesota Rules 8410.0045 Subp. 3 and requested input from several state agencies and local partners. The following entities provided responses:

- Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)
- Metropolitan Council
- Hennepin County
- Three Rivers Park District (TRPD)

Priority issues, strategies, and opportunities from the Plan review agencies and partners are summarized in this memorandum according to topic. Reference material and data provided by respondents is generally omitted for brevity. Table 1 illustrates the overlap of frequently cited priority issues or opportunities.

**Table 1. Select issues and opportunities identified by multiple agencies/partners**

Issue or Opportunity (briefly)	BWSR	MDNR	MPCA	Met Council	Hennepin Co.	TRPD
Emphasis on addressing chloride pollution	X	X	X			X
Focus on impaired waterbodies and TMDL partnerships			X	X	X	X
Consider impacts and opportunities related to climate change	X		X	X	X	
Emphasis on measurable goals and progress assessment	X		X	X		
Opportunities for AIS management/native protection		X			X	X
Consider equity issues in watershed planning			X	X		
Consider grant funding for small-scale BMPs					X	X

Responses by topic from the review agencies are listed below. All complete response letters are available from the BCWMC Plan update webpage at: <https://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/document/2025-plan-update>.

## **1.0 Plan Development Process (Prioritized, Targeted, Measurable)**

- The planning process should provide an opportunity for upfront issue identification to affirm, align, or change priorities relative to the current Plan. The BCWMC plan process should define a strategy to identify the top resource priorities (BWSR).
- The planning process should be collaborative and include multiple local governmental units and stakeholders (BWSR).
- The Plan should include clear measurable goals and actions and develop metrics to measure progress (BWSR, MPCA).
- The Plan should identify priority geographic areas or resources for implementation (MPCA).
- The Plan should consider the integration of water resource issues, goals, and actions through the Watershed Health Assessment Framework, which includes: hydrology, biology, connectivity, geomorphology, and water quality (MDNR).
- Met Council has published a new dataset, "Equity dataset Considerations for Place-Based Advocacy and Decisions in the Twin Cities Region." This data replaces the former "Areas of Concentrated Poverty" and may be useful for planning (Met Council).
- Incorporate environmental justice into planning (MPCA).

## **2.0 Plan Implementation, Funding, and Evaluation**

- The Plan must include a prioritized implementation program that identifies what the BCWMC will do over 10-years regardless of whether additional grant funding is received (BWSR).
- The Plan should address organizational capacity with increased emphasis on self-evaluation, accountability, and efficiency of implementation. The Plan should include a procedure to evaluate implementation progress at least every 2 years (BWSR).
- The implementation program should include strategies from completed TMDLs (MPCA).
- Hennepin County has potential funding sources to support environmental education, invasive species management, tree planting, and other services (Hennepin County).

## **3.0 Water Quality**

- Continue to support the incorporation of MIDS (and the LID approach) into future development and redevelopment in the watershed (MDNR).
- Investigate new stormwater management techniques (MDNR).
- Maintain a non-degradation policy relative to water quality (TRPD, MPCA).
- Include reference to the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Chloride TMDL and incorporate elements of the Chloride Management Plan (BWSR).
- Reduce chloride to surface and ground water (MPCA).



- Consider promoting local business and city applicator participation in the Smart Salting Training (to reduce chloride loading) offered through the MPCA (MDNR).
- Chloride management plans are needed for new development and redevelopment areas (TRPD).
- 17 impaired waters within the BCWMC are included in the 2022 impaired waters list (MPCA).
- The Plan should identify Met Council priority waters, which include (draft): Medicine Lake, Parkers Lake, Wirth Lake, and Bassett Creek (Met Council).
- Met Council monitors several waterbodies in the BCWMC through its Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP). CAMP data is provided for planning (Met Council).
- Assist local partners to accelerate targeted reductions for priority impaired waters (MPCA).
- Review progress and collaborative project opportunities related to the Medicine Lake TMDL (watershed and in-lake) (TRPD).
- Consider using a framework for evaluating whether and when alum treatment of a lake is appropriate (e.g., Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District). Additional alum treatment guidance is provided by the MDNR (MDNR).
- Consider collaborative opportunities for curlyleaf pondweed management in Medicine Lake (TRPD).
- Explore opportunities to make progress towards water quality (e.g., TMDL) and other goals (e.g., climate action) related to Hennepin County-owned transportation facilities (Hennepin County).
- Consider partnerships with Hennepin County to support landowner projects to address shoreline erosion and stormwater management issues (Hennepin County).
- Consider cost-share programs for smaller projects that are not identified in the CIP (e.g., landowner BMPs) (TRPD).

#### **4.0 Ecological Health and Natural Areas**

- Keep water where it falls by protecting and restoring wetlands (MDNR).
- Protect and create buffers of native vegetation along watercourses and water bodies (MDNR).
- Support land use planning and practices that protect, restore, and enhance priority ecological resources (MDNR).
- Maintain and enhance perennial vegetation including protection of working forest lands (MDNR).
- Include plans to combat invasive species in watershed project plans and designs (MDNR).
- Promote education of the public on the control and spread of invasive species – public awareness efforts targeting riparian property owners (lakeshore owners) are needed (MDNR).
- Use assessment data of watershed characteristics and natural resource features (e.g., native plant communities, sites of biodiversity significance) in Plan development (MDNR).
- Include goals and policies to address how rare species and habitat will be protected (MDNR).
- MDNR recommends the establishment of native grassland and herbaceous plant communities in the place of mowed turf grasses on watershed and highway projects (MDNR).
- MDNR recommends keeping forested riparian areas forested (MDNR).
- Communities should be planning for emerald ash borer (EAB) impacts and take action now to reduce the sudden financial burden that comes with EAB management (MDNR).

