

Second Generation Plan CAG Meeting Minutes

Bassett Creek Water Management Commission

March 26, 2001

A. Attendance: John O'Toole (chair), Lisa Goddard, Al Lundstrom, Rita Nystrom, Ed McRoberts, Alan Kuentz, David Fellman, David Stack, Karen Cheseborough, Sue Weinberg, Mark Oestreich, Lois Eberhart, and Matt Foli

B. Agenda

1. Introduction and Presentation of February 26, 2001 Meeting Minutes
2. Slide Tour of Watershed
3. Review Statement of Purpose and Strategy (November 7, 2000)
4. Review Major Issues
5. Identify Other Issues
6. Plan Next Meeting

C. Meeting Handouts

- Updated Map of the Bassett Creek Watershed

D. Introduction and Presentation of February 26, 2001 Meeting Minutes

- The group previously discussed meeting on the fourth Monday of each month at 4:30 p.m. A couple of the members expressed a desire to meet earlier in the day. The late afternoon time frame works better for those working in the private sector and the government agencies. The consensus was to stay with meeting on the fourth Monday of the month starting at 4:30 p.m., and meeting at the City of Golden Valley City Hall.
- The group had no comments or additions to the February 26, 2001 meeting minutes.
- Barb Peichel, Program Assistant for the Minnesota Sea Grant program, University of Minnesota-Duluth, will be a guest speaker at the April meeting and will discuss public outreach and education programs. Minnesota Sea Grant partners with several state agencies on water resource projects. Currently, they are working with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Hennepin Parks on a research project concerning phosphorus and runoff from fertilizers.
- Mr. O'Toole introduced Matt Foli, a new resident to Golden Valley, who has requested to join the citizens advisory group.

E. Slide Tour of Watershed

- Len Kremer, engineer for the Bassett Creek Water Management Commission, presented the slide tour of the Bassett Creek watershed to familiarize the group with different water quality and flood control projects that have been or are in process of being constructed in the watershed.
- An updated watershed map was distributed for the group members to follow.

F. Review Statement of Purpose and Strategy (November 7, 2000)

- Karen Chandler, Barr Engineering Company, walked the group through the Draft Statement of Purpose and Strategy to familiarize the CAG with the document.
- A citizen believed enforcement should be a major purpose of the BCWMC and the BCWMC could act as a “ombudsman” for water-related activities in the watershed. It was suggested that BCWMC develop an information sheet (as part of public education/ participation) informing residents who to contact for various water-related issues.
- Expectations/Goals for the CAG: The CAG is specifically charged with establishing a method for monitoring and evaluating the Second Generation Plan and developing an effective long-term public information and public involvement program. From a citizen’s standpoint, the CAG will also give their reactions to deliverables proposed by the Commission and the TAG.
- The TAG is more involved in the details of developing the plan.

G. Review Major Issues

- Goal: Review and comment on the Major Issues presented and identify other issues.
- One citizen asked whose responsibility it will be to prioritize the issues, i.e., who decides which wetlands are important? Mr. O’Toole referred to the Wetlands Conservation Act that regulates the impacts to wetlands and the role of the Commission in reviewing situations involving wetlands. Under the WCA, the responsibility to manage wetlands is given to the local governmental unit (either the City or the City can delegate the responsibility to the Commission).
- The CAG requested specific direction in reviewing the Major Issues. There was a concern that some issues will get more attention than others will. Mr. O’Toole said the CAG ranking of the issues does not determine if a certain issue will get less consideration in the process as a whole. This is an exercise for the group to express their input on the issues and communicate those feelings to the Commission.
- Some CAG members strongly believed each major issue should be discussed in detail before delving into public education and public involvement.
- There seemed to be some confusion regarding overlapping goals of the TAG and CAG. The Commission does have specific tasks for the CAG to perform during this process. Ms. Chandler added that the WMO/City Responsibilities issue has been reworded since the Major Issues document was distributed along with the meeting packet to the CAG.

H. Identify Other Issues

- Additional Issue: Conflicts of interest or credibility of the Commission and its staff in relation to the public and how it is perceived when acting as a proponent and a regulator at the same time (i.e., the General Mills cooling system project). There was a concern that the Commission did not comment on the General Mills project.
- Additional Issue: How does the Commission define a “citizen” on the CAG. Because some members are city staff, the question was asked if they should be allowed to vote. One citizen questioned if having city staff as CAG members will undermine the credibility of what is

determined by the group. The CAG is the Commission's best effort at gathering grass roots input. There is no state law or regulation requiring the Commission to establish a citizens advisory group or the makeup of such a group as part of its Second Generation Plan.

- Additional Issue: The CAG expressed concern about the navigability of Bassett Creek – what should be done about the water control systems that impede the “canoeability” of the creek? Should the creek be canoeable?
- Additional Issue: Should there be walkways or other corridors along Bassett Creek to improve access to the creek?

I. Plan Next Meeting

- The Citizens Advisory Group is scheduled to meet eight times.
- Ms. Chandler said that the schedule and meeting goals are continuously revised after each meeting.
- CAG meeting #4 is scheduled for Monday, April 23, 2001, 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Golden Valley City Council Conference Room.
- Agenda / Goals for April 23rd meeting:
 - What are effective ways of getting the word out? Different types of public education and involvement and their effectiveness. Reading materials on public involvement were handed out for the CAG to review before the April 23rd meeting.
 - A representative from the Board of Water & Soil Resources will attend to go through some of the public involvement information with the group.
 - The group will be setting forth some ideas on improving existing public involvement. Barb Peichel, Minnesota Sea Grant Program, will be a guest speaker.
 - A recommendation made in considering public outreach is how much money will be spent? One suggestion to keep in mind for future public outreach is setting up a booth at the Northwest Suburban Environmental Fair at the Crystal Community Fair or some other community fair. There may not be a fee for nonprofit organizations to participate and it has the potential to reach hundreds of people.