

DRAFT

Land and Water Acknowledgement Statement
of the
Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

We acknowledge that the land and waterways we steward and manage are the living waters of the Hâhâwakpadaŋ, located in Mnisota Makoĉe, the homeland of the Dakota peoples.

Historically, the Hâhâwakpadaŋ provided material, nutritional, and spiritual sustenance to the Dakota peoples. We acknowledge the forced removal of the Dakota from their lands and waterways that nurtured them as kin and recognize the environmental degradation that continues in pursuit of resources today.

Acknowledging the complex past and present traumas and triumphs is a step toward healing. Today, we work to care for and protect the Hâhâwakpadaŋ watershed by reducing the impacts of climate change and improving the ecosystem health for all living beings in the watershed.

The living waters of Hâhâwakpadaŋ remain significant to the historic and contemporary Native people today, including many who live in our watershed. We seek to identify and integrate Native wisdom into the stewardship of the Hâhâwakpadaŋ and into our management practices by working with Indigenous peoples and communities that still carry that knowledge today.