



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Watershed Plan Steering Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 7, 2024

8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Bassett Creek North Room, Brookview

AGENDA

1. WELCOME

2. **REVIEW FEBRUARY 7 MEETING NOTES** – attached with meeting materials

3. **REVIEW UPDATED PLAN DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR** – attached with meeting materials

Staff updated the plan development calendar to reflect some slippage in the schedule. The schedule was also updated to include timeframes for the 60-day and 90-day review periods. The new schedule estimates the plan will be approved/adopted in February 2026, 5 months past the expiration of the current plan. The current plan will stay in effect until the BCWMC adopts a new plan. The most significant impact may be the inability for BCWMC to apply for State grants between the current plan's expiration of September 2025 and adoption of the new plan. (However, if the new plan is adopted by March or April 2026 there may be no impact to BCWMC eligibility based on current BWSR grant funding cycles.)

4. CONFIRM NEXT STEPS TO ADDRESS FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION

At the February PSC meeting, members discussed the future of Commission implementation mechanisms, staff capacity, and commissioner engagement. The following are some outcomes/next steps generated at the February PSC meeting (according to notes by staff):

- A. Continue to improve commissioner knowledge and engagement, working primarily through the Administrative Services Committee (which already began discussing this issue last year). Commissioner compensation being considered as an addition in the JPA could also be a component of commissioner engagement.
- B. Consider increasing staff capacity as early as 2025. The budget implications of this action will be reviewed and discussed by the Budget Committee.
- C. Include an action within the watershed plan implementation program to perform a comprehensive analysis of the organizational structure and funding mechanism(s). Options for analysis could include: 1) no change to structure but a shift to more consistent BCWMC-led project identification, analysis, and implementation; 2) creation of watershed district with taxing authority; 3) maintenance of JPA but intent to seek taxing authority through special legislation (similar to MWMO).

PSC committee members acknowledged that moving forward with "C" right now (rather than incorporating it into the plan implementation to allow time for thorough analysis) would significantly complicate and may jeopardize the JPA process.

The committee should determine if A – C represent the appropriate steps to addressing these issues or if additional discussion/analysis is needed at this time. [Reminder that "Organizational assessment of capacity and staffing" and "BCWMC funding mechanisms" are issues for which goals will be developed within the "Organizational Effectiveness" category in the coming months.]

5. REVIEW UPDATED WATERBODY CLASSIFICATION LIST – attached with meeting materials

The table from Appendix C of the 2015 Plan was updated with current information and attached with meeting materials. Highlighted cells are those where information changed or was added. The committee should discuss/decide appropriate priority level for the BCWMC lakes and streams. (Staff recommends keeping the existing priority level for waterbodies.) As a reminder, at the last meeting the committee confirmed that the term “priority” in the goals drafted to date refers to both priority 1 and priority 2 waters.

6. REVIEW ISSUE STATEMENTS AND DRAFT GOALS FOR REMAINING WATERBODY AND WATERSHED QUALITY CATEGORY – attached with meeting materials

At this meeting, the goal is to review (and finalize to the extent possible) the remaining issues in the Waterbody and Watershed Quality category including Aquatic Invasive Species, Groundwater-Surface Water Interactions, Degradation of Upland Areas, Degradation of Riparian Areas, and Groundwater Quality.

7. ADJOURN