- Hennepin County is updating its Natural Resource Management Plan that includes goals and actions relevant to the BCWMC's mission and may be a reference for planning (Hennepin County).
- Continue to pursue and utilize Natural Resource Opportunity Grants with partners (Hennepin County).
- French Lake Regional Park is located in the watershed. The Plan needs to address any issues, problems, capital projects, or land use changes related to the regional park (Met Council).
- Provide support for new AIS initiatives (TRPD)
- Consider management actions for Starry Stonewort (TRPD).

## **5.0 Flooding and Water Quantity**

- Design culverts and bridges to retain floodplain functions and bank stability on natural channels and other drainage systems (MDNR).
- Ensure water courses are connected to their floodplains, and manage stormwater runoff with rate control and volume reduction standards (MDNR).
- Address storm sewer infrastructure capacity and corresponding flooding problems (MDNR).

## **6.0 Roles, Responsibilities, and Authorities**

- Define the BCWMC's process for evaluating implementation of local water plans (BWSR).
- Define who is responsible for inspection, operation, and maintenance of stormwater facilities in the BCWMC (BWSR).
- Hennepin County wishes to abandon jurisdiction over three public ditches (County Ditch 25, 30, and J-6) and place them under MNDNR jurisdiction as public watercourses (Hennepin County).

## **7.0 Groundwater**

- MDNR recommends the BCWMC's Plan contain key objectives and actions, including (MDNR):
  - Increase communication about the risks of overuse and promote water conservation.
  - Maintain and enhance aquifer recharge (quality and quantity)
  - Increase coordination of monitoring activities with partners
  - Increase coordination of communication activities with partners

## **8.0 Climate Resilience**

- The BCWMC should continue its efforts to address climate resiliency. The BWSR Climate Resiliency Toolbox (<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/bwsr-climate-resiliency-toolbox>) may be useful (BWSR).
- Hennepin County has developed a Climate Action Plan that includes goals and actions relevant to the BCWMC's mission and may serve as an input or reference for planning (Hennepin County).
- Met Council has developed tools that can assist in community planning efforts in preparing and adapting to climate change. (Met Council).
- Increase community and environmental resilience to climate change. Planning should incorporate changing weather patterns to help communities be prepared for extreme weather events (MPCA).



## Bassett Creek Watershed Management

### MEMO

To: BCWMC Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners  
From: Laura Jester, Administrator  
Date: June 29, 2022

**RE: Summarized and Compiled City Input**

The BCWMC asked for perspectives from city staff and elected or appointed officials on water resources in their community and the role of the Commission. Six cities responded to the survey. Most surveys were completed by city staff members. Some surveys also included input from BCWMC commissioners and/or environmental commissioners. (Of the cities who have not responded: The City of Minneapolis plans to provide input in the coming weeks. The City of Robbinsdale indicated they do not have formal input at this time. The City of Medicine Lake did not respond to this request by the time of this writing.)

Key messages from the survey:

- Overall, cities agree BCWMC is doing a good or excellent job with its programs and services.
- BCWMC should continue core programs such as water monitoring, modeling, Flood Control Project inspections, and CIP program
- BCWMC could expand education programming including outreach to diverse communities
- BCWMC should consider starting a cost share or grant program for installation of best management practices by residents, businesses, and cities

For additional information, see survey responses summarized and compiled on pages 3 – 8.

The survey asked cities to rate their level of concern about certain issues and their desired level of BCWMC involvement in addressing the issue. Table 1 shows the number of cities within each response.

Table 1. Number of cities responding to levels of concern and BCWMC involvement in various issues

Issue (Please provide additional detail as needed)	Level of concern about the issue in your city AND desired level of BCWMC involvement in addressing the issue		
A. Pollution from winter deicers (chlorides) and potential need for additional regulations	Very Concerned 4 cities	Somewhat Concerned 3 cities	Not Concerned
	Very Involved 5 cities	Somewhat Involved 1 city	Not Involved
B. Addressing and incorporating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion principals	Very Concerned 3 cities	Somewhat Concerned 4 cities	Not Concerned
	Very Involved 1 city	Somewhat Involved 4 cities	Not Involved
C. Adequacy of current performance standards for linear projects to protect and improve water quality	Very Concerned 1 city	Somewhat Concerned 3 cities	Not Concerned 3 cities
	Very Involved 3 cities	Somewhat Involved 3 cities	Not Involved
D. Current process for identifying projects or implementing the Capital Improvement Program (CIP)	Very Concerned	Somewhat Concerned 3 cities	Not Concerned 4 cities
	Very Involved 2 cities	Somewhat Involved 4 cities	Not Involved
E. Stormwater management (flooding and water quality) in the Bassett Creek Valley and implementation of the Bassett Creek Valley plan to create regional flood	Very Concerned 1 city	Somewhat Concerned 4 cities	Not Concerned 1 city
	Very Involved 3 cities	Somewhat Involved 4 cities	Not Involved
F. Carbon footprint or climate impact of BCWMC projects and programs	Very Concerned 3 cities	Somewhat Concerned 2 cities	Not Concerned 1 city
	Very Involved 3 cities	Somewhat Involved 1 city	Not Involved 1 city

Below please find a summary of city input for each of the questions asked.

**1. With regard to BCWMC programs and services (e.g., water quality monitoring, hydraulic and pollutant load modeling, development reviews, capital improvement program, Flood Control Project inspections, technical assistance):**

**a. How would you rate the overall level of service and quality of programs provided by the BCWMC?**

- Five cities responded “Excellent” or “Good”
- One city responded “Just Adequate”

**b. Which services are the most helpful or useful to your city? (What’s working well?)**

- Water monitoring
- Watershed modeling and model maintenance
- CIP program for flood reduction and water quality improvements
- Development reviews
- Flood Control Project inspections
- Education and outreach (including the MOU with cities to help fulfill MS4 requirements)
- Collaboration on projects
- Curly-leaf pondweed control on Medicine Lake

**c. What programs or services could be improved? (What’s not working well?)**

- Education/outreach could be improved
  - Focusing on diversity, equity, and inclusion
  - Finding ways to be more effective and reach different audiences outside of people around lakes and streams
- Flood Control Inspections - could use additional assistance with routine maintenance
- More coordination with cities to ensure the BCWMC is not paying for work that the cities are already having done.
- More focus on floodplain management
- Planning and implementation process of the CIP seems excessive, time consuming and more expensive than typical of the market.
- The permit process for reviewing projects.

