Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Regular Meeting
Thursday, August 17, 2023
8:30 a.m.
Council Conference Room
Golden Valley City Hall @ 7800 Golden Valley Rd.

MEETING AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL**

2. **PUBLIC FORUM ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS –** *Members of the public may address the Commission about any item not contained on the regular agenda. A maximum of 15 minutes is allowed for the Forum. If the full 15 minutes are not needed for the Forum, the Commission will continue with the agenda. The Commission will take no official action on items discussed at the Forum, except for referral to staff or a Commissions Committee for a recommendation to be brought back to the Commission for discussion/action.*

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

4. **CONSENT AGENDA (10 minutes)**
   - A. Approval of Minutes – July 20, 2023 Commission Meeting
   - B. Acceptance of August 2023 Financial Report
   - C. Approval of Payment of Invoices
     - i. Keystone Waters, LLC – July 2023 Administration
     - ii. Keystone Waters, LLC – July 2023 Administrative Expenses
     - iii. Barr Engineering – July 2023 Engineering Services
     - iv. Kennedy & Graven – June 2023 Legal Services
     - v. Redpath – July 2023 Accounting Services
     - vi. Triple D Espresso – Meeting Catering
     - vii. Stantec – WOMP Monitoring Tasks
   - D. Approval to Appoint TAC Member Eric Eckman to Plan Steering Committee
   - E. Acceptance of 2022 Financial Audit
   - F. Approval to Change Commission Address to U.S. Post Office Box
   - G. Adoption of Minor Amendment to 2015 Bassett Creek Watershed Management Plan
   - H. Approval of Amended Minnetonka Water Resource Management Plan

5. **BUSINESS**
   - A. Review Draft Feasibility Study for Sochacki Park Water Quality Project (45 min)
   - B. Consider Approval of 2024 Operating Budget (15 min)
   - C. Consider Submitting Resolution to Minnesota Watersheds (5 min)

6. **COMMUNICATIONS (10 minutes)**
   - A. Administrator's Report
     - i. Update on Watershed Tour
   - B. Engineer
   - C. Legal Counsel
   - D. Chair
   - E. Commissioners

i. Report on Salt Symposium
ii. Report on GV Sustainability Fair and National Night Out Events

F. TAC Members
G. Committees

7. **INFORMATION ONLY (Information online only)**
   A. BCWMC Administrative Calendar
   B. CIP Project Updates www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects
   C. Grant Tracking Summary and Spreadsheet
   D. WCA Notice – Golden Valley
   E. Stormwater Research Council Annual Report
   F. MN Aquatic Invasive Species Research Council Showcase
8. **2025 WATERSHED PLAN ISSUE IDENTIFICATION & PRIORITIZATION WORKSHOP** (60 min)
9. **CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO MINN. STAT. 13D.05, SUBD. 3(b) TO ENGAGE IN ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING ONGOING CLAIM DISPUTE WITH FITGERALD EXCAVATING & TRUCKING, INC. (MAIN STEM LAGOON DREDGING PROJECT CONTRACTOR)** (30 min)
10. **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF TOLLING AGREEMENT WITH MAIN STEM LAGOON DREDGING PROJECT CONTRACTOR**
11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- BCWMC Education Committee Meeting: Monday August 21st, 3:30 p.m., Sweeney Lake Rm, Brookview
- BCWMC TAC Meeting: Wednesday September 6th, 10:30 a.m., Wirth Lake Rm, Brookview
- AIS Research and Management Showcase: Wednesday, September 20th 8:30am - 4:00pm, online; registration required
- BCWMC Regular Meeting: Thursday September 21st, 8:30 a.m., Golden Valley City Hall

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

AGENDA MEMO
Date: August 10, 2023
To: BCWMC Commissioners
From: Laura Jester, Administrator
RE: Background Information for 8/17/23 BCWMC Meeting

1. **CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL**
2. **PUBLIC FORUM ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – ACTION ITEM with attachment**

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**
   A. Approval of Minutes – July 20, 2023 Commission Meeting- **ACTION ITEM with attachment**

   B. Acceptance of August Financial Report - **ACTION ITEM with attachment**

   C. Approval of Payment of Invoices **- ACTION ITEM with attachments (online) –** *I reviewed the following invoices and recommend payment.*
      i. Keystone Waters, LLC – July 2023 Administration
      ii. Keystone Waters, LLC – July 2023 Administrative Expenses
      iii. Barr Engineering – July 2023 Engineering Services
      iv. Kennedy & Graven – June 2023 Legal Services
      v. Redpath – July 2023 Accounting Services
      vi. Triple D Espresso – Meeting Catering
      vii. Stantec – WOMP Monitoring Tasks

   D. Approval to Appoint TAC Member Eric Eckman to Plan Steering Committee – **ACTION ITEM no attachment** – *Golden Valley TAC member Eric Eckman requests to be appointed to the Plan Steering Committee. Staff recommends approving the appointment*.

   E. Acceptance of 2022 Financial Audit – **ACTION ITEM with attachment** (full document online) – *The 2022 financial audit (February 1, 2022 – January 31, 2023) is complete and was submitted to the State. The audit was reviewed by myself along with the Budget Committee. One finding in the audit noted that the BCWMC's accounts did not have enough collateral at some points in the years. That situation has been remedied and will continue to be monitored.*

   F. Approval to Change Commission Address to U.S. Post Office Box – **ACTION ITEM no attachment** – *Without a physical office space, it is difficult to assign an appropriate mailing address for paper mail to the Commission. Over the years the City of Golden Valley, Barr Engineering, and Kennedy & Graven have all been used as "the official BCWMC address." In recent years, my home address has been used so that no mail was missed or had delayed pick up. However, the Commission's address should actually be within the watershed. At their meeting on July 19th, the Administrative Services Committee recommended that the Commission rent a post office box at the Golden Valley post office (small size is $6.00/month) and change the official address of the Commission to the post office box.*

   G. Adoption of Minor Amendment to 2015 Bassett Creek Watershed Management Plan – **ACTION ITEM with attachment** – *At the May Commission meeting, you held a public hearing on the minor plan amendment intended to add the Sochacki Park Water Quality Project to the CIP. There was no public input at the hearing. State and local agencies also had an opportunity comment; all comments received*

agreed it is appropriate to add the project and commended the Commission for keeping their Plan updated. Hennepin County also recently approved the Plan amendment.

H. Approval of Amended Minnetonka Water Resource Management Plan – **ACTION ITEM no attachment** – *At the July meeting, the Commission approved comments on the proposed revisions to the Minnetonka Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP). The city developed a response to comments document which the Commission Engineer and I reviewed to ensure Commission comments were appropriately incorporated into the revised plan. Staff recommends approval of the amended Minnetonka WRMP.*

5. BUSINESS

A. Review Draft Feasibility Study for Sochacki Park Water Quality Project (45 min) – **DISCUSSION ITEM with attachment (full document available online)** – *The Sochacki Park Water Quality Project was added to the CIP through a minor plan amendment this year. Commission staff have been working with partners (Three Rivers Park District, Robbinsdale, and Golden Valley) on development of the feasibility study and gathering technical stakeholder and public input. The draft feasibility study will be presented at this meeting for discussion. A final feasibility study will be presented at the September meeting.*

B. Consider Approval of 2024 Operating Budget (15 min) – **ACTION ITEM with attachment** – *The Budget Committee met on July 27th to finalize a recommendation on the 2024 Operating Budget and to continue discussing the allocation of investment income. Please see their recommendations and their recommended budget and city assessments attached. A final budget is due by September 1st. Staff recommends approval at this meeting.*

C. Consider Submitting Resolutions to Minnesota Watersheds (10 min) – **DISCUSSION ITEM with no attachment** – **See Item 5F from July meeting for materials**. *The Commission could consider drafting and submitting policy recommendations to the MN Watersheds (MW) organization (formerly MAWD) for consideration in MW's resolutions process. After review by the MW Resolutions Committee, resolutions would be evaluated by the MW membership and voted on at the annual meeting in December. Approved resolutions would become part of MW's 2024 legislative platform. Staff does not have any recommended resolutions at this time. Draft resolutions are due September 1st.*

6. COMMUNICATIONS (10 minutes)

A. Administrator's Report – **INFORMATION ITEM with attachment**
   i. Update on Watershed Tour
B. Engineer
C. Legal Counsel
D. Chair
E. Commissioners
   i. Report on Salt Symposium
   ii. Report on GV Sustainability Fair and National Night Out Events
F. TAC Members
G. Committees

7. INFORMATION ONLY (Information online only)

A. BCWMC Administrative Calendar
B. CIP Project Updates www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects
C. Grant Tracking Summary and Spreadsheet

D. WCA Notice – Golden Valley
E. Stormwater Research Council Annual Report
F. MN Aquatic Invasive Species Research Council Showcase

8. 2025 WATERSHED PLAN ISSUE IDENTIFICATION & PRIORITIZATION WORKSHOP (60 min)

Consistent with Minnesota Rules 8410, the 2025 Bassett Creek Watershed Management Plan (Plan) must identify priority issues to be addressed by the Commission. The Plan Steering Committee (PSC) met three times (May 25, July 11, and August 1, 2023) to review and discuss potential issues to be addressed by the Plan. The PSC's recommendations are presented in the attached materials.

The purpose of the workshop is to: 1) ensure there are no issues missing from the list, and 2) ensure the PSC's recommended priority levels are appropriate. The outcome will be a final list of priority issues that will be used to focus the rest of the Plan's development and the work of the Commission over the life of the Plan.

The workshop is not meant to be a brainstorming session, but rather a discussion of issues/priorities where there are questions or concerns, and subsequent approval of, or suggested changes to the PSC's recommendations.

9. CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO MINN. STAT. 13D.05, SUBD. 3(b) TO ENGAGE IN ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING ONGOING CLAIM DISPUTE WITH FITGERALD EXCAVATING & TRUCKING, INC. (MAIN STEM LAGOON DREDGING PROJECT CONTRACTOR) (30 min)

Closed session for commissioners, alternate commissioners, and commission staff. All others will be asked to leave the meeting. Following the closed session, the public meeting will be opened again to finish the remaining agenda items.

10. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF TOLLING AGREEMENT WITH MAIN STEM LAGOON DREDGING PROJECT CONTRACTOR

Depending on the outcome of the closed session, the Commission may wish to authorize the chair and secretary to execute a tolling agreement related to the ongoing claim dispute. More information on this will be provided by the Commission Attorney.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- BCWMC Education Committee Meeting: Monday August 21st, 3:30 p.m., Sweeney Lake Rm, Brookview
- BCWMC TAC Meeting: Wednesday September 6th, 10:30 a.m., Wirth Lake Rm, Brookview
- AIS Research and Management Showcase: Wednesday, September 20th 8:30am - 4:00pm, online; registration required
- BCWMC Regular Meeting: Thursday September 21st, 8:30 a.m., Golden Valley City Hall

Item 4A.
BCWMC 8-17-23

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

DRAFT Minutes of Regular Meeting
Thursday, July 20, 2023
8:30 a.m.
Golden Valley City Hall, 7800 Golden Valley Road

1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

On Thursday, July 20, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. Chair Cesnik called the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (Commission) to order.

Commissioners, city staff, and others present

City	Commissioner	Alternate Commissioner	Technical Advisory Committee Members (City Staff)
Crystal	Dave Anderson	Joan Hauer	Mark Ray
Golden Valley	Paula Pentel	*Vacant*	Drew Chirpich
Medicine Lake	Clint Carlson	Shaun Kennedy	*Absent*
Minneapolis	Michael Welch	Jodi Polzin	Liz Stout
Minnetonka	Maryna Chowhan	Stacy Harwell	Leslie Yetka
New Hope	Jere Gwin-Lenth	Jen Leonardson	Nick Macklem
Plymouth	Catherine Cesnik	Monika Vadali	Ben Scharenbroich
Robbinsdale	Wayne Sicora	Bob Stamos	Mike Sorensen, Richard McCoy
St. Louis Park	RJ Twiford	*Vacant*	Erick Francis
Administrator	Laura Jester, Keystone Waters, LLC		
Engineers	Karen Chandler and Meg Rattei - Barr Engineering		
Recording Secretary	*Vacant Position*		
Legal Counsel	Dave Anderson, Kennedy & Graven		
Presenters/ Guests/Public	Grace Barcelow and Kris Guentzel, Hennepin County		

2. PUBLIC FORUM ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Cesnik introduced Grace Barcelow, the new Education Coordinator with Hennepin County, working half time with the West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA). Ms. Barcelow noted her experience and Administrator Jester further explained the arrangement between WMWA and the County and reviewed some of Ms. Barcelow's primary objectives.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

TAC Member Scharenbroich requested the ability to move Item 5C to the top of the business section due to a prior commitment later in the morning.

MOTION: Commissioner Welch moved to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Pentel seconded the motion. Upon a vote the motion carried 9-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Welch asked to remove item 4A June Meeting Minutes from the consent agenda.

MOTION: Commissioner Gwin-Lenth moved to approve the consent agenda as amended. Commissioner Pentel seconded the motion. Upon a vote the motion carried 9-0.

The following items were approved as part of the consent agenda.

- Acceptance of July 2023 Financial Report
- Approval of Payment of Invoices
- Approval to Submit Comments on Minnetonka Water Resource Management Plan Update
- Approval of Reimbursement of Salt Symposium Registrations
- Approval to Set Public Hearing for 2024 CIP Projects for September 21st BCWMC Meeting
- Approval to Appoint Alternate Commissioner Harwell to Plan Steering Committee

Item 4A. Approval of Minutes – June 15, 2023 Commission Meeting

Commissioner Welch recommended some revisions to the meeting minutes, primarily regarding discussion on the 2024 maximum levy.

MOTION: Commissioner Gwin-Lenth moved to approve the June 15, 2023 meeting minutes as amended. Commissioner Welch seconded the motion. Upon a vote the motion carried 9-0.

5. BUSINESS

C. Consider Approval of Agreement with City of Plymouth for Four Seasons Area Water Quality Improvement Project

Administrator Jester briefly reviewed the history of this project noting that several different projects and agreements have been approved but never implemented. She noted that at the December meeting, the Commission directed staff to draft an agreement for construction of the CIP project components with an allocation of 18 pounds of total phosphorus removal as a credit to the city commensurate with city funding, no allowance for wetland banking, and development of a chloride management plan for the site. She reported that the agreement being considered today does not include the requirement for a chloride management plan. Plymouth TAC member Scharenbroich indicated the city is committed to appropriate chloride management at the site but would like flexibility to work with future developers on that issue. He confirmed that if future BCWMC requirements include a chloride management requirement at the time of development, it would certainly be enforced.

Commissioner Welch noted that the Commission could require a chloride management plan through the city agreement (even though it is not currently a Commission requirement). He also indicated that there seem to be too many uncertainties in the agreement, including reimbursement amounts. Commission Attorney Anderson noted that the agreement is the same as other CIP implementation agreements with member cities except for the inclusion of the ability for the city to offer pollutant removal capacity above 100 pounds of total phosphorus to a future developer. He noted the project cost cap is included in Section 5 of the agreement and that changes to the previously approved 90% plans would be brought back to the Commission.

There was considerable discussion about the Commission's desire to address chlorides and the opportunity for a future redeveloper to use chloride reduction techniques at this site. It was noted that chloride management plans were required through the prior agreements with private developers on this site but now the site's exact future is unknown.

It was noted that approving the agreement and allowing the city to move forward on the construction of the CIP project allows for phosphorus reduction even prior to redevelopment of the site which could be years away. Commissioner Welch reiterated some of his concerns with the agreement and his desire to "put a stake in the ground" on chloride management. When asked, TAC member Scharenbroich reported that if the agreement requires chloride management, it likely would not be approved by the city and the city would wait for a redevelopment to renegotiate construction of the CIP project. He reiterated that the city of Plymouth is committed to chloride reduction and agreed the Commission should consider chloride management requirements in the future. Chair Cesnik noted her opinion that "perfect shouldn't be the enemy of the good."

MOTION: Commissioner Chowhan moved to approve the agreement with the city of Plymouth. Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion.

Discussion: Commission Engineer Chandler noted that there would be an opportunity to encourage chloride management when redevelopment project plans are reviewed. Commissioner Gwin-Lenth noted that he agrees chloride management is critical but would rather be reducing total phosphorus in Northwood Lake now rather than waiting for redevelopment.

VOTE: Upon a vote the motion carried 8-1 with Commissioner Welch voting against the motion.

A. Review 2022 Water Quality Monitoring Reports for Lost and Northwood Lakes

Commission Engineer Chandler introduced Meg Rattei with Barr Engineering, who gave presentations on results of water quality monitoring on Lost Lake and Northwood Lake in 2022. It was noted that Ms. Rattei has been working on BCWMC lakes for decades.

For Lost Lake, Ms. Rattei reported the lake is not meeting water quality standards for total phosphorus (TP), chlorophyll-a, and water clarity (Secchi disc), noting the TP and chlorophyll-a concentrations have risen significantly over the last 10 years, and Secchi disc readings have declined significantly over the last 10 years. She noted the lake is well oxygenated and that although chloride levels were higher in 2022 than in 2017, the lake meets chloride standards. She also reported Lost Lake has a healthy plant community and reported the abundance of hooded arrowhead, a Minnesota rare and threatened species. Ms. Rattei reported on a large blue-green algae bloom in September along the north shore of the lake, with numbers an order of magnitude above the World Health Organization (WHO) threshold for a moderate probability of adverse health effects to recreational users. Ms. Rattei reported the zooplankton community is good, likely because of the good plant cover. Overall, she reported that Lost Lake has poor water quality but good dissolved oxygen, plants, and zooplankton. She recommended the Commission continue regular monitoring and determine the reason for the significant decline in water quality. TAC member Scharenbroich noted that it's likely that internal loading within the lake is the greatest source of TP.

There was discussion about how homeowners around Lost Lake aerate in the winter, how the lake is too shallow to stratify so it's always mixed, the origin of stormwater reaching the lake (only 4 storm sewer outfalls all from city streets), and the impairment status (Lost Lake currently is not listed as impaired but should be listed given the data). Chair Cesnik noted that she and TAC member Scharenbroich attended the latest lake association meeting as an opportunity to educate residents.

Ms. Rattei then presented results of 2022 monitoring on Northwood Lake. She reported that this lake is a shallow lake with a very large watershed draining into it (North Branch of Bassett Creek flows through the lake). She reported that 2022 TP levels and chlorophyll-a levels were twice as high as previous years; that the lake fails to meet water quality standards for TP, chlorophyll-a, and water clarity (Secchi disc); that chlorophyll-a concentrations have risen significantly over the last 10 years; and water clarity has significantly declined over the last 10 years. She noted that chloride levels are high but do not exceed State standards and that the plant community is considered "fair." She reported that curly-leaf pondweed is extremely dense throughout the lake and that blue green algae levels were above the WHO threshold for moderate probability for adverse health effects. Overall, she reported that water quality in Northwood Lake is

extremely poor but the dissolved oxygen, plant community and zooplankton community are fairly good. Ms. Rattei recommended the Commission continue regular monitoring and determine the reason for the significant decline in water quality.

[Alternate Commissioner Harwell departs the meeting.]

There was discussion about the impact of the drought on lake levels and very little flow through the lake, leading to warm, stagnant water. It was noted that water temperature data would be good to report in the future. It was noted that immediately upstream is the former Four Seasons Mall site which has been closed for 10 years and likely little or no winter salting on large parking lot, yet chloride levels continue to rise. It was noted that there is an active lake association on the lake (Alternate Commissioner Leonardson is the president) that promotes buffers and raingardens, and that the lake gets a fair amount of use by canoers and kayakers.

[Break – Chair Cesnik called for a 5-minute break.]

B. Receive Update on Main Stem Lagoon Dredging Project

Commission Engineer Chandler reported that the notice of claim for overpayment was sent to the contractor on May 19th and that the Commission Engineer sent their official opinion on the claim on June 12th. The contractor asked for an extension of the deadline to respond to the claim. Commission staff approved a deadline of August 3rd so the contractor's response could be reviewed at the August Commission meeting.

There was some discussion about how to move forward on the site. The Commission Engineer and Attorney noted that was an issue to consider later in the process and is dependent on the contractor's response to the notice of claim.

D. Consider Directing Staff to Prepare Clean Water Fund Grant Application

Administrator Jester reviewed staff's recommendation to submit a Clean Water Fund grant application for the Bassett Creek Main Stem Restoration Project (Regent Ave to Golden Valley Road) (2024CR-M). She reported the grant application is due August 24th and the program is administered through the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). She explained that the Commission has been successful at obtaining Clean Water Fund grants in the past, that it is a competitive grant but she believes the project would score well due to its benefits to improve water quality and habitat; and the completion of a comprehensive feasibility study which includes targeted restoration areas and outcomes. She noted her recommendation to request $300,000 - $400,000 in grant funding and indicated drafting the application would take about 5 – 10 hours of her time and 2 – 3 hours of the Commission Engineer's time.

MOTION: Commissioner Gwin-Lenth moved to approve directing staff to apply for a Clean Water Fund grant for the Main Stem Restoration Project (Regent Ave to Golden Valley Road). Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion. Upon a vote the motion carried 9-0.

E. Consider Approving Administrator's Appointment to MN Association of Watershed Administrator's Executive Committee

Administrator Jester reported that at their meeting on June 20th, the MN Association of Watershed Administrators (MAWA) elected her to the MAWA Executive Committee pending Commission approval. She reviewed information about the potential time commitment involved and the benefit to the BCWMC.

MOTION: Commissioner Chowhan moved to approve Administrator Jester's appointment to the executive committee of the MN Association of Watershed Administrators. Commissioner Gwin-Lenth seconded the motion.

Discussion: Some commissioners voiced concerns about the time commitment and requested that Administrator Jester note the amount of time the committee work is taking.

VOTE: Upon a vote the motion carried 9-0.

F. Consider Submitting Resolutions to Minnesota Watersheds

Administrator Jester noted that resolutions for MN Watershed's consideration are due September 1st. She asked if anyone had ideas for resolutions at this point. Commissioner Welch reported he continues to work with a small group of

people on the chloride limited liability legislation. No other ideas were presented at the meeting.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Administrator's Report
   i. Update on 2022 Audit – Draft audit was reviewed and final audit should be available for the Budget Committee to review at their upcoming meeting.
   ii. 2023 Watershed Tour – After some discussion, there was consensus that a fall bus tour would be good for commissioners and others to view CIP projects and other watershed activities or resources. Administrator Jester will find a date.
   iii. Sochacki Park Water Quality Improvement Project Public Open House – Scheduled for July 26th at Robbinsdale City Hall, 4:30 – 7:00 p.m.
   iv. MN Watersheds Survey – Reminder for commissioners and alternates to complete the survey.
   v. Golden Valley Sustainability Fair Volunteers Needed – Commissioner Pentel and Alternate Commissioner Hauer will attend.
   vi. Plans for August Issue Prioritization Workshop – Administrator Jester noted the workshop likely to be held in conjunction with the August 17th Commission meeting

   Administrator Jester also reported on her attendance at a recent Haha Wakpadan event in Golden Valley.

