

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

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March 18, 2010

DRAFT

Mr. Brad Wozney
MN Board of Water and Soil Resources
520 Lafayette Road N.
St. Paul, MN 55155

**Re: Minor Plan Amendment—Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission's
September 2004 "Watershed Management Plan"**

Dear Mr. Wozney:

The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) proposes a minor plan amendment to the September 2004 BCWMC *Watershed Management Plan* (BCWMC Plan). The amendment involves three additions to Table 12-2, Water Quality Management and Flood Control 10-Year Capital Improvements Program (CIP):

- One project is proposed to restore the Main Stem of Bassett Creek from Duluth Street in the City of Golden Valley to the City of Crystal boundary; construction is to begin in 2011
- One project is proposed to restore the channel of the North Branch of Bassett Creek from 36th Avenue to Bassett Creek Park in the City of Crystal; construction is to begin in 2011
- One project is proposed to implement one of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) identified in the Wirth Lake Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study, the modification of the Wirth Lake outlet in the City of Golden Valley; construction is to begin in 2011

The remainder of this letter describes the proposed BCWMC Plan modifications in more detail and the minor plan amendment process.

Additions to the CIP— Main Stem of Bassett Creek, North Branch of Bassett Creek, Wirth Lake Outlet Structure

The BCWMC Plan recognized the need to restore stream reaches (e.g., the Main Stem of Bassett Creek and the North Branch of Bassett Creek) damaged by erosion or affected by sedimentation. Section 7.0 of the BCWMC Plan describes the issue, the Commission's policies relating to channel restoration and the benefit of stream restoration in preserving fisheries habitat and minimizing nutrient and sediment loads to the creek and downstream waters. The Commission established the Creek and Streambank Trunk System Maintenance, Repair and Sediment Removal Fund (the Restoration Fund) to address the issue. The Commission decided to assess the cities in the watershed \$25,000 annually to fund channel restoration projects (Restoration Fund). The cities conducted

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inventories of the channel reaches and the BCWMC Plan identified specific problem areas.

As part of the Commission's 2007 annual review of the CIP, the Commission noted that money was accumulating in the Restoration Fund, but there were no restoration projects scheduled for construction. The cities noted that to repair the identified channel erosion and sedimentation problems efficiently and cost effectively, reaches with several problem areas needed to be completed as one project. It was further noted that if the restoration was completed by reach that sufficient money in the Restoration Fund was not available to complete any of the projects.

The Commission decided to identify channel restoration projects by stream reach, prepare cost estimates for the restoration of the reach, prioritize the restoration projects and add the larger projects to the CIP. A reach of the Sweeney Lake Branch of Bassett Creek was restored in 2008-2009 and reaches of Plymouth Creek and the Main Stem of Bassett Creek are being restored in 2010-2011. The principal difference between completing the restoration projects as part of the CIP rather than completing them using the Restoration Fund is the source of the funds. The CIP is funded by ad valorem taxes and the Restoration Fund receives funds from the cities, which could come from a variety of sources.

The Bassett Creek Main Stem and North Branch of Bassett Creek channel restoration projects proposed to be added to the CIP will consist of a variety of erosion control measures including:

- Rock vanes to direct flow away from eroding stream banks
- Check dams to prevent erosion of the stream bottom
- Realigning portions of the stream
- Armoring the banks
- Removing accumulated sediment
- Redirecting runoff that is contributing to slope failures
- Regrading, stabilizing and revegetating slopes and shoreline

The total estimated cost of the two restoration projects is \$1,440,000; \$780,000 for the Bassett Creek Main Stem project and \$660,000 for the North Branch, Bassett Creek project.

Attached is an excerpt from the July 2009 draft *Resource Management Plan for the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission, Proposed Water Quality Improvement Projects, 2010-2016* (prepared for the BCWMC). The excerpt provides background information on the proposed channel restoration projects.

The BCWMC Plan also recognized that future TMDL studies would identify BMPs that would need to be implemented to meet water quality standards and goals for lakes and creeks in the watershed. The possibility of implementing these BMPs was identified in Table 12-3 of the BCWMC Plan. The BCWMC Plan proposed to add these projects to the CIP with a minor plan amendment. The Wirth Lake outlet structure project consists of modifying the existing outlet structure for Wirth Lake to prevent overflow from the creek into the lake during flood periods, which will eliminate the contribution of phosphorous to the lake from those overflows. The project is described in the attached draft *Wirth Lake, Total Maximum Daily Load Report, January 2010*, (prepared for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency).

Minor Plan Amendment Process

In accordance with MN Rules 8410.0140, copies of this proposed plan amendment are being sent to the affected cities, Hennepin County, the Metropolitan Council and the state review agencies for their review and comment. Copies of the minor plan amendment will also be made available on the BCWMC's website (www.bassettcreekwmo.org). Written comments should be sent to the Commission at the address shown below. As provided by MN Rules 8410.0140, the BCWMC will conclude that this is a minor plan amendment and proceed accordingly, unless the Commission hears to the contrary from the MN Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) within 45 days of your receipt of this amendment. Assuming you receive this minor plan amendment on March 30, 2010, the 45-day review period will end on May 14, 2010. As required by the BCWMC Plan, Hennepin County's review period is 75 days, which will end on June 15, 2010.

Thank you for your review of this proposed amendment. We look forward to the approval of this minor plan amendment by BWSR. After approval of the minor plan amendment, but prior to ordering the channel restoration projects and the Wirth Lake outlet modification in the amendment, the BCWMC will hold a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed projects.

Please call either Charlie LeFevere, Esq., the BCWMC's legal representative, at (612) 337-9215, or Len Kremer, P.E., the BCWMC's engineer, at (952) 832-2781 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Chairperson, Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Note: please send written comments to:

Ms. Linda Loomis
Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission Chairperson
c/o Barr Engineering Co.
4700 West 77th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55435

Enclosures

c: Hennepin County – Mr. Joel Settles
Hennepin Conservation District – Ms. Stacey Lijewski
City of Crystal – Ms. Janet Lewis, City Clerk
City of Golden Valley – Ms. Sue Virnig, City Clerk
City of Medicine Lake – Ms. Nancy Pauly, City Clerk
City of Minneapolis – Mr. Steven Ristuben, City Clerk
City of Minnetonka – Mr. David Maeda, City Clerk
City of New Hope – Ms. Valerie Leone, City Clerk
City of Plymouth – Ms. Sandra Engdahl, City Clerk
City of Robbinsdale – Mr. Tom Marshall, City Clerk
City of St. Louis Park – Ms. Nancy Stroth, City Clerk
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Ms. Charlotte Cohn
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Mr. David L. Johnson
Minnesota Department of Health – Mr. Art Persons

Minnesota Department of Agriculture – Ms. Becky Balk
Metropolitan Council – Ms. Judy Sventek
Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission