



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission MEMO

Date: August 8, 2022
From: Laura Jester, Administrator
To: BCWMC Commissioners
RE: **Administrator's Report**

Aside from this month's agenda items, the Commission Engineers, city staff, committee members, and I continue to work on the following Commission projects and issues.

CIP Projects (more resources at <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects.>)

2019 Medicine Lake Road and Winnetka Avenue Area Long Term Flood Mitigation Plan Implementation Phase I: DeCola Ponds B & C Improvement Project (BC-2, BC-3 & BC-8) Golden Valley (No change since Nov): A feasibility study for this project was completed in May 2018 after months of study, development of concepts and input from residents at two public open houses. At the May 2018 meeting, the Commission approved Concept 3 and set a maximum 2019 levy. Also in May 2018, the Minnesota Legislature passed the bonding bill and the MDNR has since committed \$2.3M for the project. The Hennepin County Board approved a maximum 2019 levy request at their meeting in July 2018. A BCWMC public hearing on this project was held on August 16, 2018 with no comments being received. Also at that meeting the Commission officially ordered the project and entered an agreement with the City of Golden Valley to design and construct the project. In September 2018, the City of Golden Valley approved the agreement with the BCWMC. The [Sun Post](#) ran an article on this project October 2018. Another public open house and presentation of 50% designs was held February 6, 2019. An EAW report was completed and available for public review and comment December 17 – January 16, 2019. At their meeting in February 2019, the Commission approved the 50% design plans. Another public open house was held April 10th and a public hearing on the water level drawdown was held April 16th. 90% Design Plans were approved at the April Commission meeting. It was determined a Phase 1 investigation of the site is not required. The City awarded a contract to Dahn Construction for the first phase of the project, which involves earthwork, utilities, and trail paving and extends through June 2020. Dewatering began late summer 2019. Tree removal was completed in early winter; excavation was ongoing through the winter. As of early June 2020, earth work and infrastructure work by Dahn Construction is nearly complete and trail paving is complete. Vegetative restoration by AES is underway including soil prep and seeding. Plants, shrubs, and trees will begin soon along with placement to goose protection fencing to help ensure successful restoration. The construction phase of this project was completed in June with minor punch list items completed in September. The restoration and planting phase is complete except for minor punch list items and monitoring and establishment of vegetation over three growing seasons. A final grant report for BWSR's Watershed Based Implementation Funding was submitted at the end of January. City staff recently completed a site walk through to document dead or dying trees and shrubs in need of replacement (under warranty). This project (along with Golden Valley's Liberty Crossing Project) recently received the award for "Project of the Year" from the Minnesota Association of Floodplain Managers as part of the overall Project website: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?CID=433> .

2020 Bryn Mawr Meadows Water Quality Improvement Project (BC-5), Minneapolis: A feasibility study by the Commission Engineer was developed in 2018 and approved in January 2019. The study included wetland delineations, soil borings, public open houses held in conjunction with MPRB's Bryn Mawr Meadows Park improvement project, and input from MPRB's staff and design consultants. Project construction year was revised from 2020 and 2022 to better coincide with the MPRB's planning and implementation of significant improvements and redevelopment Bryn Mawr Meadows Park where the project will be located. A public hearing for this project was held September 19, 2019. The project was officially ordered at that meeting. In January 2020 this project was awarded a \$400,000 Clean Water Fund grant from BWSR; a grant work plan was completed and the grant with BWSR was fully executed in early May 2020. The project and the grant award was the subject of an article in the Southwest Journal in February: <https://www.southwestjournal.com/voices/green-digest/2020/02/state-awards-grant-to-bryn-mawr-runoff-project/>. In September 2020, Minneapolis and MPRB staff met to review the implementation agreement and maintenance roles.

BCWMC developed options for contracting and implementation which were presented at the November meeting. At that meeting staff was directed to develop a memorandum of understanding or agreement among BCWMC, MPRB, and city of Minneapolis to more formally recognize and assign roles and responsibilities for implementation. The draft agreement was developed over several months and multiple conversations among the parties. At the May 2021 meeting the Commission approved to waive potential conflict of the Commission legal counsel and reviewed a proposal for project design by the Commission Engineer. The updated design proposal and the design agreement among all three parties were approved at the June 2021 meeting. Four public open houses were held in the park in 2021 to gather input on park concepts. Project partners met regularly throughout design to discuss schedules, planning and design components, and next steps. Concept designs were approved by the MRPB Board in late 2021. Staff met with MnDOT regarding clean out of Penn Pond and continue discussions. 50% design plans were approved by the Commission at the January meeting; 90% design plans were approved at the March meeting along with an agreement with MPRB and Minneapolis for construction. The agreement was approved by all three bodies. Commission Engineers finalized designs and assisted with bidding documents. Bids were returned in early August. Staff will update the Commission on project budget and schedule at this meeting. Project website: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/bryn-mawr-meadows-water-quality-improvement-project>

