



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

MEMO

Date: February 7, 2018
From: Laura Jester, Administrator
To: BCWMC Commissioners
RE: **Administrator's Report**

Aside from this month's agenda items, the Commission Engineers, city staff, committee members, and I continue to work on the following Commission projects and issues.

CIP Projects (more resources at <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects.>)

2019 Medicine Lake Road and Winnetka Avenue Area Long Term Flood Mitigation Plan Implementation Phase I: DeCola Ponds B & C Improvement Project (BC-2, BC-3 & BC-8), Golden Valley: At their meetings in September and October, the Commission approved a proposal and additional proposed actions (respectively) from the Commission Engineer to complete a feasibility study for this project. Feasibility study field work began in late September. A project kick-off meeting was held October 6th, a public open house was held November 9th, and a meeting with permitting agencies was held December 8th and a meeting with Met Council regarding the existing sanitary sewer line was held in late December. In late January and early February, the following activity occurred: 1) the MnDNR provided an Ordinary High-Water Level OHWL of 895.3 for DeCola Ponds A, B, and C; 2) the Phase 2 XP-SWMM model was updated to incorporate the Liberty Crossing project; 3) BCWMC and City staff reviewed 3 project concepts and provided feedback on to help direct the grading and concept development, and 4) the Commission Engineer completed the environmental test trench investigation. The field observations indicated no debris and no field evidence of contamination. Project website: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?CID=433>

2019 Bryn Mawr Meadows Water Quality Improvement Project (BC-5), Minneapolis: At their meeting in September, the Commission approved a proposal from the Commission Engineer to complete a feasibility study for this project. A project kick-off meeting was held on October 23rd. A wetland delineation is complete and submitted for approval. Preliminary concepts were developed and discussed with designers for Minneapolis Park and Rec Board. The development and implementation of the project will coincide nicely with the MPRB's planning and implementation of significant improvements and redevelopment Bryn Mawr Meadows Park where the project will be located. A meeting with permitting agencies was held on January 19th. Another meeting with MPRB designers is scheduled for February 13th and a public open house on the MPRB's Bryn Mawr Meadows Park improvement project scheduled for March 8th will include BCWMC representatives engaging residents about the CIP project. Project website: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/bryn-mawr-meadows-water-quality-improvement-project>

2019 Westwood Lake Water Quality Improvement Project (WST-2), St. Louis Park: At their meeting in September, the Commission approved a proposal from the Commission Engineer to complete a feasibility study for this project. The project will be completed in conjunction with the Westwood Hills Nature Center reconstruction project. A kick-off meeting was held November 21st. A wetland delineation was completed and approved. The Commission Engineer has received the architect's survey and building location and is waiting to receive soil boring data. Project concept plans will be developed once soil conditions are known. Two public open houses (Feb 22 and 28) for the Westwood Hills Nature Center reconstruction project will include BCWMC information about the upcoming CIP project. Project website: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/westwood-lake-water-quality-improvement-project>

2018 Bassett Creek Park Pond Phase I Dredging Project: Winnetka Pond, Crystal (BCP-2): The final feasibility study for this project was approved at the May 2017 meeting and is now available on the project page online at

<http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=403>. At the September 2017 meeting, the Commission held a public hearing on the project and adopted a resolution officially ordering the project, certifying costs to Hennepin County, and entering an agreement with the City of Crystal for design and construction. Hennepin County approved the 2018 final levy request at their meeting in November 2017. Project design and permit application development is underway by Barr Engineering (hired by City of Crystal). 50% plans are expected to be presented at the March 2018 Commission meeting.

2017 Plymouth Creek Restoration Project, Annapolis Lane to 2,500 feet Upstream (2017CR-P): All project documents including the feasibility study and 90% design plans are available online at <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=284>. The BCWMC executed agreements with the BWSR for a \$400,000 Clean Water Fund grant and with Hennepin County for a \$50,000 Opportunity Grant and a subgrant agreement with the City was executed. Project design was completed by the city's contractor, Wenck Associates, with 60% and 90% design plans approved by the Commission at the April and August 2017 meetings, respectively. Plymouth City Council awarded a construction contract in early December and construction got underway on December 11, 2018. Grant reports were submitted in late January.

2017 Main Stem Bassett Creek Streambank Erosion Repair Project (2017CR-M) (No change since October): The feasibility study for this project was approved at the April Commission meeting and the final document is available on the project page at: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=281>. A Response Action Plan to address contaminated soils in the project area was completed by Barr Engineering with funding from Hennepin County and was reviewed and approved by the MPCA. The Commission was awarded an Environmental Response Fund grant from Hennepin County for \$150,300 and a grant agreement is in the process of being signed by the county. A subgrant agreement with the City will be developed. The City hired Barr Engineering to design and construct the project. Fifty-percent and 90% designs were approved at the August and October Commission meetings, respectively. In September, design plans were presented by Commission and city staff to the Harrison Neighborhood Association's Glenwood Revitalization Team committee and through a public open house on the project. Bidding for construction is expected in February.