B. Engineer – Nothing to report.
C. Legal Counsel – Nothing to report.
D. Chair – Nothing to report.
E. Commissioners – Nothing to report.
F. TAC Members - Nothing to report.
G. Committees
   i. Administrative Services Committee – Administrator Jester reported that the committee is revising the Roles and Responsibilities document and is looking at ideas to increase commissioner engagement and knowledge including ideas that would require a change to the JPA such as paying per diems, or lowering the number of commissioners from 9 to 5 or 7. The committee will continue to discuss.
   ii. Budget Committee – Will meet to finalize recommendations on the 2024 budget.
   iii. Plan Steering Committee Meetings – July 11 and August 1

7. INFORMATION ONLY (Information online only)

A. BCWMC Administrative Calendar
B. CIP Project Updates www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects
C. Grant Tracking Summary and Spreadsheet
D. WCA Notices – Plymouth
E. Annual Salt Symposium
F. 2022 Annual Report: MN Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center

8. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Item 4B.
BCWMC 8-17-23

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission
Statement of Financial Position

	Capital Improvement Projects	General Fund	TOTAL
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
101 · Wells Fargo Checking	316,387.12	-192,096.84	124,290.28
102 · 4MP Fund Investment	3,501,986.62	152,234.02	3,654,220.64
103 · 4M Fund Investment	2,483,650.36	1,056,855.45	3,540,505.81
Total Checking/Savings	6,302,024.10	1,016,992.63	7,319,016.73
Accounts Receivable			
111 · Accounts Receivable	0.00	600.67	600.67
112 · Due from Other Governments	52,806.40	-0.26	52,806.14
113 · Delinquent Taxes Receivable	11,396.55	0.00	11,396.55
Total Accounts Receivable	64,202.95	600.41	64,803.36
Other Current Assets			
114 · Prepaids	0.00	2,978.75	2,978.75
116 · Undeposited Funds	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Total Other Current Assets	0.00	4,478.75	4,478.75
Total Current Assets	6,366,227.05	1,022,071.79	7,388,298.84
TOTAL ASSETS	**6,366,227.05**	**1,022,071.79**	**7,388,298.84**
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable			
211 · Accounts Payable	7,976.60	71,731.24	79,707.84
Total Accounts Payable	7,976.60	71,731.24	79,707.84
Other Current Liabilities			
212 · Unearned Revenue	438,823.00	0.00	438,823.00
251 · Unavailable Rev - property tax	11,396.55	0.00	11,396.55
Total Other Current Liabilities	450,219.55	0.00	450,219.55
Total Current Liabilities	458,196.15	71,731.24	529,927.39
Total Liabilities	458,196.15	71,731.24	529,927.39
Equity			
311 · Nonspendable prepaids	0.00	2,978.75	2,978.75
312 · Restricted for improvements	4,562,582.00	0.00	4,562,582.00
315 · Unassigned Funds	0.00	375,424.57	375,424.57
32000 · Retained Earnings	1,198,999.33	108,188.52	1,307,187.85
Net Income	112,449.31	497,748.97	610,198.28
Total Equity	5,874,030.64	984,340.81	6,858,371.45
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	**6,332,226.79**	**1,056,072.05**	**7,388,298.84**
UNBALANCED CLASSES	34,000.26	-34,000.26	0.00

Operating Budget	Annual Budget	Jul 21 - Aug 17, 23	Year to Date	Budget Balance
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
411 · Assessments to Cities	617,430.00	0.00	617,430.00	0.00
412 · Project Review Fees	80,000.00	7,000.00	57,000.00	23,000.00
413 · WOMP Reimbursement	5,000.00	0.00	4,500.00	500.00
414 · State of MN Grants		0.00	11,882.72	-11,882.72
415 · Investment earnings		27,518.74	149,088.93	-149,088.93
416 · TRPD Reimbursement	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
417 · Transfer from LT & CIP	68,000.00	0.00	0.00	68,000.00
Total Income	775,430.00	34,518.74	839,901.65	-64,471.65
Expense				
1000 · Engineering				
1010 · Technical Services	145,000.00	10,481.00	84,395.50	60,604.50
1020 · Development/Project Reviews	80,000.00	5,195.00	45,295.10	34,704.90
1030 · Non-fee and Preliminary Reviews	30,000.00	1,622.00	8,901.00	21,099.00
1040 · Commission and TAC Meetings	15,000.00	1,079.80	9,487.40	5,512.60
1050 · Surveys and Studies	15,000.00	0.00	0.00	15,000.00
1060 · Water Quality / Monitoring	105,000.00	4,791.53	32,475.68	72,524.32
1070 · Water Quantity	9,000.00	0.00	3,722.71	5,277.29
1080 · Annual Flood Control Inspection	15,000.00	2,085.50	5,694.50	9,305.50
1090 · Municipal Plan Review	2,000.00	0.00	1,620.00	380.00
1100 · Watershed Monitoring Program	27,000.00	1,771.75	16,093.67	10,906.33
1110 · Annual XP-SWMM Model Updates	3,000.00	0.00	209.00	2,791.00
1120 · TMDL Implementation Reporting	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1130 · APM/AIS Work	40,000.00	0.00	0.00	40,000.00
1140 · Erosion Control Inspections	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000 · Engineering - Other		0.00	0.00	0.00
Total 1000 · Engineering	486,000.00	27,026.58	207,894.56	278,105.44
2000 · Plan Development				
2010 · Next Gen Plan Development	53,250.00	4,206.50	39,880.36	13,369.64
2000 · Plan Development - Other		0.00	0.00	0.00
Total 2000 · Plan Development	53,250.00	4,206.50	39,880.36	13,369.64
3000 · Administration				
3010 · Administrator	78,750.00	5,775.00	37,593.75	41,156.25
3020 · MAWD Dues	7,500.00	0.00	0.00	7,500.00
3030 · Legal	17,000.00	1,944.83	12,304.03	4,695.97
3040 · Financial Management	14,540.00	1,075.00	7,290.00	7,250.00
3050 · Audit, Insurance & Bond	18,700.00	0.00	12,905.00	5,795.00
3060 · Meeeting Catering	2,400.00	161.23	1,128.61	1,271.39
3070 · Administrative Services	7,240.00	272.35	1,577.48	5,662.52
3000 · Administration - Other		0.00	0.00	0.00
Total 3000 · Administration	146,130.00	9,228.41	72,798.87	73,331.13
4000 · Education				
4010 · Publications / Annual Report	1,000.00	0.00	1,338.00	-338.00
4020 · Website	1,600.00	0.00	687.16	912.84
4030 · Watershed Education Partnership	18,350.00	0.00	9,500.00	8,850.00
4040 · Education and Public Outreach	28,000.00	160.00	9,640.29	18,359.71
4050 · Public Communications	1,100.00	0.00	413.44	686.56
4000 · Education - Other		0.00	0.00	0.00
Total 4000 · Education	50,050.00	160.00	21,578.89	28,471.11
5000 · Maintenance				
5010 · Channel Maintenance Fund	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	25,000.00
5020 · Flood Control Project Long-Term	35,000.00	0.00	0.00	35,000.00
5000 · Maintenance - Other		0.00	0.00	0.00
Total 5000 · Maintenance	60,000.00	0.00	0.00	60,000.00
Total Expense	795,430.00	40,621.49	342,152.68	453,277.32
Net Ordinary Income	-20,000.00	-6,102.75	497,748.97	-517,748.97
Net Income	**-20,000.00**	**-6,102.75**	**497,748.97**	**-517,748.97**

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Construction in Progress

	Project Budget	Jul 21 - Aug 17, 23	Year to Date	Inception to Date	Remaining Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
418 · Property Taxes		0.00	1,128,610.08		
BC2,3,8 · DeCola Ponds B&C Improve		0.00	0.00		
BC23810 · Decola Ponds/Wildwood Park		0.00	0.00		
BC5 · Bryn Mawr Meadows		0.00	2,934.00		
BC7 · Main Stem Dredging Project		0.00	0.00		
BCP2 · Bassett Creek Park & Winnetka		0.00	0.00		
CL3 · Crane Lake Improvement Project		0.00	0.00		
CRM · Main Stem Cedar Lk Rd-Dupont		0.00	0.00		
Fld1 · Flood Control Long Term Maint		0.00	0.00		
Flood1 · Emergency FCP Income		0.00	0.00		
LT1 · Metro Blooms Harrison Nghbr CWF		0.00	0.00		
ML12 · Medley Park Stormwater Treament		0.00	0.00		
ML21 · Jevne Park Stormwater Mgmt		0.00	0.00		
NL2 · Four Seasons Mall Area		0.00	0.00		
Qual · Channel Maintenance Fund		0.00	0.00		
SL1,3 · Schaper Pond Enhancement		0.00	0.00		
SL8 · Sweeny Lake Water Quality		0.00	32,242.96		
TW2 · Twin Lake Alum Treatment		0.00	0.00		
WST2 · Westwood Lake Water Quality		0.00	0.00		
Total Income		0.00	1,163,787.04		
Expense					
2017CRM · CIP-Main Stem Cedar Lk Rd-Dupon	0.00	0.00	0.00	768,478.47	-768,478.47
2024CRM · CIP-BS Main Stem Restore	85,500.00	0.00	45,613.64	85,495.39	4.61
BC-238 · CIP-DeCola Ponds B&C	1,600,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,507,985.31	92,014.69
BC-2381 · CIP-DeCola Ponds/Wildwood Pk	1,300,000.00	0.00	0.00	62,789.39	1,237,210.61
BC-5 · CIP-Bryn Mawr Meadows	1,835,000.00	888.00	22,228.82	306,165.15	1,528,834.85
BC-7 · CIP-Main Stem Lagoon Dredging	2,759,000.00	2,536.50	947,509.96	1,534,968.38	1,224,031.62
ML-12 · CIP-Medley Park Stormwater	1,500,000.00	0.00	0.00	95,218.61	1,404,781.39
ML-20 · CIP-Mount Olive Stream Restore	178,100.00	0.00	0.00	43,157.42	134,942.58
ML-21 · CIP-Jevne Park Stormwater Mgmt	500,000.00	0.00	0.00	56,390.75	443,609.25
ML-22 · CIP-Ponderosa Wood Strm Restora	43,800.00	0.00	9,696.43	43,789.81	10.19
NL-2 · CIP-Four Seasons Mall	990,000.00	432.00	952.00	197,400.06	792,599.94
PL-7 · CIP-Parkers Lake Stream Restore	485,000.00	1,779.50	18,981.78	94,746.12	390,253.88
SL-1,3 · CIP-Schaper Pond	612,000.00	2,340.60	6,355.10	476,083.45	135,916.55
SL-8 · CIP-Sweeney Lake WQ Improvement	568,080.00	0.00	0.00	568,064.13	15.87
TW-2 · CIP-Twin Lake Alum Treatment	163,000.00	0.00	0.00	91,037.82	71,962.18
Total Expense	12,619,480.00	7,976.60	1,051,337.73	5,931,770.26	6,687,709.74
Net Ordinary Income	-12,619,480.00	-7,976.60	112,449.31	-5,931,770.26	
Net Income	**-12,619,480.00**	**-7,976.60**	**112,449.31**		

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission
Long Term Accounts

		Total Budget	July 21, 23 Aug 17, 23	Year to-Date	Inception to Date	Remaining Budget
Income						
	Fld1 · Flood Control Long Term Maint		0.00	0.00	154,421.90	
	Fld2 · Flood Control Long Term Exp	699,980.00	0.00	0.00	462,976.41	
Total		699,980.00	0.00	0.00	-308,554.51	308,554.51
	Flood1 · Emergency FCP Income		0.00		0.00	
	Flood2 · Emergency FCP Expense	500,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total		500,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500,000.00
	Gen · Next gen Plan Development Income		0.00	0.00	38,000.00	
	Gen1 · Next gen Plan Development Exp	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,000.00	
Total		0.00	0.00	0.00	27,000.00	27,000.00
	Qual · Channel Maintenance Fund		0.00	0.00	545,000.00	
	Qual1 · Channel Maintenance Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	275,738.70	
Total		0.00	0.00	0.00	269,261.30	269,261.30
	TMDL1 · TMDL Studies Income		0.00			
	TMDL2 · TMDL Studies Expense	135,000.00	0.00		107,850.15	
Total		135,000.00	0.00	0.00	-107,850.15	0.00

MMKR
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Item 4E.
BCWMC 8-17-23
Full document online

PRINCIPALS
Thomas A. Karnowski, CPA
Paul A. Radosevich, CPA
William J. Lauer, CPA
James H. Eichten, CPA
Aaron J. Nielsen, CPA
Victoria L. Holinka, CPA/CMA
Jaclyn M. Huegel, CPA
Kalen T. Karnowski, CPA

July 26, 2023

To the Board of Commissioners and Management
Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

The following is a summary of our audit work, key conclusions, and other information that we consider important or that is required to be communicated to the Board of Commissioners, administration, or those charged with governance of the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (the Commission).

OUR RESPONSIBILITY UNDER AUDITING STANDARDS GENERALLY ACCEPTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Commission as of and for the year ended January 31, 2023. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and *Government Auditing Standards*, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information to you verbally and in our audit engagement letter. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

PLANNED SCOPE AND TIMING OF THE AUDIT

We performed the audit according to the planned scope previously discussed and coordinated in order to obtain sufficient audit evidence and complete an effective audit. However, the completion of the audit was later than anticipated due to changes in the Commission's accounting processes.

AUDIT OPINION AND FINDINGS

Based on our audit of the Commission's financial statements for the year ended January 31, 2023:

- We have issued an unmodified opinion on the Commission's financial statements. The Commission has elected not to present management's discussion and analysis, which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America have determined necessary to supplement, although not required to be a part of, the basic financial statements. Our opinion on the Commission's basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

- We reported no deficiencies in the Commission's internal control over financial reporting that we considered to be material weaknesses.

- The results of our testing disclosed no instances of noncompliance required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards.*

- We reported one finding based on our testing of the Commission's compliance with Minnesota laws and regulations. At year-end, the Commission had $107,888 of deposits in excess of federal depository insurance limits that were not covered by surety bond or pledged collateral as required by Minnesota Statutes § 118A.03.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Commission are described in Note 1 of the notes to basic financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted, and the application of existing policies was not changed during the year.

We noted no transactions entered into by the Commission during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND MANAGEMENT JUDGMENTS

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected.

We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop these accounting estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

CORRECTED AND UNCORRECTED MISSTATEMENTS

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. There were no misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures that were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to each opinion unit's financial statements taken as a whole.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN PERFORMING THE AUDIT

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

DISAGREEMENTS WITH MANAGEMENT

For purposes of this report, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIONS

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated July 26, 2023.

MANAGEMENT CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Commission's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no consultations with other accountants.

OTHER AUDIT FINDINGS OR ISSUES

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards with management each year prior to retention as the Commission's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

OTHER MATTERS

We were not engaged to report on the introductory section, which accompanies the financial statements, but is not required supplementary information. Such information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

CLOSING

We would be pleased to further discuss any of the information contained in this report or any other concerns that you would like us to address. We would also like to express our thanks for the courtesy and assistance extended to us during the course of our audit.

The purpose of this report is solely to provide those charged with governance of the Commission, management, and those who have responsibility for oversight of the financial reporting process required communications related to our audit process. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Minneapolis, Minnesota
July 26, 2023

BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Financial Statements and
Supplemental Information

Year Ended
January 31, 2023

BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Table of Contents

BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Statement of Net Position
as of January 31, 2023
(With Partial Comparative Information as of January 31, 2022)

	Governmental Activities	
	2023	2022
Assets		
Cash and temporary investments	$ 7,718,251	$ 7,043,354
Accounts receivable	1,368	13,155
Delinquent taxes receivable	17,776	11,397
Due from other governments	41,218	52,806
Prepaids	2,706	2,979
Total assets	$ 7,781,319	$ 7,123,691
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	$ 468,397	$ 193,563
Unearned revenue	914,501	854,822
Total liabilities	1,382,898	1,048,385
Net position		
Restricted for watershed improvements	5,860,750	5,649,917
Unrestricted	537,671	425,389
Total net position	6,398,421	6,075,306
Total liabilities and net position	$ 7,781,319	$ 7,123,691

BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Statement of Activities
Year Ended January 31, 2023
(With Partial Comparative Information for the Year Ended January 31, 2022)

	Governmental Activities	
	2023	2022
Expenses		
Watershed management		
Administration	$ 745,643	$ 616,542
Improvement projects	1,592,345	466,712
Total expenses	2,337,988	1,083,254
Program revenues		
Watershed management		
Charges for services – member assessments	565,998	554,900
Charges for services – permit fees	89,217	73,554
Operating grants and contributions	51,465	17,448
Capital grants and contributions	151,692	44,121
Total program revenues	858,372	690,023
Net program revenue (expense)	(1,479,616)	(393,231)
General revenues		
Property taxes	1,691,529	1,472,590
Investment earnings	111,202	3,135
Total general revenues	1,802,731	1,475,725
Change in net position	323,115	1,082,494
Net position		
Beginning of year	6,075,306	4,992,812
End of year	$ 6,398,421	$ 6,075,306

BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Balance Sheet
Governmental Funds
as of January 31, 2023
(With Partial Comparative Information as of January 31, 2022)

	General Fund	Improvement Capital Projects Fund	Total Governmental Funds 2023	Total Governmental Funds 2022
Assets				
Cash and temporary investments	$ 1,171,235	$ 6,547,016	$ 7,718,251	$ 7,043,354
Accounts receivable	1,368	–	1,368	13,155
Delinquent taxes receivable	–	17,776	17,776	11,397
Due from other governments	11,402	29,816	41,218	52,806
Prepaids	2,706	–	2,706	2,979
Total assets	$ 1,186,711	$ 6,594,608	$ 7,781,319	$ 7,123,691
Liabilities				
Accounts payable	$ 59,539	$ 408,858	$ 468,397	$ 193,563
Unearned revenue	589,501	325,000	914,501	854,822
Total liabilities	649,040	733,858	1,382,898	1,048,385
Deferred inflows of resources				
Unavailable revenue – property taxes	–	17,776	17,776	11,397
Fund balances				
Nonspendable for prepaids	2,706	–	2,706	2,979
Restricted for watershed improvements	–	5,842,974	5,842,974	5,638,520
Assigned for subsequent year budget	20,000	–	20,000	–
Unassigned	514,965	–	514,965	422,410
Total fund balances	537,671	5,842,974	6,380,645	6,063,909
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balances	$ 1,186,711	$ 6,594,608	$ 7,781,319	$ 7,123,691

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Net Position are different because:

Fund balances – governmental funds	$ 6,380,645	$ 6,063,909
Certain revenues (including delinquent taxes) are included in net position, but are excluded from fund balances until they are available to liquidate liabilities of the current period.	17,776	11,397
Net position of governmental activities	$ 6,398,421	$ 6,075,306

BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Statement of Revenue, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
Year Ended January 31, 2023
(With Partial Comparative Information for the Year Ended January 31, 2022)

	General Fund	Improvement Capital Projects Fund	Total Governmental Funds 2023	Total Governmental Funds 2022
Revenue				
Member contributions	$ 565,998	$ –	$ 565,998	$ 554,900
Permit fees	89,217	–	89,217	73,554
Property taxes	–	1,685,150	1,685,150	1,481,910
Intergovernmental	51,465	151,692	203,157	61,569
Investment earnings	111,202	–	111,202	3,135
Total revenue	817,882	1,836,842	2,654,724	2,175,068
Expenditures				
Current				
Engineering and monitoring	546,810	–	546,810	448,479
Legal	20,205	–	20,205	16,280
Professional services	18,491	–	18,491	18,618
Administrative services	91,998	–	91,998	84,463
Public relations and outreach	1,878	–	1,878	1,949
Financial management	14,260	–	14,260	10,600
Education	52,001	–	52,001	36,153
Capital outlay				
Improvement projects	3,397	1,588,948	1,592,345	466,712
Total expenditures	749,040	1,588,948	2,337,988	1,083,254
Excess of revenue over expenditures	68,842	247,894	316,736	1,091,814
Other financing sources (uses)				
Transfers in	93,440	50,000	143,440	97,494
Transfers (out)	(50,000)	(93,440)	(143,440)	(97,494)
Total other financing sources (uses)	43,440	(43,440)	–	–
Net change in fund balances	112,282	204,454	316,736	1,091,814
Fund balances				
Beginning of year	425,389	5,638,520	6,063,909	4,972,095
End of year	$ 537,671	$ 5,842,974	$ 6,380,645	$ 6,063,909

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities are different because:		
Net change in fund balances – governmental funds	$ 316,736	$ 1,091,814
Certain revenues (including delinquent taxes) are included in net position, but are excluded from fund balances until they are available to liquidate liabilities of the current period.	6,379	(9,320)
Change in net position of governmental activities	$ 323,115	$ 1,082,494

See notes to basic financial statements

BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Statement of Revenue, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
Budget and Actual
General Fund
Year Ended January 31, 2023

	Original and Final Budget	Actual	Over (Under) Budget
Revenue			
Member contributions	$ 565,998	$ 565,998	$ –
Permit fees	60,000	89,217	29,217
Intergovernmental	33,549	51,465	17,916
Investment earnings	–	111,202	111,202
Total revenue	659,547	817,882	158,335
Expenditures			
Current			
Engineering and monitoring	462,500	546,810	84,310
Legal	17,000	20,205	3,205
Professional services	18,700	18,491	(209)
Administrative services	87,648	91,998	4,350
Public relations and outreach	4,200	1,878	(2,322)
Financial management	13,500	14,260	760
Education	46,350	52,001	5,651
Capital outlay			
Improvement projects	7,000	3,397	(3,603)
Total expenditures	656,898	749,040	92,142
Excess of revenue over expenditures	2,649	68,842	66,193
Other financing sources (uses)			
Transfers in	47,800	93,440	45,640
Transfers (out)	(50,000)	(50,000)	–
Total other financing sources (uses)	(2,200)	43,440	45,640
Net change in fund balances	$ 449	112,282	$ 111,833
Fund balances			
Beginning of year		425,389	
End of year		$ 537,671	

BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Schedule of Findings and Responses
Year Ended January 31, 2023

FINDINGS – MINNESOTA LEGAL COMPLIANCE

2023-001 INADEQUATE COLLATERALIZATION OF DEPOSITS

Criteria – Minnesota Statutes § 118A.03.

Condition – Minnesota Statutes § 118A.03 requires that if deposits exceed federal deposit insurance coverage, excess deposits must be covered by corporate surety bonds or collateral that has a market value of at least 110 percent of such excess. This requirement was not met for the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (the Commission) as of January 31, 2023.

Questioned Costs – Not applicable.

Context – The Commission had $107,888 of deposits that were uninsured and uncollateralized at year-end.

Repeat Finding – This is a current year finding.

Cause – This was an oversight by the Commission's management.

Effect – Uninsured and uncollateralized deposits are subject to custodial credit risk and may be lost in the event of a bank failure.

Recommendation – We recommend that the Commission ensure that in the future, its depository provides adequate surety bond or pledged collateral coverage for any commission deposits exceeding available federal deposit insurance.

Management Response – There is no disagreement with the audit finding. The Commission will work with its depository to ensure that any future commission deposits exceeding available federal deposit insurance are covered by corporate surety bonds or collateral that has a market value of at least 110 percent of such excess.

Item 4G.
BCWMC 8-17-23

Table 5-3 BCWMC 2015-2027 CIP (Amended August 2021) (Proposed additions, deletions, and changes in yellow)

BCWMC ID	Capital Project Description	Estimated Capital Cost[1]	Year												
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Watershed-wide															
WS-1	Remove sediment deltas in lakes downstream of intercommunity watersheds to reduce phosphorus and sediment loading, following evaluation of sediment sources and upstream source control (Policy 56)								TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD		
	Implementation of water quality improvement projects resutling from Metro Chloride TMDL (pending) to address chloride loading (Policy 18)								TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD		
	Implementation of water quality improvement projects resutling from the Upper Mississippi River Bacteria TMDL (Policy 7, generally)								TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD		
	Implementation of water quality improvement projects resulting from future TMDLs (Policy 7, generally)								TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD		
Medicine Lake															
ML-12[17]	Projects address phosphorus load reduction requirements inMedicine Lake TMDL — Medley Park Stormwater Treatment Facility, Golden Valley	$ 2,000,000								$900,000	$300,000	$ 800,000			
ML-14[3]	Medicine Lake shoreland restoration	$ 100,000							After 2023						
ML-15	Wet pond (0.5 acre) at downstream end of each major subwatershed	$ 2,000,000							After 2023						
ML-16	Water quality retrofits to existing ponds upstream of Medicine Lake	$ 11,000,000							After 2023						
ML-17	In-lake alum treatment (Option 18 in Medicine Lake Plan)	$ 1,400,000							After 2023						
ML-19[4]	Chemical treatment of inflow to Medicine Lake from watershed	$ 1,000,000							After 2023						
ML-20	Mt. Olivet Stream Restoration Project	$ 178,100							$178,100						
ML-21	Jevne Park Stormwater Pond, City of Medicine Lake to alleviate flooding/improve	$ 500,000						$ 500,000							
ML-22	Ponderosa Woods Stream Restoration	$ 475,000										$475,000			
ML-23	Cost Sharing Purchase of High Efficiency Street Sweeper for city of Plymouth	$ 75,000							$75,000						
~~ML-24~~	~~Beacon Heights 2nd Addition Stormwater Improvement Project~~														
Plymouth Creek															
2017CR-P[5]	Plymouth Creek Restoration, from Annapolis Lane to 2,500 feet upstream (east) of Annapolis Lane to reduce phosphorus and sediment loading, and improve habitat	$ 863,573			$ 580,930	$ 282,643									
2026CR-P	Plymouth Creek Restoration Project, Old Rockford Road to Vicksburg Lane	$ 500,000												$500,000	
2027CR-P	Plymouth Creek Restoration Project, Dunkirk Ln to Yuma Ln & Vicksburg Ln to Cty Rd 9	$ 2,000,000												$1,000,000	$1,000,000
Sweeney Lake															
SL-3[6]	Schaper Pond Diversion Project	$ 612,000													
SL-4	Sweeney Lake shoreland restoration	$ 300,000							After 2023						
SL-5	Water quality retrofits to existing ponds upstream of Sweeney Lake	$ 800,000							After 2023						
SL-6	Dredging of Spring Pond and diversion of Sweeney Lake branch into Spring Pond.	$ 1,000,000							After 2023						
SL-7	Projects to reduce loading from untreated Hennepin County and MnDOT right-ot-way	$ 400,000							After 2023						

Table 5-3 BCWMC 2015-2027 CIP (Amended August 2021) (Proposed additions, deletions, and changes in yellow)

BCWMC ID		Capital Project Description	Estimated Capital Cost[1]	Year 2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
SL-8	Projects to address phosphorus loa in-Sweeney Lake	Sweeney Lake Water Quality Improvement Project (alum + carp management) [15]	$ 568,080						$568,080							
SL-9[4]		Chemical treatment of inflow to Sweeney Lake from Sweeney Lake Branch of Bassett Creek	$ 1,000,000									After 2023				
SL-10		Impervious area runoff retention and retrofits, including bioretention, rainwater gardens, and soil restoration (various locations)	$ 500,000									After 2023				
SL-11		Stormwater treatment system for dissolved phosphorus removal in Golden Valley	$ 400,000									After 2023				
Twin Lake																
TW-2[6]		In-lake alum treatment of Twin Lake to reduce internal phosphorus loading	$ 160,000													
Bassett Creek Park Pond																
BCP-2		Dredging of Bassett Creek Park Pond and upstream channel improvements for water quality treatment to reduce phosphorus loading	$1,000,000				$1,000,000									
Northwood Lake																
NL-1[7]		Northwood Lake Water Quality Project to reduce phosphorus loading	$ 1,769,070		$ 676,000	$ 1,093,070										
NL-2[8]		Four Seasons Mall Area Water Quality Improvements to reduce phosphorus loading	$ 990,000													
		Implementation of water quality improvement projects recommended in future Northwood Lake TMDL study								TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD		
Bassett Creek Main Stem																
2015CR-M[9]		Restore Main Stem channel, 10th Avenue to Duluth Street, Golden Valley to reduce phosphorus and sediment loading	$ 1,503,000	$ 1,503,000												
2017CR-M[10]		Main Stem Channel Restoration, Cedar Lake Road to Irving Ave to reduce phosphorus and sediment loading	$ 1,064,472			$ 400,000	$ 664,472									
2024CR-M		Main Stem Channel Restoration, Regent Ave. to Golden Valley Road (in Golden Valley) to reduce phosphorus and sediment loading	$ 700,000										$ 200,000	$ 600,000		
BC2,3,8, 10		Medicine Lake Road and Winnetka Avenue Long Term Flood Mitigation Plan Implementation	$ 4,500,000					$ 1,100,000	$ 500,000		$ 300,000	$ 1,000,000		$1,150,000	$450,000	
BC-4[12]		Honeywell Pond Expansion, Main Stem Watershed (Golden Valley) to reduce phosphorus loading and provide water quantity benefits	$ 1,202,000		$1,202,000											
BC-5[13]		Water Quality Improvements (phosphorus reduction) in Bryn Mawr Meadows, Main Stem Watershed (Minneapolis)[16]	$ 2,087,000						$ 100,000	$ 812,000		$1,175,000				
BC-7[18]		Dredging of accumulated sediment in Main Stem of Bassett Creek just north of Highway 55, Theodore Wirth Regional Park, to reduce phosphorus loading and improve habitat	$ 2,359,000							$ 600,000	$1,425,000	$334,000				
~~BC-11~~		~~Bassett Creek Park Water Quality Improvement Project~~														
BC-12		Cost share purchase of high efficiency street sweeper	$ 150,000											$150,000		
BC-13		Toledo Ave/Minnaqua Pond Stormwater Improvements & Flood Reduction	$ 700,000													$700,000

Table 5-3 BCWMC 2015-2027 CIP (Amended August 2021) (Proposed additions, deletions, and changes in yellow)

BCWMC ID	Capital Project Description	Estimated Capital Cost[1]	Year												
			2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
BC-14[19]	Sochacki Water Quality Improvement Project	$600,000										$300,000	$300,000		
Westwood Lake															
WST-2	Westwood Lake Water Quality Improvement Project in Westwood Hills Nature Center	$300,000					$ 300,000								
Parkers Lake															
PL-7	Parkers Lake Drainage Improvement Project to reduce erosion, suspended solids, and total phosphorus to Pakers Lake	$485,000							$ 485,000						
Crane Lake															
CL-3[14]	Retention of impervious area drainage at Ridgedale area (e.g., bioswales, tree trenches, rain gardens) to reduce phosphorus loading	$300,000						$ 300,000							
CL-4	Crane Lake Chloride Reduction Demonstration Project at Ridgedale Mall	$300,000												$ 300,000	
Flood Control Project															
FCP-1	Flood Control Project Double Box Culvert Repairs	$1,200,000													$1,200,000
	Total Annual Estimated Project Cost[2]	**$49,256,295**	**$1,503,000**	**$1,878,000**	**$2,074,000**	**$1,947,115**	**$1,400,000**	**$1,968,080**	**$2,150,100**	**$2,625,000**	**$2,809,000**	**$1,775,000**	**$2,200,000**	**$2,250,000**	**$2,900,000**

Notes:

TBD = To be determined, usually at the time the project is listed in the working (5-year) CIP.

1. Project costs presented in 2015 - 2022 dollars, depending on when project was added to CIP.
2. Includes estimated costs for projects not yet assigned an implementation year. Annual Estimated Costs do not necessarily reflect actual Hennepin County levy amount due to grants, financial contributions from cities, and use of CIP fund
3. ML-14: Project may include lakeshore restoration projects administered by the BCWMC. The City of Plymouth has already performed lakeshore restoration on some properties adjacent to Medicine Lake.
4. Estimated cost of projects ML-19 and SL-9 do not include the annual cost of chemical precipitant and operation/maintenance of treatment facility.
5. 2017CR-P: Project is based on recommednations in the 2009 Plymouth Creek Restoration feasibility study.
6. SL-3 and TW-2: Projects already levied, to be constructed in 2015.
7. NL-1: Project based on Option 4 of the 1996 Northwood Lake Watershed and Lake Management Plan. Project includes construction of a pond upstream of Northwood Lake and installation of underground stormwater treatment and reuse system, and bioinfiltration cells.
8. NL-2: The Four Seasons Mall Area Water Quality Project could include construction of stormwater treatment ponds,-restoration of an eroding stream channel, alum treatment of stormwater, or other projects to address phosphorus loading. The projects stem from recommendations from the 1996 *Northwood Lake Watershed and Lake Management Plan* . The BCWMC levied for the project defined as option 1 in the 2012 feasibility study. Now project planned to coincide with redevelopment of the Four Seasons Mall area.
9. 2015CR-M: Project is based on recommendations in the Feasibility Study for 2015 Bassett Creek Main Stem Restoration Project (2014). Project already levied: the BCWMC certified a levy to the county for 2015 ($1,000,000); remaining
10. 2017CR-M: Project is based on recommendations in the Feasibility Study for 2012 Bassett Creek Main Stem Restoration Project (2011).
12. BC-4: Project diverts currently untreated stormwater runoff to the pond.
13. BC-5: Project based on Option 7 in the Bassett Creek Main Stem Watershed Management Plan to treat currently untreated stormwater runoff to reduce phosphorus loading.
14. CL-3: Project is based on recommendations in the Crane Lake Watershed and Lake Management Plan (1995).
15. Project now involves carp management and includes federal grant funding through MPCA.
16. Estimated cost increased from original estimate; State grant funds awarded
17. City of Golden Valley to provide $500,000
18. Grant funds of $325,000 secured from state and county
19. $600,000 in BCWMC CIP funds proposed. Additional partner funds secured and grant funds being sought. Estimated total project cost = $2.3M

Item 5A.
BCWMC 8-17-23
Appendices online

Sochacki Park Water Quality Improvement Project Feasibility Study

Prepared for
Three Rivers Park District

August 2023

DRAFT

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Sochacki Park Water Quality Improvement Project Feasibility Study

August 2023

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Certifications

I hereby certify that this plan, specification, or report was prepared by me or under my direct supervision and that I am a duly licensed Professional Engineer under the laws of the state of Minnesota.

Greg Wilson
PE #: 25782

Date

Abbreviations

BCWMC	Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission
BMP	Best Management Practice
Chl-a	Chlorophyll-a
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
MSL	Mean Sea Level
MDNR	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
MNRAM	Minnesota Routine Assessment Method for Evaluating Wetland Functions
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
OHW	Ordinary High Water
P8	Program for Predicting Polluting Particle Passage Thru Pits, Puddles, and Ponds
PWI	Public Waters Inventory
SD	Secchi Disc
SSURGO	Soil Survey Geographic Database
TRPD	Three Rivers Park District
TP	Total Phosphorus
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

1 Executive Summary

Recent efforts to better understand the ecological health, and set appropriate goals for, the Sochacki Park wetlands (South and North Rice Ponds), plus adjacent, upstream Grimes Pond have identified improvements that are likely necessary to improve the ecological health of the wetlands, improve aesthetics, and provide recreation and education opportunities. Many of the goals or metrics for ecological health are directly tied to improved wetland water quality (through nutrient reductions) and enhancements to vegetative diversity and integrity.

Using monitoring data and other data/information, Barr updated and calibrated the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission's (BCWMC) pollutant loading model to better understand the ecological conditions and evaluate the source of pollutants impacting the ponds. The modeling results revealed that the ponds' contributing watersheds currently provide low levels of water quality treatment. The water quality data and modeling results also showed that internal loading of phosphorus is an important source of phosphorus for each pond. We used the monitoring and modeling results, along with mapping information, to identify high priority areas for implementing watershed best management practices (BMPs).

Barr performed a Phase I environmental site assessment (ESA) for Sochacki Park and South Halifax Park (South Halifax Park is a Robbinsdale city park located on the north side of Grimes Pond). A Phase I ESA is primarily a desktop review that provides an initial evaluation of environmental conditions on a property. The Phase I ESA identified significant debris (construction debris landfill) present at Sochacki Park. Based on the Phase I ESA results, Barr recommends completion of a Phase II investigation as a first step in final design. A Phase II investigation involves collecting samples from various media (e.g., soil, groundwater) for chemical analysis to verify the absence or presence of contamination. Similar to previous BCWMC CIP projects, Barr recommends that the entity implementing the project enter the MPCA's Brownfields Program for hazardous substances, which can protect entities with ownership interests, and these protections can be extended to entities performing work through an approved Response Action Plan (RAP). Although working in contaminated areas may be more complicated and costly, there are human health and ecological benefits to removing contaminants from the environment. Further, there are methods and protections for dealing with the contaminants.

Based on the calibrated watershed and pond water quality modeling, we recommend implementation of the following watershed BMPs and in-pond management options to substantially reduce the respective phosphorus loadings and enhance vegetative diversity and integrity for each pond:

- Install structural BMPs and/or pretreatment protection measures to prevent future sediment delivery and reduce nutrient loading into the wetlands with design(s) intended to meet water quality goals. Untreated stormwater runoff from two discharge outfalls each to South Rice and Grimes Ponds, as well as one outfall to North Rice Pond, are prioritized for implementation.
- Complete in-pond alum treatments to control summer sediment phosphorus release following implementation of watershed BMPs.

- Clear clogged debris and develop annual maintenance plan for all inlet and outlet structures. Remove accumulated sediment and fill materials from BMPs and within, and adjacent to, each wetland. Reconfigure discharge outfall and stabilize erosion from stormwater conveyance entering northwest corner of Grimes Pond.
- Re-vegetate and control soil erosion from bare soil areas within the upland buffer area. If mountain bike activity in the adjacent upland area is currently supported, isolate potential soil disturbance and adjacent vegetation improvements to prevent erosion into surrounding wetland areas.
- Conduct controlled water level drawdowns in each wetland prior to the winter season to ensure that curly-leaf pondweed is decreased to less than 20 percent cover and to enhance overall vegetative diversity and integrity. Remove, treat, and control other non-native invasive species, where possible, and remove fill material and trash.
- Initiate, or increase the frequency of, street sweeping and fall leaf litter removal programs, with emphasis in subwatersheds that have direct drainage to the wetlands.
- Manage and properly dispose of contaminated material encountered as part of project work.

The total estimated cost to construct all the above BMPs is $2,282,000. The BCWMC's CIP includes $600,000 for this project. See Table 7 1 for a summary of the potential pond improvement options, estimated annual total phosphorus removal, planning level capital cost estimate, annualized cost-benefit, and recommended sequence for implementation of each improvement option.

2 Background and Objectives

Recent efforts to better understand the ecological health, and set appropriate goals for, the Sochacki Park wetlands (South and North Rice Ponds) and Grimes Pond, have identified improvements that are likely necessary to improve the ecological health of the wetlands, improve aesthetics, and provide recreation and education opportunities. Many of the goals or metrics for ecological health are directly tied to improved wetland water quality (through nutrient reductions) and enhancements to vegetative diversity and integrity. Another goal involves stakeholder engagement throughout the development of the Sochacki Park feasibility study.

2.1 Project Area Description

Sochacki Park is surrounded by residential property, located within the City of Robbinsdale, west of the BNSF Railroad and east of June Ave N (Township 29, Range 24, and Sections 7 and 18) within Hennepin County. The park access road off 36th Ave N leads to a small parking lot at the north end of the park adjacent to an Xcel Energy utility line. A picnic structure and paved trails are located within the park. North Rice Pond, located south of the picnic structure, is identified in the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) Public Water Inventory (PWI) as Public Water Wetland 27-644W and South Rice Pond, located at the south end of the park, is identified as Public Water Wetland 27-645W. Grimes Pond, which shares the same PWI number as North Rice Pond, is located northeast of the railroad tracks. Robbinsdale's South Halifax Park is located just north of Grimes Pond. South Rice Pond extends beyond Sochacki Park to the south adjacent to Bassett Creek into the City of Golden Valley. A restored prairie is located near the upland edges between North and South Rice Ponds. In addition to the main paved trails, several unpaved paths are present throughout the park. Mounds and logs placed for mountain bike activity are present east of South Rice Pond. Figure 2-1 shows the pond bathymetry and provides the maximum depths of each pond. Figure 2-2 shows the subwatersheds and drainage for the Sochacki Park study area.

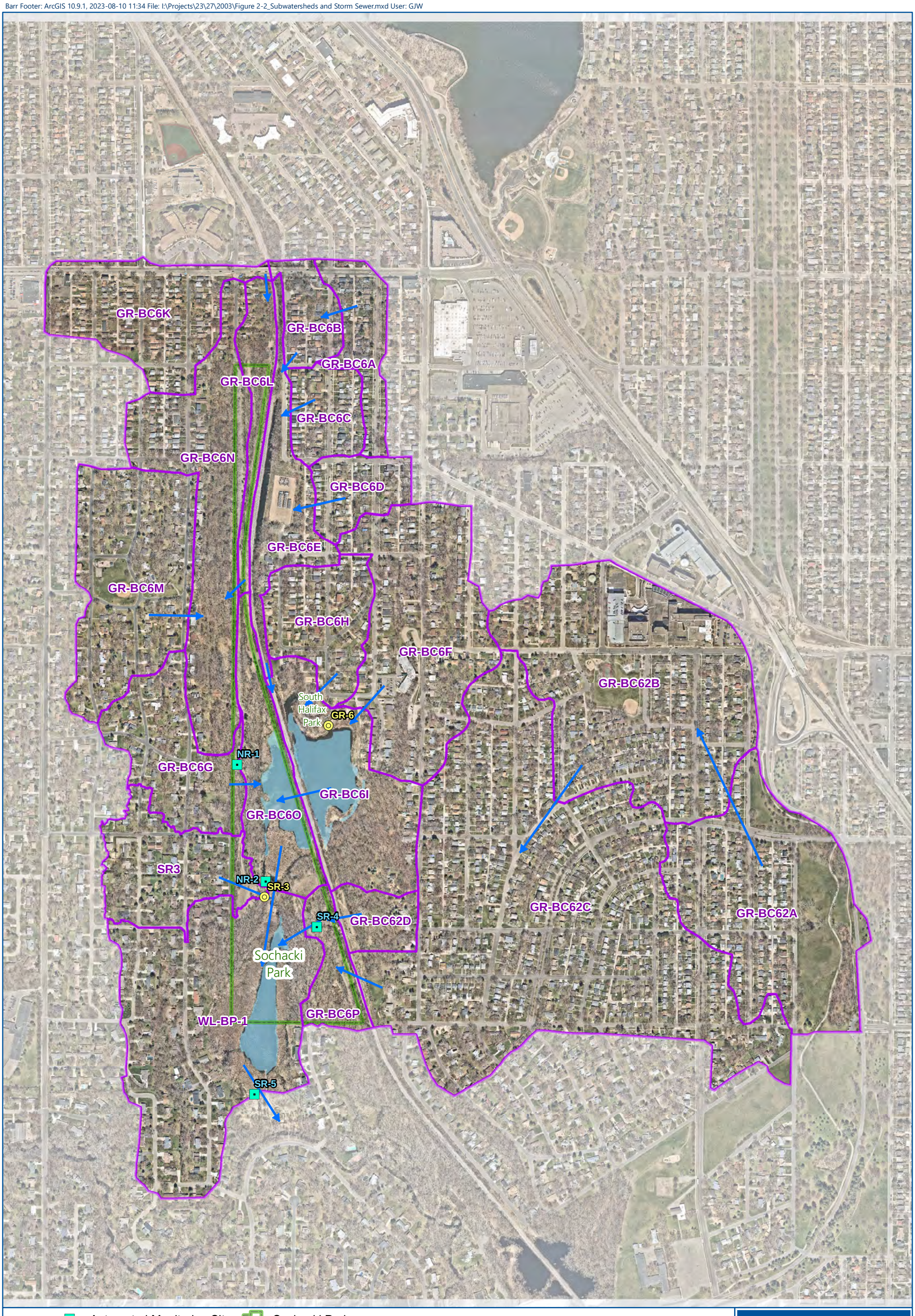
2.2 Goals and Objectives

Although the 2015 Bassett Creek Watershed Management Plan does not include water quality goals for North and South Rice Ponds and Grimes Pond, the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission's (BCWMC) 2004 goal for Grimes, North Rice and South Rice Ponds was a management classification of Level III, meaning its water quality should support aesthetic viewing (BCWMC, 2004 and Barr Engineering, 2014). Level III goals were: (1) maximum total phosphorus (TP) concentration of 75 µg/L, (2) maximum chlorophyll *a* (Chl-a) concentration of 40 µg/L, and (3) minimum Secchi disc (SD) transparency of 1.0 meters (about 3 feet). Since Grimes and North Rice Ponds (27-644W) and South Rice Pond (27-645W) are considered wetlands, there are no MPCA water quality standards that apply. It's important to note that these ponds are directly upstream from the Main Stem of Bassett Creek and therefore impact the stream's health.

Figure 2-1 Sochacki Park Ponds, Bathymetry and Monitoring Sites

Based on literature and stakeholder feedback, there was consensus that it was important to improve wetland water quality and ecology in all three ponds by making an initial harvest of aquatic plants, followed by significant nutrient reductions to shift away from floating plant dominance and the resulting pond water anoxia (per Scheffer et al., 2003). As a result, the previous BCWMC water quality goals provide a benchmark for making this shift in wetland ecology that will also enhance vegetative diversity and integrity. It will also be important to control invasive species, both in wetland and upland areas, while controlling and/or removing sediment deposits.

Barr Footer: ArcGIS 10.9.1, 2023-08-10 11:34 File: I:\Projects\23\27\2003\Figure 2-2_Subwatersheds and Storm Sewer.mxd User: GJW



2.3 Considerations

Key considerations for project alternatives included:

1. Maximizing the amount of water quality benefit.
2. Minimizing the permitting required to construct the project improvements.
3. Maintaining or improving the ecological integrity of the study ponds, including water quality and habitat functions.
4. Minimizing impacts to upstream wetlands.
5. Balancing tree loss and permanent pool storage development while preserving healthy, significant hardwoods trees in upland areas.
6. Maintaining or improving the functionality of the trails and park features, while enhancing water quality educational opportunities.

The considerations listed above played a key role in determining final recommendations and will continue to play a key role through final design.

3 Site Conditions

3.1 Pond Water Quality Concerns

Figures 2-1 and 2-2 shows the automated and grab sample sites for watershed water quality monitoring. The automated monitoring sites included flow monitoring equipment to facilitate the development of pollutant load estimates. Figure 2-1 shows the wetland water quality and sediment monitoring sites. Continuous water level measurements were also collected at all three wetlands. Except for the sediment monitoring and testing, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) staff performed all the field sampling and analytical testing for this assessment.

3.1.1 Total Phosphorus, Chlorophyll-a and Secchi Disc Transparency

Figures 3-1, 3-2 and 3-3 show the summer average TP, Chl-a and SD transparency data for Grimes Pond, North Rice Pond, and South Rice Pond, respectively. The results for all three ponds generally show that summer average TP concentrations greatly exceed the Level III goal, while summer average Chl-a and SD transparencies correspond well with the respective Level III goals. This data, together with observations of heavy growths of free-floating plants (duckweed and watermeal) across the surface of all three ponds, indicates that algae growth is being limited by the amount of sunlight that can reach the water profile. This phenomenon will also limit the growth of submerged plant growth in each pond. Nutrient reductions will be needed to shift away from floating plant dominance in each pond.

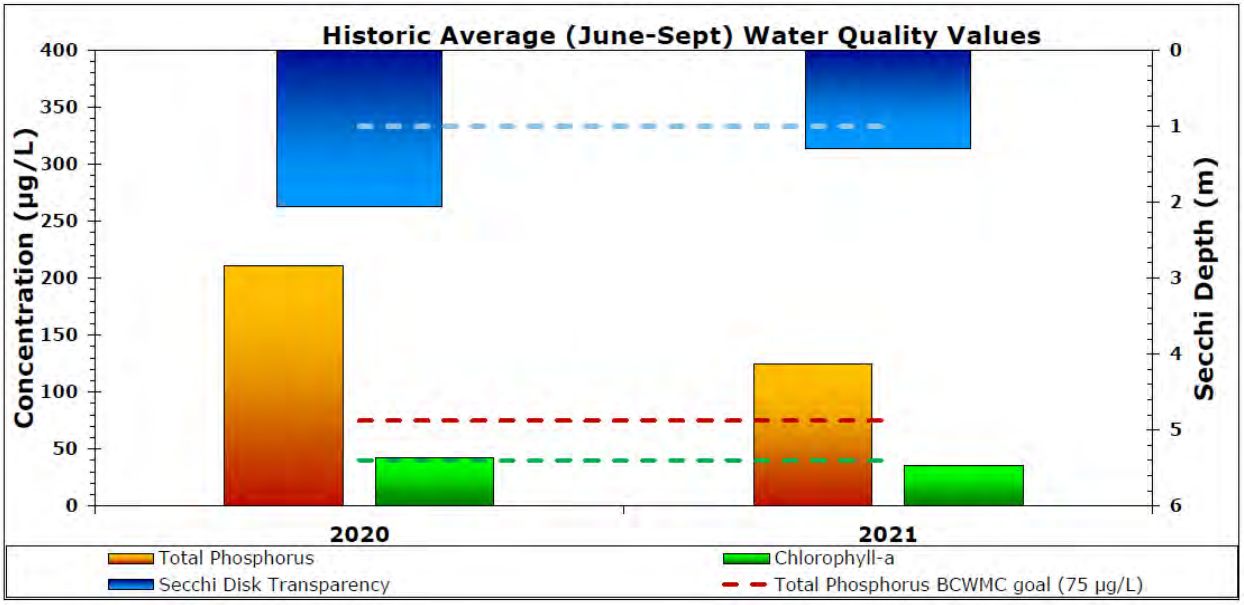


Figure 3-1 Grimes Pond Total Phosphorus, Chlorophyll-a, and Secchi Disc Transparency

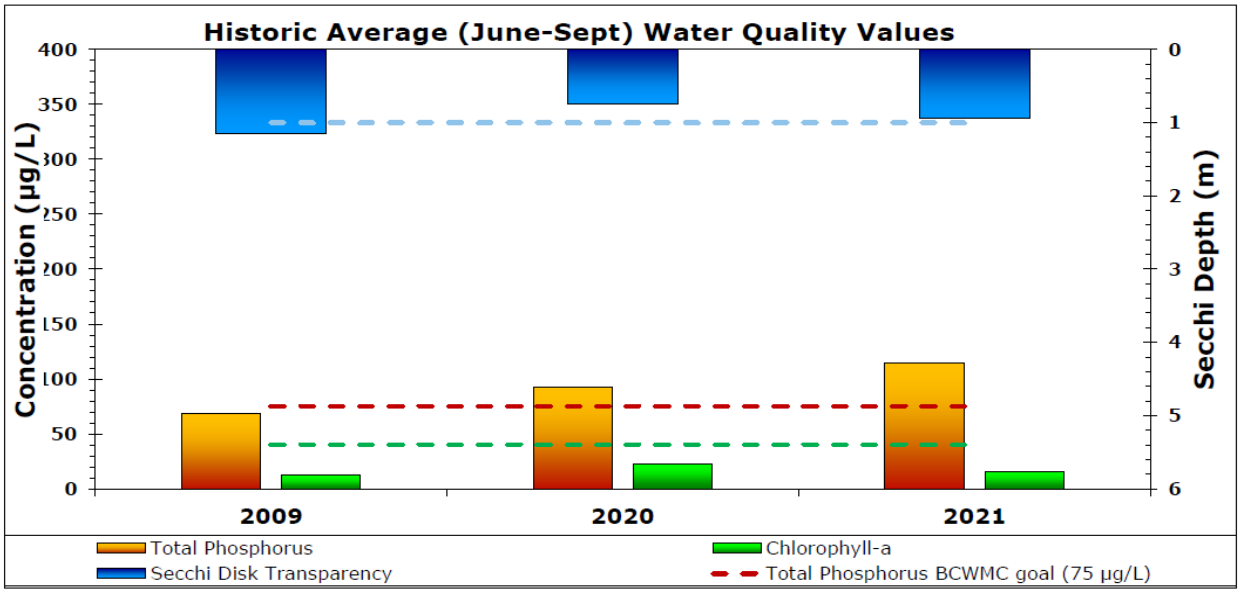


Figure 3-2 North Rice Pond Total Phosphorus, Chlorophyll-a, and Secchi Disc Transparency

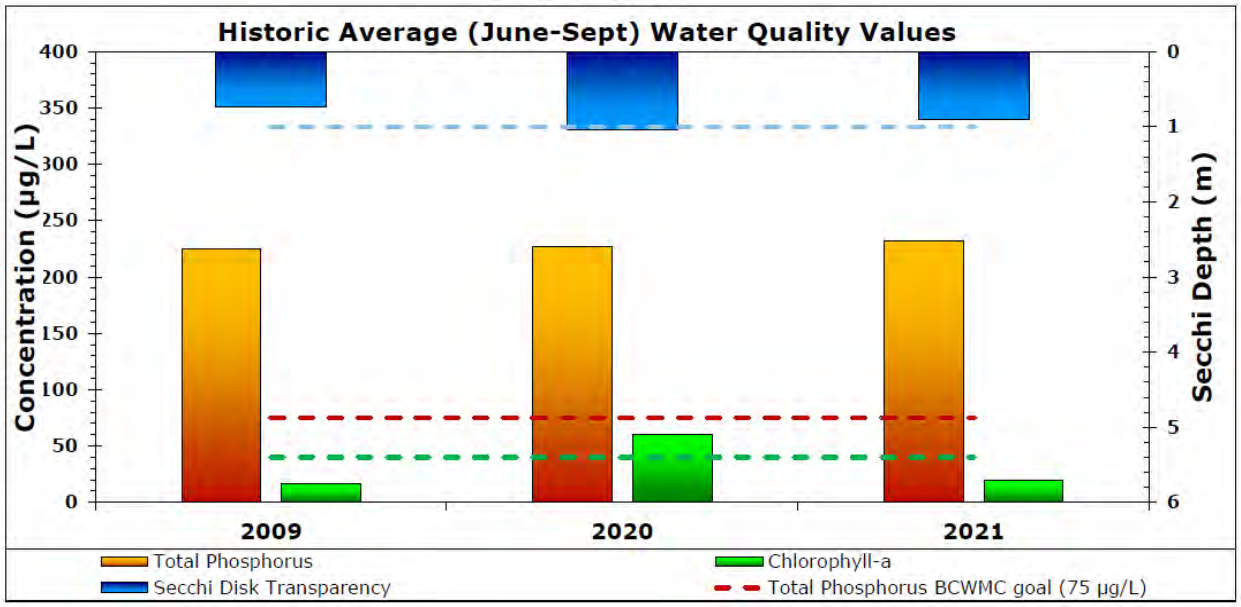


Figure 3-3 South Rice Pond Total Phosphorus, Chlorophyll-a, and Secchi Disc Transparency

3.1.2 Dissolved Oxygen

Continuous dissolved oxygen measurements were taken in all three ponds during July 2020, and again in July and early-August 2021, as well as instantaneous measurements during each of the water quality sampling events. The continuous dissolved oxygen measurements showed that all three ponds were

anoxic (completely devoid of oxygen) in 2020 and 2021. The instantaneous oxygen measurements indicated that April and June had higher levels, but the rest of season was anoxic at all ponds. Due to low oxygen levels, bacteria do not efficiently break down decaying organic material and sediment chemistry will typically result in the release of phosphorus into the pond. In addition, anoxia under floating plant beds may boost the decline of submerged plants (Scheffer et al., 2003).

3.1.3 Sediment phosphorus

Figures 3-4 and 3-5 show how the respective mobile and organic fractions of phosphorus vary by depth in the sediment of each pond sampling location (shown in Figure 2-1). The mobile and organic fractions of sediment phosphorus are readily available for release under anoxic conditions and Figures 3-4 and 3-5 show that the concentrations at each sampling locations are elevated near the sediment-pond water interface. Results of the dissolved oxygen monitoring, combined with the pond sediment phosphorus data, confirmed that internal phosphorus loading, under anoxic conditions, can be an important source of phosphorus input to each pond during the summer months.