2020 Jevne Park Stormwater Improvement Project (ML-21) Medicine Lake (No change since April): At their meeting in July 2018, the Commission approved a proposal from the Commission Engineer to prepare a feasibility study for this project. The study got underway last fall and the city's project team met on multiple occasions with the Administrator and Commission Engineer. The Administrator and Engineer also presented the draft feasibility study to the Medicine Lake City Council on February 4, 2019 and a public open house was held on February 28th. The feasibility study was approved at the April Commission meeting with intent to move forward with option 1. The city's project team is continuing to assess the project and understand its implications on city finances, infrastructure, and future management. The city received proposals from 3 engineering firms for project design and construction. At their meeting on August 5th, the Medicine Lake City Council voted to continue moving forward with the project and negotiating the terms of the agreement with BCWMC. Staff was directed to continue negotiations on the agreement and plan to order the project pending a public hearing at this meeting. Staff continues to correspond with the city's project team and city consultants regarding language in the agreement. The BCWMC held a public hearing on this project on September 19, 2019 and received comments from residents both in favor and opposed to the project. The project was officially ordered on September 19, 2019. On October 4, 2019, the Medicine Lake City Council took action not to move forward with the project. At their meeting in October 2019, the Commission moved to table discussion on the project. The project remains on the 2020 CIP list. In a letter dated January 3, 2022, the city of Medicine Lake requested that the Commission direct its engineer to analyze alternatives to the Jevne Park Project that could result in the same or similar pollutant removals and/or stormwater storage capacity. At the March meeting, the Commission directed the Commission Engineer to prepare a scope and budget for the alternatives analysis which were presented and discussed at the April meeting. No action was taken at that meeting to move forward with alternatives analysis. Project webpage: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=467>.

2014 Schaper Pond Diversion Project and Carp Management, Golden Valley (SL-3) (No change since July): Repairs to the baffle structure were made in 2017 after anchor weights pulled away from the bottom of the pond and some vandalism occurred in 2016. The city continues to monitor the baffle and check the anchors, as needed. Vegetation around the pond was planted in 2016 and a final inspection of the vegetation was completed last fall. Once final vegetation has been completed, erosion control will be pulled and the contract will be closed. The Commission Engineer began the Schaper Pond Effectiveness Monitoring Project last summer and presented results and recommendations at the May 2018 meeting. Additional effectiveness monitoring is being performed this summer. At the July meeting the Commission Engineer reported that over 200 carp were discovered in the pond during a recent carp survey. At the September meeting the Commission approved the Engineer's recommendation to perform a more in-depth survey of carp including transmitters to learn where and when carp are moving through the system. At the October 2020 meeting, the Commission received a report on the carp surveys and recommendations for carp removal and management. Carp removals were performed through the Sweeney Lake Water Quality Improvement Project. Results were presented at the February 2021 meeting along with a list of options for long term carp control.

Commission took action approving evaluation of the long-term options to be paid from this Schaper Pond Project. Commission and Golden Valley staff met in March 2021 to further discuss pros and cons of various options. At the September 2021 meeting, the Commission approved utilizing an adaptive management approach to carp management in the pond (\$8,000) and directed staff to discuss use of stocking panfish to predate carp eggs. Commission Engineers will survey the carp in 2022. At the April meeting, the Commission approved panfish stocking in Schaper Pond along with a scope and budget for carp removals to be implemented later in 2022 if needed.



Commission staff informed lake association and city about summer activities and plans for a fall alum treatment. Approximately 1,000 bluegills were released into Schaper Pond in late May. Carp population assessments by electroshocking in Sweeney Lake and Schaper Pond began on June 21st (see photo). Project webpage: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=277>.