**d. Overall, would you prefer the BCWMC provide more and broader programs and services, or smaller/fewer programs and services?**

- About the same as current levels (three cities)
- Intentional effort on fewer programs but focused on key priorities which are likely to have a positive effect. Examples being native plantings, reduced salt use, other things people/businesses can do to protect water quality.
- Narrower focus on a few key issues like flooding and redevelopment standards, would be most cost effective.

- BCWMC should have comprehensive programs relating to water quality improvements and public outreach/education

e. **Which programs or services should be expanded, or which should be reduced?**

- The website should be the main hub of all “things watershed” including using ArcGIS mapping to improve story telling on projects and sharing real time data when possible.
- Increase educational efforts including on chlorides and routine homeowner maintenance activities that impact water quality; work on expanding outreach to underserved and diverse communities
- Add incentive program for private landowners (cost-share, technical assistance)
- XPSWMM model could be updated less frequently as the watershed isn’t changing that much to warrant updates as often.

**2. Are there practices or programs implemented by other watershed management organizations/watershed districts that you think should be implemented in the BCWMC?**

- Cost share programs for things such as shoreline restoration, raingardens, water harvesting/reuse, green infrastructure. Similar to Shingle Creek WMC, offer financial assistance for best management practices that are smaller than the typical CIP. This could be offered to both cities and developers in order to be more responsive to development driven opportunities. (three cities)
- Planning and projects related to high quality resources and protection of those resources (eg. Restoration of high-quality wetlands)

**3. What education and public engagement activities performed by the BCWMC are the most beneficial? What additional or expanded education or public engagement services would you like to see the BCWMC perform?**

- Partnering with other groups (Metro Blooms, WMWA)
- Hosting trainings and workshops
- Keeping maintained website
- Developing and disseminating educational materials specifically designed to meet the City’s requirements under the MS4 program
- Leading the Hennepin County Chloride Initiative
- Coordinating with other watershed organizations and agencies to ensure consistent messaging
- Improving and building relationships and outreach programs with communities that traditionally have been hard to reach in the past, including renters and underserved and diverse communities.
- Attendance or presence at festivals, events, nature centers, beaches, parks
- Consistent seasonal messaging
- Education to lakeshore owners regarding vegetation

**4. What and where are the city's primary concerns regarding water quality, such as:**

**a. Water quality of specific water bodies**

- MnDOT pond east of Bassett Creek Park Pond (open water year round)
- Bassett Creek, Sweeney Lake, Twin Lake, Wirth Lake.
- Crane Lake
- Northwood Lake
- Westwood Lake
- All waterbodies in Bassett Creek Watershed that are impaired or have potential for impairment.

**b. Specific pollutants of concern**

- Chlorides (five cities)
- Lawn fertilizers and resident-generated organic waste from yard maintenance
- Dog waste and bacteria

**c. Pollutant loading hot spots**

- Highway 100
- Lawns
- Offices and retail
- Community gathering areas with significant deicing operations
- Ridgedale Center
- Area that drains toward Northwood Lake
- Golf courses
- P8 Map from watershed model.
- Direct drainage areas to lakes and streams without treatment.

**5. What and where are the city's primary concerns regarding water quantity or flooding, such as:**

**a. Flooding at specific locations**

- Area around Bassett Creek Park (Crystal) primarily and some upstream areas that connect to North Branch
- All areas identified by the BCWMC floodplain modeling, where it impacts homes, businesses, and infrastructure
- Oberlin Park and surrounding neighborhood
- Rosalyn Court/Medicine Lake Rd. (Decola Ponds Area)
- Upper Sweeney Lake watershed redevelopment
- Medicine Lake at Evergreen Lane

**b. Excessive flow rates and/or erosion**

- Markwood channel
- North Branch where it enters Bassett Creek Park (Crystal)

- Areas of the creek where streambank stabilization/restoration has not occurred.
- Shoreline erosion on Northwood Lake is a concern during periods of high water.
- Westwood Lake outlet channel
- Plymouth Creek upstream of Medicine Lake.

**c. High or low water levels**

- High groundwater in the Oberlin Park area
- Along Northwood Lake
- Medicine Lake

**d. Structures in the floodplain**

- Homes in the area around Bassett Creek Park Pond in the known FEMA flood area
- Hundreds of existing structures in the FEMA, BCWMC, and local jurisdiction floodplain
- Homes in the Oberlin Park area
- Medicine Lake and areas along Plymouth Creek

**6. What and where are your city’s primary concerns regarding wetlands, habitat, or natural areas? What role, if any, would you like to see the BCWMC assume in managing, protecting, or restoring these resources?**

- We don’t see the scope of the watershed’s responsibilities/authorities increasing beyond what they are now. (three cities)
- Hope to see collaborations to enhance native ecosystems around waterways as New Hope has done with Hidden Valley Park and Northwoods Park.
- Natural areas along the floodplain of Bassett Creek and trunk system, and large existing wetlands (public waters).
- Restoration activities in the Crane Lake preserve area; maintenance in several high-quality wetlands
- Maintain existing wetlands, habitat and natural areas
- If there are opportunities to increase natural areas throughout the watershed, they should be explored including shoreline restoration projects, and establishing native plantings.