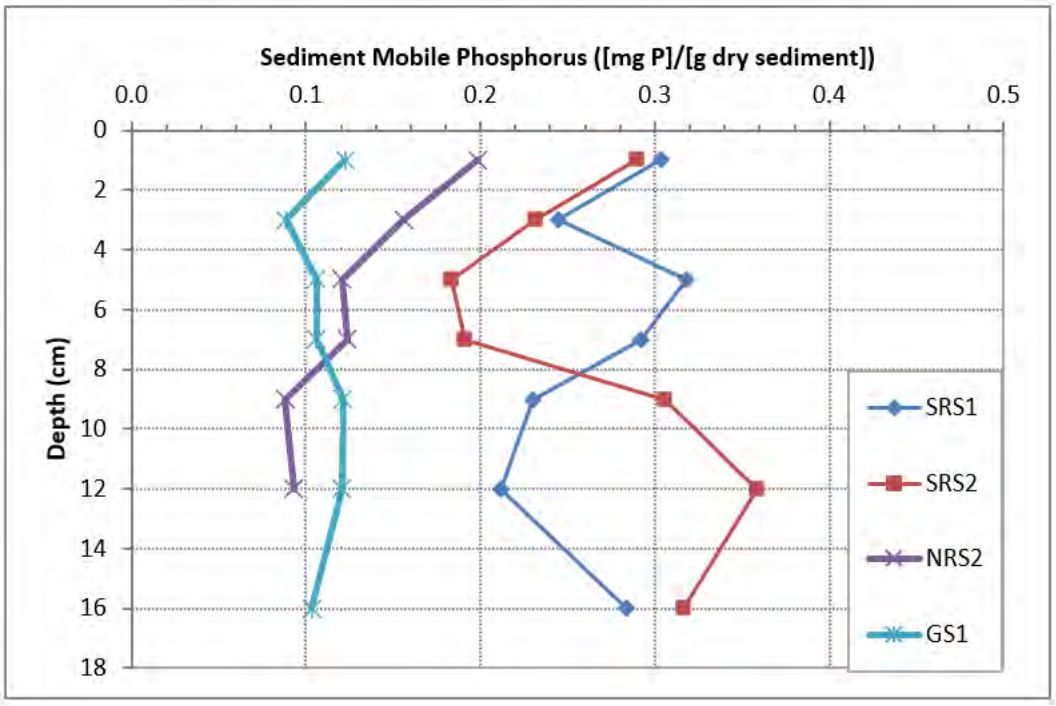


Figure 3-4 Sediment Mobile Phosphorus Concentrations

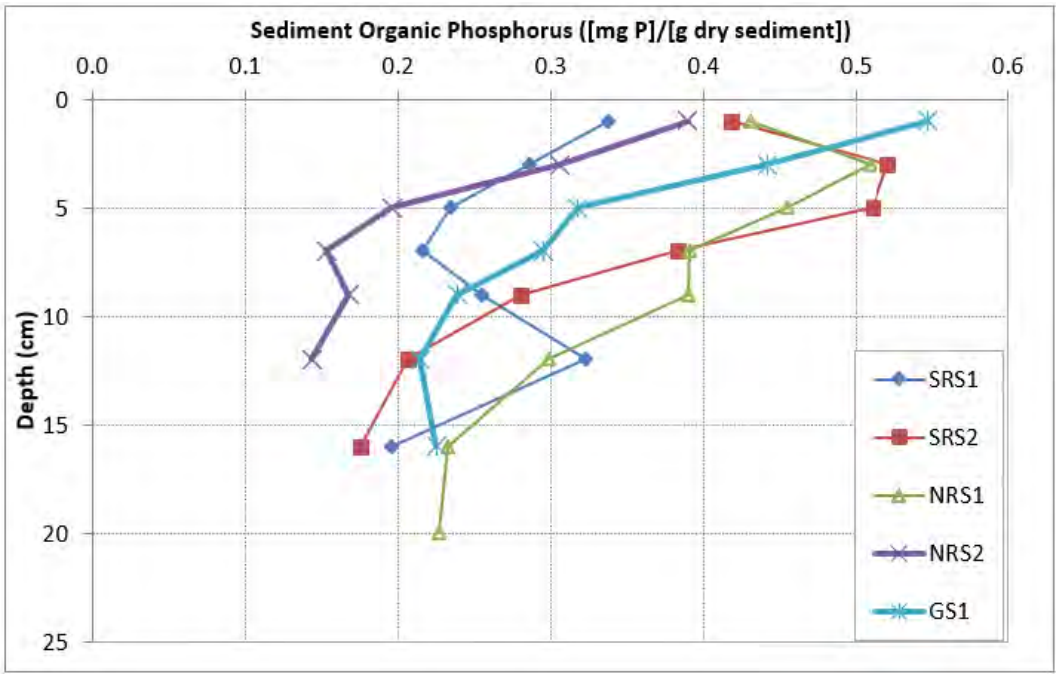


Figure 3-5 Sediment Organic Phosphorus Concentrations

3.1.4 Vegetation Surveys

TRPD conducted two surveys (early- and late-summer) each year of aquatic plants in all three ponds. Thick coontail was noted, as well as large amounts of duckweeds and watermeal (see Figure 3-6). Invasive curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) was found in all 3 ponds, except in late summer, due to normal die off (see Figure 3-6).

Vegetation surveys 2020	% Frequency of Occurance					
	6/17/2020			8/26/2020		
	Grimes	North Rice	South Rice	Grimes	North Rice	South Rice
Ceratophyllum demersum (Coontail)	98	97	92	100	100	89
Potamogeton crispus (Culy-leaf Pondweed)	12	21	39			
Elodea canadensis (Elodea)			47			
Potamogeton spp (Narrow Pondweed spp)	28	45	68	9	14	5
Stuckenia pectinata (Sago Pondweed)	11	17		4	7	
Chara spp (Chara)	2					
Lemna trisulca (Star Duckweed)	30	48		16	80	
Lemna minor (Small Duckweed)	84	83	100	100	100	82
Spirodela polyrhiza (Greater Duckweed)	87	65	100	51	100	82
Wolffia columbiana (Watermeal)	96	89	100	100	100	89

Vegetation surveys 2021	% Frequency of Occurance					
	6/24/2021			9/1/2021		
	Grimes	North Rice	South Rice	Grimes	North Rice	South Rice
Ceratophyllum demersum (Coontail)	96	93	87	100	100	90
Potamogeton crispus (Culy-leaf Pondweed)	12	3	37			
Elodea canadensis (Elodea)			68			53
Potamogeton spp (Narrow Pondweed spp)	42	41	79	7		10
Stuckenia pectinata (Sago Pondweed)	9	10		2	3	
Chara spp (Chara)				2		
Lemna trisulca (Star Duckweed)	33	65		39	65	13
Lemna minor (Small Duckweed)	100	100	100	98	100	98
Spirodela polyrhiza (Greater Duckweed)	100	100	100	100	100	98
Wolffia columbiana (Watermeal)	100	100	100	100	100	98

Figure 3-6 2020 and 2021 Pond Vegetation Survey Results

3.1.5 Water Levels

Figure 3-7 shows the monitored water levels for each pond during the 2020 and 2021 monitoring seasons, as well as the corresponding precipitation amounts. The largest storm events during the monitoring period resulted in water level changes of about one foot in Grimes and North Rice Pond, while South Rice Pond experienced water level changes of about three quarters of a foot. The existing outlet infrastructure for Grimes Pond would accommodate a water level drawdown (further discussed in Section 5.1) of approximately 2.5 feet using gravity flow into North Rice Pond, which in turn, could be drawn down by 3 to 3.5 feet through gravity flow to South Rice Pond. South Rice Pond cannot be drawn down by gravity due to the tailwater conditions associated with Bassett Creek, so pumping would be required to draw the pond down.

Figure 3-7 2020 and 2021 Pond Water Levels

3.1.6 Stormwater Monitoring

Stormwater water quality and flow monitoring data at each watershed station was used to compute pollutant loadings. Table 3-1 show the respective annual pollutant loadings and flow-weighted mean concentrations for each watershed monitoring site (shown in Figure 2-1). Comparing the combined NR2 and SR4 TP loads to the SR5 TP load indicates that internal phosphorus loading was significant in South Rice Pond during both years. This also confirmed by the high flow-weighted mean TP concentration at SR5 during each year. The high flow-weighted mean TP and SRP concentrations at SR4 also indicate that

the existing stormwater treatment from Basin J is inadequate. The same corresponding data at NR2 confirms that North Rice Pond has significantly better water quality than the other two ponds.

Table 3-1 Stormwater Pollutant Loadings and Flow-Weighted Mean Concentrations

Site	Year	# of samples	Pollutant Loading					Flow-Weighted Mean Pollutant Concentration						
			TP (lbs/yr)	SRP (lbs/yr)	TN (lbs/yr)	TSS (lbs/yr)	Cl (lbs/yr)	TP (µg/L)	SRP (µg/L)	TN (mg/L)	TSS (mg/L)	Cl (mg/L)	Flow Volume (x 10^6 M3)	Annual Precipitation (inches)
NR1	2020	7	2	1	12	283	0	359	195	2.09	49	0	0.003	25.88
NR1	2021	8	4	2	21	994	27	396	229	2.22	105	3	0.004	23.43
NR2	2020	17	50	13	459	1,906	45,739	147	39	1.36	6	135	0.15	25.88
NR2	2021	13	63	36	546	2,307	92,479	119	68	1.03	4	174	0.24	23.43
SR4	2020	14	30	18	213	3,933	577	279	163	1.96	36	5	0.05	25.88
SR4	2021	8	64	49	253	1,769	2,531	367	282	1.44	10	14	0.08	23.43
SR5	2020	21	74	26	526	9,343	28,703	261	94	1.86	33	102	0.13	25.88
SR5	2021	13	57	23	379	8,522	25,625	315	124	2.09	47	141	0.08	23.43

3.2 Site Access

Construction access will be fairly straightforward because the project is located on public property in Sochacki Park or South Halifax Park within the City of Robbinsdale. Relatively few obstacles or infrastructure elements block access to the proposed work areas. Potential site access locations are along the Sochacki Park entrance road or trail that extends from the parking lot, as well as the two playground areas that straddle South Halifax Park.

3.3 Sediment Sampling

In summer 2023, sediment characterization surveys were completed for Ponds SR-4 and GR-6 in preparation for this feasibility study. Sediment sampling was conducted in accordance with the MPCA's *Managing Stormwater Sediment, Best Management Practice Guidance May 2017* (MPCA, 2017). This document provides technical guidance for characterizing sediment in stormwater ponds, including the number of samples that should be collected and potential contaminants to be analyzed. The baseline parameters listed in the MPCA guidance are arsenic, copper, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). PAHs are organic compounds that are formed by the incomplete combustion of organic materials, such as wood, oil, and coal. They are also naturally occurring in crude oil and coal.

The objectives of the surveys completed were to characterize sediment contamination for dredging and filling purposes. Dredged materials that do not exceed the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) Residential Soil Reference Values (SRV) are considered unregulated fill and are suitable for use or reuse on properties within all land use categories, including residential (MPCA, 2014).

A full summary of the sediment sampling results, including figures and tables, is in Appendix A.

Sediments from the ponds were tested for a variety of contaminants to define the disposal requirements for any material removed from the ponds as part of future maintenance and projects. The sediment samples were analyzed by Pace Analytical for the following parameters:

- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) metals: arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, selenium, silver, and mercury
- Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), measured using BaP (benzo[a]pyrene) equivalent values
- Diesel range organics (DRO)
- Gasoline range organics (GRO)

Sediment characterization indicates that the sediment from both Ponds SR-4 and GR-6 do not meet guidelines for unregulated fill and are not suitable for reuse under the MPCA's Unregulated Fill Policy (MPCA, 2014). The BaP equivalents value in three out of the four sediment cores collected from the two ponds exceeded the MPCA's Residential Soil Leaching Value (SLV); therefore, it is expected that sediment from the GR-6 Pond, and a portion of Pond SR-4 would require landfill disposal. During final design, it is recommended that the sediment characterization data be reevaluated to verify the data is sufficient and representative of the planned dredge locations and depths and compared to the MPCA SRVs in effect at that time.

3.4 Topo, Utilities and Tree Survey

Barr performed a topographic and utility survey in summer, 2023 within the project extents. Topographic information was collected in Hennepin County NAD83 horizontal datum and NAVD88 vertical datum. Underground utilities were located based on the location of manhole structures, as-built/construction plan drawings from the cities, and through a Gopher State One Call utility locate. Topographic survey information was imported into AutoCAD Civil 3D to create an existing conditions surface for this feasibility study.

Barr conducted a tree survey in summer 2023, where we collected species, condition, and diameter data for deciduous trees greater than six inches in diameter (DBH) and coniferous trees with a diameter of 4 inches or greater. The locations of the surveyed trees extents corresponded with the proposed structural BMPs (discussed in Section 5). Based on the survey data collected, trees were classified in accordance with the City of Robbinsdale tree ordinance, which is intended to preserve all deciduous trees measuring at least six inches DBH that are not exempt. The tree survey results indicated that cottonwood, ash, and elm trees were the most prevalent species present, with very few hardwood species observed (a few small hackberry trees and a couple oaks near the playground). Besides large cottonwoods, there were very few high quality/value trees within the work limits of the proposed BMPs. Work area groundcover was generally degraded with little diversity with buckthorn and honeysuckle prevalent throughout.

3.5 Phase I Environmental Site Assessment

A Phase I ESA was performed for Sochacki Park and South Halifax Park. South Halifax Park is a Robbinsdale city park located on the north side of Grimes Pond and is the proposed location of one BMP in the Sochacki Park Water Quality Project feasibility study. A Phase I ESA is the accepted standard for initially evaluating a property. It consists primarily of a desktop review of historical information (i.e., aerial photographs, topographic maps, regulatory sites, etc.) and a site visit. Through this process, recognized

environmental conditions (RECs) are identified where a potential release of contaminants to the environment exists.

As expected, the Phase I ESA (see Appendix B) identified significant debris (construction debris landfill) present at Sochacki Park as a REC.

Additionally, in South Halifax Park there is a restrictive environmental covenant in place for the presence of unregulated fill; this is labeled as a "controlled REC" or CREC. In 2004, a Phase I ESA was performed at South Halifax Park, and in 2005, a Phase II investigation was performed. A Phase II investigation involves collecting samples from various media for chemical analysis to verify the absence or presence of contamination. For South Halifax Park, the investigation included collecting samples from the surface soil, fill, soil below the fill, sediment, and groundwater. For Phase II investigations at uncontrolled dump sites, the MPCA recommends analyzing the samples for the full range of compounds that includes volatiles, semi-volatiles, and pesticides, including PCBs and other specific analytes. The fill (5 samples), soil below the fill (5 samples), and sediment (3 samples) at South Halifax Park were analyzed for the full range of compounds recommended by the MPCA. Although no PCBs were detected in these samples, several other contaminants were present in the soil at concentrations above the MPCA recreational soil reference values (SRVs) and/or soil leaching values (SLVs) established by the MPCA. Some contaminants were also present in the groundwater at elevated concentrations and/or above the Health Risk Limits established by the MDH.

There is some evidence that conditions in Sochacki Park may be similar to South Halifax Park. For the Phase I ESA, Barr reviewed aerial photographs; the aerial photographs between 1957 and 1974 show historical fill placement at both Sochacki Park and South Halifax Park. The transition from 1966 to 1969 also shows where the fill was placed in both locations.

Results of the Phase I ESA are not surprising and are not unusual in highly urban settings. The estimated budget for the Sochacki Park Water Quality Improvement Project incorporates the cost of contaminated materials disposal.

Similar to previous BCWMC CIP projects, Barr recommends that the entity implementing the project enter the MPCA's Brownfields Program for hazardous substances which can protect entities with ownership interests, and these protections can be extended to entities performing work through an approved Response Action Plan (RAP). Any of the four entities (BCWMC, Robbinsdale, Golden Valley, Three Rivers Park District) can be at risk of being a responsible party if they placed the waste or exacerbate a release. Exacerbating a release includes taking actions that would cause any of the contaminants present to migrate from its current location either vertically or horizontally. For example, digging a utility trench through a contaminated area may cause the contamination (vapors and/or groundwater) to migrate to other areas of a site or off the site. Previous BCWMC CIP projects where contaminated sediment or soil were addressed include the Main Stem Lagoon Dredging Project, Winnetka Pond Dredging Project, Bryn Mawr Meadows Water Quality Improvement Project, and the Bassett Creek Main Stem Erosion Repair Project (Cedar Lake Rd. to Dupont Ave. and Fruen Mill). Although working in contaminated areas may be more complicated and costly, there are human health and ecological benefits to removing contaminants

from the environment. Further, there are systematic and prescriptive methods and protections for dealing with the contaminants.

Based on the REC at Sochacki Park, Barr recommends completion of a Phase II investigation as a first step in final design. As noted above, a Phase II investigation involves collecting samples from various media for chemical analysis to verify the absence or presence of contamination. Barr recommends drilling soil borings and/or excavating test pits to observe the subsurface conditions at Sochacki Park and to collect soil, sediment, and groundwater samples. Because this is an uncontrolled dump site, we recommend following the MPCA recommendations to analyze the samples for the full range of compounds that includes volatiles, semi-volatiles, and pesticides, including PCBs and other specific analytes. The Phase II investigation will not define the limits of the contamination, if present. If contamination is present, additional soil, fill, groundwater, sediment, and/or soil gas sampling and delineation will be needed.

If contaminants are detected, Barr recommends preparing a RAP following delineation of the contaminants. The type of contaminants and their concentrations may drive the level of remediation and cost. In the case of PCBs, the remediation is often the same as other contaminants (i.e., excavation and disposal) but the cost and regulatory requirements vary widely depending on the PCB concentrations. If the PCB concentrations are low, its handling would be similar to treating other industrially contaminated soil, but if the concentrations trigger Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) regulations, the costs for planning, implementing, and disposing the materials would be significantly higher.

3.6 Wetland Delineations

In 2023, Moore Engineering (under separate contract with TRPD) completed wetland delineations for the entire study area. Six wetlands were delineated within the project area. Descriptions and assessments of each wetland are provided in Appendix C, which provides a full summary of the wetland delineation, including figures and field data sheets.

The wetland delineation report was prepared in accordance with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual ("1987 Manual," USACE, 1987), the Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Midwest Region (USACE, 2012) and the requirements of the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) of 1991.

The delineated wetland boundaries and sample points were surveyed using a Global Positioning System (GPS) with sub-meter accuracy. Wetlands were classified using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Cowardin System (Cowardin et al., 1979) and the USFWS Circular 39 system (Shaw and Fredine, 1956).

Wetland plant communities within each delineated pond were also identified and potential wetland improvements were summarized in the Subwatershed Assessment, as described in the following sections.

3.6.1 North Rice Pond potential improvements

Suggested improvements to North Rice Pond include:

- Remove, treat, and control non-native invasive species, including curly-leaf pondweed, narrowleaf cattail, purple loosestrife, common buckthorn, and reed canary grass in the wetland, and common buckthorn, sweet clover, and honeysuckle in the immediately adjacent upland buffer.
- Remove accumulated sediment and fill materials within and adjacent to the study wetland.
- Install pretreatment protection measures to prevent future sediment delivery and reduce nutrient loading into the wetland.
- Encourage community involvement in the protection and appreciation of the wetland and surrounding park, which may include:
    - coordinating seasonal community clean up events and invasive species removal
    - native planting projects
    - educational signage documenting restoration areas in progress with inspiration for park users to pick up trash and prevent damage
    - hold community education events such as birding and wildlife observation, cultural education, etc.
- Control soil erosion and re-vegetate bare soil areas along shoreline and upland buffer including eroding soil found at the north inlet location near the paved trail.

Implementation of some or all proposed improvements could result in the overall wetland management classification increase from Manage 2 to Manage 1 and the following functional rating improvements:

- change in maintenance of hydrologic regime from low to moderate
- change in maintenance of wetland water quality from low to moderate
- change in maintenance of wildlife habitat structure from moderate to high
- change in aesthetics/recreation/education/cultural from moderate to high
- change in overall weighted average vegetative diversity and integrity from low to high

3.6.2 South Rice Pond potential improvements

Suggested improvements to South Rice Pond include:

- Remove, treat, and control non-native invasive species, including curly leaf pondweed, narrowleaf cattail, purple loosestrife, common buckthorn, and reed canary grass in the wetland, and common buckthorn, sticktight, and garlic mustard in the immediately adjacent upland buffer.

- Remove accumulated sediment and fill materials within and adjacent to the study wetland.
- Install pretreatment protection measures to prevent future sediment delivery and reduce nutrient loading into the wetland.
- Clear clogged debris from inlet and outlet structures.
- Re-build boardwalk and steps.
- If mountain bike activity in the adjacent upland area is intended to continue, consider isolating potential soil disturbance and adjacent vegetation improvements to prevent erosion into surrounding wetland areas.
- Control soil erosion and re-vegetate bare soil areas along shoreline and upland buffer. Consider defining designated specific trails and maintaining them to prevent bare soil and erosion disturbance that occurs from meandering undesignated trails along the slope of the pond buffer. These can be further defined with wood rails or designated rock placement to allow access to the water edge at specific locations.
- Encourage adjacent residential property owners to provide wider naturalized wetland buffer protection by avoiding mowing near the shoreline and establishing native vegetation in their back yards.
- Encourage community involvement in the protection and appreciation of the wetland and surrounding park, which may include:
    - coordinating seasonal community clean up events and invasive species removal
    - native planting projects
    - educational signage documenting restoration areas in progress with inspiration for park users to pick up trash and prevent damage
    - hold community education events such as birding and wildlife observation, cultural education, etc.

Implementation of some or all proposed improvements could result in the overall wetland management classification increase from Manage 2 to Manage 1 and the following functional rating improvements:

- change in maintenance of wetland water quality from low to moderate
- change in maintenance of characteristic fish habitat structure from moderate to high
- change in aesthetics/recreation/education/cultural from moderate to high

- change in overall weighted average vegetative diversity and integrity from low to high

3.7 Threatened and Endangered Species

Barr reviewed the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website on June 7, 2023, to identify federally listed species and designated critical habitat protected under the Endangered Species Act that may be present within or near the project workspace (Attachment A, Appendix D). Additionally, Barr reviewed the MDNR's Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS) database (Barr License Agreement LA-986) on June 7, 2023, to determine if any Minnesota state-listed species have been documented within one-mile of the Project area. The USFWS IPaC identified two endangered species, one proposed endangered species, one candidate species and one experimental population that may occur within the Project area. No critical habitat was identified within the Project area. Descriptions of the species habitats and effect determinations are provided in Appendix D.

The federal species review indicated the northern long-eared bat, tricolored bat, whooping crane, monarch butterfly, bald eagle, rusty patched bumble bee, and a variety of migratory bird species as potentially occurring in the vicinity of the Project. If the project will require federal funding or approvals, consultation with USFWS will need to be completed for the rusty patched bumble bee and northern long-eared bat. The Project area does contain suitable summer habitat for tricolored bat; however, it currently is not legally protected under the Endangered Species Act, and nothing further would be required for this species unless it becomes listed prior to Project construction. Similarly, the Project area does contain suitable habitat for monarch butterflies, however, as a candidate species the monarch is not legally protected under the ESA. As such, nothing further would be required for this species unless it becomes listed prior to project construction.

Barr recommends visual inspection for active bald eagle, whooping crane, or migratory bird nests prior to initiating construction activity during the breeding season.

The state species review identified one state listed species known to occur within one mile of Sochacki Park: the least darter. It is recommended that construction activities within the ponds occur outside of the least darter spawning period (March – May). If the project will require a state permit, a Natural Heritage Review request should be submitted through the MDNR Minnesota Conservation Explorer to obtain concurrence that the Project is not likely to impact any state-protected species.

3.8 Cultural and Historical Resources

Barr completed a cultural resources literature review of the project area and a 1-mile buffer in June 2023. The literature review was directed toward identifying previously recorded archaeological sites, historic architectural resources, and other cultural resources. Barr's examination included a review of data provided by the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on previously recorded archaeological sites and historic architectural resources located within one mile of the project area. The Minnesota OSA Portal for archaeological sites was also reviewed.

Data provided by the Minnesota SHPO indicates that no previously documented cultural resources have been identified within the boundaries of Sochacki Park. Within one mile of the project area, 353 historic architectural resources have been documented. These consist primarily of houses, but also include several churches, bridges, apartment buildings, and various commercial and industrial buildings. The OSA Portal as well as data from the Minnesota SHPO identified three previously recorded archaeological sites within one mile of the project area; all three sites are located south of the project area. The archaeological sites are each precontact in nature and represent a single recovered artifact.

Four historic architectural resources are located in proximity to the project area, on the west side of the park. Additional information regarding these four properties is included in Table 3-2. These resources are located on the opposite side of June Ave N from Sochacki Park, and a thick tree line visually screens these properties from the park.

Table 3-2 Historic Architectural Resources Adjacent to the Project Area

Resource Number	Resource Name/Address	Resource Age	NRHP[1] Eligibility
HE-GVC-389	House; 2741 June Ave N	1965	Considered Not Eligible
HE-GVC-390	House; 2811 June Ave N	1965	Considered Not Eligible
HE-GVC-391	House; 2835 June Ave N	1963	Considered Not Eligible
HE-GVC-392	House; 4300 Culver Rd	1959	Considered Not Eligible

[1]National Register of Historic Places

The project area does not appear to have been previously surveyed for cultural resources. If the project constitutes an undertaking subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act through federal funding or permitting, the lead federal agency will determine whether additional work to identify significant cultural resources is required.

4 Stakeholder and Public Engagement

4.1 Technical Stakeholder Meeting

A technical stakeholder meeting with regulatory agencies was held virtually on July 10, 2023, to discuss the proposed project. Attendees included representatives from Three Rivers Park District, BCWMC, the City of Golden Valley, the City of Robbinsdale, US Army Corps of Engineers, Metropolitan Council, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR), and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The anticipated permitting requirements as discussed at the meetings/calls outlined below are summarized in Section 6.3 of this feasibility study.

Background on the wetland water quality and ecological goals/objectives and design concepts for the Sochacki Park Water Quality Improvement Project were presented, which was followed by discussion related to technical feedback and permitting input. The items discussed included:

- Review of project background and history
- Review of site information compiled to date and site investigation work completed/underway
- Review of potential design concepts
- Discussion of regulatory issues and potential permit requirements
- Discussion of project sequencing
- Discussion of feasibility study

4.2 Public Stakeholder Meeting

A public stakeholder open house was held on July 26, 2023, at Robbinsdale City Hall. Approximately 20-25 residents attended the open house, where Three Rivers Park District, BCWMC, Barr and City staff were available to talk with park users and area residents about the wetland water quality and ecology and discuss the proposed feasibility study for the Sochacki Park water quality improvement project. Residents asked questions and provided comments on their use and the conditions of the current Sochacki and South Halifax parks and their thoughts/concerns/desires about the proposed project. In addition, an online input form was developed and used to collect input from residents that may not have been able to attend or provide written comments at the open house.

