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## Memorandum

**To:** Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission  
**From:** Barr Engineering Company  
**Subject:** Item 6E – BWSR Clean Water Fund Grant and BCWMC CIP Projects  
**Date:** February 11, 2010  
**Project:** 23/27 051 2010 615/620/621

### 6E. BWSR Clean Water Fund Grant and BCWMC CIP Projects

*Note: these two topics are being covered in one memo because the BWSR grant award could impact the BCWMC CIP project schedule.*

#### i. Grant Award and Future Process

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

1. Direct staff to develop work plan for the BWSR grant, and coordinate with Plymouth and Golden Valley as needed

Staff applied for \$500,000 from the BWSR Clean Water Fund grants for two projects in the Commission's CIP—the channel restoration projects on Plymouth Creek and the Main Stem of Bassett Creek. On January 28, 2010, staff received email notification that the Commission's grant application was approved for BWSR funding (see attached email). The Commission was awarded \$360,000 (to see the entire list of awarded funds, go to [http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/grants/2010\\_Competitive\\_Grant\\_Recipients.pdf](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/grants/2010_Competitive_Grant_Recipients.pdf)). The cities of Plymouth and Golden Valley also each applied for a Hennepin County grant for the same two projects. The source of the Hennepin County grant funding is also through the clean water amendment. Staff has been informed that both projects were approved for funding by Hennepin County. The Plymouth Creek project is to receive \$155,000 and the Main Stem project is to receive \$135,000 (\$290,000 total) (*this information needs to be confirmed*). This brings the total grant award funds for both projects to \$650,000.

Before the grant money is released to the BCWMC, the Commission will need to 1) sign a grant agreement and 2) prepare a work plan. Once BWSR receives the signed grant agreement and approved the work plan, BWSR will release the funds. BWSR staff indicated that is likely 100% of the funds would be released at that time. The grant agreement will be sent to BCWMC by early March and the work plan will likely be due at the end of April.

After the funds have been released, the BCWMC will be required to make project updates twice a year (probably August and February) in eLINK. The project updates would cover items such as design progress, construction progress and the amount of money spent. At the end of the project, the BCWMC will need to prepare a final report/fact sheet (two to three pages) suitable for posting on the BCWMC and BWSR website. This final report, along with a map of the project (in GIS), will need to be entered in the eLINK system.

BWSR staff indicated that they will coordinate with Hennepin County and BWSR staff to avoid double-reporting in eLINK by BCWMC, Plymouth, Golden Valley, and Hennepin County.

## ii. BCWMC CIP Project Schedule

### Recommended/requested Commission actions:

1. Decide to either 1) reduce ad valorem tax levy for 2011 or 2) accelerate the CIP project schedule, by moving up to 2011 the North Branch channel restoration project (originally scheduled for 2012).
2. Direct staff to prepare a minor plan amendment for the 2011 CIP project(s) (Main Stem and possibly North Branch) and the modification of the Wirth Lake outlet structure, and to submit the minor plan amendment to the appropriate authorities in early April.

The Commission approved the revised BCWMC CIP at their January 21, 2010 meeting. The CIP now calls for the following projects in 2010—2012:

Year	Project Description	Project Number	Estimated Cost	Proposed Assessment
2010	Restore Main Stem Channel, Crystal Border to Regent Ave.-Golden Valley/Crystal	2010CR	\$636,000 <sup>1</sup>	\$ 34,800-2010 <sup>4</sup> \$601,200-2011
2010	Restore Plymouth Creek, Medicine Lake to 26 <sup>th</sup> Ave-Plymouth	2010CR	\$965,000 <sup>2</sup>	\$902,462-2010 <sup>4</sup>
2011	Restore Main Stem Channel, Duluth St. to Crystal Border-Golden Valley	2011CR	\$780,000 <sup>3</sup>	\$398,800-2011 \$381,200-2012
2012	Restore North Branch, 36 <sup>th</sup> Ave to Bassett Creek Park-Crystal	2012CR	\$660,000 <sup>3</sup>	\$618,800-2012 \$ 41,200-2013

