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## Memorandum

**To:** Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission  
**From:** Barr Engineering Company  
**Subject:** Item 6E – Grants Update  
**Date:** November 11, 2009  
**Project:** 23/27 051 2009 030

### 6E. Grants Update

#### **Recommended/requested Commission actions:**

1. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Surface Water Assessment Grants – Information only, no action needed.
2. Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Clean Water Fund Grants – Decide how much grant money to apply for in the Commission’s Clean Water Fund Grants application.
3. Hennepin County Riparian Restoration and Stream Bank Stabilization Program Grants – Prepare a letter to the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners requesting continuation of the grant program.

#### **MPCA Surface Water Assessment Grants and Monitoring**

After discussions with MPCA staff, it was concluded that extended E. coli monitoring would not be eligible for the grant because the stream has already been assessed and listed as impaired for that parameter. The deadline for submitting an application for a Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG) was November 6<sup>th</sup>. Prior to the deadline, BCWMC staff looked into whether extended E. coli monitoring on Bassett Creek could be eligible for SWAG funding. E. coli sampling of Bassett Creek began in July 2008 and is slated to continue through June 2010. The Commission is paying for the sample collection, while the MPCA is paying for the laboratory analysis of the samples. In addition to collecting water samples, the Commission has been obtaining streamflow measurements, but only since September 2009. There has been some interest expressed in extending the E. coli monitoring through September 2010, to allow for more paired E. coli and streamflow measurements.

The MPCA plans to monitor all major watersheds in Minnesota on a ten-year rotational basis, and will therefore be targeting six to eight major watersheds each year. The MPCA will be monitoring “target watersheds” during the period covered by the SWAG (2010 and 2011 field seasons). The Mississippi River watershed in the metro area is one of these target watersheds, and Bassett Creek is a target stream site for the monitoring.

MPCA staff indicated that the MPCA plans to collect biological data (fish, invertebrates and vegetation) at two sites on Bassett Creek. One site is on the Main Stem, just downstream of Penn Avenue (not far from the WOMP station), and the other site is on Plymouth Creek, downstream of 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The MPCA will also be using the WOMP station to monitor water chemistry and field parameters. E. coli will also be monitored at the WOMP station. On Plymouth Creek, the MPCA will collect water chemistry grab samples (including E. coli) and field parameters. The BCWMC's monitoring efforts on the creek were discussed with the MPCA, and they were encouraged to talk with Three Rivers Park District staff about their sampling program on Plymouth Creek.

### **BWSR Clean Water Fund Grants**

At their October meeting, the Commission directed staff to apply for BWSR Clean Water Fund grants for three projects in the Commission's CIP:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Proposed Year(s) of Implementation</b>
<b>Channel Restoration Projects:</b>		
<b>Plymouth Creek, Medicine Lake to 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue</b>	\$965,200	2010
<b>Main Stem, Crystal Boundary to Regent Avenue</b>	\$636,100	2010-2011
<b>Stormwater BMP Project:</b>		
<b>Pond NL-2 (Northwood Lake)</b>	\$943,000	2011-2012

In subsequent discussions with city of Plymouth staff regarding the Pond NL-2 project schedule, we determined that it would be premature to apply for a grant for this project. It was recommended that the Commission apply for a grant for this project next year, after completion of a feasibility study and after the Commission orders project. The project will rank higher in next year's grant cycle because the project will be further along in the process, and it is more likely that the project would be completed within the effective period of the grant (i.e., by December 31, 2012).

The grant application are being prepared for the remaining two projects—the channel restoration projects on Plymouth Creek and the Main Stem of Bassett Creek. Although the local match required for the grant is only 25%, we believe the Commission's application will be weighted more heavily if the Commission requests lesser amounts for each project. We recommend that the Commission request \$200,000 in grant funding for each project. Applications are due December 1, 2009.

### **Hennepin County Riparian Restoration and Stream Bank Stabilization Program Grants**

The City of Plymouth and the City of Golden Valley each requested \$200,000 in grant funding from Hennepin County for the Plymouth Creek and Main Stem of Bassett Creek channel restoration projects.

Hennepin County staff anticipates that the county Board will decide/approve the grant awards in late January or early February of 2010. County staff will be submitting their grant award recommendations to the county Board in December, as part of their Board Action Request. The county received 12

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applications requesting approximately 1.7 million dollars, slightly more than three times the amount available (\$500,000). Total project costs for these 12 projects/applications were an estimated 8 million dollars. County staff will be contacting applicants for additional information and to arrange site visits, etc. Finalists will be asked to provide more detailed information consistent with the content of a feasibility report, including revised cost estimates and/or preliminary designs prior to staff recommending projects for award. The Commission has already forwarded the feasibility studies for these two projects to Hennepin County.

For 2010, \$500,000 of BWSR's clean water fund grants for streambank, stream channel, and shoreline protection and restoration projects was specifically dedicated to Hennepin County. There is no dedicated funding for Hennepin County in 2011. The number of applications received by the county indicates the need for a continued grant program to address the water quality issues in the county. It is recommended that the Commission prepare a letter to the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners requesting continuation of the grant program.