The comments received by City staff were grouped into several themes including the following:

- General support for improving water quality and wetland ecology, as well as preservation of parkland uses
- Desire for trail accessibility and maintenance
- Management of debris, litter, and trash
- Cleanup of dumped construction materials
- Tree preservation and screening
- Concerns about stagnant water and sedimentation
- Concerns about lighting, safety and security
- Concerns about pond shoreline management

- Special assessment for property owners
- Questions about park maintenance, improvements, storm drains, fertilizers and street sweeping.

These comments were considered as part of the development of the feasibility study concepts and will continue to be considered as the project progresses through final design.

5 Potential Improvements

5.1 Recommendations

Based on the wetland assessment and calibrated watershed and pond water quality modeling, the following watershed BMPs and in-pond management options are recommended to substantially improve water quality in the ponds and downstream in Bassett Creek by reducing phosphorus loadings and to enhance vegetative diversity and ecological health for each pond:

- Install structural BMPs and/or pretreatment protection measures to prevent future sediment delivery and reduce nutrient loading into the pond with design(s) intended to meet water quality goals. Untreated stormwater runoff from two discharge outfalls each to South Rice Pond and Grimes Pond, as well as one outfall to North Rice Pond, are prioritized for implementation.
- Complete in-pond alum treatment in all three ponds to control summer sediment phosphorus release following implementation of watershed BMPs.
- Clear clogged debris and develop an annual maintenance plan for all inlet and outlet structures. Remove accumulated sediment and fill materials from BMPs and within, and adjacent to, each wetland. Reconfigure discharge outfall and stabilize erosion from stormwater conveyance entering northwest corner of Grimes Pond.
- Re-vegetate and control soil erosion from bare soil areas within the upland buffer areas. If mountain bike activity in the adjacent upland area is currently supported, isolate potential soil disturbance and adjacent vegetation improvements to prevent erosion into surrounding wetland areas.
- Conduct controlled water level drawdowns in each wetland prior to the winter season to ensure that curly-leaf pondweed is decreased to less than 20 percent cover and to enhance overall vegetative diversity and integrity. Remove, treat, and control other non-native invasive species, where possible, and remove fill material and trash.
- Initiate, or increase the frequency of, street sweeping and fall leaf litter removal programs, with emphasis in subwatersheds that have direct drainage to the wetlands.

5.2 Conceptual Design and Estimated Water Quality Benefit

Figure 5-1 shows the location of the four potential structural BMPs in the watershed. Figures 5-2, 5-3, 5-4 and 5-5 show the proposed BMP footprints for Pond NR-1, Pond SR-3, Pond GR-6 and Pond SR-4, respectively. The proposed BMP located at SR-4 involves dredging and expansion of an existing stormwater pond and pretreatment cell, as well as downstream channel stabilization (see Figure 5-6), while the other proposed BMPs would involve construction of new stormwater ponds at each of the other three locations shown in Figure 5-1.

Figure 5-7 includes a photo and schematic as examples of the important elements of the stormwater ponds envisioned for future implementation. The expectation is that the pretreatment provided by these two-cell pond systems will ensure that most of the ongoing operation and maintenance effort will not need to involve dredging, due to excess sedimentation in the main treatment cell. Both outfalls entering

the GR-6 BMP location currently have Continuous Deflective Separation (CDS) units that have recently been maintained and can be available for stormwater pretreatment of the respective subwatersheds.

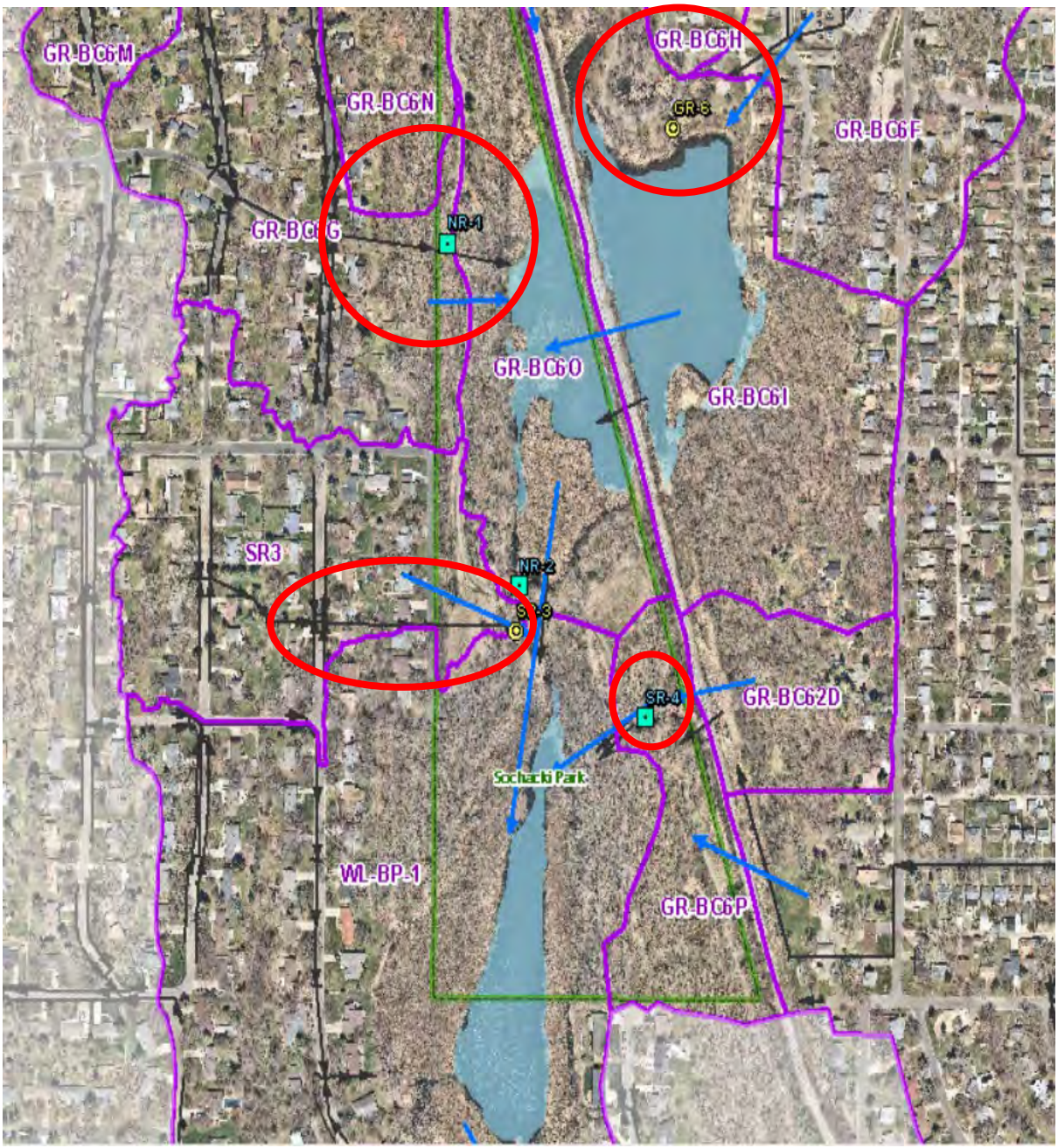
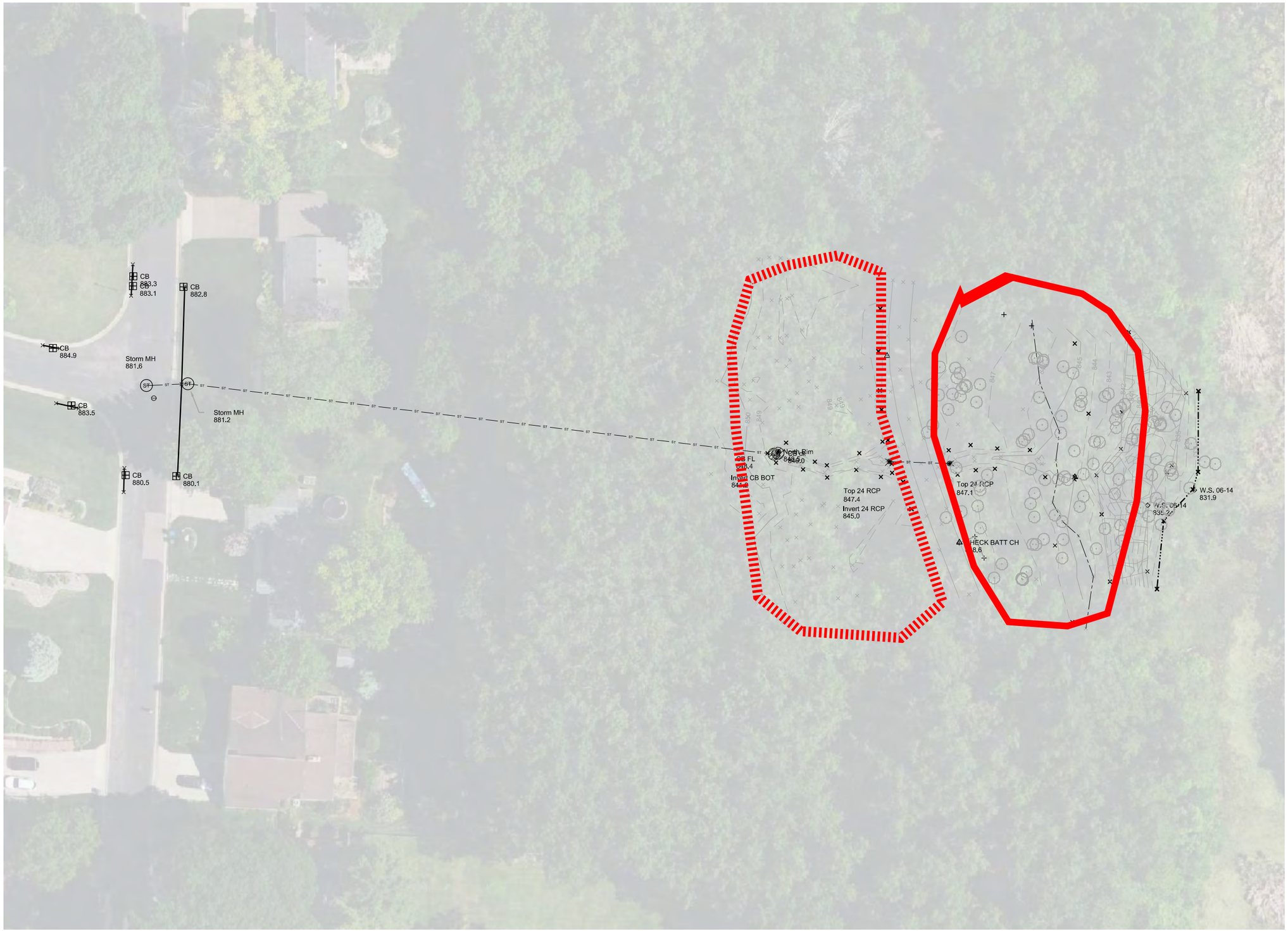


Figure 5-1 Recommended Sochacki Park Subwatershed Locations for Structural BMPs



LEGEND - - SURVEY

- CONTROL POINT
- HYDRANT
- VALVE
- SIGN
- MANHOLE
- SANITARY MANHOLE
- STORM MANHOLE
- CATCH BASIN
- CULVERT
- TREE
- 714.2 BATHYMETRIC ELEVATION
- 1380 MAJOR CONTOUR
- 1379 MINOR CONTOUR
- CENTERLINE
- FLOW LINE
- EDGE OF WOODS
- WATERS EDGE
- EDGE OF PATH
- CURB AND GUTTER
- ST — ST — ST STORM SEWER

PROVISIONALNOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

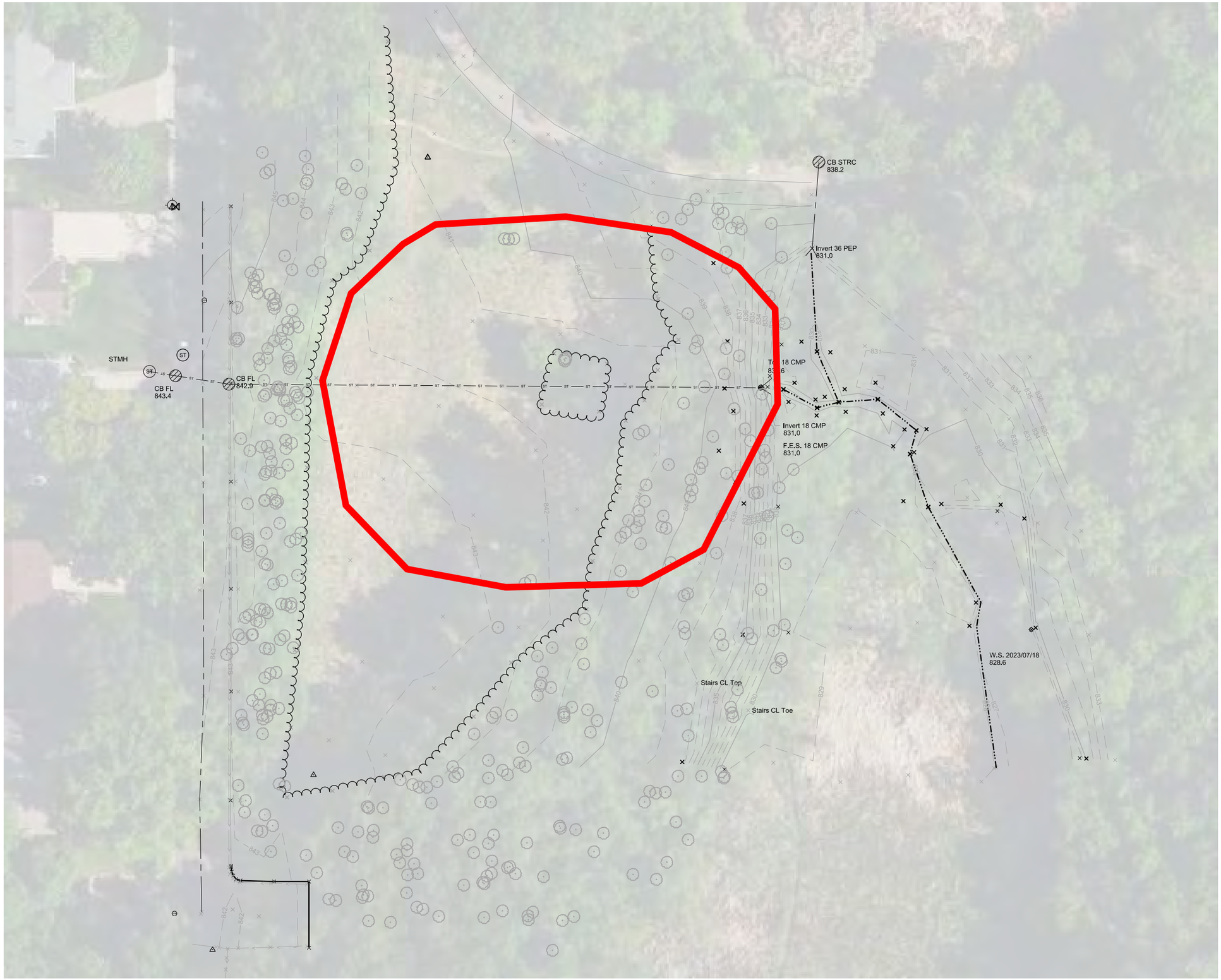
1 - PLAN: NR-1 LOCATION

0 20 40

SCALE IN FEET

Figure 5-2 Proposed Pond NR-1 BMP

(North RIce Pond)



LEGEND - - SURVEY

- CONTROL POINT
- HYDRANT
- VALVE
- SIGN
- MANHOLE
- SANITARY MANHOLE
- STORM MANHOLE
- CATCH BASIN
- CULVERT
- TREE
- 714.2 BATHYMETRIC ELEVATION
- 1380 MAJOR CONTOUR
- 1379 MINOR CONTOUR
- CENTERLINE
- FLOW LINE
- EDGE OF WOODS
- WATERS EDGE
- EDGE OF PATH
- CURB AND GUTTER
- ST ST ST STORM SEWER

PROVISIONALNOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

1 PLAN: SR-3 LOCATION

0 20 40

SCALE IN FEET

Figure 5-3 Proposed Pond SR-3 BMP

(South RIce Pond)

LEGEND - - SURVEY

- CONTROL POINT
- HYDRANT
- VALVE
- SIGN
- MH — MANHOLE
- SAN — SANITARY MANHOLE
- ST — STORM MANHOLE
- CB — CATCH BASIN
- CULVERT
- TREE
- 714.2 — BATHYMETRIC ELEVATION
- 1380 — MAJOR CONTOUR
- 1379 — MINOR CONTOUR
- CENTERLINE
- FLOW LINE
- EDGE OF WOODS
- WATERS EDGE
- EDGE OF PATH
- CURB AND GUTTER
- ST — ST — ST — STORM SEWER

PROVISIONAL
NOT FOR
CONSTRUCTION

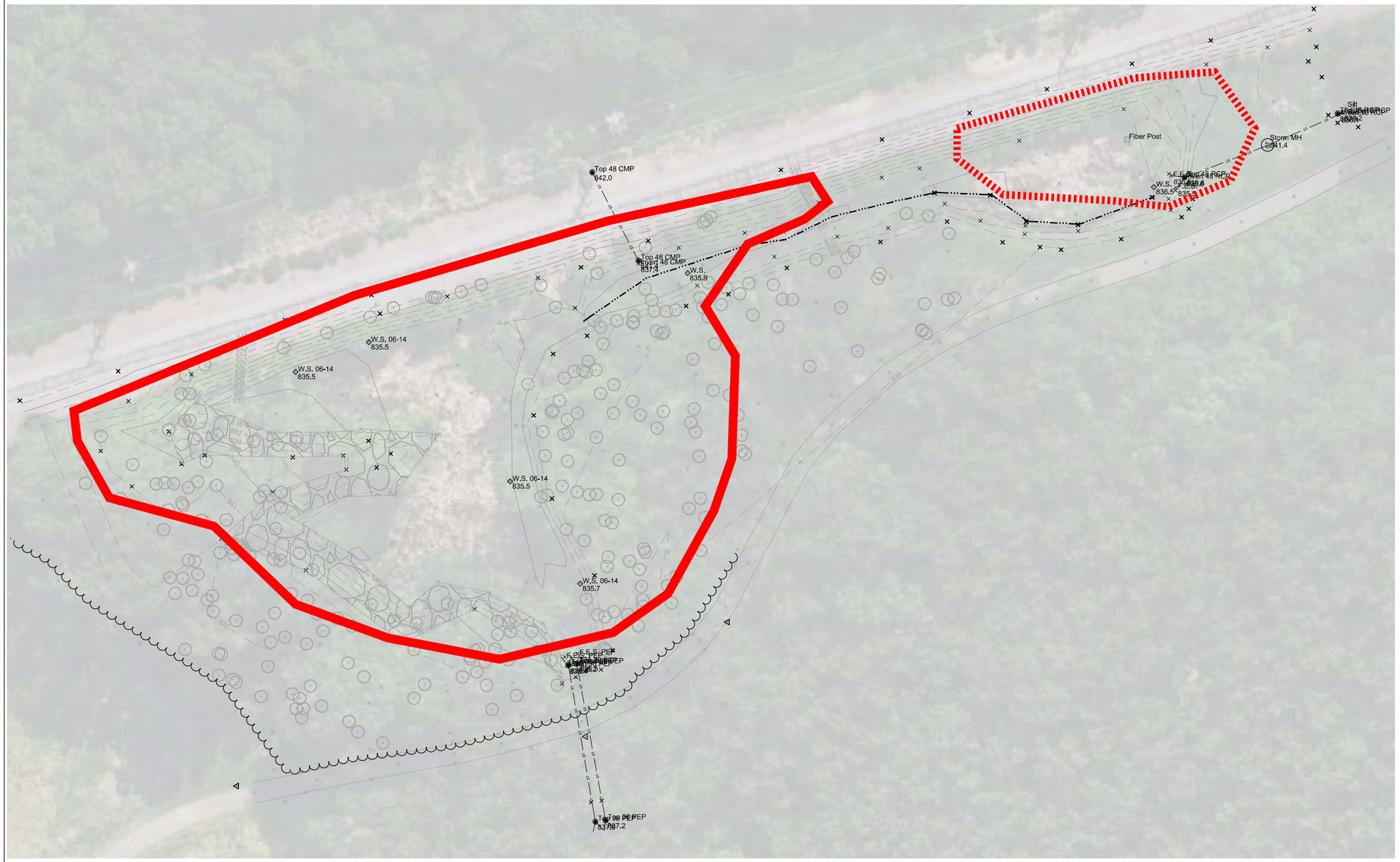
1 - PLAN: GR-6 LOCATION

0 20 40
SCALE IN FEET

N

FIGURE 5-4 Pond GR-6 Retrofit BMP

Grimes Pond



LEGEND - - SURVEY

- CONTROL POINT
- HYDRANT
- VALVE
- SIGN
- MH MANHOLE
- SAN SANITARY MANHOLE
- ST STORM MANHOLE
- CB CATCH BASIN
- CULVERT
- TREE
- 714.2 BATHYMETRIC ELEVATION
- 1380 MAJOR CONTOUR
- 1379 MINOR CONTOUR
- CENTERLINE
- FLOW LINE
- EDGE OF WOODS
- WATERS EDGE
- EDGE OF PATH
- CURB AND GUTTER
- ST ST ST STORM SEWER

PROVISIONAL
NOT FOR
CONSTRUCTION

1 PLAN: SR-4 LOCATION

0 25 50
SCALE IN FEET

FIGURE 5-5 SR-4 Retrofit BMP

South Rice Pond

Figure 5-6 Pond SR-4 Downstream Outlet Channel Erosion and Construction Debris

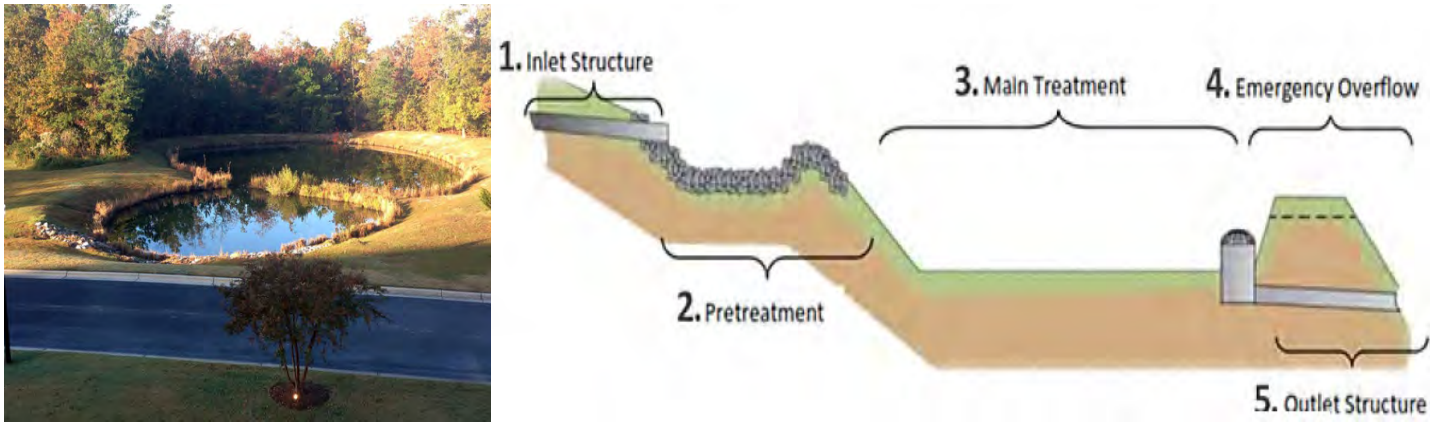


Figure 5-7 Example Stormwater Pond Treatment Elements

6 Project Modeling Results and Potential Impacts

6.1 Water Quality Modeling

To better understand and evaluate the water quality treatment performance of the existing best management practices (BMPs) in the Sochacki Park subwatershed, Barr revised the existing Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission's (BCWMC) P8 watershed model to reflect GIS subwatershed delineations and modeling inputs for each subwatershed and respective BMPs. The revised BCWMC P8 model was then updated with 2020 and 2021 growing-season climate data (hourly precipitation and daily temperatures) to develop the phosphorus (total and dissolved) and total suspended solids (TSS) loadings for the period. The available in-wetland water quality monitoring and watershed stormwater monitoring data of inflows and outflows were used to calibrate the watershed modeling, where possible.

We used the updated P8 modeling results and GIS mapping to identify high priority areas for implementing watershed BMPs. P8 modeling completed for the summers of 2020 and 2021 indicates that 20 and 17 percent of the current overall phosphorus load, in respective years, receives stormwater treatment before discharge to the three wetlands. Approximately 22 percent of the runoff phosphorus load in the Grimes Pond watershed receives stormwater treatment, while the respective levels of treatment in the direct drainage to North and South Rice Ponds are approximately 39 and 30 percent. Figure 6-1 highlights (in teal) the subwatershed areas that currently receiving some level of stormwater treatment with structural BMPs. Most of the subwatersheds that drain directly into the three ponds are not receiving stormwater treatment that would substantially reduce annual total phosphorus loadings.