Sweeney Lake Water Quality Improvement Project, Golden Valley (SL-8) (No change since May): This project was added to the 2020 CIP list after receiving a federal 319 grant from the MPCA. It is partially a result of the carp surveys completed through the Schaper Pond Diversion Project and a study of the year-round aeration on Sweeney Lake. This project will treat curly-leaf pondweed in spring 2020, will remove carp in summer 2020, and will perform an alum treatment on Sweeney Lake in late summer 2020. The project was officially ordered by the Commission after a public hearing in September 2019. A public open house on this project was held via Webex on April 8th with approximately 20 people joining. The open house presentation and a question and answer document are available online. The curly-leaf pondweed herbicide treatment was completed in May. Carp Solutions performed carp tracking and setting nets in early June. The first round of netting resulted in 334 carp removed from Sweeney Lake (mean length 620 mm, mean weight 3.1 kg), representing an estimated 29% of the total population. From Schaper Pond 82 carp removed which likely represents about 17% of the initial population. After another round of carp removals in late July, 118 additional carp were netted from Sweeney. Based on preliminary estimates, approximately 40% of the carp population was removed from Sweeney this summer. The carp biomass was reduced from approximately 129 kg/ha to 79 kg/ha, which is below the threshold where adverse impacts on water quality are expected. The first round of alum treatment was completed in late October. A grant report and payment request were submitted at the end of January. A report on the results of the carp removals and recommendations for future management were presented at the February 2021 meeting. Long term carp management evaluation will happen through the Schaper Pond Diversion Project funding. A one-page overview of 2020 activities and outcomes was developed for the Sweeney Lake Association and [posted online](#) in March. The Commission is performing post alum treatment water monitoring this year along with additional carp population assessments (see photo above). The project website: [Sweeney Lake Water Quality Improvement Project, SL-8](#).

2014 Twin Lake In-lake Alum Treatment, Golden Valley (TW-2): (No change since June 2018) At their March 2015 meeting, the Commission approved the project specifications and directed the city to finalize specifications and solicit bids for the project. The contract was awarded to HAB Aquatic Solutions. The alum treatment spanned two days: May 18- 19, 2015 with 15,070 gallons being applied. Water temperatures and water pH stayed within the desired ranges for the treatment. Early transparency data from before and after the treatment indicates a change in Secchi depth from 1.2 meters before the treatment to 4.8 meters on May 20th. There were no complaints or comments from residents during or since the treatment.

Water monitoring continues to determine if and when a second alum treatment is necessary. Lake monitoring results from 2017 were presented at the June 2018 meeting. Commissioners agreed with staff recommendations to keep the CIP funding remaining for this project as a 2nd treatment may be needed in the future. Project webpage: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=278>.

2013 Four Seasons Area Water Quality Project (NL-2) (No change since February): At their meeting in December 2016, the Commission took action to contribute up to \$830,000 of Four Seasons CIP funds for stormwater management at

the Agora development on the old Four Seasons Mall location. At their February 2017 meeting the Commission approved an agreement with Rock Hill Management (RHM) and an agreement with the City of Plymouth allowing the developer access to a city-owned parcel to construct a wetland restoration project and to ensure ongoing maintenance of the CIP project components. At the August 2017 meeting, the Commission approved the 90% design plans for the CIP portion of the project. At the April 2018 meeting, Commissioner Prom notified the Commission that RHM recently disbanded its efforts to purchase the property for redevelopment. In 2019, a new potential buyer/developer (Dominium) began preparing plans for redevelopment at the site. City staff, the Commission Engineer and I have met on numerous occasions with the developer and their consulting engineers to discuss stormwater management and opportunities with “above and beyond” pollutant reductions. Concurrently, the Commission attorney has been working to draft an agreement to transfer BCWMC CIP funds for the above and beyond treatment. At their meeting in December, Dominium shared preliminary project plans and the Commission discussed the redevelopment and potential “above and beyond” stormwater management techniques. At the April 2020 meeting, the Commission conditionally approved the 90% project plans. The agreements with Dominium and the city of Plymouth to construct the project were approved May 2020 and project designers coordinated with Commission Engineers to finalize plans per conditions. In June 2021, the City of Plymouth purchased the property from Walmart. The TAC discussed a potential plan for timing of construction of the stormwater management BMPs by the city in advance of full redevelopment. At the August 2021 meeting, the Commission approved development of an agreement per TAC recommendations. An agreement has yet to be drafted. In an update in February, city staff noted they are on track to have a new development plan later this year that will incorporate potentially innovative water quality improvement components. Project webpage: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=282>.

2021 Parkers Lake Drainage Improvement Project (PL-7) (No change since July): The feasibility study for this project was approved in May 2020 with Alternative 3 being approved for the drainage improvement work. After a public hearing was held with no public in attendance, the Commission ordered the project on September 17, 2020 and entered an agreement with the city of Plymouth to design and construct the project. The city hired WSB for project design which is currently underway. 60% design plans were approved at the June meeting. 90% plans were approved at the August meeting. Construction is complete and vegetation is currently being established. www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/parkers-lake-drainage-improvement-project