**7. What are your city’s primary concerns regarding stormwater management, such as:**

**a. Inspection, maintenance, and repair of your stormwater system**

- Continued inspections of the Flood Control Project structures
- Repair/replacement of aging infrastructure
- Inspection, maintenance, and repair of your stormwater system
- Maintenance will continue to be an area of concern as BMPs and new technologies continue to advance.
- Time and funding



**b. Future capacity issues resulting from growth or climate change**

- Continued leadership role in the modeling of the storm water system and maintenance of the established policies regarding maintenance of various structures along the waterways.
- Accommodating increased precipitation volumes and rates with our current infrastructure (future conditions)
- Need to discharge more stormwater downstream and downstream capacity
- Find more storage opportunities
- Encourage study and evaluation of climate change impacts on our waterbodies and municipal storm systems
- General volume capacity and managing expectations during the extreme events.
- Concern that increased rainfall amount, frequency and runoff rates will affect the entire system

**c. Implementation or enforcement of local stormwater controls**

- The watershed should continue to look to the City for implementation and enforcement actions. The watershed does not have the staff or other good mechanisms for enforcement.
- Require additional resources to maintain compliance with regulatory procedures.

**d. Stormwater utility and/or other funding mechanisms**

- Continued pursuit of grant funding and levying for projects.
- Continue cost share programs with member cities
- Add rainwater rewards program
- A resources fund set up to assist in paying for programs and projects implemented by cities
- The costs associated with service expansion along with other environmental priorities will financially strain residents and businesses.

**e. Regulatory compliance (e.g., MS4 permit)**

- Watershed takes a leadership role in the education/outreach requirements
- Technical assistance to communities as needed
- Require additional resources to maintain compliance with regulatory procedures.
- Continue to work with cities as regulations are updated and change.
- Illicit discharge
- Increased requirements and increased costs, which fall on local agencies to fund and manage with limited staff

**8. What are your organization's primary concerns regarding groundwater resources, such as:**

**a. High or low groundwater levels**

- Low groundwater levels only for our emergency backup wells.
- High groundwater negatively impacting infrastructure, homes and businesses
- High groundwater levels by Oberlin Park neighborhood area

- Flooding basements and associated living conditions.
- How increased rain may increase shallow groundwater near homes.

**b. Adequacy for drinking water supply (if applicable)**

- Not a major concern (five cities)

**c. Groundwater/surface water interaction issues**

- Not a concern (three cities)
- Always an issue when groundwater levels are high, sump pump discharges in the winter.
- Potential for contaminants to impact potable water supply

**d. Well-head protection and groundwater quality**

- A priority for some cities but not considered a BCWMC function.

**e. Effects of infiltration practices on groundwater**

- Not applicable (three cities)
- Prohibitions regarding infiltration in proximity to sanitary sewers.
- Chlorides and infiltration is also concerning.
- Potential for contaminants to impact potable water supply

**9. How would you characterize your city's working relationship with the BCWMC?**

Overall, good working relationships.

**a. What barriers limit the effectiveness of this relationship?**

- Commissioners are volunteers
- Staff time is limited
- Finding commissioners from cities with small portions in the watershed
- Engineers' memos and presentations are often difficult to understand for non-technical staff

**b. What changes would you recommend to improve the working relationship between the BCWMC and your city?**

- Cities need to keep Environmental Quality Commissions informed about watersheds
- Include a virtual option for commission meetings for staff to attend.
- Continue to communicate effectively with city staff, elected officials, and commissioners.
- More information on city websites and in city newsletters
- Shorter presentations

## Memorandum

**To:** Commissioners, Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission  
**From:** Karen Chandler, Greg Williams (Barr), and Laura Jester, BCWMC Administrator  
**Subject:** 2025 Watershed Management Plan Gaps Analysis  
**Date:** May 26, 2022

This document, referred to as the Gaps Analysis, includes a list of issues and/or topic areas and subsequent discussion of those areas as they relate to the existing 2015 Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) Watershed Management Plan (2015 Plan). The Gaps Analysis will guide development of the new Plan by identifying new or evolving issues that may warrant updating the 2015 Plan based on new data, Commission priorities, or regulatory, political, or social environment.

### 1.0 Addressing Significant Gaps

This memorandum summarizes a range of gaps. The matrix below provides a qualitative comparison of 1) the relative effort or complexity to address each gap, and 2) the relative priority to address each gap as estimated by Commission staff. Priority level is subject to further discussion by the Commission.

		Priority to address		
		Low	Medium	High
Complexity / difficulty to address	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community BMP grants</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DEI</li> <li>CIP process</li> <li>Chloride pollution</li> <li>H&amp;H modeling and mapping</li> <li>Linear project requirements</li> </ul>
	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WBIF policies</li> <li>Grant funding for flood risk reduction</li> <li>Sediment deltas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AIS management</li> <li>Buffer standard implementation</li> <li>Impaired waters and TMDLs</li> <li>Update priority waterbodies</li> <li>Assess organizational capacity*</li> <li>Stream health assessment</li> <li>Bassett Creek Valley Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Goal measurability*</li> <li>Progress assessment*</li> <li>Water quality modeling</li> <li>Climate change and precipitation trends</li> <li>Education program</li> </ul>
	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performance standards documentation</li> <li>Groundwater mgmt. roles</li> <li>Shoreline habitat monitoring</li> <li>NPDES construction stormwater permit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infiltration guidance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wetland priority areas*</li> </ul>

\* Plan content requirement per Minnesota Rules 8410

The priority and complexity of each gap assigned herein is preliminary, based on best professional judgement of BCWMC staff. The relative effort to address each gap will vary according to the “solution” pursued by the BCWMC (see Next Steps). Some of these gaps are the result of internal drivers (e.g., commissioner priorities) while others are functions of external drivers (e.g., agency requirements). Gaps related to Plan content requirements are identified as high priority and specifically noted.

## 2.0 Analysis of Gaps by Topic Area

Specific gaps are described in this section according to the topic areas of the 2015 Plan. Topic areas within this document include:

- Water quality
- Water quantity and flooding
- Erosion and sedimentation
- Streams
- Wetlands, habitat, and shoreland areas
- Groundwater
- Education and outreach
- Administration

While issues addressed in this document are categorized into one of the preceding sections, many of the issues have implications for other topic areas.