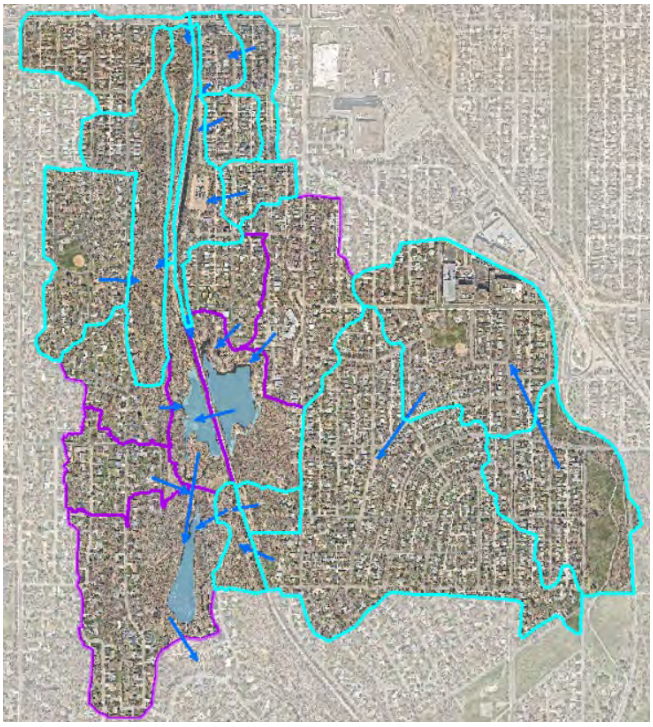


Figure 6-1 Existing Subwatersheds (Highlighted) Receiving Stormwater Treatment

The watershed modeling was calibrated and used to concurrently develop the water and phosphorus budgets that optimized the daily pond water quality modeling fit to the summer monitoring data associated with each pond. Figure 6-2 shows how the predicted pond water quality would ordinarily correspond with the water quality monitoring observations for each pond in 2020 and 2021, based on the calibrated watershed phosphorus load modeling, alone. Figure 6-2 shows that, except for Grimes Pond in 2021, each pond experienced two or more monitoring events where the monitored TP concentrations greatly exceeded the predicted TP concentration, based only on the watershed modeling. The difference in the TP concentrations during each of these pond monitoring events can be attributed to internal phosphorus loading from sediment phosphorus release. The mass balance modeling results were used to estimate and summarize the total internal phosphorus load during each summer for each pond.

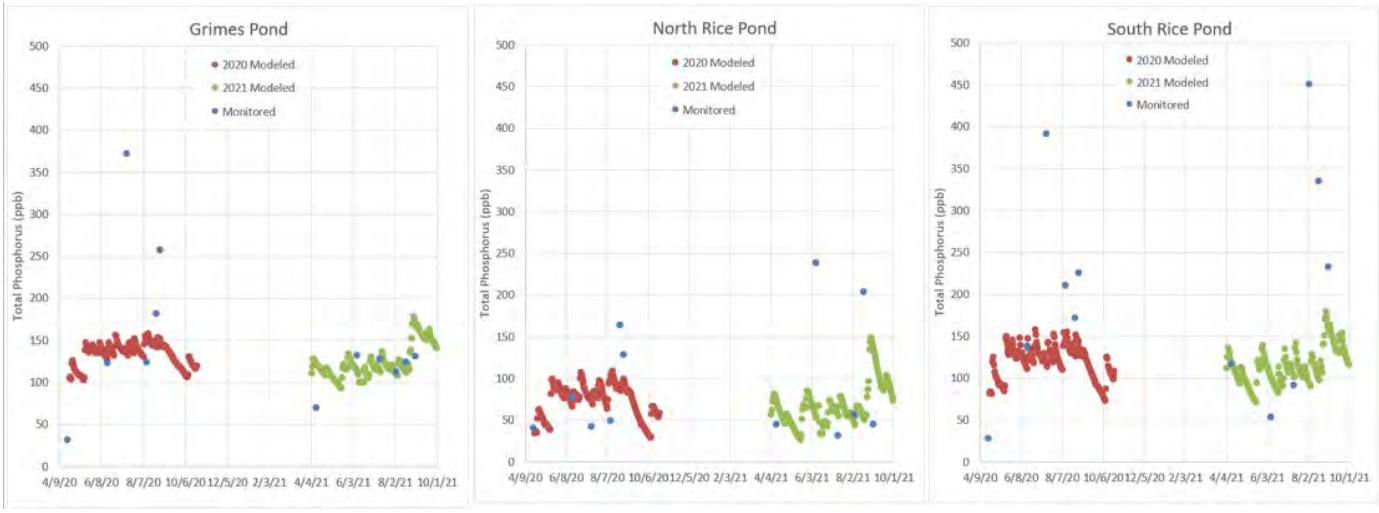


Figure 6-2 Calibrated Water Quality Monitoring and Modeling Results

A detailed analysis of the dissolved oxygen data, combined with the pond water quality modeling, confirmed that internal phosphorus loading can be an important source of phosphorus input to each pond during the summer. Internal phosphorus loading represented 32 percent of the summer phosphorus budget for Grimes Pond in 2020, as well as 6 and 24 percent of the respective summer phosphorus budgets for North Rice Pond in 2020 and 2021 (see Figure 6-3). Figure 6-3 shows that discharge from Grimes Pond represented 34 and 29 percent of the respective summer phosphorus budgets for North Rice Pond in 2020 and 2021. Internal phosphorus loading represented 8 and 9 percent of the respective summer phosphorus budgets for South Rice Pond in 2020 and 2021. Discharge from North Rice Pond represented 11 and 14 percent of the respective summer phosphorus budgets for South Rice Pond in 2020 and 2021.

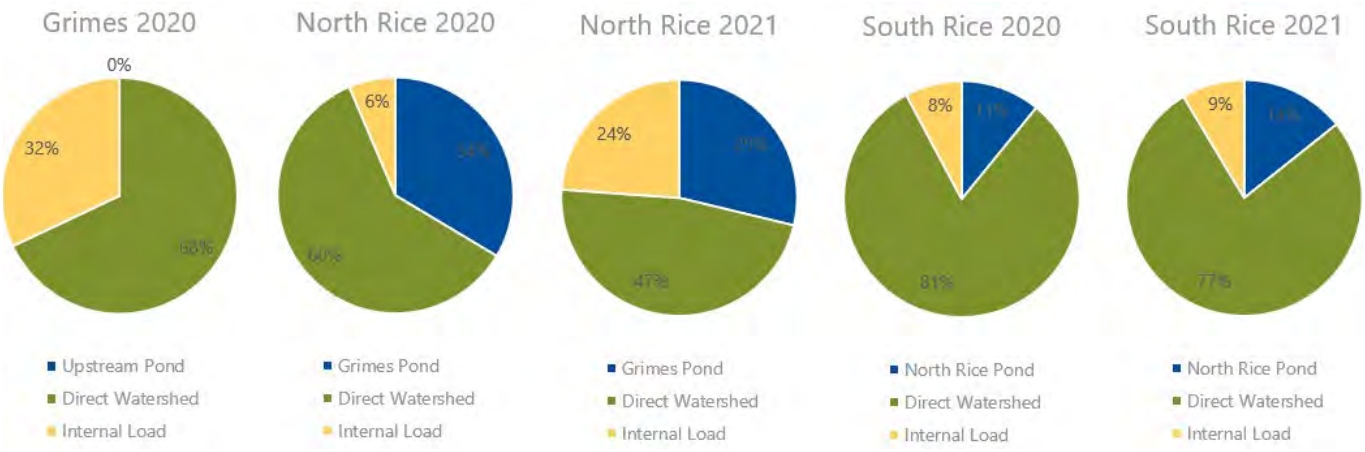


Figure 6-3 Modeled Annual TP Sources for Each Pond

The calibrated water quality modeling was used to assess the implications for the summer assimilation capacity (i.e., nutrient uptake and/or sedimentation) of each pond, and the water and phosphorus budgets were used to identify and develop implementation strategies for improving wetland water-quality. The short water residence times estimated for the watershed wetlands (averaging 38 days for Grimes Pond, 20 days for North Rice Pond and 8 days for South Rice Pond) limit the capacity to assimilate the summer runoff phosphorus loads from each direct drainage area, as well as the overall watershed.

The calibrated water quality modeling was used to simulate how implementation of watershed BMPs, combined with in-lake alum treatment, would improve water quality in each of the three ponds. For the majority of the BMPs evaluated, the updated P8 modeling was used to evaluate the proposed BMPs and estimate the annual total phosphorus removals. The model was run for the same water years that cover the monitored two-year consecutive climatic period (2020 and 2021 water years: 10/1/2019 – 9/30/2021). To evaluate the potential impact of an alum treatment, it was assumed that a combined alum and sodium aluminate treatment would reduce the estimated internal phosphorus load in each wetland by 80 percent.

Table 6-1 shows how much the average summer total phosphorus concentrations would improve following implementation of the recommended watershed structural BMPs and in-lake alum treatment in each pond (further discussed in Section 7).

Table 6-1 Average Summer Monitored and Modeled TP Following BMP Implementation

Monitoring/Modeling Scenario	Grimes Pond Avg. Summer TP	North Rice Pond Avg. Summer TP	South Rice Pond Avg. Summer TP
Existing 2020 and 2021 Summer Average TP (ppb)	168	104	230
Predicted TP Conc. Following BMP Implementation (ppb)	130	75	121
Percent TP Reduction Following BMP Implementation	23%	28%	47%

6.2 Easement Acquisition

All the proposed work for structural BMPs is located on City of Robbinsdale property, right of way, or within existing drainage and utility easements obtained by the City of Robbinsdale.

6.3 Permits Required for the Project

The proposed project is expected to require the following permits/approvals, regardless of the selected concepts:

- Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Public Waters Work Permit from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR)
- Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)
- Construction Stormwater General Permit from the MPCA
- Compliance with the MPCA's guidance for managing dredged material
- Compliance with the MPCA's guidance for managing contaminated material and debris-containing fill, including an environmental covenant for South Halifax Park
- Compliance with the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act
- City of Robbinsdale permits (where applicable)

6.3.1 Section 404 Permit and Section 401 Certification

According to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), the USACE regulates the placement of fill and certain dredging activities in jurisdictional wetlands and other waters of the United States. Jurisdictional wetlands and other waters are those that the USACE determines to have a significant nexus with navigable waters. Some of the proposed project concepts are hydrologically connected to Bassett Creek, which is expected to trigger the need for a Section 404 permit.

6.3.2 MnDNR Public Waters Work Permit

The MnDNR regulates development activities below the ordinary high water level in public waters and public waters wetlands. Public waters regulated by the MnDNR are identified on published public waters inventory maps. Grimes, North Rice and South Rice Ponds are identified as MnDNR public waters wetlands; therefore, the proposed project will require a MnDNR Public Waters Work Permit for the work completed in the public waters and for the proposed modifications to the tributaries.

6.3.3 Section 401 Water Quality Certification

To issue a Section 404 permit, the USACE must ensure that the proposed project does not violate established water quality standards under Section 401 of the CWA. In Minnesota, Section 401 Water Quality Certification is administered by the MPCA. Section 401 certification may be issued as part of the Section 404 permit or may require independent coordination, depending on the type of Section 404 permit the proposed project qualifies for.

6.3.4 Construction Stormwater General Permit

A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)/State Disposal System (SDS) Construction Stormwater General Permit from the MPCA authorizes stormwater runoff from construction sites. A Construction Stormwater General Permit is required as the proposed project will disturb more than one acre of soil. Preparation of a stormwater pollution prevention plan explaining how stormwater will be controlled within the project area during construction will be required as part of this permit.

6.3.5 Guidance for Managing Dredged Material

Dredged material is defined as waste by Minnesota Statute 115.01, and its management and disposal are regulated by the MPCA. It is anticipated that sediment dredged as part of the proposed project would be removed from the project site and disposed of at an appropriate landfill, in compliance with the MPCA's guidance for managing dredged materials.

6.3.6 Guidance for Managing Contaminated Soils and Debris-Containing Fill

Our Phase I, and past Phase II, investigations indicate the soils in the project area meet the MPCA's guidelines for unregulated fill, except for debris-containing fill, which should be disposed at a permitted landfill. Debris-free soils with no field evidence of environmental impacts must be managed in accordance with MPCA's Best Management Practices for the Off-Site Reuse of Unregulated Fill (MPCA, 2012) and the provisions of the Response Action Plan and Site Contingency Plan (Barr, 2015). In addition, an environmental covenant for exists for South Halifax Park that will require MPCA approval for any grading or disturbance at the site.

6.3.7 Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act

The Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) was enacted to protect wetlands not protected under the MnDNR's public waters work permit program. The WCA regulates filling and draining of all wetlands and regulates excavation within Type 3, 4, and 5 wetlands. The WCA is administered by a local governmental unit (LGU), and it is expected that BCWMC will be the LGU for WCA-regulated wetland impacts associated with the proposed project. Impacts that may be regulated under the WCA include excavation in wetland areas above the ordinary high water level, and any access to or across the project area that goes through wetland areas.

6.3.8 City of Robbinsdale Permits

It is likely that this project will also trigger applicable City of Robbinsdale Permits, such as the Right-of-Way (ROW) permit (for any disturbance or work within the ROW) and/or stormwater management permit.

6.4 Other Project Impacts

6.4.1 Temporary Closure of Nature Area Trails

The existing and proposed ponds are located within Sochacki Park and/or a walking nature area that contains a paved trail at South Halifax Park. Since a portion of the trails will be impacted by the construction activities, it will be necessary to temporarily close some portions of trails during construction activities. Trail closure signs and barricades will be installed, and a pedestrian detour route will be

determined during final construction. Every effort will be made to minimize the duration of the trail closure, including considering winter construction to minimize impacts to park users.

6.4.2 Tree Removals

For the proposed conceptual designs most of the surveyed trees are estimated for removal (those located within the project disturbance/grading limits). While a good portion of these trees are < 6" in diameter or are dead/dying, many classified as significant (by Robbinsdale ordinance) will be removed or impacted. It is expected that residents and community members may have concerns about the tree removals. It will be essential to show and describe the restoration efforts that will be put in place to mitigate the tree losses. Specific details on site restoration will be included in project design.

6.4.3 Impacts to Bats

The northern long-eared was recently listed as endangered and is listed as potentially occurring within the project area. The primary reason for decline of the species is the White Nose Syndrome (WNS) which has attributed to the deaths of millions of bats in recent years across the United States, and all four species that hibernate in Minnesota are susceptible to the disease (MnDNR, 2023). Bats typically hibernate in sheltered areas such as caves, but some bats nest in trees during summer months. To avoid adverse impacts to bat species it is recommended that tree removals are to be during the bats active season (April 15– September 30) so that nests or forging areas are not inadvertently destroyed while they are present in the project area. During final design, there should be additional consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service or MnDNR regarding the timing of any tree removals and the potential impacts to bats.

7 Project Cost Considerations

7.1 Opinion of Cost

Planning level cost estimates were developed for the various BMPs based on the conceptual design of each project. Although the point estimate of cost was used for the cost-benefit analysis, there is cost uncertainty and risk associated with this concept-level cost estimate. The costs reported for the BMPs include engineering, design, and permitting (20 percent), construction management (15 percent), and estimated legal costs (5 percent). The costs do not include any wetland mitigation costs, assume that the excavated soils are contaminated, and the projects do not require significant utility modifications or relocations. The range of probable costs presented reflects the level of uncertainty, unknowns, and risk due to the concept nature of the individual project designs. Based on the current level of design (planning level estimate), the cost range is expected to vary by -20 percent to +40 percent from the planning level point opinion of cost.

Appendix E includes the itemized planning level cost estimates for most of the water quality improvement options evaluated. These more detailed cost estimates should be reviewed and considered when planning and budgeting for the larger CIP projects and/or applications for grant funding.

A cost-benefit assessment was completed for each BMP to assist with prioritizing and selecting the preferred and most cost-effective BMPs to help achieve the necessary phosphorus load reductions. The capital costs (engineering, design, and construction) were annualized assuming a 30-year life span at a 6 percent interest rate. Although this timeframe is commonly used for these cost-benefit assessments, the actual lifespan of ponds, other BMPs, and infrastructure can be significantly longer if maintained regularly. Annual operation and maintenance costs were estimated for each project, assuming 1 percent of the capital cost. The benefit was estimated as an annualized cost per pound of total phosphorus removed per year.

7.2 Cost-Benefit and Project Sequencing

Table 7-1 summarizes the potential pond improvement options, estimated annual total phosphorus removal, planning level capital cost estimate, annualized cost-benefit, and recommended sequence for implementation of each improvement option. Items marked with "NA" in Table 7-1 are associated with options that are intended to address wetland habitat and are not applicable or quantified for TP load reductions. It is assumed that enhanced street sweeping in untreated subwatersheds would be incorporated into each City's operations, so planning level costs for this improvement option were not estimated.

Table 7-1 Summary of Potential Improvement Benefits and Planning Level Costs by Option

BMP ID/Location	Annual TP Removal (lbs/yr)	Planning Level Capital Cost Estimate	Annualized Cost-Benefit ($/lb TP Removed/yr)	Recommended Sequence for Implementation
Revegetate/control upland soil erosion	NA	$10,000	NA	1a
Street sweeping in untreated subwatersheds	NA	NA	NA	1b
Clear inlet/outlet debris, remove sediment deltas and stabilize erosion	NA	$100,000	NA	1c
Conduct pond water level drawdowns	NA	$182,000	NA	1d
Dredge/expand existing SR-4 pond and stabilize outlet channel	33.5	$393,000	$970	2a
Construct stormwater pond at GR-6	14.9	$680,000	$3,800	2b
Construct stormwater pond at NR-1	3.8	$281,000	$6,100	2c
Construct stormwater pond at SR-3	3.7	$391,000	$8,700	2d
Alum treatment of Grimes, North and South Rice Ponds	11.2	$245,000	$1,800	3
Total		**$2,282,000**		

7.3 Funding Sources

It is expected that the following funding sources are likely be available for implementation of some of the recommended improvement options:

- BCWMC CIP Funds ($600,000)
- BWSR Clean Water Fund grant
- Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program (for habitat components)
- Hennepin County Opportunity or Stewardship grants
- MPCA grants and MN Public Facilities Authority funds
- MnDNR short term action request grants
- Partner CIP funds (for potential grant match)

8 Alternatives Assessment and Recommendations

Based on the calibrated watershed and pond water quality modeling, the following watershed BMPs and in-pond management options are recommended to substantially reduce the respective phosphorus loadings and enhance vegetative diversity and integrity for each pond (according to the implementation sequence recommended in Table 7-1):

- Install structural BMPs and/or pretreatment protection measures to prevent future sediment delivery and reduce nutrient loading into the wetland with design(s) intended to meet water quality goals. Untreated stormwater runoff from two discharge outfalls each to South Rice Pond and Grimes Pond, as well as one outfall to North Rice Pond, are prioritized for implementation.
- Complete in-pond alum treatment for each pond to control summer sediment phosphorus release following implementation of watershed BMPs.
- Clear clogged debris and develop an annual maintenance plan for all inlet and outlet structures. Remove accumulated sediment and fill materials from BMPs and within, and adjacent to, each wetland. Reconfigure discharge outfall and stabilize erosion from stormwater conveyance entering northwest corner of Grimes Pond.
- Re-vegetate and control soil erosion from bare soil areas within the upland buffer area. If mountain bike activity in the adjacent upland area is currently supported, isolate potential soil disturbance and adjacent vegetation improvements to prevent erosion into surrounding wetland areas.
- Conduct controlled water level drawdowns in each wetland prior to the winter season to ensure that curly-leaf pondweed is decreased to less than 20 percent cover and to enhance overall vegetative diversity and integrity. Remove, treat, and control other non-native invasive species, where possible, and remove fill material and trash.
- Initiate, or increase the frequency of, street sweeping and fall leaf litter removal programs, with emphasis in subwatersheds that have direct drainage to the wetlands.
- Manage and properly dispose of contaminated material encountered as part of project work.

9 References

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Item 5B.
BCWMC 8-17-23

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

MEMO

To: BCWMC Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners
From: BCWMC Budget Committee
Date: August 9, 2023

Recommendation: Approve Annual Operating Budget, City Assessments, and Investment Income Allocation

The BCWMC Budget Committee met on July 27th to finalize recommendations on the 2024 Operating Budget and continue discussing options for allocating the 2023 and 2024 investment income.

At their June meeting, the Commission directed staff to send an initial proposed budget and city assessments to member cities for comment by August 1st. No cities offered comments or concerns with this proposed budget which included:

- Total operating budget: $914,720
- Total city assessments: $681,800
- Average increase in city assessments over 2023 levels: 10.4%
- Amount of investment income from 2023 and 2024 used in operating budget: $0

The budget proposed in June (above) was based on estimated fund balances at the end of the last fiscal year. The final audit's year end balance was higher than expected meaning more funding was available for 2024. With the updated figures, the Budget Committee again reviewed and discussed options for the overall budget, city assessments, and use of investment income.

The Budget Committee recommends that the Commission:

1. Set aside investment income from 2023 and 2024 in a short-term "special projects" fund. Income is expected to be $300,000 - $400,000 over 2023 and 2024. The Budget Committee will continue gathering input from commissioners, TAC members, and city leadership about future assessments and how to utilize investment income. No investment funds would be spent without Commission approval. Committee will revisit the investment income allocation policy over the coming months and will reassess income allocation at the end of the fiscal year.

2. Adopt the budget as presented in tables on the following pages and as summarized below:
   - Total operating budget: $914,720
   - Total city assessments: $622,500
   - Average increase in city assessments over 2023 levels: 0.8%
   - Amount of investment income from 2023 and 2024 used in operating budget: $0

3. Continue to work with City of Plymouth to transfer accounting tasks to city. Bring a potential agreement with Plymouth to future BCWMC meeting.

2024 Recommended Operating Budget

	2020 Budget	2020 Gross Expenses	2020 Revenue	2020 NET Expenses	2021 Budget	2021 Gross Expenses	2021 Revenue	2021 NET Expenses	2022 Budget	2022 Gross Expenses	2022 Revenue	2022 NET Expenses	2023 Budget	Proposed 2024 Budget	See Notes
ENGINEERING & MONITORING															
Technical Services	130,000	143,081	-	143,081	134,000	105,492	$ -	105,492	145,000	132,541		132,541	145,000	145,000	(A1)
Development/Project Reviews	75,000	94,267	63,000	31,267	68,000	89,507	$ 73,554.00	15,953	75,000	103,851	77,617	26,234	80,000	90,000	(A)
			Review fees				Review fees				Review fees				
Non-fee and Preliminary Reviews	20,000	16,851	-	16,851	24,000	38,406	$ 10,000.00	28,406	22,000	17,788	1,000	16,788	30,000	30,000	(B)
							Cost share w/ MPLS				Cost share w/ MPLS				
Commission and TAC Meetings	12,000	10,478	-	10,478	12,000	10,961	$ -	10,961	14,000	13,119		13,119	15,000	15,000	(C)
Surveys and Studies	10,000	3,745	-	3,745	9,000	7,683	$ -	7,683	10,000	14,283		14,283	15,000	15,000	(D)
Water Quality / Monitoring	102,600	119,397	-	119,397	129,000	132,432	$ -	132,432	110,000	109,478		109,478	105,000	160,500	(E)
Water Quantity	6,500	6,229	-	6,229	7,000	7,205	$ -	7,205	8,000	6,369		6,369	9,000	9,000	(F)
Annual Flood Control Project Inspections	12,000	69,149	69,149	0	12,000	14,999	$ 14,999.00	-	12,000	21,290	21,290	-	15,000	85,000	(G)
			Transfer from long term account				Transfer from long term account				Transfer from long term account				
Municipal Plan Review	2,000	1,548	-	1,548	2,000	-	$ -	-	2,000	1,464		1,464	2,000	2,000	(H)
Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program	20,500	20,837	4,500	16,337	23,000	18,257	$ 5,500.00	12,757	28,500	28,425	3,750	24,675	27,000	26,500	(I)
			Grant from Met Council				Grant from Met Council				Grant from Met Council				
Annual XP-SWMM Model Updates/Reviews	-	-	-	-	-	$ -	$ -	-	5,000	8,983		8,983	3,000	3,000	(J)
APM/AIS Work	30,000	11,634	1,128	10,506	14,000	13,533	$ 5,601.00	7,932	13,000	41,844	22,500	19,344	40,000	40,000	(K)
			Cost share with TRPD				DNR Grant & Cost share w/ TRPD				DNR Grant & Cost share w/ TRPD				
Subtotal Engineering & Monitoring	**$420,600**	**$497,215**	**$137,777**	**$359,438**	**$434,000**	**$438,475**	**$ 109,654.00**	**$328,821**	**$444,500**	**$499,435**	**$126,157**	**$373,278**	**$486,000**	**$621,000**	**See Notes**
PLANNING															
Next Generation Plan Development	18,000	18,000	-	18,000	18,000	10,001	$ -	10,001	18,000	47,372	11,000	36,372	53,250	35,650	(L)
											Transfer from Plan account				
Subtotal Planning	**$18,000**	**$18,000**	**$0**	**$18,000**	**$18,000**	**$10,001**	**$ -**	**$10,001**	**$18,000**	**$47,372**	**$11,000**	**$36,372**	**$53,250**	**$35,650**	

