

2.0 History and Background Information

2.1 Location

The BCWMC lies in the northwestern portion of the Twin Cities, in Hennepin County. Figure 1 shows the location of the BCWMC in relation to the other WMOs in the seven-county metropolitan area. The BCWMC is adjacent to the following WMOs:

- Mississippi WMO (formerly Middle Mississippi River WMO) – along eastern boundary of BCWMC
- Minnehaha Creek Watershed District – along southern and western boundary of BCWMC
- Shingle Creek WMO – along northern boundary of BCWMC
- Elm Creek WMO – along extreme northwestern boundary of BCWMC

The creek and its three branches drain portions of nine cities: Crystal, Golden Valley, Medicine Lake, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, New Hope, Plymouth, Robbinsdale, and St. Louis Park. In downtown Minneapolis, the creek discharges into the Mississippi River below St. Anthony Falls. Five major lakes (Medicine, Sweeney, Twin, Wirth, and Parkers) lie in the watershed. The creek drains a heavily developed watershed of 39.6 square miles (25,337 acres) (see Figure 2).

In 2000, the BCWMC and the Mississippi WMO entered into a joint and cooperative agreement for a boundary change. A legal description of the revised boundary is included as part of the agreement and is also included in Appendix G. This boundary change transferred 1,002 acres from the BCWMC to the Mississippi WMO. This boundary change was undertaken to reflect the changed drainage conditions upon completion of the Bassett Creek Flood Control Project. With the project in place, the watershed area tributary to the old tunnel no longer flows to Bassett Creek. The city of Minneapolis has assumed responsibility for maintenance of the old tunnel. A 1985 order by the Minnesota Water Resources Board (now the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources) revised the legal boundary between the BCWMC and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District. A 1979 BCWMC document provides a legal description of the BCWMC boundary within the city of Plymouth. The boundaries between BCWMC, Shingle Creek WMO, and Elm Creek WMO follow the natural watershed divides. A legal description for the entire Bassett Creek watershed was prepared on June 27, 2003, and is included in Appendix H.

2.2 History

Prior to the adoption of a formal joint powers agreement, the cities in the Bassett Creek watershed acted together as a committee, which was formed to study flood control matters in the watershed. The committee members were the city engineers and/or city council members. In 1968, the Bassett Creek Flood Control Commission was formed by adoption of a joint powers agreement between the nine communities in the watershed. As required by the joint powers agreement, the BCWMC adopted the *Watershed Management Plan for Bassett Creek* in February 1972.

In accordance with provisions of the 1982 Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act, the Bassett Creek Flood Control Commission revised its Joint Powers Agreement in 1984 and created the BCWMC. The *Bassett Creek Water Management Plan* was prepared by the BCWMC in 1986 and adopted on December 18, 1986. BWSR approved the plan on July 26, 1989, and the BCWMC printed the plan in 1990 (1990 Plan).

In accordance with provisions of the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act set forth in Minnesota Statutes 1992 and Minnesota Rules relating to Metropolitan Area Local Water Management, the BCWMC revised its Joint Powers Agreement in 1993. This joint powers agreement will remain in effect until 2015, unless amended or terminated, and may be continued at the option of the member cities (Appendix A).

2.3 BCWMC Management Structure, Powers and Duties

The BCWMC Board of Commissioners (board) consists of nine commissioners and nine alternates appointed by the member cities. Each of the nine member cities appoints one commissioner and one alternate. Alternate Commissioners may sit when the representative is not in attendance. The joint powers agreement gives each member city the responsibility to determine the eligibility or qualifications of its representative (commissioner) on the board.

The term of each commissioner and alternate is three years and until their successors are selected. Board vacancies must be filled in accordance with the joint powers agreement. Commissioners cannot be removed from the board prior to their term expiration except under the conditions given in the joint powers agreement. The commissioners serve without compensation from the BCWMC. Table 2-1 lists the Commissioner terms and Table 2-2 is the historical listing of BCWMC commissioners and their terms.

Regular meetings for the BCWMC are held at 12:00 noon at the Golden Valley City Offices on the third Thursday of each month. The fiscal year extends from February 1 through January 31.