<sup>1</sup>August 2009, *Feasibility Report for Bassett Creek Restoration Project*

<sup>2</sup>July 2009, *Feasibility Report for Plymouth Creek Restoration Project*

<sup>3</sup>Bassett Creek CIP, 2008 Cost Update

<sup>4</sup>Approved 2010 Assessment

With the coming receipt of significant grant funds (\$650,000), the Commission needs to make a decision whether to use the grant funds to 1) reduce the 2011 ad valorem tax levy, or 2) accelerate the CIP project schedule. While the economic benefits of reducing the ad valorem tax levy are obvious, there are benefits

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to accelerating the CIP project schedule. Aside from the benefit of completing water quality improvement projects sooner, accelerating the schedule would put the BCWMC in an even stronger position to receive future grant funding because the BCWMC could show how they used past grant funds to accelerate the improvement of water quality in the watershed. There would also be economic benefits—since construction activity is slow, very favorable bids are being obtained on projects, up to 25% - 40% less than what would typically be expected.

If the Commission decides to accelerate the CIP project schedule, staff recommends that the North Branch channel restoration project scheduled for 2012 be moved up to 2011, assuming the City of Crystal agrees to the changed schedule. This would also affect the remainder of the CIP project schedule; the TAC will need to discuss this at a future TAC meeting and make a recommendation to the Commission about the revised schedule.

For the project(s) slated for 2011, a minor plan amendment will need to be prepared to include the project(s) in the BCWMC CIP. BWSR must act within 45 days on the minor plan amendment request, but Hennepin County needs 90 days to review and approve the minor plan amendment. To receive Hennepin County approval by July, the minor plan amendment needs to be submitted in early April. The information contained in the resource management plan should be sufficient for staff to prepare the minor plan amendment.

On a related note, the draft Wirth Lake TMDL includes a project to modify the Wirth Lake outlet structure. There is money already available for this project from a previous Wirth Lake water quality improvement project that did not get constructed. This project is not currently in the BCWMC CIP, so a minor plan amendment will be needed to add this project to the CIP.

In 2009, the feasibility studies for the Plymouth Creek and Main Stem projects were presented to the Commission at their August meeting and the Commission held the public hearing and ordered the projects at their September meeting. Assuming the Commission wishes to follow the same process this year, the Commission should order preparation of the feasibility study(ies) no later than the Commission's June meeting.

## Karen Chandler

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**To:** Karen Chandler  
**Subject:** FW: BWSR Competitive Grant Notification

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**From:** Len Kremer  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2010 9:40 AM  
**To:** Karen Chandler  
**Subject:** FW: BWSR Competitive Grant Notification

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**From:** Drewitz, Matt (BWSR) [mailto:Matt.Drewitz@state.mn.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2010 4:29 PM  
**To:** Drewitz, Matt (BWSR)  
**Cc:** Blackburn, Julie (BWSR); Jaschke, John (BWSR); Peterson, Joel R (BWSR); Kean, Al (BWSR); Weirens, David (BWSR); Shaw, Dan B (BWSR); Woods, Steve (BWSR); Zellmer, Wayne (BWSR)  
**Subject:** BWSR Competitive Grant Notification

As you know, the Board of Water Soil Resources (BWSR) is charged with allocating clean water project funds appropriated by the Legislature that are a result of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Constitutional Amendment. In order to achieve administrative efficiencies and to assure a comprehensive evaluation of all proposals, the 2010 BWSR granting process also included State General Funds that had been appropriated for competitive grants to local governments. Earlier today, the BWSR Board approved allocation of approximately \$13 million in funds derived from these sources.

Congratulations! A project that you submitted has been approved for funding. BWSR staff will be contacting you soon to provide details on the level of funding approved by the Board and the granting process, including guidance for completing the project workplan in eLINK.

Demand for available funds was great as BWSR received over 200 applications requesting in excess of \$44 million. Consequently, many quality applications were not funded, and others received a smaller award than was requested.

BWSR looks forward to our partnership in this project and hopefully, others in the future. Please contact your Board Conservationist or Clean Water Specialist if you have any questions regarding your project.

Signed: John Jaschke  
Executive Director