



Bassett Creek Watershed Commission Memorandum

Date: March 13, 2009
From: Administrative Services Committee
To: Bassett Creek Commission Members
Subject: Commission Mission and Goals suggestions

Below are the previous goals submitted for the Commission consideration with the addition of the brainstorming ideas from the Administrative Committee Options meeting on March 5th. These goals are meant to supplement the overarching goals in the commission's watershed plan, and serve to guide the commission's priorities (budgeting and otherwise) for the remainder of 2009 and, more particularly, for 2010 and the budgeting process that will begin soon. This is by no means meant to be a comprehensive effort, nor is the ideas listed in any particular order, but rather an idea generator for the discussion at the March Commission meeting:

- * Draft and adopt an organizational mission.
- * Review and, as necessary, redesign and reorganize the BCWMC website.
- * Draft and approve job descriptions for commissioners, officers, TAC members, consulting staff.
- * Define additional administrative and technical services needed to improve commission function and reorganize existing committees, contracted services provides, including contracting additional services as identified, to meet identified needs.
- * Review and, if necessary, propose revisions to the BCWMC joint powers agreement.
- * Review and, if necessary, revise BCWMC bylaws.
- * Establish and maintain commissioner liaisons to the TAC, TMDL stakeholder groups, EPOC and other working groups as selected by the commission.

- * Identify and address commissioner watershed-management education needs.
- * Review and, if necessary, revise process by which capital improvement projects are identified and proposed for additional to the BCWMC implementation plan and CIP.
- * Identify medium- and long-term water-quality improvement initiatives (other than capital projects).
- * Review and restructure the BCWMC project-review procedures to effectively integrate with member city permitting programs, then communicate protocols to member cities to ensure consistent application.

Additional potential goals from the 3-5-2009 Administrative Services Committee meeting:

Additional Water Quality monitoring

Develop a watershed wide watershed model(??)

Complete the TMDL's for:

- Medicine Lake
- Sweeney Lake
- Wirth Lake

Evaluate continued participation in

- WOMP
- CAMP
- Metro Bloom
- Blue Thumb
- Grant Program

Evaluate CIP projects

Develop Mission Statement

1.2 Purpose and Goals of BCWMC

1.2.1. BCWMC Overall Purposes

The Metropolitan Water Management Act requires local units of government in the seven-county metropolitan area to prepare and implement watershed management plans through membership in a watershed management organization. A watershed management organization can be organized as either a watershed district, a function of county government, or a joint powers agreement organization (such as the BCWMC). The act states that the purposes of WMO water management programs (quoted from Minnesota Statutes 103B.201) are as follows:

1. Protect, preserve, and use natural surface and groundwater storage and retention systems.
2. Minimize public capital expenditures needed to correct flooding and water quality problems.
3. Identify and plan for means to effectively protect and improve surface and groundwater quality.
4. Establish more uniform local policies and official controls for surface and groundwater management.
5. Prevent erosion of soil into surface water systems.
6. Promote groundwater recharge.
7. Protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and water recreational facilities.
8. Secure the other benefits associated with the proper management of surface and groundwater.

In 1992, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) developed rules (Minnesota Rules Chapter 8410) for the content of watershed management plans. The rules require, among other items, more specificity in citizen participation, control of erosion and sedimentation, wetland assessment, and the design of new stormwater conveyance, ponding, and treatment systems. The rules also require the establishment of the necessary authorities to ensure implementation of programs.

1.2.2. BCWMC Goals

With this Plan, the BCWMC's general purposes are similar to those stated above and are reflected in the goals and policies sections stated later in this Plan. The BCWMC's general goals fall under the categories of water quality, flood control, erosion and sediment control, stream restoration, wetland management, groundwater, public ditches, and public involvement and information. The goals are to:

- Manage the water resources of the watershed, with input from the public, so that the beneficial uses of wetlands, lakes, and streams remain available to the community.
- Improve the quality of stormwater runoff reaching the Mississippi River by reducing the nonpoint source pollution (including sediment) carried as stormwater runoff.
- Protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and maintain shoreland integrity.
- Reduce flooding along the Bassett Creek trunk system.
- Protect human life, property, and surface water systems that could be damaged by flood events.
- Regulate stormwater runoff discharges and volumes to minimize flood problems, flood damages, and the future costs of stormwater management systems.
- Provide leadership and assist member cities with coordination of intercommunity stormwater runoff planning and design.
- Prevent erosion and sedimentation to the greatest extent possible to protect the BCWMC's water resources from increased sediment loading and associated water quality problems.
- Implement soil protection and sedimentation controls whenever necessary to maintain health, safety, and welfare.
- Implement stream restoration measures whenever necessary to maintain health, safety, and welfare.
- Maintain or enhance the natural beauty and wildlife habitat value of Bassett Creek.

- Achieve no net loss of wetlands in the BCWMC, in conformance with the Minnesota WCA
- and associated rules.
- Protect the quantity and quality of groundwater resources.
- Manage public ditches in a manner that recognizes their current use as urban drainage systems.
- Raise awareness of the watershed's existence and the role that the BCWMC plays in protecting water quality and preserving the watershed's health and aesthetics.
- Enable the target audiences to have confidence in the BCWMC's expertise and participate in a meaningful way in the planning process and ongoing projects conducted by the BCWMC.
- Raise awareness of the impact that individuals, businesses, and organizations have upon water quality and motivate these audiences to change personal/corporate behavior that has a negative impact on water quality and the watershed.

1.3 Land and Water Resource Inventory

The Plan contains information on climate and precipitation, topography, soils, geology and groundwater resources, land use and public utilities, surface water resource information, natural communities and rare species, and pollutant sources in the BCWMC. This information is important because it is the foundation information that describes the condition of the watershed and it affects decisions about infrastructure, development, and ecological preservation.

For example, average weather poses little strain on the typical drainage system, but extremes in precipitation and snowmelt are important design considerations for flood control systems.

Understanding the topography of the watershed helps determine drainage patterns. The information gained from a soil survey allows for proper planning of drainage systems and increases the awareness of potential flooding issues. Similarly, information about geology and groundwater resources, land use and public utilities, surface water resource information, natural communities and rare species, and pollutant sources provides the BCWMC with valuable information for planning purposes.