Continued next page

Item	2020 Budget	2020 Gross Expenses	2020 Revenue	2020 NET Expenses	2021 Budget	2021 Gross Expenses	2021 Revenue	2021 NET Expenses	2022 Budget	2022 Gross Expenses	2022 Revenue	2022 NET Expenses	2023 Budget	Proposed 2024 Budget	See Notes
ADMINISTRATION															
Administrator	69,200	64,764	30,000	34,764	67,400	67,481	$ 29,495.00	37,986	70,848	69,174	34,000	35,174	78,750	78,750	(M)
			Transfer from CIP account				Transfer from CIP account				Transfer from CIP account				
MAWD Dues	500	500	-	500	3,750	3,750	$ -	3,750	7,500	7,500		7,500	7,500	7,500	(N)
Legal	15,000	20,996	-	20,996	15,000	16,280	**$ -**	16,280	17,000	20,204		20,204	17,000	21,000	(O)
Financial Management	3,500	3,500	-	3,500	4,000	10,600	$ -	10,600	13,500	14,260		14,260	14,540	17,000	(P)
Audit, Insurance & Bond	18,000	18,684	-	18,684	18,000	14,949	$ -	14,949	18,700	18,218		18,218	18,700	18,700	(Q)
Meeting Catering	1,500	317	-	317	1,300	-	$ -	-	1,300	1,830		1,830	2,400	2,400	(R)
Administrative Services	15,000	11,887	-	11,887	8,000	5,960	$ -	5,960	8,000	5,993		5,993	7,240	2,570	(S)
Subtotal Administration	**$122,700**	**$120,648**	**$30,000**	**$90,648**	**$117,450**	**$119,020**	**$29,495**	**$89,525**	**$136,848**	**$137,179**	**$34,000**	**$103,179**	**$146,130**	**$147,920**	
OUTREACH & EDUCATION															
Publications / Annual Report	1,300	1,069	-	1,069	1,300	375	$ -	375	1,300	1,164		1,164	1,000	1,200	(T)
Website	1,000	1,264	-	1,264	1,800	544	$ -	544	1,800	645		645	1,600	1,600	(U)
Watershed Education Partnerships	15,850	16,535	-	16,535	17,350	13,080	$ -	13,080	18,350	15,410		15,410	18,350	18,350	(V)
Education and Public Outreach	22,000	38,321	28,811	9,510	26,000	23,073	$ 6,295.00	16,778	28,000	36,591	13,013	23,578	28,000	28,000	(W)
		Grant from BWSR					Grant from BWSR			Grant from BWSR					
Public Communications	1,000	1,113	-	1,113	1,000	1,028	$ -	1,028	1,100	69		69	1,100	1,000	(X)
Subtotal Outreach & Education	**$41,150**	**$58,302**	**$28,811**	**$29,491**	**$47,450**	**$38,100**	**$6,295**	**$31,805**	**$50,550**	**$53,879**	**$13,013**	**$40,866**	**$50,050**	**$50,150**	
MAINTENANCE FUNDS															
Channel Maintenance Fund	25,000	25,000	-	25,000	20,000	$20,000	**$ -**	20,000	25,000	25,000		25,000	25,000	25,000	(Y)
Flood Control Project Long-Term Maint.	25,000	25,000	-	25,000	25,000	25,000	$ -	25,000	25,000	25,000		25,000	35,000	35,000	(Z)
Subtotal Maintenance Funds	**$50,000**	**$50,000**	**$0**	**$50,000**	**$45,000**	**$45,000**	**$0**	**$45,000**	**$50,000**	**$50,000**	**$0**	**$50,000**	**$60,000**	**$60,000**	
TMDL WORK															
TMDL Implementation Reporting	10,000	263	-	263	7,000	6,989	$ -	6,989	7,000	3,397	-	3,397	-	-	(AA)
Subtotal TMDL Work	**$10,000**	**$263**	**$0**	**$263**	**$7,000**	**$7,000**	**$7,000**	**$7,000**	**$7,000**	**3,397**	**-**	**3,397**	**$0**		
GRAND TOTAL	**$662,450**	**$744,428**	**$196,588**	**$547,840**	**$668,900**	**$657,596**	**$152,444**	**$512,152**	**$706,898**	**$791,262**	**$184,170**	**$607,092**	**$795,430**	**$914,720**	

Estimated 2024 Revenues	
Expected Income	Income
Assessments to cities	$ 622,500
Investment Income	$ -
CIP Administrative Funds (2.0% of est. requested levy of $1.972M)	$ 39,440
Project review fees	$ 77,000
Transfer from Long-term Maint Fund for Flood Control Proj Inspections	$ 85,000
WOMP reimbursement	$ 5,000
TRPD reimbursement	$ 5,000
Transfer from Plan Development Savings	$ 13,000
TOTAL EXPECTED INCOME	**$ 846,940**
Expected Expenses	
Total operating budget	**$ 914,720**
Fund Balance Details	
Est. Beginning Fund Balance (Jan 31, 2024)	**$ 517,671**
Change in Fund Balance (income - expenses)	$ (67,780)
Est. Remaining Fund Balance (Jan 31, 2025)	$ 449,891

City Assessments

Community	For Taxes Payable in 2023	2023 Percent of	Area Watershed (w/ 2022 changes)	Percent of	Average	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 Proposed Budget	Percent increase by city over 2023
	Net Tax Capacity	Valuation	in Acres	of Area	Percent	$500,000	$515,050	$529,850	$550,450	$554,900	$565,998	$ 617,430	$ 622,500	0.8%
Crystal	$12,385,383	5.58	1,297	5.11	5.35	$25,704	$26,904	$27,877	$29,062	$29,898	$30,206	$32,948	$33,280	1.0%
Golden Valley	$56,201,654	25.34	6,615	26.05	25.70	$131,270	$134,649	$138,553	$144,693	$145,228	$148,477	$160,438	$159,957	-0.3%
Medicine Lake	$1,436,006	0.65	199	0.78	0.72	$3,561	$3,783	$3,846	$3,975	$3,928	$3,988	$4,472	$4,455	-0.4%
Minneapolis	$16,265,139	7.33	1,685	6.64	6.98	$33,609	$34,763	$35,805	$37,631	$37,983	$39,103	$43,643	$43,481	-0.4%
Minnetonka	$14,598,518	6.58	1,108	4.36	5.47	$28,199	$28,053	$28,989	$29,967	$29,622	$30,437	$34,091	$34,069	-0.1%
New Hope	$12,585,791	5.68	1,368	5.39	5.53	$25,917	$26,740	$27,987	$28,987	$29,464	$30,087	$33,078	$34,431	4.1%
Plymouth	$93,993,300	42.38	12,001	47.26	44.82	$224,531	$231,682	$237,986	$245,942	$247,860	$252,307	$275,216	$279,012	1.4%
Robbinsdale	$4,329,509	1.95	369	1.45	1.70	$7,747	$8,189	$8,523	$8,937	$9,299	$9,288	$10,314	$10,599	2.8%
St. Louis Park	$9,974,412	4.50	752	2.96	3.73	$19,463	$20,287	$20,284	$21,257	$21,618	$22,105	$23,230	$23,216	-0.1%
TOTAL	**$221,769,712**	**100.00**	**25,394**	**100.00**	**100.00**	**$500,000**	**$515,050**	**$529,850**	**$550,450**	**$554,900**	**$565,998**	**$ 617,430**	**$ 622,500**	0.8%

NOTES
(A1) General technical services by Barr Engineering; 2021 budget based on actual expenditures in 2019 and 2020. 2024 Budget same as 2022 and 2023.
(A) Partially funded by application fees; with the creation of the preliminary and non-fee budget category, most of the review costs will be covered by application fees. Budget based on recent actual expenses and projected number of projects submitted for review. New review fees effective Aug 1, 2022. Increase in 2024 to better align with 2022 costs.
(B) This was a new line item in 2015 used to cover reviews for which either we do not receive an application fee or it's too early in the process for us to have received an application fee. Includes DNR application reviews, MnDOT project reviews, and other prelim reviews requested by administrator and member cities. Reviews for large projects such as SWLRT reviews and North Loop Green Project have been partially or fully reimbursed to Commission.
(C) Includes attendance at BCWMC meetings, TAC meetings and other committee meetings, as needed. 2017 budget increased to allow for additional BCWMC Engineer staff to attend Commission/TAC meetings (total of 3 assumed). 2018 - 2020 budgets were reduced from 2017 and assumed 12 BCWMC meetings and 5 other meetings (TAC, etc.). 2021 budget also assumes 17 meetings including BCWMC meetings (12), TAC meetings (3), Administrative Services Committee meetings (1), Budget Committee meetings and other meetings (1). 2022 and 2023 budgets increased to reflect return to in-person meetings, plus additional staff attendance at meetings. 2024 Budget same as 2023.
(D) For Commission-directed surveys and studies not identified in other categories - e.g., past work has included watershed tours, Medicine Lake outlet work, Flood Control Project Maintenance and Responsibilites, Sweeney Lake sediment monitoring, stream monitoring equipment purchase. 2018 budget was reduced from previous years for overall budget savings. 2019 budget is more in line with previous years and gives Commission flexibility to investigate or tackle unforeseen issues that arise. Lowered again in 2020, 2021, and 2022 for budget savings. Among other surveys and studies, in 2023 this budget may be used to review and develop agreements with Minneapolis related to tunnel roles and responsibilities. There are not yet specific plans for this budget in 2024 but it allows BCWMC to address unforeseen issues.
(E) Routine lake and stream monitoring. Follows monitoring schedule laid out in Appendix A of Watershed Plan. Higher budget than 2023 due to monitoring 3 lakes instead of 2, biological monitoring on streams, and higher water quality monitoring costs for North Branch than Plymouth Creek (partnership with TRPD brought down costs for Plymouth Creek). See details on next page. https://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/application/files/7914/4676/6436/Appendix_A_Monitoring_Plan.pdf
(F) Water Quantity (lake level) monitoring. 2018 budget lowered for budget savings and resulted in fewer data points. 2019 budget back to earlier budget levels. 2020 budget lowered again for budget savings. 2022 and 2023 budget increase allows for additional measurements and benchmark checks, beyond the once/month lake level measurements to assist with proper maintenance of hyrologic and hydraulic modeling and climate resiliency preparations. 2024 same as 2023 budget
(G) 2024 budget includes double box inspection, along with annual inspections. Budget assumes $70,000 for double box inspection (includes $25,000 in subcontractor fees for Rescue Resources and a crane), and $15,000 for regular annual inspections. The BCWMC Flood Control Project Double Box Culvert Repairs CIP project (FCP-1) is slated for 2027; a feasibility study is needed in 2025 or 2026. Therefore, the double box inspection includes meeting with contractor in double box culvert to discuss repairs for 2025/2026 feasibility study. The last deep tunnel inspection was 2020, next one is due 2030. Unsubmerged deep tunnel inspection due in 2025.
http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/application/files/4514/9637/1815/2016_FCP_Policies.pdf
(H) Municipal plan approvals completed in 2019; however, this task has also included review of adjacent WMO plan amendments, and review of city ordinances; $2,000 budget recommended annually.
(I) Monitoring at the Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program (WOMP) site in Minneapolis through an agreement with Met Council (MCES). Commission is reimbursed $5,000 from Met Council. Met Council pays for equipment, maintenance, power, cell service, and lab analyses. Monitoring protocol changed in 2017 with collection of bi-monthly samples (up from once-per-month sampling).Both Barr and Stantec (previously Wenck) have tasks related to WOMP activities. Station was moved in late 2020. In 2022, Barr portion was set at $10,000 because MCES requested additional high flow measurements due to the new station location. Stantec portion was similar to previous years at $18,500 due to similar sampling regime. 2024 budget reflects actual 2023 contract with Stantect and Barr estimates ($7,500 for Barr + $19,000 for Stantec).
(J) This item is used to make updates to the XP-SWMM model, coordinate with P8 model updates, and assist cities with model use. No XP-SWMM updates were performed 2019 - 2021 due to work on the grant funded FEMA modeling project. 2022 budget includes finalizing updates to the Commission's official model and flood elevations to match the "FEMA model" (this work was started in 2021 using "Surveys and Studies" budget). 2024 budget is same as 2023: budget assumes Barr will request, compile, and review information provided by the cities and flag those that are large enough/significant enough to incoporate into the XP-SWMM and P8 modelupdates. As this covers both XP-SWMM and P8, we assumed $0 for the TMDL Implementation Reporting (P8 model update) budget.

Notes (continued)
(K) Funds to implement recommendations of Aquatic Plant Management/Aquatic Invasive Species Committee likely including curly-leaf pondweed control in Medicine Lake and small grant program for launch inspectors, education/outreach, etc. by other organizations including TRPD, AMLAC, others. TRPD shares cost (17%) of treatments. In 2021, recieved $5,000 DNR grant. In 2022, recieved $10,000 DNR grant. In 2022 and for a few years thereafter, treatment costs are expected to be signficantly higher due to expanded treatment area allowed under Lake Vegetation Management Plan. No DNR grant in 2023 awarded in 2023. 2024 budget same as 2023.
(L) The scope and budget for development of the 2025 Watershed Plan was approved in February 2022. $38,000 has already been set aside 2019 - 2022 in a long term account for Plan development, of which $11,000 was initially planned to cover work in 2022. The Commission approved a revised Plan scope and budget in September 2022 to include additional funding to address "complex issues." In 2022, Barr spent approximately $41,000 as part of the original Plan update and complex issues tasks. In 2023, Barr estimates spending $42,000 and Administrator estimates spending $11,250 on Plan development (total = $53,250) and Barr estimates spending $16,300 to address complex issues. Barr estimates spending $26,700 in 2024 and Administrator estimates spending $8,950 on Plan development (total = $35,650).
(M) Amended Administrator contract approved March 2022 includes 87.5 hours per month at $75/hour starting in FY23 for total of $78,750.
(N) MN Association of Watershed District Annual dues. New budget item. 2019 and 2020 dues were $500 because WMOs were newly allowed to join the organization. 2021 dues $3,750. Starting in 2022 dues went to the max of $7,500 similar to other Metro watersheds.
(O) For Commission attorney. 2022 budget included 3% hourly rate increase over 2021 + more work expected. Acutal costs in 2022 were $3,000 over budget. 2024 proposed budget is in line with acutal 2022 costs. Legal costs for some CIP projects will be charged to specific CIP budgets, as warranted.
(P) In 2021, Commission began contractoing with Redpath for accounting services. 2023 contract includes NTE of $16,650. Increased 2024 budget to reflect slight potential increase from 2023 contract.
(Q) Insurance and audit costs have risen considerably in the last few years.
(R) Assumes 12 in-person meetings @ $200 per meeting
(S) Recording Secretary $40/hr rate * 8 hrs/mo for 6 months for minutes ($1,920 total) + $250/mo meeting packet printing/mailing + $400 supplies (envelopes, stamps, etc).
(T) Budget was decreased in last few years to be more in line with actual expenses. Costs associated with Commission Engineer assistance with annual report
(U) Based on agreement with HDR for website hosting and maintenance activities.
(V) Includes CAMP ($7,000), River Watch ($2,000), Metro Watershed Partners ($3,500), Metro Blooms Workshops ($1,500), Children's Water Festival ($350), Metro Blooms resident engagement in Minneapolis neighborhoods ($4,000).
(W) Includes funding for West Metro Water Alliance at $13,000 and $15,000 for work by educational contractors + supplies and materials including educational signage, display materials, Commissioner training, etc. [2024 may be a good year to redesign and print watershed map for estimated $15,000]
(X) Public Communications covers required public notices for public hearings, etc.
(Y) Will be transferred to Channel Maintenance Fund for use by cities with smaller projects along main streams.
(Z) Will be transferred to Long-Term Maintenance Fund. Budget increased in 2023 to be more in line with expected costs at TAC's recommendation.
(AA) This task is meant for updating the P8 pollution model; will be done in conjunction with the work in budget line J with XP-SWMM model updates.

BCWMC 2024 Water Quality Monitoring Budgets - by item		
Item	**Budget**	**Notes**
Reporting on 2023 (and 2022 biological) monitoring:		
Plymouth Creek stream flow and quality monitoring (2022 & 2023), and biological monitoring (2022)	$15,500	Stream flow, water quality, and biological monitoring will be combined into one report for Plymouth Creek. Report will follow template of recent reports.
Sweeney Lake & Twin Lake	$13,000	Report will follow template of recent reports.
2024 monitoring:		
Year 1 of North Branch stream flow and quality monitoring	$42,000	Flow and monitoring equipment will be installed in the North Branch of Bassett Creek. Samples will be collected during 8 storm events and 7 baseflow events. Water depth, flow, temperature, and specific conductance will be continuously measured during the 2024 monitoring period. Dissolved oxygen will be continuously measured for 4 days during July or August. Storm and base flow samples will be analyzed for nutrients (total phosphorus, ortho phosphorus, dissolved phosphorus, nitrate/nitrite, ammonia, and total Kjeldahl nitrogen), solids (total suspended solids and volatile suspended solids), chlorides, hardness, calcium, and magnesium. Base-flow samples will also be analyzed for chlorophyll a, and E. coli bacteria. Quarterly grab samples will be analyzed for metals (chromium, cadmium, copper, lead, nickel, and zinc). Instantaneous dissolved oxygen and pH measurements will be taken when baseflow samples are collected. MCES Lab will perform the analyses. Four manual flow measurements will be taken to verify/adjust the rating curve. Budget assumes an average level of maintenance and trouble-shooting efforts. Budget also includes purchase of a new 4G cell modem, as the existing modem is obsolete. Cellular data services will be purchased directly from the vendor (Campbell Scientific), rather than Verizon (saves time and costs). Equipment that cannot withstand winter weather (e.g., specific conductance probe) will be removed at the end of the monitoring period. Data will be reviewed and
Parkers Lake (Priority 1 Deep lake)	$20,000	Detailed lake monitoring includes monitoring one location on Parkers Lake on 6 occasions for selected parameters (total phosphorus, soluble reactive phosphorus, total nitrogen, chlorophyll a, chloride, temperature, pH, DO, and specific conductance), plus parameters associated with AIS vulnerability (alkalinity, sodium, hardness, calcium, and magnesium) sample analysis, phytoplankton and zooplankton collection and analysis, an aquatic plant survey (two occasions), calculation of aquatic plant IBIs, preparation of dissolved oxygen, temperature, total phosphorus, and specific conductance isopleths, completion of trend analyses of total phosphorus, chlorophyll a, and Secchi disc average summer values. Three Rivers Park District staff will collect water quality, phytoplankton, and zooplankton samples, perform aquatic plant surveys, and complete lab analysis of samples (except for AIS vulnerability parameters) at a reduced cost to BCWMC. Final report preparation(following template of recent reports) and presentation costs deferred to 2025.
Westwood Lake (Priority 1 Shallow lake)	$23,000	Detailed lake monitoring includes monitoring one location on six occasions for selected parameters (total phosphorus, ortho phosphorus, total nitrogen, nitrate +nitrite nitrogen, total Kjeldahl nitrogen, chlorophyll a, chloride, Secchi disc, temperature, pH, DO, and specific conductance), plus parameters associated with AIS vulnerability (alkalinity, hardness, calcium, magnesium, and sodium) and sample analysis, monitoring phytoplankton, and zooplankton and sample analysis, an aquatic plant survey (two occasions), calculation of aquatic plant IBIs, preparation of dissolved oxygen, temperature, total phosphorus, and specific conductance isopleths, completion of trend analyses of total phosphorus, chlorophyll a, and Secchi disc average summer values. Final report preparation (following template of recent reports) and presentation costs deferred to 2025.
Cavanaugh Lake (Priority 2 Shallow lake)	$23,000	Detailed lake monitoring includes monitoring one location on six occasions for selected parameters (total phosphorus, ortho phosphorus, total nitrogen, nitrate +nitrite nitrogen, total Kjeldahl nitrogen, chlorophyll a, chloride, Secchi disc, temperature, pH, DO, and specific conductance), plus parameters associated with AIS vulnerability (alkalinity, hardness, calcium, magnesium, and sodium) and sample analysis, monitoring phytoplankton, and zooplankton and sample analysis, an aquatic plant survey (two occasions), calculation of aquatic plant IBIs, preparation of dissolved oxygen, temperature, total phosphorus, and specific conductance isopleths, completion of trend analyses of total phosphorus, chlorophyll a, and Secchi disc average summer values. Final report preparation (following template of recent reports) and presentation costs deferred to 2025.
Biological monitoring - Main Stem & North Branch	$14,000	Assumptions: 1) one sample event during late September to early October of 2024; 2) macroinvertebrate samples will be collected and a habitat survey completed at one location on the North Branch and three locations on the Main Stem; 3) microscope identification/ enumeration by subconsultant (Dr. Dean Hansen); and 4) MPCA computes MIBI at no cost to BCWMC. Budget does not include report and presentation to Commission, which will likely occur in 2026 (and be included in 2026 budget), to coincide with the reporting on the North Branch stream flow and water quality monitoring. This monitoring could be deferred to 2025, if needed.
General water quality	$10,000	
Total Water Quality Monitoring	**$160,500**	

Item 5F.
BCWMC 7-20-23

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 1, 2023
TO: Minnesota Watersheds Members
FROM: Linda Vavra and Jamie Beyer, Resolutions Committee Co-Chairs
RE: 2023 REQUEST FOR MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS RESOLUTIONS

It is that time of year for Minnesota Watersheds members to submit their policy recommendations through our resolutions process. This is YOUR organization and policy statements start with YOU! Here are the next steps and timeline:

July / August	Members write, discuss, and approve resolutions at your WD/WMO meetings. The more detail you can provide, the easier it will be for the committee to make a recommendation.
September 1	Administrators submit resolutions and background information documents to Jan Voit, Executive Director at jvoit@mnwatersheds.com by **September 1**. If more time is needed, please contact her so the Resolutions Committee is aware that another resolution may be submitted. The latest possible date to submit a resolution is **60 days before** the annual meeting (October 1). We ask that resolutions be submitted according to the described timeframe to ensure distribution to members for discussion by your boards in November. **NOTE: If all the requested information is not included, the Resolution will NOT be accepted.**
September / October	The Resolutions Committee will review the resolutions, gather more information, or ask for further clarification when deemed necessary; work with the submitting watersheds to combine similar resolutions; reject resolutions already active; discuss and make recommendations to the membership on the passage of resolutions.
October 31	Resolutions (with committee feedback) will be emailed to each organization by **October 31**. **NOTE: If possible, please hold a regional meeting to discuss the Resolutions BEFORE the annual conference.**
November	Members should discuss the resolutions at their November meetings and decide who will be voting on their behalf at the annual meeting (2 voting members and 1 alternate are to be designated per watershed organization)
December 3	Delegates discuss and vote on resolutions at the annual resolutions hearing. Please be prepared to present and defend your resolution.
December / January	The Legislative Committee will review existing and new resolutions and make a recommendation to the Minnesota Watersheds Board of Directors for the 2024 legislative platform.
January 2024	Minnesota Watersheds Board of Directors will finalize the 2024 legislative platform.
February 12, 2024	First day of the 2nd half of 93rd legislative biennium.

NOTE: Resolutions passed by the membership will remain Minnesota Watersheds policy for five years after which they will sunset. If a member wishes to keep the resolution active, it must be resubmitted and passed again by the membership. Enclosed with this memorandum are the active resolutions and those that will sunset on 12/31/23. If you have questions, Please feel free to contact co-chairs at lvavra@fedtel.net or 320-760-1774, bdswd@runestone.net or 701-866-2725, or our Executive Director at jvoit@mnwatersheds.com or 507-822-0921.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS IN OUR POLICY DEVELOPMENT!

Background Information

2023 Minnesota Watersheds Resolution

Proposing Watershed: _____

Contact Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Resolution Title: _____

Background that led to the submission of this resolution:
Describe the problem you wish to solve and provide enough background information to understand the factors that led to the issue. Attach statutory or regulatory documents that may be helpful.

Ideas for how this issue could be solved:
Describe potential solutions for the problem. Provide references to statutes or rules if applicable.

Efforts to solve the problem:
Document the efforts you have taken to try to solve the issue. For example: have you spoken to state agency staff, legislators, county commissioners, etc.? If so, what was their response?

Anticipated support or opposition:
Who would be willing to partner with our watershed or state association on the issue? Who may be opposed to our efforts? (Ex. other local units of government, special interest groups, political parties, etc.)?

This issue: (check all that apply)

_____ Applies only to our district
_____ Applies only to 1 or 2 regions
_____ Applies to the entire state
_____ Requires legislative action
_____ Requires state agency advocacy
_____ Impacts Minnesota Watersheds bylaws or MOPP
(*MOPP = Manual of Policies and Procedures)*

Active Minnesota Watersheds Resolutions

December 2, 2022

FINANCE

2021-01A: Support SWCD Capacity Fund Sources
Minnesota Watersheds supports SWCD capacity funds to come from county and state general funds.

2021-01B: Support Clean Water Funds for Implementation, Not Capacity
Minnesota Watersheds supports Clean Water Funds being used for implementation and not for capacity.

2021-02: Support Capacity Funding for Watershed Districts
Minnesota Watersheds supports capacity base funding resources directed to non-metro watershed district who request this assistance, to implement the activities as outlined in approved watershed district watershed management plans or comprehensive watershed management plans.

2019-08: Heron Lake Watershed District General Operating Levy Adjustment
Minnesota Watersheds supports an increase in Heron Lake Watershed District's general operating levy cap from $250,000 to an amount not to exceed $500,000.

2019-09: Shell Rock River Watershed District General Operating Levy Adjustment
Minnesota Watersheds supports an increase in Shell Rock River Watershed District's general operating levy cap from $250,000 to an amount not to exceed $500,000.

2019-10: Pelican River Watershed District General Operating Levy Adjustment
Minnesota Watersheds supports an increase in Pelican River Watershed District's general operating levy cap from $250,000 to an amount not to exceed $500,000.

2019-11: Buffalo Red River Watershed District General Operating Levy Adjustment
Minnesota Watersheds supports an increase in Buffalo Red River Watershed District's general operating levy cap from $250,000 to an amount not to exceed $500,000.

2017-05 Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District General Operating Levy Adjustment
Minnesota Watersheds supports the efforts of Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District to draft and advance special legislation affecting a change in its general fund levy cap.

URBAN STORMWATER

2022-01 Support Creation of a Stormwater Reuse Task Force
Minnesota Watersheds supports administratively or legislatively including at least one Minnesota Watersheds member on the Minnesota Department of Health's workgroup to move forward, prioritize, and implement the recommendations of the interagency report on reuse of stormwater and rainwater in Minnesota.

2022-02 Support Limited Liability for Certified Commercial Salt Applicators
Minnesota Watersheds supports enactment of state law that provides limited liability protection to commercial salt applicators and property owners using salt applicators who are certified through the established state salt-applicator certification program and follow best management practices.

WATER QUANTITY, DRAINAGE, AND FLOOD CONTROL

2022-03: Seek Increased Support and Participation for the Minnesota Drainage Work Group (DWG)

- Minnesota Watersheds communications increase awareness of the DWG (meeting dates and links, topics, minutes, reports) amongst members.
- Minnesota Watersheds training opportunities strongly encourage participation in the DWG by watershed staff and board managers (for watersheds that serve as ditch authorities or work on drainage projects) – for e.g., add agenda space for DWG member updates, host a DWG meeting as part of a regular event.
- In preparation for Minnesota Watersheds member legislative visits, staff add a standing reminder for watershed drainage authorities to inform legislators on the existence, purpose, and outcomes of the DWG, and reinforce the legitimacy of the DWG as a multi-faceted problem-solving body.
- During Minnesota Watersheds staff Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) visits, regularly seek updates on how facilitation of the DWG is leading to improvements for member drainage authorities and convey this information to members.

2022-05: Obtain Stable Funding for Flood Damage Reduction and Natural Resources Enhancement Projects

Minnesota Watersheds supports collaborating with the Red River Watershed Management Board and state agencies to seek funding from the Minnesota Legislature to provide stable sources of funding through existing or potentially new programs that provide flood damage reduction and/or natural resources enhancements. A suggested sustainable level of funding is $30 million per year for the next 10 years.

2021-05: Support Crop Insurance to Include Crop Losses Within Impoundment Areas

Minnesota Watersheds supports expansion of Federal Multi-Peril Crop Insurance to include crop losses within impoundment areas.

2020-04 Support Temporary Water Storage on DNR Wetlands during Major Flood Events

Minnesota Watersheds supports the temporary storage of water on existing DNR-controlled wetlands in the times of major flood events.

