



Executive Summary: The Year in Brief

2008 COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES

Pauline Langsdorf – *Crystal*
Linda Loomis – *Golden Valley*
Cheri Templeman – *Medicine Lake*
Michael Welch – *Minneapolis*
Kristine Sundberg – *Minnnetonka*
Daniel Stauner – *New Hope*
Ginny Black – *Plymouth*
Karla Peterson – *Robbinsdale*
Manuel Jordan – *St. Louis Park*

2008 ALTERNATES

Stuart Stockhaus – *Crystal*
David Hanson – *Golden Valley*
John O'Toole – *Medicine Lake*
Lisa Goddard – *Minneapolis*
Tony Wagner – *Minnnetonka*
Elizabeth Thornton – *Plymouth*
Wayne Sicora – *Robbinsdale*
Sue Sanger – *St. Louis Park*

The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) is governed by a board composed of representatives from each of the nine member cities: Crystal, Golden Valley, Medicine Lake, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, New Hope, Plymouth, St. Louis Park, & Robbinsdale. Representatives are appointed by their cities and serve three-year terms on the board. Commissioners who served in 2008 are listed above.

2008 Activities & Achievements Follow Roadmap Set by BCWMC Plan

The BCWMC's most recent Watershed Management Plan (Plan) was approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources on August 25, 2004, and adopted by the BCWMC board of commissioners on September 16, 2004. The BCWMC has a long history of achievements, having formed in 1969 as the Bassett Creek Flood Control Commission covering the nine communities in the watershed. In accordance with provisions of the 1982 Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act, the Bassett Creek Flood Control Commission revised its Joint Powers Agreement and created the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC).

The 2004 Plan includes an implementation program that provides a roadmap for the BCWMC's activities in the areas of capital improvements, annual water quality programs, and annual flood control programs. This executive summary communicates the BCWMC's 2008 accomplishments in the following areas: capital improvements program, inspections, water quality activities, education activities, and other activities. See the full 2008 BCWMC Annual Report for more details.

Capital Improvements Program

The BCWMC continued to implement its capital improvements program. In 2008, these achievements included:

- Completing the BCWMC's first channel restoration project for a portion of the Sweeney Lake Branch, at a total cost of \$386,000. The project was constructed by the City of Golden Valley.
- Funding a third in-lake herbicide treatment targeting curlyleaf pondweed in Medicine Lake; the BCWMC also paid for similar treatments in 2005 and 2006. The total cost of all three treatments was \$132,000.
- Completing a draft feasibility study to restore the downstream reach of Plymouth Creek, in the City of Plymouth.
- Passing Resolution No. 08-07, which updated the cost of the West Medicine Lake Park Pond Capital Improvement Project. The resolution also certified \$800,000 of the project cost to Hennepin County for 2008.

Past completed capital improvement projects include construction or improvement of water quality treatment ponds to treat stormwater runoff in the Medicine Lake, Northwood Lake, Westwood Lake and Wirth Lake watersheds.

Inspection Activities

The BCWMC conducted the following inspection activities in 2008:

- Monthly erosion control inspections of construction sites
- Annual inspections of the flood control project
- Performing the 20-year inspection of the Bassett Creek tunnels, which included coordinating with the City of Minneapolis, MnDOT and Corps of Engineers

The BCWMC is assisted by its Technical Advisory, Education and Public Outreach, Administrative Services, and Budget committees.

Regular meetings for the BCWMC are held monthly on the third Thursday (except in November) at 11:30 a.m. at the Golden Valley City Hall, 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley. In November the meeting is held on the third Wednesday of the month. The meetings are open to the public and the meeting time and dates are posted on the BCWMC's web site at www.bassettcreekwmo.org.



Water Quality Activities

- Working diligently on three TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) studies toward the outcome of setting pollutant goals needed to restore the waters of Sweeney Lake and Wirth Lakes in Golden Valley and Medicine Lake in Plymouth.
- Participating in the stakeholder and technical advisory committees of the Upper Mississippi River Bacteria TMDL study
- Participating in Metropolitan Council Environmental Services' Citizen-Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP) for five lakes
- Sampling Bassett Creek Main Stem for fecal coliform
- Participating with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in sampling Bassett Creek Main Stem for biota
- Conducting water quality monitoring and analysis for Sweeney and Twin Lakes in Golden Valley
- Participating in Hennepin County's River Watch program by funding two Bassett Creek monitoring sites for benthic invertebrates, which are a sign of the health of a stream
- Reviewing the local water management plans for four member-cities to ensure the plans meet the watershed's goals
- Approving development of a Resource Management Plan, a plan to expedite the Army Corps of Engineers' permitting process for future BCWMC projects

Education Activities

- Cosponsoring MetroBlooms rain garden workshops with member cities
- Reviewing results of the 2007 joint watershed residential survey (Bassett Creek, Shingle Creek, Elm Creek, West Mississippi WMOs)
- Participating in the Joint Education and Public Outreach Committee with the previously listed watersheds and with Pioneer-Sarah Creek watershed
- Running the BCWMC's education grant program
- Staffing a booth at public education events such as Plymouth's Environmental Expo and Yard and Garden event and Westwood Nature Center's Earth Day
- Showing the BCWMC's education displays at City Halls in the watershed
- Giving away native plant seed packets
- Joining Blue Thumb, a local program that encourages homeowners to use native plantings, rain gardens, and shoreline stabilization to reduce runoff from home yardscapes
- Participating in Metro WaterShed Partners, including the Minnesota Waters "Let's Keep Them Clean" campaign

General Achievements

- Requesting proposals for legal, engineering and technical, and administrative services
- Hiring consultant Springsted, Inc. to conduct an organizational analysis of the BCWMC's operations and provide recommendations