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Memorandum

To: Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission
From: Barr Engineering Company
Subject: Item 6C – Comments on Medicine Lake TMDL Public Meeting
Date: November 11, 2009
Project: 23/27 051 2009 030

6C. Comments on Medicine Lake TMDL Public Meeting

Recommended/requested Commission actions:

1. Information only, no action needed.

Staff attended the Medicine Lake TMDL public meeting held on October 29, 2009. Attendance at the meeting included MPCA staff, TMDL consultants, Steering Committee members (Commissioners and city staff), plus a number of citizens. Significant comments/questions brought up at the meeting included:

- In response to a citizen question regarding when Medicine Lake water quality improvements could be expected, MPCA staff (John Erdmann) responded that it could take 20 – 30 years for the lake to reach its goal.
- There were many questions, comments, and concerns regarding the post-TMDL monitoring proposed in the draft TMDL report, which calls for a number of activities, including lake water quality monitoring, BMP effectiveness monitoring (including monitoring of individual BMP effectiveness), detailed watershed load monitoring studies five years after TMDL approval, and BMP implementation monitoring by BCWMC. It is not clear who is responsible for all of these possible monitoring activities and exactly what would be required.
- There was a question about the selection of 2006 as the year to define allowable total phosphorus loads, when it was not the year with the worst water quality conditions. MPCA staff responded that 2006 was selected because it was a typical precipitation year and internal loading was less evident that year (the TMDL assumes all of the internal loading is controlled—i.e., no phosphorus loading from internal sources).
- MPCA staff noted that Plymouth Creek could be placed on the impaired waters list in the future, even though it is an intermittent stream (it is not on the draft 2010 list).