



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Minutes of Regular Meeting Thursday, December 19, 2024

8:30 a.m.

7800 Golden Valley Rd., Golden Valley MN

1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

On December 19, 2024 at 8:33 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	Joan Hauer <i>listened online</i>	Terri Schultz <i>listened online</i>	<i>Absent</i>
Golden Valley	Paula Pentel	<i>Vacant</i>	Eric Eckman
Medicine Lake	Clint Carlson	Shaun Kennedy	<i>Absent</i>
Minneapolis	<i>Vacant</i>	Jodi Polzin	Liz Stout
Minnetonka	Maryna Chowhan – <i>listened online</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Absent</i>
New Hope	Jere Gwin-Lenth	Jen Leonardson	<i>Absent</i>
Plymouth	Catherine Cesnik	<i>Absent</i>	Ben Scharenbroich
Robbinsdale	Wayne Sicora	Bob Stamos	Jenna Wolf
St. Louis Park	RJ Twiford	David Johnston	Erick Francis
Administrator	Laura Jester, Keystone Waters, LLC		
Engineers	Stephanie Johnson – Barr Engineering Co.		
Recording Secretary	<i>Vacant Position</i>		
Legal Counsel	Dave Anderson, Kennedy & Graven		
Guests/Public	Roxanne Gould and Jim Rock, Golden Valley residents		

2. PUBLIC FORUM ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Gwin-Lenth moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion. Upon a vote the motion carried 5-0 with the cities of Crystal, Golden Valley, Minneapolis, and Minnetonka absent from the vote.

[Commissioner Pentel arrives.]

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Items 4D and 4E were removed from the consent agenda.

MOTION: Commissioner Twiford moved to approve the consent agenda as amended. Commissioner Gwin-Lenth seconded the motion. Upon a vote the motion carried 6-0 with the cities of Crystal, Minneapolis, and Minnetonka absent from the vote.

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

- Approval of Minutes – November 20, 2024 Commission Meeting
- Acceptance of December Financial Report
- Approval of Payment of Invoices
 - Keystone Waters, LLC – November 2024 Administration
 - Keystone Waters, LLC – November 2024 Administrative Expenses
 - Barr Engineering – November 2024 Engineering Services
 - Triple D Espresso – Meeting Catering
 - City of Plymouth – November Accounting Services
 - Kennedy and Graven – Legal Services
 - Three Rivers Park District – Medicine Lake Herbicide Treatment Cost Share
 - Three Rivers Park District – Medicine Lake Boat Launch Inspections
- Approval to Direct Commission Engineer to Submit Flood Control Inspection Report to Cities, Minnesota DNR, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Item 4D: Approval of Resolution of Appreciation for Roxanne Gould

Chair Cesnik read the resolution of appreciation for Roxanne Gould.

[Alternate Commissioner Polzin arrives.]

Ms. Gould said she was honored to serve on the Commission and would like to stay on as a member of the Education Committee.

MOTION: Commissioner Pentel moved to approve the resolution of appreciation. Commissioner Twiford seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 7-0 with the cities of Crystal and Minnetonka absent from the vote.

Multiple commissioners and alternates, Chair Cesnik, and Administrator Jester commended Ms. Gould for her contributions to the Commission and her passion and wisdom. Commissioner Pentel noted the new watershed map is significantly improved because of Ms. Gould's input; Chair Cesnik noted that Ms. Gould made an impact by teaching about how all beings are relatives. Administrator Jester noted that she thinks differently about how the Commission can and should do some of its work because of Ms. Gould's comments, teachings, and insights.

Item 4E. Approval of 2025 WOMP Contract with Stantec

Administrator Jester reported on a slight wording change in a provision of the terms and conditions that accompany the contract which were recommended by Commission Attorney Anderson.

MOTION: Commissioner Gwin-Lenth moved to approve the updated contract with Stantec for WOMP services. Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 7-0 with the cities of Crystal and Minnetonka absent from the vote.