### 2.1 Water Quality

Section 3.1 of the 2015 Plan discusses water quality issues in the Bassett Creek watershed, including water quality performance standards, impaired waters and total maximum daily load (TMDL) studies, pollutant (primarily nutrient) loading, and water quality monitoring.

Topic/Current Status	Identified Gap	Possible Opportunity
<p><b><u>Impaired waters and TMDL progress</u></b></p> <p>Relative to the 2015 Plan, the 2022 MPCA impaired waters list includes no new impairments within the BCWMC. Since the 2015 Plan, Wirth Lake has been delisted for its nutrient impairment. The recent approval of the Lake Pepin/ Mississippi River nutrient TMDL includes new wasteload allocations applicable to metro MS4s.</p>	<p>The BCWMC and its member cities have performed several projects to address existing impaired waters that should be described in the Plan.</p> <p>The Plan does not address the most recent wasteload allocations for MS4s tributary to the Mississippi River and Lake Pepin.</p> <p>New impairments and/or de-listings (e.g., Sweeney Lake) may occur during Plan development, including anticipated stream and lake listings.</p>	<p>The Plan should be updated to reflect current progress towards existing TMDLs and updated to address any new impairments that arise during Plan development.</p>

Topic/Current Status	Identified Gap	Possible Opportunity
<p><b><u>Water quality performance standards</u></b></p> <p>The BCWMC’s water quality performance standards are based on the MPCA’s Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS). For projects &gt;1 acre, the BCWMC generally requires capture and retainage of 1.1 inches of runoff from new or redeveloped impervious surface sites without restrictions. For linear projects, the standard applies for projects that create 1 or more acres of new impervious surface regardless of the area of redeveloped impervious surface.</p>	<p>The BCWMC’s water quality volume standard is not as stringent as the 2020 MS4 permit. The 2020 MS4 permit requires MS4s to enforce standards for volume control of linear projects (or demonstrate what they try to do); the water control volume must be the greater of one inch over the new impervious area or 0.5 inch over the sum of the new and redeveloped impervious area. In some cases, this may result in a water quality control volume greater than that required by the BCWMC. Inconsistency between BCWMC requirements and MS4 requirements may lead to confusion when reviewing and permitting projects.</p> <p>The current BCWMC linear project standard allows potential water quality improvement opportunities to be missed during development and redevelopment activities.</p>	<p>The BCWMC may consider revising its water quality performance standard for linear projects to match the standard included in the 2020 MS4 general permit. The BCWMC may consider a tiered approach to linear requirements so as to capture more water quality improvement opportunities.</p>

Topic/Current Status	Identified Gap	Possible Opportunity
<p><b><u>Infiltration guidance</u></b></p> <p>The 2015 Plan included performance standards to emphasize infiltration as the preferred and primary mechanism to treat stormwater runoff.</p> <p>Since the development of the 2015 Plan, the MPCA’s NPDES Construction Stormwater General Permit and MS4 General Permit have been revised. The revised permits include reference to an MPCA screening checklist to determine site suitability for infiltration practices.</p>	<p>While infiltration is still the preferred strategy to treat stormwater runoff in many locations, portions of the Plan text may refer to outdated infiltration guidance. The flowchart from the <i>Requirements for Development and Redevelopment Proposals</i> document (Requirements document) does not reference the MPCA screening checklist.</p>	<p>The Plan should be updated to reference current guidance regarding infiltration site restrictions and/or explicitly describe those site restrictions in the Plan. The BCWMC may also consider concurrent updates to the Requirements document.</p>
<p><b><u>Chloride loading</u></b></p> <p>Chloride loading was an emerging issue at the time of 2015 Plan development. It is briefly described in the Plan issues section. Policies included in the 2015 Plan are limited to encouraging cities to limit chloride loading to waters and cooperate with partners to implement the then-future Twin Cities Metro Area Chloride TMDL. Since the 2015 Plan, the Twin Cities Metro Area Chloride TMDL and implementation plan have been completed.</p>	<p>The 2015 Plan does not fully characterize chloride loading issues within the watershed.</p>	<p>The 2025 Plan should utilize recent land use analysis and P8 modeling to illustrate and prioritize chloride hot spots.</p> <p>The BCWMC may consider adopting a goal (and supporting policies) specifically related to chloride issues. The BCWMC could identify chloride management practices that are currently implemented, what gaps remain, and how the BCWMC can assist in filling those gaps. New BCWMC projects or programs could include targeted CIP projects to reduce chloride pollution or new requirements prioritized in watersheds of impaired waters</p>

<b>Topic/Current Status</b>	<b>Identified Gap</b>	<b>Possible Opportunity</b>
<p><b><u>Water quality modeling</u></b></p> <p>Since the 2015 Plan was adopted, the BCWMC has developed and updated a watershed-wide P8 model.</p>	<p>Watershed-wide pollutant loading estimates were not available or included in the 2015 Plan.</p> <p>Comprehensive pollutant loading estimates (in combination with other data) provide a quantitative means to prioritize areas or subwatersheds for program or project implementation.</p>	<p>The BCWMC may establish priority areas (i.e., hot spots) for implementation based on high pollutant loading and/or low existing treatment.</p>
<p><b><u>BCWMC priority waterbodies</u></b></p> <p>The development of the 2015 Plan included the identification of Level 1 and Level 2 priority waterbodies based on a number of factors including: public access, size, intercommunity watershed, impairments, and others.</p>	<p>The existing priority waterbody classification may not reflect current BCWMC and/or member city priorities.</p> <p>The existing waterbody classification does not consider water quality trends/data observed since 2015.</p>	<p>The BCWMC may review the waterbody classification data (Appendix C of the 2015 Plan), updated to reflect more recent water quality, and affirm or revise the list of BCWMC priority waterbodies.</p>

## 2.2 Flooding and Rate Control

Section 3.2 of the 2015 Plan addresses water quantity and flooding issues. Specific issues discussed include risk to public health, infrastructure, and natural resources from flooding, floodplain management, Medicine Lake water levels, and maintenance of the BCMWC Flood Control Project.

