

DRAFT
Second Generation Plan TAG Meeting Minutes
Bassett Creek Water Management Commission
August 27, 2001

A. Attendance: Fred Moore (chair), Jim Larson, Carlton Moore, Guy Johnson, Ken Gothberg, John Barten, Lisa Goddard, Jeff Oliver, Ed Silberman, Connie Fortin, Joel Settles, Jennifer Posma, Tom Mathisen, Jason Westbrook, Len Kremer

B. Agenda

1. Review June Meeting Minutes
2. Q & A
3. Review TAG Recommendations
4. Set next meeting

C. Welcome and Introduction

Fred Moore welcomed the group and previewed the evening's meeting.

D. Review of July 23 Meeting Minutes

Fred had two modifications for the July minutes. The minutes were accepted with the modifications.

E. Review of TAG Recommendations

The group based their discussion off a handout containing the ongoing list of recommendations. The list was supplemented with additional background information for each recommendation.

Recommendation: The Commission should require 2 feet of elevation between the 100-year flood level of the creek and the low entry of any new buildings.

Discussion:

Does the policy apply only to new structures? The policy applies to new structures and, according to the DNR model ordinance, applies to improvements to existing structures if the improvements are greater than 50% of the existing value.

What is the definition of low entry? Low entry means low opening, not low floor. These are minimum requirements. The member cities can be more restrictive.

The group achieved consensus on the recommendation with one minor modification. The final recommendation is:

- 1) The Commission should require 2 feet of elevation between the 100-year flood level of the creek *and lakes* and the low entry of any new buildings.

After a brief discussion, the group achieved consensus agreement for all groundwater recommendations with one minor modification

- 2) Encourage member cities to implement a wellhead protection program.
- 3) Review all groundwater appropriations permits that the DNR receives and determine the effect on surface waters and groundwater.
- 4) Require detention ponds in sensitive groundwater recharge areas to be lined or engineered to prohibit infiltration.
- 5) Encourage an agency to collect and manage groundwater data.
- 6) Encourage *enforcement* for the proper abandonment of wells.

Recommendation: The lake classifications should not be lowered. If anything, they should all be elevated to Level I.

Discussion:

It is not realistic to manage all water bodies to reach an unattainable goal.

All water from the watershed discharges to Bassett Creek and then the Mississippi River. Therefore we should treat the water as best we can.

It would be impossible to reach the Level I goal for all water bodies, especially when internal loading is considered. In an urban setting, we need to make sacrifices in order to save the real gems.

We want to avoid creating the public perception that all water bodies are swimmable.

How was the current prioritization and classification list derived? It was derived through meetings with the public and agencies to determine the desired uses and public perception for each of the water bodies.

We will have to create an incentive package if we want to get developers to treat stormwater to higher than required standards.

Will the lakes be re-examined for new classification as part of this plan? No, this has already been done as part of the individual watershed and lake management plans.

The group reached a consensus agreement on the recommendation with modification:

- 7) The lake classifications should not be lowered. The Commission should look for opportunities to elevate classifications.

Recommendation: Treat all watershed stormwater to the Level I standard.

Discussion:

Why is Bassett Creek not classified as Level I? This was the level chosen by the citizens and agencies during the classification process.

Phosphorus is not the pollutant of concern for stream classification. Sediment and temperature affect a stream more than phosphorus.

We should focus our efforts on Level I water bodies for non-degradation and keep the existing treatment standards for the lower level classifications.

NURP has higher standards than the Commission and about half of the member cities have adopted the NURP standards.

The Metropolitan Council believes that the Level III classification of Bassett Creek and associated treatment standards as inadequate.

The group came to a majority agreement/minority opposition to the recommendation with the following wording:

- 8) Treat all regulated stormwater to the Level I standards, but keep the current variance policy.

The group achieved consensus agreement for the following recommendations:

- 9) The BCWMC will support legislation that would abandon public ditches and allow drainage to be managed by the latest adopted plan.
- 10) The Commission should attempt to go through the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources to help move legislation to abandon public ditches and turn them over to local control in areas where land is not zoned for agricultural purposes.
- 11) Fish and wildlife issues will be addressed indirectly in other sections of the Plan.

Recommendation: Remove structures built in the flood plain of Bassett Creek.

Discussion:

Approximately 30 homes still exist in the floodplain of the creek. Twenty-three of these homes are in Golden Valley with a good majority of these being downstream of Highway 100.

The homes with walkout basements can be flood-proofed. The split-entry homes cannot be economically flood-proofed.

Can the Commission purchase the homes, make the flood-proofing improvements, and then re-market the home?

The policy should be for homes developed before 1969. The policy should remove or flood-proof the structures in the floodplain and the cost should be divided among the member city, the Commission, and the individual homeowner. The group agreed that the issue of Commission involvement in financing the removal or flood-proofing of these homes should be handled by the Policy Advisory Group.

F. Next Meeting

The next TAG meeting will be Monday, September 24th. The only item on the agenda is to continue discussing the ongoing list of recommendations made by the group.