2019-02: Add a Classification for Public Drainage Systems that are Artificial Watercourses

Minnesota Watersheds supports removal of the default Class 2 categorization for public drainage systems that are artificial watercourses and supports a default Class 7 categorization for public drainage systems that are artificial watercourses.

2019-03 Support for Managing Water Flows in the Minnesota River Basin Through Increased Water Storage and Other Strategies and Practices

Minnesota Watersheds supports efforts to manage the flow of water in the Minnesota River Basin and the Minnesota River Congress in its efforts to increase water storage on the landscape; and Minnesota Watersheds supports the Minnesota River Congress in its efforts to secure state and federal programs targeted specifically to increase surface water storage in the Minnesota River Watershed.

2019-04: Clarify County Financing Obligations and/or Authorize Watershed District General Obligation Bonding for Public Drainage Projects

Minnesota Watersheds supports legislation to achieve one or both of the following:

a) To clarify that an affected county must finance a watershed district drainage project on project establishment and request of the watershed district; and
b) To authorize watershed districts to finance drainage project establishment and construction by issuance of bonds payable from assessments and backed by the full faith and credit of the watershed district; and further provide for adequate tax levy authority to assure the watershed district's credit capacity.

WATER QUALITY, LAKES, WETLANDS, RIVERS, AND STREAMS

2022-06: Limit Wake Boat Activities

Minnesota Watersheds supports working with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to utilize the research findings from the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory and seek legislation to achieve one or more of the following:

- Limit lakes and areas of lakes in which wake boats may operate;
- Require new and existing wake boats to be able to completely drain and decontaminate their ballast tanks; and
- Providing funding for additional research on the effects of wake boats on aquatic systems.

2020-03 Soil Health Goal for Metropolitan Watershed Management Plans

Minnesota Watersheds supports amending Minnesota Rule 8410.0080 to include a goal for soil health in watershed management plans and ten-year plan amendments.

2019-07 Chinese Mystery Snail Designation Change and Research Needs

Minnesota Watersheds supports Chinese Mystery Snail prevention and control research and to change the Chinese Mystery Snail designated status in Minnesota as a regulated species to a prohibited species.

2017-02 Temporary Lake Quarantine Authorization to Control the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Minnesota Watersheds supports legislation granting to watershed districts, independently or under DNR oversight, the authority, after public hearing and technical findings, to impose a public access quarantine, for a defined period of time in conjunction with determining and instituting an AIS management response to an infestation.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

2022-04: Clarification of Watershed District Project Establishment with Government Aid or as Part of a Plan

Minnesota Watersheds supports working with BWSR to clarify Minnesota Statutes § 103D.605, Subd. 5.

2021-03: Support Increased Flexibility in Open Meeting Law

- Minnesota Watersheds supports changes to the Open Meeting Law to provide greater flexibility in the use of interactive technology by allowing members to participate remotely in a nonpublic location that is not noticed, up to three times in a calendar year per manager.
- Minnesota Watersheds supports allowing public participation from a remote location by interactive technology, or alternatively from the regular meeting location where interactive technology will be made available for each meeting, unless otherwise noticed under Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.021.
- Minnesota Watersheds supports changes to the Open Meeting Law requiring watershed districts to prepare and publish procedures for conducting public meetings using interactive technology.

2021-06: Support 60-day Review Required for State Agencies on Policy Changes

Minnesota Watersheds supports requiring state agencies to provide a meaningful, not less than 60-day review and comment period from affected local units of government on new or amended water management policies, programs, or initiatives with a response to those comments required prior to adoption.

2021-07: Support Metro Watershed-based Implementation Funding (WBIF) for Approves 103B Plans Only

Minnesota Watersheds supports BWSR distribution of metro WBIF among the 23 watershed management organizations with state-approved comprehensive, multi-year 103B watershed management plans. Those plans implement multijurisdictional priorities at a watershed scale and facilitate funding projects of any eligible local government unit (including soil and water conservation districts, counties, cities, and townships).

AGENCY RELATIONS

2019-01 Streamline the DNR permitting process

Minnesota Watersheds supports legislation, rules, and/or agency policies to streamline the DNR permitting process by increasing responsiveness, decreasing the amount of time it takes to approve permits, providing a detailed fee schedule prior to application, and conducting water level management practices that result in the DNR reacting more quickly to serious, changing climate conditions.

REGULATIONS

2020-01 Appealing Public Water Designations

Minnesota Watersheds supports legislation that would provide landowners with a more formal process to appeal decisions made by the DNR regarding the designation of public waters including the right to fair representation in a process such as a contested case proceeding which would allow landowners an option to give oral arguments or provide expert witnesses for their case.

2019-05 Watershed District Membership on Wetland Technical Evaluation Panels

Minnesota Watersheds supports legislation to allow technical representatives of watershed districts to be official members of wetland technical evaluation panels.

2019-06: Oppose Legislation that Forces Spending on Political Boundaries

Minnesota Watersheds opposes legislation that establishes spending requirements or restricts watershed district spending by political regions or boundaries.

NATURAL RESOURCES

No resolutions currently in this category.

Resolutions to Sunset

Effective December 31, 2023

It should be noted that in July of 2022, the sunsetting deadline was extended for resolutions expiring in 2017 by two years due to the pandemic and its influence on lobbying efforts. **All 2017 resolutions will have a sunset date of 2024.**

2018-02 Increase the $250k General Fund Tax Levy Limit

Minnesota Watersheds supports legislation to increase or remove the $250,000 general fund ad valorem tax levy limit set in MN statute 103D.905 Subd. 3. If the limit is raised to a new dollar amount, Minnesota Watersheds supports an inflationary adjustment be added to statute.

2018-03 Require Timely Appointments to the BWSR Board

Minnesota Watersheds supports legislation that requires the Governor to make BWSR board appointments within 90 days of a vacancy or board member term expiration.

2018-04 Require Watershed District Permits for the DNR

Minnesota Watersheds supports an amendment to the MN Statute § 103D.315, Subd. 5, to include the MN Department of Natural Resources as a state agency required to get permits from watershed districts when applicable**.**

2018-06 Ensure Timely Updates to Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Plans

Minnesota Watersheds supports that WMA operation and maintenance plans and/or management plans are either drafted or brought current in a timely fashion, with input from local governmental entities, to ensure their consideration in future One Watershed, One Plan efforts.

2018-08 Reinforce Existing Rights to Maintain/Repair 103E Drainage Systems

Minnesota Watersheds supports legislation modeled after House File 2687 and Senate File 2419 of the ninetieth legislature (2017-2018) reinforcing that the DNR cannot restrict existing rights to maintain and repair 103E public drainage systems.

2018-09 Clean Water Council Appointments

Minnesota Watersheds may ask the representative of the Clean Water Council to resign when they lose their direct association to a watershed district; and that Minnesota Watersheds will recommend to the Governor's office that managers and/or administrators in good standing with Minnesota Watersheds be appointed to the Clean Water Council.

Item 6A.
BCWMC 8-17-23

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

MEMO

Date: August 9, 2023
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 2021): 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 GoldenValley 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) (No change since Julyl), 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 recognize and assign roles and responsibilities for implementation more formally. The draft agreement was developed over several months and multiple conversations among the parties. At the May 2021 meeting the Commission approved to waiver potential conflict of the Commission legalcounsel 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 2022 meeting; 90% design plans were approved at the March 2022 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. At the meeting in August, the Commission approved moving forward with project construction (through MPRB), and approved a construction budget (higher than previously budgeted) and an amended engineering services budget. MPRB awarded the construction contract. In late November the contractor began the initial earthwork and started on portions of the stormwater pond excavations. By late December the 1st phase of construction was complete with the ponds formed and constructed. The contractor began driving piles in late January and began installing underground piping in early February. At the March meeting, the Commission approved an increase to the engineering services budget and learned the construction budget is currently tracking well under budget. The change order resulting from the City of Minneapolis' request to replace a city sewer pipe resulted in extra design/engineering costs that were approved by the Administrator so work could continue without delays. The MPRB will reimburse the Commission for those extra costs and will, in-turn, be paid by the city. In early May construction was focused in the Morgan / Laurel intersection. The right-of-way storm sewer work is now complete; this includes the rerouting of some of the existing storm infrastructure and installation of the stormwater diversion structures. Construction of the ponds is complete and stormwater from the neighborhood to the west is not being routed through new storm sewers to the ponds. Some finishing work is underway such as cutting off and cleaning up pipe ends, final grading, seeding, etc. 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 July): 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 2022 meeting. No action was taken at that meeting to move forward with alternatives analysis. In May and June 2023, Commission staff discussed the possibility of incorporating stormwater management features into a redevelopment of Jevne Park currently being considered by the City of Medicine Lake. After review of the preliminary park design plans, the Commission Engineer and I recommended implementation of the original CIP Project to the City. 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 were completed last summer. A report on the carp assessment was presented in January. Monitoring in Schaper Pond in 2023 and a reassessment of carp populations in 2024 were approved in early 2023. Carp box netting in 2024 is also approved, as needed. Water monitoring in the pond is underway summer 2023, although the lack of precipitation is making for a challenging year to gather data! Project webpage: http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=277.

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): 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. The city recently demolished the mall building and removed much of the parking lot. At the December meeting the Commission approved the 90% design plans and a concept for the city to build the CIP project ahead of development and allow the future developer to take credit for the total phosphorus removal over and above 100 pounds. At the July meeting, the Commission approved an agreement with the city to design, construct, and maintain the CIP project components and allow a future developer to use pollutant removal capacity above 100 pounds of total phosphorus. Project webpage: http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=282.

2021 Parkers Lake Drainage Improvement Project (PL-7) (No change since July 2022): 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) (No change since October 2022): 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 thisproject. 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. At the September meeting, the Commission approved a scope and budget for a study of the feasibility of in-lake chloride reduction activities. That study is now underway by the Commission Engineer. Additionally, the city is sampling 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 2022): The feasibility study for this project was approved in May 2020 withAlternative 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) (Discussion during closed session): 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. A project flyer and FAQs page were developed in conjunction with MPRB staff. They are posted on the webpage and were distributed to MPRB and Loppet staff at the Chalet and Trailhead. At the October meeting the Commission awarded the construction contract to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder: Fitzgerald Excavating and Trucking and contract documentation was completed thereafter. A pre-construction meeting was held November 28th. Dredging began in January and was completed in March 2023. Two pay requests from the contractor have been approved although dredged quantities reported do not match post-construction surveys performed by the Commission. At the May meeting, the Commission approved submittal of a notice of claim to the contractor. Since then, the contractor completed site restoration and the Commission Engineer submitted an official opinion on the claim, and the contractor submitted a response to the claim. Discussion on claim dispute will take place during a closed session at the August meeting. Project website: www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/bassett-creek-main-stem-lagoon-dredging-project

2022 Medley Park Stormwater Treatment Facility (ML-12) (No change since July): 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 and the grant agreement approved in March 2022. 50% design plans were approved in February 2022 and 90% plans were approved at the May 2022 meeting. Final plans and bid documents were developed by the city's consultation (Barr Engineering). Construction began in November and winter construction was finished in late January 2023. Activities this spring included completing grading (topsoil adjustments); paving (concrete, bituminous); light pole and fixture install; benches install; site clean up and prep for restoration contractor. In late May, Peterson Companies completed their construction tasks and the project transitioned to Traverse de Sioux for site restoration and planting. A small area of unexpected disturbance from construction was added to the overall area to be restored with native plants through a minor change order. Site restoration, planting, and seeding was completed in late June. www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all- projects/medley-park-stormwater-treatment-facility

2022 SEA School-Wildwood Park Flood Reduction Project (BC-2, 3, 8, 10): 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 andcomment 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. A public open house was held September 29th. 90% were approved at the October Commission meeting. Six construction bids were received in late February with several of them under engineer's estimates. The city contracted with Rachel Contracting and construction got underway earlier this spring. By late June excavation was completed and the playground area was prepped and ready for concrete work to begin on July 5. Bids were open for the SEA School/Wildwood Park restoration project on June 20. Three bids were received and two came in right around our estimate. The city is recommending the low bidder (Landbridge Ecological). At the end of July

utility crews lowered the watermain and installed the storm sewer diversions into the park from along Duluth Street. The hydrodynamic separator was also set (with a crane). Crews also worked on the iron-enhanced sand filter and the outlet installation, stone work on the steepened slopes, trail prep, bituminous paving, and concrete work (curb and gutter, pads, and ADA ramps). The preconstruction meeting for the restoration work was held with work to begin late August or early September. Additionally, the city is recommending award of the DeCola Pond D outlet work to Bituminous Roadways Inc. and work will begin after September 1. Project webpage: www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all- projects/sea-school-wildwood-park-flood-reduction-project.

Bassett Creek Restoration Project: Regent Ave. to Golden Valley Rd. (2024 CR-M), Golden Valley (no change since July)

A feasibility study for this project got underway in fall 2022. A public open house was held March 1st with 30 residents attending. The draft feasibility report was presented at the April meeting. A final feasibility report was presented at the June meeting where the Commission approved the implementation of Alternative 3: to restore all high, medium, and low priority sites. The Commission will hold a public hearing on this project at their September meeting, will set the final levy and will consider an agreement with the City of Golden Valley to implement the project. Staff recommends applying for a Clean Water Fund grant for this project. Project website: https://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/bassett-creek-restoration-project-regent-ave-golden-valley-r

Ponderosa Woods Stream Restoration Project, Plymouth (ML-22) (no change since July)

A feasibility study for this project got underway in fall 2022. A public open house was held February 13th with 3 residents attending. The draft feasibility report was presented at the May meeting and additional information was presented at the June meeting where the Commission approved implementing Alternative 1.5. The Commission will hold a public hearing on this project at their September meeting, will set the final levy and will consider an agreement with the City of Plymouth to implement the project. Project website: https://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/ponderosa-woods-stream-restoration-project.

Sochacki Park Water Quality Improvement Project (BC-14) (See Item 5A)

This project is proposed to be added to the CIP through a minor plan amendment as approved at the March Commission meeting with CIP funding set at $600,000. The project involves a suite of projects totaling an estimated $2.3M aimed improving the water quality in three ponds and Bassett Creek based on a subwatershed analysis by Three Rivers Park District (TRPD). A memorandum of understanding about the implementation process, schedules, and procedural requirements for the project was executed in April among BCWMC, TRPD, and the cities of Golden Valley and Robbinsdale. A feasibility study is underway for the project and is being funded by TRPD. The feasibility study kick off meeting was held June 5th. Information on the project and an update on the feasibility study was presented at the June meeting. A technical stakeholder meeting was held July 10th. A public open house was held July 26th and a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was recently completed. The draft feasibility study will be presented at this meeting and a final study at the September meeting. Also at the September meeting, the Commission will hold a public hearing on this project, will set the final levy, and will consider an agreement with the partners to implement the project. Project webpage: https://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/sochacki-park-water-quality-improvement-project.

Administrator Activities July 13 – August 8, 2023

Subject	Work Progress
CIP	• Main Stem Lagoon Dredging Project: Coordinated with Commission Attorneys and Commission Chair on the contractor's response to the Notice of Claim and plans for the closed session of the Commission • Sochacki Park Water Quality Improvement Project: Attended public open house, reviewed Phase I ESA, assisted with drafting summary of ESA, updated webpage with public survey link, review survey results • Four Seasons Area Water Quality Treatment Project: Submitted signed agreement to Plymouth • Attended Hennepin County Administrative Services Committee meeting re: plan amendment and 2024 max levy request • Drafted agreements with Plymouth and Golden Valley for 2024 CIP projects for Commission Attorney review

	• Developed and sent September 21 public hearing notice to cities
Bassett Creek Tunnel and Bassett Creek Valley	• Reviewed next draft of agreement on tunnel inspections, maintenance, development reviews, and emergency response • Sent draft agreement to Commissioner Welch and Alt. Commissioner Polzin for review • Met with Bill Emory (Commissioner Fernando's office) to discuss Bassett Creek Valley next stakeholder meeting
Education, Outreach & West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA)	• Attended July WMWA meeting • Reviewed and commented on draft work plan for new Hennepin County Education Coordinator • Coordinated volunteers for GV Sustainability Fair, set up and took down displays and materials at event • Coordinated volunteers and delivered materials for Medicine Lake and NRCC National Night Out events • Assisted Medicine Lake representatives with developing questions for a survey on lakeshore buffers and gathered shoreline buffer materials • Attended DEIA Workgroup retreat
Administration	• Developed agenda; reviewed invoices and submitted expenses spreadsheet to Redpath; developed Administrator's report; reviewed bank statements, investment statements and financial report; drafted July meeting minutes; reviewed memos, documents and presentations for Commission meeting; printed and disseminated meeting information to commissioners, staff, and TAC; updated online calendar; drafted meeting follow up email; ordered catering for August Commission meeting • Attended Administrative Services Committee meeting, revised Roles and Responsibilities Document and memo re: commissioner engagement – sent to committee members for review • Reviewed and commented on financial audit; submitted final audit to the State • Developed revised draft 2024 Operating Budget for Budget Committee and Commission • Prepared agenda and materials for Budget Committee; attended meeting • Corresponded with City of Plymouth re: accounting tasks starting in 2024 and coordinated with Commission Attorney on agreement provisions
MAWD	• Attended Metro Watersheds meeting (virtual) • Attended MAWA Executive Committee meeting (1 hour) • Assisted with preparing follow up email from July Metro Watersheds meeting •
2025 Watershed Management Plan	• Met with Commission Engineers for bi-weekly check in meetings • Drafted meeting minutes for July 11 PSC meeting • Prepared agenda and materials for August 1st Plan Steering Committee meeting; attended meeting • Reviewed and finalized PSC recommendations on issues and prioritization for discussion at Commission workshop; sent to PSC members for review

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Item 8
BCWMC
8-17-23

Summary of 2025 Watershed Management Plan Issue Priority Recommendations Developed by the Plan Steering Committee August 1, 2023

The Plan Steering Committee (PSC) met three times (May 25, July 11, and August 1, 2023) to review and discuss potential issues to be addressed by the Plan. The PSC considered issues identified from the following sources, as well as issues raised by PSC meeting participants:

- 2015 Watershed Management Plan Section 3
- 2025 Plan Gaps Analysis
- Results of the July 11, 2022 Issue Identification Workshop
- Agency Responses to Plan Update Notification Letter (June 2022)
- Member City Survey Responses (May-June 2022)
- Public Survey Responses (June 2022-January 2023)
- Input from the February 28, 2023 Public Kickoff Meeting

All items included in Summary of Input Document

The PSC reached consensus on both the delineation between issues and tools and recommendations for the priority of 21 unique issues and 8 tools as **High**, **Medium**, or **Low**. Tools that are considered performance standards have a separate priority for utilization vs. revision. The tools included in Table 2 do not include all tools available to the Commission. The assigned priority level of issues and tools is intended to reflect the BCWMC's level of effort and resources that would be used to address each issue through policies, projects, programs, requirements, etc.

Table 2 presents the PSC prioritization recommendations and key notes from PSC discussion (see "proposed 2025 priority" column). With goal of improving focus and communication to stakeholders, issues were categorized into the following groups:

- **Waterbody & Watershed Quality**
- **Climate Resilience**
- **Education and Outreach**
- **Organizational Effectiveness**

While all issues considered by the PSC are important, not everything can be a high priority. Table 1 summarizes the number of unique issues in each priority level according to the categories listed above.

Table 1. Summary of Priority Issues by Category

Issue Category	Low Priority	Medium Priority	High Priority	Total
Waterbody and Watershed Quality	3	5	2	10
Climate Resiliency	1	--	2	3
Education & Outreach	1	1		2
Organizational Effectiveness	2	1	3	6
Total	**7**	**7**	**7**	**21**

NEXT STEPS

The PSC recommends the attached issues and their priority levels for discussion, revision, and approval by the Commission. The Commission needs to establish priority issues in order to focus further Plan development efforts on the most important items. While we seek direction at this stage in the process, the Commission may revise priorities at any point during Plan development.

Table 2. Issue Priority Recommendations

Proposed Issue Category	Item ID	Issue Description	Proposed 2025 Priority[1]	Notes from PSC discussion
Waterbody & Watershed Quality	1	**Impaired waterbodies** – several lakes and streams are impaired for recreation and aquatic life due to one or more stressors (e.g., nutrients, chloride, and biological factors)	High	Specific issue of "stream biotic impairments" was added to this issue.
	2	**Chloride loading** – chloride loading is significant in some areas of the fully developed watershed and impacts lake and stream water quality	High	High priority due to the need for additional data, mitigation strategies, and pilot programs (e.g., Parkers Lake chloride reduction project)
	3	**Streambank and gully erosion** – erosion issues impact stream health and contribute to downstream pollutant loading	Medium	Related to both water quality and climate resiliency
	4	**Lake shore erosion** – erosion issues impact lake ecology and water quality	Medium	Private land ownership may limit BCWMC and city actions
	5	**Aquatic invasive species** – the presence and density of AIS can negatively impact water quality (e.g., curlyleaf pondweed) and native plant ecology	Medium	
	6	**Wetland health and restoration** – wetland areas in BCWMC have been impacted by development; there are opportunities to protect or enhance the health of existing wetland areas	Medium	BCWMC role focused on restoration and enhancement (not creation or banking)
	7	**Ground-/surface water interaction** – flow between surface- and groundwater (including infiltration) may impact quality and hydrology	Medium	This topic includes infiltration requirements and restrictions
	8	**Degradation of riparian areas** – degraded areas can contribute excess pollutants to waterbodies and may contribute to stream IBI impairments	Low	Additional information is needed to assess; high priority to learn more; low priority to address but may be relevant to specific projects
	9	**Degradation/loss of upland areas** – natural areas in the watershed are frequented by residents and may be subject to stressors of development	Low	Data (e.g., critical corridors map) may be useful input in planning for specific projects (but not as a driver for projects)
	10	**Groundwater quality** – groundwater quality can impact public health and may be threatened by infiltration of stormwater and associated pollutants	Low	
	11	**Sediment deltas in streams and lakes** – upstream sediment loading results in the formation of deltas at downstream pour points	Remove from Plan	Issue listed in 2015 Plan; Considered a maintenance issue; addressed in part via City MS4 requirements
	12	**Impact of urbanization on streams** – development of the watershed over time has cumulative impacts on stream hydrology and ecology	Remove from Plan	General issue from 2015 Plan; Issue is more directly addressed by other, more specific issues
	13	**Poor ecosystem health** – the 2015 Plan notes that ecosystem health is poor in some areas of the watershed	Remove from Plan	General issue from 2015 Plan; Issue is too vague and addressed by more specific issues
Climate Resiliency	14	**Impact of climate change on hydrology, water levels, and flood risk** – increasing precipitation amounts, intensities, and drought cycles can increase flood risk and contribute to water level and flow fluctuations that may negatively impact ecology, water quality, and recreation	High	BCWMC should be a leader in multi-jurisdictional solutions; flood risk and flood recovery efforts need to consider equity issues; specific issue of "water level variability" was added into this issue.
	15	**Bassett Creek Valley stormwater management** – projects in the Bassett Creek Valley would provide an essential opportunity to reduce flood risk and promote implementation of partner-coordinated projects	High	Related to organizational effectiveness (via implementation and Commission's role) as well as climate resilience (via project outcomes)
	16	**Groundwater quantity** – groundwater sustainability may be negatively impacted by overuse and loss of recharge	Low	
Education and Outreach	17	**Insufficient outreach to and relationships with diverse communities** – additional efforts are needed to reach communities under-represented in past BCWMC planning and projects	Medium	Combine with issue #22 (projects and programs are implemented through equity lens)
	18	**Protect recreation opportunities** – Minnesota Statutes 103B references WMOs' role in protecting recreation facilities	Low	Secondary benefit of many projects includes protection of recreation opportunities
Organizational Effectiveness	19	**Organizational assessment of capacity and staffing** – current capacity may not be sufficient to achieve intended goals and execute projects and programs	High	
	20	**BCWMC funding mechanisms** – assessment of funding sources is necessary to determine if intended actions can be reasonably achieved and goals met	High	
	21	**Progress assessment** –Rules 8410 require WMOs to assess progress towards measurable goals every 2 years	High	

Table 2. Issue Priority Recommendations

Proposed Issue Category	Item ID	Issue Description	Proposed 2025 Priority[1]	Notes from PSC discussion
Organizational Effectiveness *(continued)*	22	**Projects and programs implemented through a DEI lens** – additional focus is needed to ensure equity in BCWMC projects and programs.	Medium	
	23	**Public ditch management** – the Plan must address management of three public ditches within BCWMC jurisdiction (per MN Statutes 103B)	Low	No change recommended from 2015 Plan
	24	**Carbon footprint of BCWMC projects** – carbon released in the construction and ongoing maintenance of BCWMC projects is not currently considered and contributes to climate change	Low	
Tools (*originally considered as issue topics*)	T1	**Pollutant loading hotspots** – knowledge of nutrient and chloride sources in the watershed allows actions to be focused where the most benefit can be achieved	High	Pollutant hotspot mapping is a tool to support actions to address impaired waters; maintain as part of CIP prioritization
	T2	**Flood Control Project inspection, maintenance and repair** – proper function of the FCP is necessary to maintain its effectiveness and is an ongoing responsibility of the BCWMC	High	Operation of the FCP is a tool to minimize flood risk and address drainage issues and is a core function of the BCWMC
	T3	**CIP development, prioritization, and implementation** – review of the process is necessary to determine effectiveness	High	
	T4	**Standards for linear projects** – effective and reasonable performance standards limit negative impacts of linear development on water quality and hydrology	High Medium	Standards are a tool to achieve goals; high priority to continue application of standards; medium priority to revise performance standards
	T5	**Standards for non-linear projects** – effective and reasonable performance standards limit negative impacts of non-linear development on water quality and hydrology	High Medium	Standards are a tool to achieve goals; high priority to continue application of standards; medium priority to revise performance standards
	T6	**Buffers and buffer widths** – the presence of vegetated buffers benefits streams, lakes, and wetlands by filtering pollutants and slowing runoff	High Low	High priority to confirm cities comply with current buffer performance standards; low priority to revise current standards
	T7	**Education programs to help cities meet requirements** – BCWMC education efforts can help cities meet their MS4 permit requirements	Medium	Education programming is a tool to address multiple resource issues
	T8	**Training for new commissioners** – education for commissioners is necessary to establish a common knowledge base and level of confidence to make well-informed resource management decisions	Medium	Priority varied within PSC; shared responsibility of BCWMC and cities.

(1) Proposed 2025 priority is based on consensus opinion expressed by Plan Steering Committee at 8/1/2023 meeting.