2021 Parkers Lake Chloride Reduction Project (PL-7): The feasibility study for this project was approved in May 2020 with Alternative 3 being approved for the drainage improvement work. After a public hearing was held with no public in attendance, the Commission ordered the project on September 17, 2020 and entered an agreement with the city of Plymouth to implement the project in coordination with commission staff. City staff and I have had an initial conversation about this project. The city plans to collect additional chloride data this winter in order to better pinpoint the source of high chlorides loads within the subwatershed. Partners involved in the Hennepin County Chloride Initiative (HCCI) are interested in collaborating on this project. A proposal from Plymouth and BCWMC for the “Parkers Lake Chloride Project Facilitation Plan” was approved for \$20,750 in funding by the HCCI at their meeting in March. The project will 1) Compile available land use data and chloride concentrations, 2) Develop consensus on the chloride sources to Parkers Lake and potential projects to address these sources, and 3) Develop a recommendation for a future pilot project to reduce chloride concentrations in Parkers Lake, which may be able to be replicated in other areas of Hennepin County, and 4) help target education and training needs by landuse. A series of technical stakeholder meetings were held last fall and winter to develop recommendations on BMPs. A technical findings report was presented at the July 2022 meeting. Next steps include determining feasibility of in-lake chloride reduction activities and city sampling of the stormwater pond at their maintenance facility. Project website: www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/parkers-lake-drainage-improvement-project

2021 Mt. Olivet Stream Restoration Project (ML-20) (No change since July): The feasibility study for this project was approved in May 2020 with Alternative 3 being approved for the drainage improvement work. After a public hearing was held with no public in attendance, the Commission ordered the project on September 17, 2020 and entered an agreement with the city of Plymouth to design and construct the project. The city hired WSB for project design which is currently underway. 60% design plans were approved in June. 90% plans were approved at the August. Construction is complete and vegetation is currently being established. www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/mt-olivet-stream-restoration-project

2021 Main Stem Lagoon Dredging Project (BC-7): The feasibility study for this project was approved in May 2020 with Alternative 2-all (dredge all three lagoons to 6-foot depth) being approved. After a public hearing was held with no public in attendance, the Commission ordered the project on September 17, 2020. Rather than entering an agreement with a separate entity to design and construct this project, the Commission will implement the project in close coordination with the MPRB. At their meeting in November, the Commission approved a timeline for implementation and the Commission Engineer was directed to prepare a scope of work for project design and engineering. The engineering scope and budget were approved at the May 2021 meeting. Design and permitting got underway in summer 2021. Dredging of all three lagoons is planned for winter 2022/2023. A grant agreement for the \$250,000 Watershed Based Implementation Funding grant was approved at the January 2021 meeting. The project work plan was approved by BWSR. In the spring 2021 the Commission approved a grant agreement for a Hennepin County Opportunity Grant for this project. An Environmental Assessment Worksheet was approved by the Commission at their October 2021 meeting and was submitted for a 30-day comment period by the City of Golden Valley as the RGU. A meeting of project stakeholders was held December 7th and 50% designs were approved at the December 2021 meeting. Comments were received on the EAW from multiple review agencies and one private citizen. Agency comments were relatively minor and expected. Comments from the citizen were more complex and detailed. Responses to comments were developed the RGU (city of Golden Valley) made an official declaration that no Environmental Impact Statement is needed. Staff reviewed a request from a resident to add “safety” benches to the ponds, reviewed reference materials and discussed in detail with MPRB. Determined safety benches aren’t appropriate or needed for this project and responded to the resident. 90% plans were approved at the June meeting along with direction to the Commission Engineers to finalize plans, prepare bid documents, and solicit bids. The Commission will review and consider bids at a future meeting. Project permitting and final surveying is underway. Project website: www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/bassett-creek-main-stem-lagoon-dredging-project

2022 Medley Park Stormwater Treatment Facility (ML-12): The feasibility study for this project is complete after the Commission Engineer’s scope of work was approved last August. City staff, Commission Engineers and I collaborated on developing materials for public engagement over the fall/early winter. A project kick-off meeting was held in September, an internal public engagement planning meeting was held in October, and a Technical Stakeholder meeting with state agencies was held in November. A [story map of the project](#) was created and a survey to gather input from residents closed in December. Commission Engineers reviewed concepts and cost estimates have been reviewed by city staff and me. Another public engagement session was held in April to showcase and receive feedback on concept designs. The feasibility report was approved at the June meeting with a decision to implement Concept #3. At the July meeting the Commission directed staff to submit a Clean Water Fund grant application, if warranted. A grant application was developed and submitted. Funding decisions are expected in early December. A public hearing on this project was held in September with no members of the public attending. In September, a resolution was approved to officially order the project, submit levy amounts to the county, and enter an agreement with the city to design and construct the project. The city hired Barr Engineering to develop the project designs which are now underway. The BCWMC received a \$300,000 Clean Water Fund grant from BWSR in December 2021. 50% design plans were approved in February. A public open house on the project was held March 3rd at Brookview. A grant work plan was developed in March and a grant agreement was approved at the March meeting. 90% plans were approved at the May meeting. Plans are currently being finalized and bid posting is expected mid-August and a construction award by the city expected in September. www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/medley-park-stormwater-treatment-facility

