

July 12, 2004

William G. Moore, General Manager  
Metropolitan Council  
Mears Park Center  
230 East Fifth Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101

**Re: Bassett Creek Water Management Commission's *Watershed Management Plan***

Dear Mr. Moore:

Attached is a copy of the comments submitted by the Metropolitan Council on the 45-day review draft of the Bassett Creek Water Management Commission's *Watershed Management Plan*. A response to the Metropolitan Council comments were discussed by the BCWMC at its May 20, 2004 meeting.

As indicated in the comments, the plan requires local governments to use MnRAM for wetland assessments and to establish a buffer policy. The Council recommends that the plan also include the minimum buffer width requirements for each class of wetland. After discussion at the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Commission concluded that although the Commission understands the importance of establishing specific guidelines, it would like to investigate how and what buffer guidelines best suit the watershed prior to making a decision concerning strict buffer guidelines. BCWMC is a highly developed watershed and it is estimated that there are buffer ordinances in place for 80 percent of the watershed area. The Commission will engage in a process over the course of the next year to gather information and carefully consider the options for establishing a buffer policy.

We appreciate the comments received from the Metropolitan Council during the process and preparation of the BCWMC's *Watershed Management Plan*. If you have any questions, please contact me at 763-764-2422 or the Commission engineer, Len Kremer at 952-832-2600.

Sincerely,



John A. O'Toole

Enclosure

c: Jack Frost  
Bassett Creek Water Management Commission  
Charlie LeFevere  
Len Kremer

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