5. BUSINESS

A. Review Plan Steering Committee Recommendations on Draft Plan Revisions Resulting from November Workshop

Plan Steering Committee (PSC) Chair Kennedy reviewed the committee's recommended revisions to issue statements and goals resulting from input received at the Commission Plan Development Workshop in November. He also reported that the more detailed Education and Engagement Plan will be reviewed by the Education Committee. Administrator Jester noted that additional context describing each of the issues will be included in the plan. There was consensus that the recommended revisions were appropriate.

B. Consider Education Committee Recommendations

i. Watershed Map

ii. Creek Co-naming and Updated Letterhead

Administrator Jester reminded commissioners that at their meeting in September 2023 the Commission approved a project to update and reprint the Bassett Creek Watershed map. She hoped the map could be printed by the end of January. She reported that the Education Committee met multiple times throughout the last 12 months to develop ideas and content and provide direction to the map designer hired to update the map. Education Committee Jen Leonardson reported on the significant amount of input on the map from a diverse group of committee members and from Jim Rock under a contract to develop content on Indigenous history and culture. She highlighted the fact that the map now features the topography of the watershed rather than city boundaries, depicts water flow overland and along creeks with arrows, and includes a significant amount of education and resources on the back of the map. Administrator Jester noted there may be a few minor changes to boundary lines needed before the map is printed.

Commissioners liked the new map and there was a discussion about wording for the backside of the folded map. After several iterations, the group agreed the text should be changed to: "EXPERIENCE Haha Wakpadan and the Bassett Creek Watershed – a great waterway flowing through our communities." There was also discussion on the use of a dot or a slash between "Haha Wakpadan" and "Bassett Creek" in the title at the top of the map. Some noted that a dot looks better and allows for some artistic creativity (even given the Education Committee's recommendations to always use a slash between the names). Others thought it was more proper to use a slash to imply interchangeable names. After a straw poll later in the discussion, the group decided to use a slash in the map title.

There was considerable discussion about the placement of the Dakota name for the creek as the first name coming before the English name for the creek. Commissioner Carlson expressed his concern that using both names for the creek would be confusing to readers and that placing the Dakota name first is a "backdoor" way of trying to rename the creek; an activity, he said, that should not be funded with BCWMC dollars. He noted his disagreement with using the Dakota name so prominently on the map. It was acknowledged that more than one name is used for places and geographies all over the world, and that it is standard practice to list Indigenous place names before English names when using both. Jim Rock expressed great disappointment in the view expressed by Commissioner Carlson. He reminded the group that Indigenous people were here first, were persecuted by white settlers, and are members of the community. He indicated that it should not be confusing for people to understand that the creek can be recognized by two names. Roxanne Gould noted that the map is intended as an educational tool which also works to provide equality to people who lived in this region long before white settlers. She indicated that Dakota names should have priority, particularly considering all the Dakota people lost.

Aside from Commissioner Carlson, other commissioners agreed that it is appropriate to use the Dakota name on the map and to place it ahead of the English name. It was noted that the Education Committee gave considerable thought to how and where the Dakota name would be used and to the Indigenous-related content on the back of the map.

Administrator Jester walked through the Education Committee's recommendations for how and where to use both names for the creek and presented the committee's recommended revised BCWMC letterhead. There was discussion about the potential to incorporate Native artwork in the letterhead or elsewhere in the future. It was also acknowledged that the draft Education and Engagement Plan should include the recommendation to consider using Dakota artwork (in addition to the name) on signs, on website, and other appropriate places.

There was further discussion on using both names for the creek in BCWMC documents. It was acknowledged that there

is not currently an attempt to officially change the name of the creek but that if that is a desire or activity in the future, the Commission should be very transparent about that intention. Commissioner Carlson again noted his disagreement in using both names stating that using Commission funds for the map with the Dakota name placed first takes away from clean water projects and promotes a separate agenda.

MOTION: Commissioner Pentel moved to approve the Education Committee recommendations regarding using both names for the creek (creek co-naming recommendations) with a revision to add “consider” using Dakota artwork rather than the implied “shall” use Dakota artwork. Commissioner Twiford seconded the motion. Upon a vote the motion carried 6-1 with Commissioner Carlson voting nay, all others voting aye, and the cities of Crystal and Minnetonka absent from the vote.