The powers and duties of the BCWMC, taken from the joint powers agreement, include, but are not limited to:

1. Prepare and adopt an “overall plan” (watershed management plan).
2. Acquire property.
3. Contract for space, material, and supplies.
4. Make necessary surveys or use other information and develop projects to accomplish the purposes for which the BCWMC is organized.
5. Enter into contracts or cooperate with governmental agencies, private/public organizations, or individuals to accomplish the purposes for which the BCWMC is organized.
6. Order any member city to construct, clean, repair, alter, abandon, consolidate, reclaim or change the course or terminus of any ditch, drain, storm sewer or water course, natural or artificial, within BCWMC.
7. Order any member city to carry out improvements necessary to implement the BCWMC watershed management plan.
8. Regulate, conserve and control the use of stormwater, surface water and groundwater within BCWMC.
9. Contract for or purchase insurance, as needed.
10. Establish and maintain devices for acquiring and recording hydrological and water quality data within BCWMC.
11. Enter upon lands to make surveys and investigations to accomplish the BCWMC’s purposes.
12. Provide any member city with technical data or other information to assist the city in preparing its local watershed management plan.

13. Provide legal and technical assistance in connection with litigation or other proceedings between one or more of its members and any other unit of government relating to drainage or water quality within BCWMC.
14. Accumulate reserve funds and invest funds not currently needed for BCWMC operations.
15. Collect money from the BCWMC members, Hennepin County, and from any other BCWMC-approved source.
16. Make contracts, employ staff or consultants, incur expenses and make expenditures.
17. Obtain an annual audit of the BCWMC books and accounts.
18. Make its books, reports, and records available for and open to inspection by its member cities.
19. Recommend changes to the joint powers agreement to its member cities.
20. Exercise all other powers necessary and incidental to the implementation of the purposes and powers set forth in the joint powers agreement and state law.
21. Cooperate with the DNR in obtaining protected waters permits and complying with Minnesota law regarding protected waters.
22. Member cities may conduct separate or concurrent studies on any matter under study by the BCWMC.
23. Establish a procedure for establishing citizen or technical advisory committees and to provide other means for public participation.

Table 2-1. BCWMC Commissioners and Terms

Municipality	Termination of Commissioner's Term
Crystal	February 1, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015, etc.
Golden Valley	
Medicine Lake	
Minneapolis	February 1, 2004, 2007, 2010, 2013, 2016, etc.
Minnetonka	
New Hope	
Plymouth	February 1, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2014, 2017, etc.
Robbinsdale	
St. Louis Park	

Table 2-2. Historical Listing of BCWMC Commissioners and Terms

Crystal		New Hope	
Robert Dunn	1970-1971	Milton C. Honsey	1970-1971
James McLaughlin	1971-1976	Richard Plufka	1971-1976
Adrian Rygg	1976-1981	Peter Enck	1976-1999
William Sherburne	1981-1986	Guy Johnson	1999-2001
Bill Monk	1986-1994	Vincent Vander Top	2001-2004
Steve Peaslee	1994-1997	Mary Gwin-Lenth	2004
Tom Mathisen	1997-2003		
Pauline Langsdorf	2003-present		
Golden Valley		Plymouth	
Gordon O. Garis	1970-1972	Richard O'Fallon	1970-1979
John Bies	1972	Sherman Goldberg	1979-1982
Ralph Crews	1973-1974	Fred Moore	1983-1997
Ed Silberman	1974-2000	Ron Quanbeck	1997-2002
David Hanson	2000-2004	Elizabeth Thornton	2002-present
Linda Loomis	2006		
Medicine Lake		Robbinsdale	
Roy Winkler	1970-1982	Z. Joseph Bauer	1970-1971
James Padden	1983-1989	Harvey L. Lange	1971-1972, 1975
John O'Toole	1989-present	Raymond A. Mattson	1973
		Reynold Eckstrom	1973-1974, 1978-1984
		Richard Halverson	1976
		Merry Olson	1977
		Lee Gustafson	1984-1991
		Wallace Johnson	1991
		Jerome Ruffenach	1992-1996
		Maria Hagen	1996-1999
		William Deblon	1999-2002
		Karla Peterson	2002-present
Minneapolis		St. Louis Park	
Vern Anderson	1970-1973	Murray Galinson	1970
Lee Munnich, Jr.	1974-1977	Jim Jones	1970-1972
Parker Trostel	1978-1982	David Rudberg	1973-1977
Perry Smith	1982-1989	Seymour Druskin	1977
Marv Hoshaw	1990-1992	R. L. Kopyy	1978-1980; 1984-1985
R. Kannankutty	1993-1999	Chester Harrison	1981-1984
Michael Welch	1999-present	Donald Rye	1985-1993
		James Grube	1993-1995
		Michael Rardin	1995-2002
		Paul Andersen	2002-2004
		Sally Velick	2004
Minnetonka			
Al Ilies	1970		
Fred Hanus	1971-1976		
Don Asmus	1977-1988		
David Sonnenberg	1989-1995		
Lee Gustafson	1995-2002		
Bill Yaeger	2002-present		

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 Note: Three-year terms run from February 1 through January 31.