Current Status	Identified Gap	Possible Opportunity
<p><b><u>Climate change and precipitation trends</u></b></p> <p>The 2015 Plan includes discussion of Atlas 14 precipitation data, published in 2013. Recent studies suggest continuing increasing trends in precipitation volume and intensity. The 2011-2020 period was the wettest decade in Minnesota in recorded history.</p> <p>Public awareness of climate change and political interest in addressing climate change have increased relative to the 2015 Plan.</p>	<p>The 2015 Plan does not address include policies related to climate change, precipitation trends, or climate resiliency (e.g., performance of BCWMC projects under future climate conditions).</p>	<p>The BCWMC may consider its role relative to increased precipitation trends as well as broader climate change. Specific issues to consider may include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sustainability and/or carbon footprint of BCWMC projects</li> <li>- Designing for larger storm events</li> <li>- Assessing flood risk of larger storm events</li> <li>- Impacts of increasing precipitation on the Bassett Creek Flood Control Project</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Hydrologic and hydraulic modeling and mapping</u></b></p> <p>Since adoption of the 2015 Plan, the BCWMC has developed and updated a watershed-wide XP-SWMM hydrologic and hydraulic model (including inundation mapping for the 100-year event).</p>	<p>Watershed-wide inundation mapping in the 2015 Plan is limited to FEMA-mapped areas. Updated watershed-wide modeling is available and may be used to prioritize areas of increased flood risk for BCWMC projects.</p> <p>The watershed-wide model may need to be updated to estimate impacts of future precipitation trends on city and/or BCWMC infrastructure.</p>	<p>The BCWMC may establish priority areas for flood risk reduction projects based on model results.</p> <p>The BCWMC may update the watershed-wide model (beyond the regular updates made to incorporate new/re-development) to inform policies, projects, and projects related to climate change and precipitation trends.</p>



Current Status	Identified Gap	Possible Opportunity
<p><b><u>Grant funding for flood risk reduction</u></b></p> <p>Since adoption of the 2015 Plan, BWSR has provided non-competitive watershed-based implementation funding (WBIF) for projects to address water quality issues. WBIF funding cannot be used for projects primarily to address flood risk reduction. Some member cities have successfully obtained Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Flood Reduction Grants to offset the cost of BWCMC CIP projects addressing flood risk.</p>	<p>New funding tools may not be available to address flood risk reduction as a primary benefit. Projects that incorporate water quality improvements alongside flood risk reduction may provide an opportunity for multiple benefits to be achieved through WBIF.</p>	<p>The BCWMC may consider revising the project prioritization framework to further promote projects that incorporate both water quality and water quantity benefits.</p>

### 2.3 Erosion and Sediment Control

Section 3.3 of the 2015 Plan addresses erosion and sedimentation issues. Specific issues discussed include requirements for MS4s to implement erosion and sediment controls and sediment deltas downstream of stormwater outfalls identified by stakeholders during 2015 Plan development.

Current Status	Identified Gap	Possible Opportunity
<p><b><u>NPDES Construction Stormwater Permit</u></b></p> <p>The Plan references the 2013 NPDES Construction Stormwater Permit. The permit was updated in 2018.</p>	<p>The references to the MPCA’s 2013 NPDES Construction Stormwater Permit in the 2015 BCWMC Plan are out of date. The updates to the permit do not substantially impact the references in the BCWMC Plan.</p>	<p>The BCWMC must revise impacted sections of the Plan to reference the current Construction Stormwater Permit.</p>

Current Status	Identified Gap	Possible Opportunity
<p><b><u>Sediment deltas</u></b></p> <p>Accumulation of sediment deltas downstream of pipe outfalls was identified as an issue during 2015 Plan development. The 2015 Plan includes a policy to potentially fund sediment removal in intercommunity waterbodies.</p>	<p>Existing policy may not be sufficient to determine roles and responsibilities related to addressing sediment deltas in BCWMC lakes or streams. The 2015 Plan lacks an implementation component to address this issue.</p>	<p>The BCWMC may consider consulting the City TAC to determine the extent and severity of this issue. If determined to be significant, the BCWMC may consider addressing it with a program or project(s) within the Plan implementation schedule.</p>

## 2.4 Stream Management

Section 3.4 of the 2015 Plan addresses stream management issues. Specific issues discussed include altered stream hydrology, ravine and streambank degradation, and stream restoration (including project prioritization methods and use of natural materials).

Current Status	Identified Gap	Possible Opportunity
<p><b><u>Stream health assessments</u></b></p> <p>Following adoption of the 2015 Plan, the BCWMC began monitoring flow and water chemistry on Bassett Creek tributaries. This data is in addition to the ongoing watershed outlet monitoring program (WOMP) and BCWMC stream biotic monitoring. Biotic impairments of BCWMC streams are anticipated with the 2024 impaired waters list.</p>	<p>Bassett Creek tributary water chemistry data was not available during 2015 Plan development. Stream health in the BCWMC has not been comprehensively assessed. Existing stream health tools may not be appropriate for urbanized streams like those in the BCWMC.</p>	<p>Plan development is an opportunity to develop a more complete assessment of BCWMC stream health and to better understand stream impairments, applicable stressors, and the impact of current or future protection or restoration strategies.</p>

## 2.5 Wetlands, Habitat and Shoreland

Section 3.5 of the 2015 Plan summarizes issues related to wetlands, habitat and shoreland areas. Specific issues discussed include wetland buffer widths, aquatic invasive species (AIS) management, and member city wetland classification and management. During 2015 Plan development, residents ranked wildlife habitat and AIS as high priorities.

