



Bassett Creek Water Management Commission

A g e n d a

**Thursday, January 17, 2002
12:00 Noon**

**Golden Valley City Hall,
7800 Golden Valley Road**

Call to Order

Presentation of October 2001 Minutes

Presentation of Financial Statements

Presentation of Invoices for Payment Approval

Communications

Chairman

?? **Citizen Input on Non-Agenda Items**

Counsel

Corps of Engineers

Commissioners

Engineer

New Business

?? **Wirth Lake Improvement (Jeff Lee, Minneapolis Park Board)**

?? **BP Connect: Golden Valley**

?? **Commission Technical Advisory Committee and Upcoming Commission Changes**

?? **Establish Guidelines for Using the Demonstration Project Line Item in Budget**

Old Business

?? **T.H. 100 - Segment 5 (SP 2735-172): Golden Valley**

?? **Second Generation Plan Update**

Future group meetings:

Policy Advisory Group..... January 28 (at City of Minnetonka)

Steering Committee..... February 4 (at Barr Engineering Co.)

Adjournment

Bassett Creek Water Management Commission

Minutes of the Meeting of October 18, 2001

Call to Order:

The Bassett Creek Water Management Commission was called to order at 12:15 p.m., Thursday, October 18, 2001, at the City of Golden Valley City Hall by Vice Chairman O'Toole.

Roll Call:

<i>Crystal</i>	Commissioner Tom Mathisen, Secretary	<i>Counsel:</i> Dan Greensweig
<i>Golden Valley</i>	Commissioner Dave Hanson, Treasurer	<i>Engineer:</i> Jim Herbert
<i>Medicine Lake</i>	Commissioner John O'Toole, Vice Chairman	<i>Recorder:</i> Pat Schutrop
<i>Minneapolis</i>	Commissioner Mike Welch	
<i>Minnetonka</i>	Commissioner Lee Gustafson	
<i>New Hope</i>	Commissioner Vincent Vander Top	
<i>Plymouth</i>	Alternate Commissioner Fred Moore	
<i>Robbinsdale</i>	Alternate Commissioner Karla Peterson	
<i>St. Louis Park</i>	Not represented	

Also present: Robert Mayeron, Alternate Commissioner, City of Golden Valley
Don Maxwell, Association of Medicine Lake Area Citizens
Alison Fong, Environmental Management, City of Minneapolis
Jeff Oliver, City Engineer, City of Golden Valley
John Barten, Hennepin Parks
Alex Meyer, Hennepin Parks

Approval and/or Correction of Minutes:

The minutes of September 20, 2001 were presented. Mr. Hanson moved and Mr. Mathisen seconded approval of the minutes. Carried unanimously.

Financial Statements:

1. Mr. Hanson presented the Treasurers Report as of October 18, 2001. The current balances are as follows:

Checking Account Balance	\$110,851.73
Investment Account Commercial Paper (due 11/21/01)	99,783.19
<i>TOTAL GENERAL FUND BALANCE</i>	<i>\$210,634.92</i>
Construction Account Balance	\$68,286.96
Commercial Paper (due 11/15/01)	99,662.83
Commercial Paper (due 01/17/02)	500,133.46
Commercial Paper (due 8/15/02)	1,059,867.19
<i>TOTAL CONSTRUCTION ACCOUNT BALANCE</i>	<i>\$1,727,950.44</i>

Sue Virnig, Assistant Financial Director for Golden Valley, has now combined the investment and the construction accounts. The interest earned will increase by 0.25%.

The Treasurers report was accepted as presented and ordered to be filed subject to audit.

Presentation of Invoices to be Paid:

The following invoice was presented for approval:

1. An invoice was received from Barr Engineering Company for professional services during the period of September 1, 2001 through September 28, 2001, in the amount of \$25,456.05.

Mr. Hanson moved and Mr. Vander Top seconded approval for payment of claims as set forth on the invoice. Upon call of the roll, the vote was unanimously carried.

Communications:

Chairman:

No communications.

Citizen Input on Non-Agenda Items:

1. Mr. Maxwell, Association of Medicine Lake Area Citizens, extended his appreciation for the assistance provided by the Commission engineering staff in providing the City of Plymouth with information on Medicine Lake that helped get the Clean Water Partnership/319 combined grant application filed in time.

Counsel:

1. On behalf of Charlie LeFevere, Mr. Greensweig informed the Commission that Mr. LeFevere is serving on a Board of Water and Soil Resources committee that is investigating new regulations for surface water management plans. Because of the recent strike by State employees, there is nothing to report at this time.

Corps of Engineers:

No communications.

Commissioners:

1. Mr. Welch reported the Senate Environmental Protection Subcommittee in the Minnesota Legislature will hold a public hearing on the issue of restricting the sale and use of phosphorus in fertilizers used on turf at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 14, in Room 50 of the State Capitol. Mr. Welch asked if any of the commissioners would be attending the hearing.
2. Mr. Welch reported that Pat Wrase (612-673-3129) is the new City of Minneapolis contact person for the Commission.