[Commissioner Carlson leaves the meeting. Alternate Commissioner Kennedy is now voting member for the City of Medicine Lake.]

There was further discussion about the watershed map, whether to use a slash in the map title between creek names and whether or not to add a symbol denoting Target Field on the map.

MOTION: Commissioner Pentel moved approval of the watershed map for printing, using a slash between the Dakota and English creek names in the title, incorporating necessary updates to the jurisdictional boundary, and incorporating changes to the text on the back cover as previously noted. Commissioner Gwin-Lenth seconded the motion.

Discussion: There was acknowledgement that transparency is needed with regards to the Plan Steering Committee and Education Committee’s work and decision making processes and it was noted that some members of the public may also disagree with the use of the Dakota name for the creek. Roxanne Gould reminded commissioners that the idea of co-naming the creek and otherwise honoring Native history and culture has been discussed at multiple Commission meetings and events for over a year. She noted that there will always be people with negative views but that it doesn’t mean you stop working toward equality. Golden Valley TAC Member Eckman reported that the City of Golden Valley has been working with community partners and unofficially using both names for the creek for a long time. He also advocated for the use of a dot to separate the creek names in the map title because it allows for artistic creativity and is more visually appealing. There was a straw poll on the use of a slash or a dot to separate creek names on the map. The majority of members voted to use the slash on the map.

VOTE: Upon a vote the motion carried 7-0 with the cities of Crystal and Minnetonka absent from the vote.

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

C. Update on Conservation Education and Implementation Partnership with Hennepin County

Administrator Jester reported that Grace Barcelow was not able to attend the meeting as planned due to illness. Administrator Jester provided an overview of the Commission’s involvement in the West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA) and how Ms. Barcelow is working in a position shared between the WMWA and Hennepin County. She briefly reviewed Ms. Barcelow’s recent work including outreach with Low Salt, No Salt messages in the Parkers Lake subwatershed.

D. Review Staff Evaluation Form

Commissioner Pentel presented an updated staff evaluation form noting that it is hopefully easier to complete and will result in more input from commissioners and TAC members. Administrator Jester was directed to create a fillable PDF for the evaluation forms and assist Commissioner Pentel with distributing the forms. Forms will be collected by Commissioner Pentel who will compile and summarize the information. Responses will be presented anonymously and would be considered non-public data.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Administrator’s Report

- i. Winter Salt Week www.wintersaltweek.org/ - Overview of Winter Salt Week was provided. Administrator Jester will send additional information and a link to a Star Tribune article to commissioners. There was discussion about salt alternatives (such as grit) and how Chair Cesnik asked the Plymouth City Council to help

support the limited liability legislation at the Capitol in the upcoming legislative session.

Administrator Jester also reported that the Commission's Clean Water Fund grant application of \$400,000 for the Bassett Creek Main Stem Restoration Project in Golden Valley was approved.

- B. Engineer
 - i. Review of Hennepin County Hazard Mitigation Plan – Engineer Johnson reported that because the Commission is applying for FEMA grant funds for the hydrologic and hydraulic model update project, the Commission may need to adopt the Hennepin County Hazard Mitigation Plan which she is reviewing now.
Engineer Johnson also noted the BCWMC is submitting comments on BWSR's proposed updates to the Wetland Conservation Act rule. Member cities asked to see BCWMC comments as they may use them with their own city comments.
- C. Legal Counsel – No report
- D. Chair – No report
- E. Commissioners
 - i. Report on MN Watersheds Conference and Meeting – Alternate Commissioner Kennedy reported that the conference went well, was well attended, and had good educational sessions and opportunities for networking. He reported that MW's legislative priorities are the chloride limited liability legislation and ditch-related items.
- F. TAC Members
 - i. Report on December 18th Meeting – TAC Chair Scharenbroich reported that the TAC discussed potential updates to linear project standards, stream and wetland buffers, and chloride reduction strategies.
- G. Committees – The Education Committee will be meeting soon to review the Education and Engagement Plan

2. INFORMATION ONLY (Information online only)

- A. Administrative Calendar
- B. CIP Project Updates www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects
- C. Grant Tracking Summary and Spreadsheet
- D. WCA Notice, Plymouth

7. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.