2022 SEA School-Wildwood Park Flood Reduction Project (BC-2, 3, 8, 10) (No change since April): The feasibility study for this project is complete after the Commission Engineer’s scope of work was approved last August. A project kick-off meeting with city staff was held in late November. Meetings with city staff, Robbinsdale Area School representatives, and technical stakeholders were held in December, along with a public input planning meeting. A virtual open house video and comment form were offered to the public including live chat sessions on April 8th. The feasibility study report was approved in June with a decision to implement Concept #3. A public hearing on this project was held in September with no members of the public attending. In September, a resolution was approved to officially order the project, submit levy amounts to the county, and enter an agreement with the city to design and construct the project. The city hired Barr Engineering to develop the project designs which are now underway. A virtual public open house was held February 3rd. 50% Design Plans were approved at the January meeting. 90% plans are being developed but are slightly behind schedule to allow for additional engagement with Robbinsdale Area Schools. www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/sea-school-wildwood-park-flood-reduction-project.

Administrator Report July 13 – August 7, 2022

Subject	Work Progress
Education and Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed development of a new position at Hennepin County to implement education activities for WMOs partially using Watershed Based Implementation Funds, WMWA funds, and other education funding including meetings and correspondence with Richfield Bloomington WMO • Coordinated volunteers/BCWMC intern for Plymouth Kids Fest • Delivered education materials for Medicine Lake National Night Out and Plymouth Kids Fest • Dropped off Parkers Lake AIS cards and “10 Things” brochures with Parkers Lake leader • Corresponded with J.A.S.S. and Blue Thumb re: providing WMWA’s “10 Things” brochure at State Fair; picked up 1,000 copies from J.A.S.S. • Worked with former education consultant and Facebook expert on BWCMC Facebook administration issue
CIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Bryn Mawr Meadows Water Quality Improvement Project</u>: Corresponded with Commission Engineer, city staff and MPRB staff regarding returned bids, budget, schedule, etc. • <u>Four Seasons Mall Water Quality Improvement Project</u>: Reviewed 2021 TAC recommendations and Commission action related to project
Henn Co. Chloride Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corresponded with partners on ideas for utilizing remaining grant fund • Reviewed and edited FAQs document • Reviewed and commented on presentation outline
Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed agenda; reviewed and submitted invoices; reviewed financial report; reviewed and edited July meeting minutes; reviewed memos and documents for Commission meeting; disseminated Commission meeting information to commissioners, staff, and TAC; updated online calendar; participated in pre-meeting call with Chair Cesnik and Commissioner Engineer; drafted meeting follow up email; ordered catering for August Commission meeting; confirmed Westwood Nature Center meeting location and tour • Sent email to commissioners with updates and events • Cancelled August TAC meeting and cancelled meeting room • Met with new Minnetonka Commissioner • Attended Freshwater event at Utepils • Updated development review fee schedule documents and posted online • Attended Hennepin County Board meeting (online) re: 2023 maximum levy • Updated commissioner info online and sent updates to BWSR, MAWD, and State Auditor • Met with TRPD staff re: CWF grant possibilities for Rice Ponds and Grimes Pond • Informed New Hope staff and commissioners re: possible blue-green algae bloom in Northwood Lake
Intern Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with Juan to discuss and review tasks and progress • Prepared materials for Juan to complete
Grant Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated BCWMC grant tracking spreadsheet • Prepared and submitted interim grant report for 319 Sweeney Lake WQ Improvement Project; updated grant budget spreadsheet; prepared and submitted invoice to MPCA • Met with MPCA staff re: 319 grant review
2025 Watershed Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with Commission Engineers for bi-weekly progress/task check in • Posted materials to new webpage for Plan Update https://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/document/2025-plan-update. • Finalized press kit for cities and other groups to communicate with residents and gather resident input including city-specific articles, survey links and QR code, half sheet poster/flyer, social media post, photos and logos. • Distributed press kit to cities and answered questions • Corresponded with Alt. Commissioner Polzin re: outreach to Minneapolis neighborhoods • Emailed Bryn Mawr neighborhood re: presenting at September board meeting • Reviewed/edited scope for analysis of challenging issues