



Memorandum

To: Commissioners, Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission
From: Karen Chandler, Greg Williams (Barr), and Laura Jester, BCWMC Administrator
Subject: Summary of Complex Issues for Additional Scoping (Plan Update Phase 2)
Date: July 13, 2022

Recommendation:

1. Direct the Commission Engineer and Administrator to develop a more detailed scope of activities to address challenging and complex issues per Phase 2 of the Plan Update Scope

As part of the 2025 Watershed Management Plan (Plan) update, several challenging issues should be evaluated to determine the appropriate role for the Commission. This analysis is identified as Phase 2 in the [Plan update scope](#) approved in March, 2022. These are issues that are estimated to require consideration beyond the scope of a typical Plan update due to their complexity, emerging nature, and/or other factors.

The Plan Steering Committee and city staff participated in an issue identification workshop on July 11, 2022. The purpose of that workshop was to identify issues, opportunities, and gaps to be addressed in the 2025 Plan update and provide feedback on whether the issue, opportunity, or gap:

- 1) Is adequately addressed by current Commission policy or programs;
- 2) Needs additional analysis to define the Commissions' role; or
- 3) Is important but not something on which the Commission should take lead role.

Workshop participants met in four small groups to discuss and categorize each issue. Results of this exercise are presented in Table 1. Commission staff considered the results of the workshop to identify the following topics as priorities for more detailed consideration above and beyond that of a typical Plan update (those items in **bold** are expected to require analysis from the Commission Engineer, while the others are anticipated to be addressed primarily by the Administrator, commissioners, and technical advisory committee (TAC)). (Parenthetical numbers represent the number of the issue as found in Table 1.)

- a. Implement projects through a diversity, equity, and inclusion lens, (#23) including:
 - Outreach to and build relationships with diverse communities (including Native cultures) (#24)
- b. Expand education and outreach program (education to groups/residents, helping cities fulfill stormwater education requirements) (#25)
- c. Training, orientation, and education for commissioners and alternate commissioners (#26)
- d. **Assess impacts of climate change on water resources and build climate resiliency** (#8)
- e. **Strategies to address chloride pollution** (#7)

- f. **Water quality standards for linear projects** (#11)
- g. Capital improvement program (CIP) including project identification and program implementation (#13)
- h. **Stormwater management in Bassett Creek Valley** (#15)
- i. **Programs to manage or restore riparian areas** (#17)
- j. **Evaluate stream health to address biotic impairments** (#4)
- k. Policy development for addressing sediment deltas in streams and lakes (#22)
- l. Provide grant funding for small scale BMPs by residents or businesses (#10)
- m. Water level variability (#30)

This list does not include the issue of addressing organizational capacity of the Commission. We believe discussion and decisions about this issue may happen more “organically” once the Plan’s programs and projects are more solidified later in planning process.

This list also does not include the issue of aquatic plant management/aquatic invasive species. We recommend the Commission first revisit the Aquatic Plant Management/Aquatic Invasive Species (APM/AIS) policies and practices adopted in 2017.

The Plan update scope approved by the commissioners in March, 2022 included placeholder values for the estimated cost to perform the analyses necessary to address anticipated complex or challenging issues. With these issues identified, we request the Commission authorize the Engineer and Administrator to develop a more detailed scope of activities to address these issues.

Table 1 Results of Plan Steering Committee Workshop Categorization of Issues by Small Groups
(figures in the table represent number of groups assigning issue to that category)

Issue or Topic	Number of group votes by category		
	Current BCWMC role is generally appropriate (Green)	Important issue; significant analysis needed to determine BCWMC’s role (Yellow)	Important issue but not BCWMC’s role to lead (Red)
1. Focus on impaired waters and pollutant loading hotspots	3.5	0.5	
2. Focus on reducing flood risk and flood impacts	3.5	0.5	
3. Monitor water quality of lakes and streams	4		
4. Evaluate stream health to address biotic impairments	2	2	

Issue or Topic	Number of group votes by category		
	Current BCWMC role is generally appropriate (Green)	Important issue; significant analysis needed to determine BCWMC's role (Yellow)	Important issue but not BCWMC's role to lead (Red)
5. Modeling and model maintenance for pollutant loads and hydrology (P8 model and XPSWMM model)	4		
6. Flood Control Project inspections, maintenance, repair per current policies	3	1	
7. Strategies to address chloride pollution		3.5	0.5
8. Assess impacts of climate change on water resources and build climate resiliency		4	0.5
9. Manage aquatic invasive species (AIS)	0.5	3	0.5
10. Provide grant funding for small scale BMPs by residents or businesses	1	2	1
11. Water quality standards for linear projects (like road reconstruction projects)		3.5	1
12. Standards and requirements related to non-linear projects	3	1	
13. Capital improvement program (CIP) including project identification and program implementation	1	3	
14. Assess and/or mitigate carbon footprint of BCWMC projects and programs		1	3
15. Stormwater management (flooding and water quality) in Bassett Creek Valley, Minneapolis	1.5	2.5	
16. Programs to manage or restore wetlands	2	1	1
17. Programs to manage or restore riparian areas	1	2.5	0.5
18. Programs to manage or restore high priority upland natural areas		0.5	3.5
19. Buffer requirements (streams, wetlands, lakes)	2	1.5	0.5

Issue or Topic	Number of group votes by category		
	Current BCWMC role is generally appropriate (Green)	Important issue; significant analysis needed to determine BCWMC's role (Yellow)	Important issue but not BCWMC's role to lead (Red)
20. Groundwater monitoring or management		0.5	3.5
21. BCWMC priority classifications of waterbodies	3	1	
22. Policy development for addressing sediment deltas in streams and lakes		2	1.5
23. Implement projects and programs through a diversity, equity, and inclusion lens		4	
24. Outreach to and building relationships with diverse communities (including Native cultures)	0.5	3.5	
25. Expand education and outreach program (education to groups/residents; helping cities fulfill stormwater education requirements, etc.)		4	
26. Training, orientation, and education for commissioners and alternate commissioners	1	3	
27. Provide/enhance water access and recreation opportunities			4
28. Organizational capacity (e.g., BCWMC staffing)	1	3	
29. BWCMC funding mechanisms	3	1	
30. Water level variability		1	