Current Status	Identified Gap	Possible Opportunity
<p><b><u>Wetland priority areas</u></b></p> <p>The 2015 Plan includes discussion of the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) and corresponding figure. The 2015 Plan also notes that member city wetland inventories exist but vary in their extent.</p>	<p>The 2015 update to Minnesota Rules 8410 requires that the Plan include priority areas for wetland preservation, enhancement restoration, and establishment. The 2015 Plan does not include such a prioritization.</p>	<p>The 2025 Plan should include the determination of priority areas for wetland management to be consistent with MN Rules 8410.0060.</p>
<p><b><u>Buffer standard implementation</u></b></p> <p>The 2015 Plan and subsequent revisions to the Requirements document included increased minimum buffer width performance standards. Member cities must include buffer widths in their local controls (e.g., ordinances).</p>	<p>Since adoption of the 2015 Plan, the BCWMC has not comprehensively reviewed the implementation of wetland buffer width standards to assess its impact on resource protection or development or redevelopment opportunities (i.e., are higher standards limiting projects)</p>	<p>The planning process is an opportunity for the BCWMC to review buffer width implementation by member cities to determine if any changes to performance standards or implementation are warranted.</p>
<p><b><u>AIS management</u></b></p> <p>Since adoption of the 2015 Plan, the BCWMC developed the <i>BCWMC AIS Rapid Response Plan</i>. That plan includes specific roles for cities, the BCWMC, and partner agencies related to AIS management in BCWMC Level 1 priority waterbodies.</p>	<p>The policies in the 2015 Plan related to AIS do not reflect the specific roles and responsibilities detailed in the <i>BCWMC AIS Rapid Response Plan</i>.</p> <p>The inventory of AIS present in the BCWMC in the 2015 Plan is not current and should be updated (e.g., to include zebra mussels and starry stonewort).</p>	<p>The planning process is an opportunity for the BCWMC to reflect on the implementation of the <i>BCWMC AIS Rapid Response Plan</i>, revise the AIS plan if needed, and update Plan policies to be consistent with the <i>BCWMC AIS Rapid Response Plan</i>, as revised.</p>

Current Status	Identified Gap	Possible Opportunity
<p><b><u>Shoreland habitat monitoring</u></b></p> <p>Policy 78 of the 2015 Plan states that the BCWMC will consider implementing a shoreline habitat monitoring program for Level 1 priority lakes.</p>	<p>Following a recommendation by the TAC in November 2016, the BCWMC chose not to implement the monitoring program referenced in policy 78 of the 2015 Plan.</p>	<p>The 2015 policy should be updated (or deleted) to reflect the BCWMC prior action or current intend. The planning process is an opportunity for the BCWMC to re-evaluate if additional habitat monitoring of BCWMC priority lakes is worthwhile and should be included in the ongoing monitoring program (or coordinated with member cities).</p>

## 2.6 Groundwater

Section 3.6 of the 2015 Plan summarizes issues related to groundwater management. Specific issues discussed include clarifying the BCWMC’s role in groundwater management, guidance for infiltration in vulnerable areas, and groundwater conservation.

Current Status	Identified Gap	Possible Opportunity
<p><b><u>Groundwater Management Roles</u></b></p> <p>Policy 47 in the 2015 Plan identifies potential BCWMC groundwater management roles in coordination with other partners, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- identify data gaps and attempt to fill those gaps through collection of groundwater level data and/or surface water flow data.</li> <li>- develop a groundwater budget for the watershed.</li> <li>- develop and utilize tools to assess surface water impacts and groundwater impacts of groundwater use</li> </ul>	<p>To date, the BCWMC has not collaborated with partners to perform the potential groundwater roles identified in policy 47.</p>	<p>The BCWMC may use the Plan update process to get input from planning partners regarding priority groundwater issues and appropriate roles for the BCWMC.</p>

## 2.7 Public Involvement and Education

Section 3.7 of the 2015 Plan discusses issues related to outreach and education. The 2015 Plan notes opportunities for increased education tracking metrics, collaborative relationships with Metro Blooms, West Metro Watershed Alliance, Hennepin County, and other partners, and identification of specific training for member city staff.

Current Status	Identified Gap	Possible Opportunity
<p><b><u>Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)</u></b></p> <p>The 2015 Plan does not address diversity, equity, or inclusion in watershed management.</p> <p>The BCWMC has expressed interest in addressing DEI in the 2025 Plan. The BCWMC co-hosted an event in April 2022 to share information about DEI aspects of watershed management.</p>	<p>The BCWMC has identified DEI as a gap in the current Plan.</p> <p>There are opportunities to address DEI in the Plan, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Goals</li> <li>- Policies</li> <li>- Implementation priorities</li> <li>- Outreach and partnerships</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: while this item is included under "Outreach and Education" it affects many aspects of the Plan update and ongoing operations.</i></p>	<p>BCWMC staff and/or commissioners plan to meet with representatives from community groups to identify ways the BCWMC can address DEI in its operations, programs, and projects.</p> <p>The BCWMC may develop outreach strategies to increase engagement with under-represented groups and consider equity principals in setting priority areas for programs and projects.</p>
<p><b><u>Community Grants</u></b></p> <p>The BCWMC does not currently provide grant funds to individuals or groups to implement stormwater BMPs.</p>	<p>There is increasing public interest in water and natural resource stewardship. Many watershed management organizations (WMOs) implement grant programs to fund voluntary stormwater BMPs constructed on private property.</p>	<p>The BCWMC may consider developing (or partnering to support) a grant program to implement private-property stormwater BMPs.</p>

Current Status	Identified Gap	Possible Opportunity
<p><b><u>Education Program</u></b></p> <p>Appendix B of the 2015 Plan is an Education and Outreach Plan (EOP). That plan describes key audiences, methods for communication, topics and messages, and methods for evaluation.</p>	<p>BCWMC evaluation of education program may identify areas for effective outreach. The topics emphasized in the EOP may not reflect priority issues identified in this Plan update. The EOP does not address issues or strategies related to DEI.</p> <p>A key recommendation in the 2021 Watershed Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) Report developed by BWSR includes “Prioritize developing an education and outreach strategy for BCWMC constituents.” The PRAP noted that BCWMC education programs are limited by staff capacity and funding.</p>	<p>The BCWMC may update the EOP concurrent with the Plan update to reflect the priorities of the Plan and specifically address DEI gaps.</p> <p>The BCWMC should explore opportunities to expand its education programs through additional funding, additional staff, collaboration with Hennepin County, or expanded partnership with the West Metro Water Alliance.</p>

## 2.8 Administration and Implementation

Section 3.8 of the 2015 Plan describes issues and opportunities related to the BCWMC’s responsibilities and implementation. Issues identified in the 2015 Plan include lack of quantifiable goals, opportunities to clarify maintenance roles, evaluation of member city implementation, and updates to Minnesota watershed law.