Engineer:

1. The Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts is conducting its annual meeting and trade show on November 29 through December 1 at the Radisson Arrowhead Resort, Alexandria, MN. Interested commissioners are asked to contact Commission engineer or recorder for registration forms.

2. The Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts annual meeting is scheduled for December 2-4 at the Radisson South Hotel, Bloomington, MN. Interested commissioners are asked to contact the Commission engineer or recorder for more information.

New Business:

1. **5120 & 5126 Minnaqua Drive: Golden Valley.** A request was received to review a residential flood-proofing project adjacent to the Main Stem of Bassett Creek in Golden Valley. The project is located approximately 1,000 feet upstream of Regent Avenue at the referenced properties. The management envelope is 842.5 feet MSL. The project includes construction of an earth berm to elevation 845.0, around the north side of two homes to prevent Bassett Creek floodwaters from inundating the homes. The plan is consistent with the objectives of the Bassett Creek flood control project. These homes are currently located in the floodplain (low opening 841.7 and 842.0). Construction of the project would remove the homes from the Bassett Creek floodplain. Approximately 200 cubic yards of fill will be placed in the floodplain as part of the project. Conveyance is critical along this reach of Bassett Creek. Therefore additional compensating storage volume is not required. A sump and pump will be installed to remove water within the dike. The Commission engineer recommends approval.

Mr. Hanson moved and Mr. Moore seconded the motion to approve the project. Carried unanimously.

2. **Hennepin Parks Headquarters: Plymouth.** This project is located north and west of Xenium Lane near the south bank of Plymouth Creek in Plymouth. It is in the Medicine Lake watershed and subject to Level I treatment standards. The proposed project includes the expansion of a car parking area and construction of a rain garden stormwater treatment system. Grading will occur on 0.8 acres.

Suburban Hennepin Regional Park District (Hennepin Parks) requested approval of the rain garden as an alternative for a water quality pond. Hennepin Parks believes the rain garden will be more aesthetically pleasing and will promote more infiltration than a water quality pond.

A rain garden acts like a dry detention pond; however, it promotes better infiltration. The water will flow into the rain garden area and infiltrate into the soils. The rain garden consists of deep-rooted (4 to 5 feet) vegetation that promotes infiltration. Dry detention ponds typically have short-rooted grasses and research has shown that the short-rooted grasses are not as effective. Deep-rooted vegetation is also tolerant of salts used on the parking areas. Hennepin Parks will be monitoring the runoff coming from the rain garden for its effectiveness.

For a number of years, a similar rain garden concept has been used in the H.B. Fuller parking lot in Vadnais Heights. The Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District monitored the H.B. Fuller rain garden for a couple years and found that the amount of runoff coming from the rain garden was 70% less than the other parking lot runoff and phosphorus discharged was 73% less. Excavation of the rain garden area has not been necessary.

Hennepin Parks adopted a policy that requires no increase in nutrient runoff to adjacent water bodies due to development activity by the Park District.

The Commission engineer recommends approval subject to modifications shown in the Barr memorandum. The Commission commends Hennepin Parks for its position on protecting the water quality. Mr. Welch asked if Hennepin Parks could submit its monitoring results of the runoff from the rain garden to the Commission. Mr. Hanson also asked Barr to follow-up on the progress of the project at the next Commission meeting.

Mr. Hanson moved and Mr. Welch seconded the motion to approve the projects contingent on the Commission engineer's modifications with the additional recommendation for Hennepin Parks to share the monitoring results of the rain garden runoff with the Commission. Carried unanimously.

Old Business:

1. **Sweeney Lake Water Quality Improvements.** Correspondence was received from Golden Valley Mayor Mary Anderson and a report prepared by Dave Hanson was submitted requesting the Commission to consider an alternative program to improve and protect the water quality and clarity of Sweeney Lake. Over the years, Mr. Hanson has been running the aeration system in the lake on behalf of the homeowners association and he would like to see more aeration carried out in the lake. The homeowners association believe that aeration provides benefits to the lake and costs about one-tenth of other water quality improvements recommended.

Mr. Herbert added that one of the recommendations in the Sweeney Lake Watershed and Lake Management Plan included turning off the aerator for 1 or 2 years. One of the reasons for requesting the aeration system to be turned off was to allow the water quality data to be collected while the lake was in its natural condition, then a proper recommendation regarding aeration could be made.

In view of developing the capital improvements program, Mr. Welch is not sure the Commission's options are clear. Therefore it is difficult to come up with a list of things to do in combination with the lakeowners association and the city to achieve the water quality goals set for the lake by the Commission. Mr. O'Toole added that it might never be known how well the aeration system is working in Sweeney Lake and the Commission may need to make a decision based on imperfect knowledge. Mr. Moore said that the lake management plans prepared for each water body include a list of recommendations, but the Commission has not prioritized those items for what they can accomplish long term. Mr. Hanson said that the lakeowners association might recommend that Sweeney Lake opt out of the capital improvements program.

The lakeowners association is considering additional aeration in the lake. Mr. O'Toole asked how much additional aeration would cost and where the money would come from. Mr. Hanson said the expenditures would be relatively minor.

After considerable discussion, the Commission decided to table the Sweeney Lake Water Quality Improvements for the time being.

2. **Second Generation Plan Budget Update.** Barr prepared a table of costs since the planning process began in November 1999. The project total to date is \$242,320 (engineering, legal, administrative, communications, and expenses). Mr. Hanson said that some engineering items will probably be underspent for 2001 and the Second Generation Plan engineering expenses through the end of 2001 may balance out.
3. **Second Generation Plan Update.** Mr. O'Toole gave a status report on the plan process. The Steering Committee and Citizens Advisory Group have not met since the last Steering Committee meeting on September 18. The CAG is not scheduled to meet again until possibly the end of November or early December. The Technical Advisory Group met on September 24th and continues to review and discuss the list of issues to reach consensus. The TAG is scheduled to meet again on October 22 to complete its review of the TAG recommendations.

Mr. Mathisen again expressed concern about the budget and open-ended approach to developing the plan. He would like to see a best guess estimate of the cost to complete the plan and discuss what steps may be taken to control the spending.

Mr. O'Toole characterized past budget discussions as follows: The cost for the plan process was contemplated at the start of the process; however, the costs to date have surpassed that original estimate. At the last Commission meeting, the general consensus was to move forward and evaluate the process on a meeting-by-meeting basis. The process is three-fourths complete and the Commission decided to not change gears at this point. Mr. O'Toole added that it is appropriate and consistent for Mr. Mathisen to raise the concern at this meeting as well as future meetings. From this point forward, does the Commission want to do something different?

Mr. Vander Top added that Barr presented a table at the last meeting listing the tasks necessary to complete the plan and the estimated cost. The final cost estimated to be \$94,000 and \$128,000. In today's meeting packet, Barr prepared a table showing the costs to date.

Mr. Mathisen is not proposing to slow the process down, but re-emphasized the fact that in hindsight the Commission should have set a limit to the number of meetings and decided what was accomplished in those meetings would be sufficient information. Mr. Mathisen added that WMOs are being scrutinized for their activities and compared to watershed districts by certain legislators.

The Commission asked for information to review in preparation for the November 13th workshop. Setting the workshop agenda is one of the items on the Steering Committee's October 23rd agenda.

Mr. O'Toole is in favor of driving the process to a quick conclusion. The Commission has talked about future projects, funding, etc. and now it is time to make some decisions concerning those questions. The Commission will need to consider the approaching holiday season and changeover of commissioners (i.e., Ron Quanbeck) in February 2002 should it decide to defer the process in anyway.

Mr. Hanson asked what basis the Commission will make its decision on in developing its CIP. Mr. Mathisen said a culmination of the CAG and TAG group activities will be part of the consideration. Mr. Vander Top requested that advisory group summaries and other helpful information be prepared for the commissioners to review prior to the November 13th workshop.

Mr. Welch also mentioned the need for some sort of formal structure for ongoing citizen involvement.

Mr. Welch asked if more progress would be made if cities were represented at the workshop to help distinguish the roles of the Commission and the cities in making decisions. Should the Commission require participation from representatives of the member cities? Mr. O'Toole said that the meeting will be open to commissioners inviting city support if desired, but it will not be required.

The Commission decided to move ahead with the November 13th workshop and attempt to develop the capital improvements program. Mr. Moore suggested that commissioners who do not have expertise necessary in making water quality decisions might want to ask for city staff representation.

Mr. Moore believes a key document necessary for the commissioners to review prior to the workshop is the draft memo originally prepared by Barr that gave a priority ranking to each water body and the Commission may want to decide at the workshop if there is agreement with that ranking system.

Regarding the TAG summary, Mr. Moore said the TAG has been working on the standards and goals that would be included in the second generation plan versus capital improvement recommendations. The only issue that might be pertinent to the CIP planning is how to maintain the water quality in Twin Lake. Twin Lake has the highest water quality in the watershed.

The commissioners agreed that it is important to have advisory group summaries available to the commissioners to review so they can better understand what the members in those groups considered important. Mr. Hanson added that it would also be important to remind the Commission of the PAG's spending recommendations for the remaining Flood Control Project funds.

Mr. Welch noted the Commission is undergoing a transition from its original charge of flood control to water quality of the watershed and does the Commission know how to do that?

Discussion summary:

- ?? The Commissioners can invite support from their cities
- ?? The following items will be provided for the commissioners to review prior to the CIP Workshop:
 - ?? Advisory group summaries
 - ?? Barr memo prepared in March 2000 regarding ranking the lakes
 - ?? A water quality improvements summary prepared by Barr

Adjournment:

It was moved by Mr. Mathisen and seconded by Mr. Hanson that the meeting adjourn. Vice Chairman O'Toole adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

John O'Toole, Vice Chairman

Pat Schutrop, Recorder

Tom Mathisen, Secretary

Date: _____

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