Current Status	Identified Gap	Possible Opportunity
<p><b><u>Measurable goals</u></b></p> <p>Since development of the 2015 Plan, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) revised Minnesota Rules 8410 and placed additional emphasis on the measurability of goals. Most of the goals in the 2015 Plan are qualitative.</p>	<p>Existing BCWMC goals included in the 2015 Plan are not sufficiently measurable or quantifiable.</p>	<p>BCWMC Plan goals must be updated to provide additional measurability to receive BWSR approval. This is also reflected as a recommendation in the 2021 PRAP by BWSR to “develop clear, measurable goals and actions for future plan implementation.”</p>

<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Identified Gap</b>	<b>Possible Opportunity</b>
<p><b><u>Performance standards documentation</u></b></p> <p>The 2015 Plan includes several performance standards related to water quality volumes, minimum building elevations, vegetated buffers, and stormwater rate control. These are included in the 2015 Plan policies.</p> <p>These performance standards are also included in the BCWMC's <i>Requirements for Development and Redevelopment Proposals</i> document (Requirements document).</p>	<p>BCWMC performance standards are documented in two different sources. The Requirements document has been revised several times since adoption of the 2015 Plan. Including performance standards in two documents may result in future inconsistencies.</p>	<p>The BCWMC may consider omitting performance standards from the policies included in the Plan. Instead, the Requirements document may be used as the sole source of performance standards. The Requirements document may be referenced within, and appended to, the Plan.</p>
<p><b><u>Progress assessment</u></b></p> <p>The revised Minnesota Rules 8410 require the BCWMC to assess its progress towards measurable goals at least every two years. The BCWMC submits an annual report each year.</p>	<p>The 2015 Plan does not describe a process for assessing progress towards goals. Progress towards goals is not quantified in the BCWMC's annual report.</p>	<p>The Plan must include description of a process for assessing progress towards measurable goals. This may include a tracking table, summary sheets for select goals and/or waterbodies, or other methods.</p>
<p><b><u>Capital Improvement Planning</u></b></p> <p>Following adoption of the 2015 Plan, the BCWMC developed a project prioritization framework to score and rank potential CIP projects. New projects are often added with TAC recommendations.</p>	<p>The BCWMC CIP project prioritization framework is a tool to rank potential projects following their addition to the CIP. Some commissioners have expressed interest in a more "proactive" process that includes a more systematic identification of possible projects.</p>	<p>The planning process is the ideal time for the BCWMC to evaluate its CIP development, project scoring process, and program implementation to determine if changes are needed. This was also a recommendation in the 2021 PRAP by BWSR to "conduct a review of the BCWMC capital improvement program (CIP)."</p>

<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Identified Gap</b>	<b>Possible Opportunity</b>
<p><b><u>Watershed-based implementation funding (WBIF)</u></b></p> <p>It is likely that BWSR will continue to allocate non-competitive grant funding to be used in the Bassett Creek watershed via WBIF. The BCWMC collaborates with cities, Hennepin County, and others to allocate those funds.</p>	<p>WBIF is in its early stages and the process for its allocation has changed with each biennium. The 2015 Plan generally describes funding sources but does not address a cooperative grant source like WBIF.</p>	<p>The BCWMC may use the Plan update process to clarify its financial policies and/or program and project priorities as they relate to WBIF or similar sources of funding.</p>
<p><b><u>BCWMC Organizational Capacity</u></b></p> <p>The BCWMC does not maintain full time staff. The BCWMC contracts with a part time administrator and consultants to conduct its operations and implement the Plan.</p>	<p>The existing BCWMC organizational capacity may not be sufficient to carry out all tasks necessary to maintain the organization and implement the updated BCWMC Plan.</p>	<p>The BCWMC may use the Plan update process to evaluate whether increases in staff resources/capacity are necessary to implement the updated Plan.</p>
<p><b><u>Bassett Creek Valley Master Plan Implementation</u></b></p> <p>The City of Minneapolis seeks to implement portions of the Bassett Creek Valley Master Plan (BCVMP). The Plan identifies potential flood storage and water quality treatment opportunities.</p>	<p>Implementation of the BCVMP may provide potential opportunities to achieve shared City/BCWMC goals, including increased flood storage and water quality treatment. Potential project funding sources, roles, and responsibilities for implementing the BCVMP are not established.</p>	<p>The BCWMC may use Plan development as an opportunity to collaborate with Minneapolis to identify improvements to achieve shared goals move forward with the BCVMP.</p>

### 3.0 Next Steps

This memorandum summarizes known and anticipated gaps the Commission may choose to address as part of the Plan update process (and some gaps that must be addressed to address Plan requirements). This version of the memorandum was developed prior to the results of other planned stakeholder engagement activities including:

- Responses to the Plan notification letter
- Responses to the City staff questionnaire



**To:** Commissioners, Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission  
**From:** Karen Chandler, Greg Williams (Barr), and Laura Jester, BCWMC Administrator  
**Subject:** 2025 Watershed Management Plan Gaps Analysis  
**Date:** June 27, 2022  
**Page:** 15

---

- Resident survey responses
- Meetings with community groups

The gaps presented in this memorandum are intended to serve as input to commissioner discussion of priority issues at a workshop tentatively scheduled for July 2022. Following that discussion, BCWMC staff will develop a more detailed scope and schedule to address those gaps/challenges identified as high priority.