2016 Northwood Lake Improvement Project, New Hope (NL-1) (See Item 8C): Northwood Lake Improvement Project is nearing completion with all major work complete. The storm water tank was fully operational in June and irrigated the fields all summer. Since it began operating the tank has captured and reused 904,000 gallons of storm water. All raingardens are planted and working well. A grand opening of the park was held last spring. Friends of Northwood Lake disseminated water quality educational materials, including BCWMC materials. A semi-annual grant report was submitted to the MPCA in January. The final piece of the project is to install educational signage which will happen this spring.

2016 Honeywell Pond Expansion Project, Golden Valley (BC-4): In spring 2016, the Honeywell Pond Project was bid as part of the City of Golden Valley and Hennepin County's Douglas Drive (CSAH 102) Reconstruction Project. The reconstruction project began in June 2016. Excavation of the pond basin is complete and the disturbed soils around the pond were temporarily stabilized. The force main work was recently completed. The lift station and pumps have been installed and will be connected to the Sandburg Athletic complex this fall. Park Construction is working with Excel Energy to complete the final connection of power to the lift station. Final stabilization of the pond was completed last fall and the area was seeded with a mix of natives including wetland and upland species.

2015 Main Stem Restoration Project 10th Avenue to Duluth Street, Golden Valley (2015CR) (No change since October): The restoration project is being constructed in two phases, each under separate contract. Phase one included stream bank shaping, placement of field stone rock and 12-inch bio-logs, and repair of storm sewer outlets. The first phase of the project began in November 2015 and was finished in June 2016. Turf establishment and minor restoration repairs in Phase 1 were accepted in late October 2016. Repairs to some areas where

flooding impacted rocks or biologists were completed and accepted in mid-December 2016. Phase 1 of the construction project has entered the warranty period.

Phase 2 of the project includes the establishment of native vegetation along the stream, including grasses, wildflowers, shrubs, live stakes and fascines, and cordgrass plugs. The project has been seeded and stabilized and maintenance mowing and spot treatments have been completed. Applied Ecological Services (AES) installed live stakes and fascines this spring and completed the tree and shrub planting along the restoration project. AES will continue to monitor and maintain the native vegetation through 2018. It is anticipated that the total contract amount for both Phase one and Phase two will be within the Watershed's overall project budget.

2014 Schaper Pond Diversion Project, Golden Valley (SL-3) (No change since October): Repairs to the baffle structure were made in 2017 after anchor weights pulled away from the bottom of the pond and some vandalism occurred in 2016. The city continues to monitor the baffle and check the anchors, as needed. Vegetation around the pond was planted in 2016 and a final inspection of the vegetation was completed last fall. Once final vegetation has been completed, erosion control will be pulled and the contract will be closed. The Commission Engineer began the Schaper Pond Effectiveness Monitoring Project last summer and is in the process of analyzing results.

2014 Twin Lake In-lake Alum Treatment, Golden Valley (TW-2): (No change since January 2017) At their March 2015 meeting, the Commission approved the project specifications and directed the city to finalize specifications and solicit bids for the project. The contract was awarded to HAB Aquatic Solutions. The alum treatment spanned two days: May 18- 19, 2015 with 15,070 gallons being applied. Water temperatures and water pH stayed within the desired ranges for the treatment. Early transparency data from before and after the treatment indicates a change in Secchi depth from 1.2 meters before the treatment to 4.8 meters on May 20th. There were no complaints or comments from residents during or since the treatment. Water monitoring continues to determine if and when a second alum treatment is necessary. Lake monitoring this summer will help determine if a second dose of alum is needed to retain water quality.

2013 Four Season Area Water Quality Project/Agora Development (NL-2) (No change since August): At their meeting in December 2016, the Commission took action to contribute up to \$830,000 of Four Seasons CIP funds for stormwater management at the Agora development on the old Four Seasons Mall location. At their February 2017 meeting the Commission approved an agreement with Rock Hill Management and an agreement with the City of Plymouth allowing the developer access to a city-owned parcel to construct a wetland restoration project and to ensure ongoing maintenance of the CIP project components. At the August 2017 meeting, the Commission approved the 90% design plans for the CIP portion of the project.

Other Work

CIP Project Work and Technical Assistance

- Attended agency meeting for Bryn Mawr Meadows Water Quality Improvement Project
- Set, prepared agenda and attended meeting with MnDNR, TRPD, MAISRC, and Commission Engineer to discuss zebra mussel survey for Medicine Lake
- Reviewed 2017 water monitoring reports, provided comments
- Drafted sub-grant agreement with City of Minneapolis for ERF grant implementation

Administration and Education

- Continued to organize, review, cull, and prepare for scanning the Commission's paper files
- Participated in initial meeting of Hennepin County watershed administrators to discuss Watershed Based Funding

- Developed 2018 BCWMC calendar of meetings and committee information; disseminated to commissioners
- Prepared and submitted grant reports for several grants including:
 - Plymouth Creek Restoration Project Clean Water Fund Grant
 - Harrison Neighborhood Commercial Engagement Clean Water Fund Grant
 - Harrison Neighborhood Blooming Boulevards Met Council Storm Water Grant
 - Northwood Lake Improvement Project Clean Water Partnership Grant
- Communicated with Hennepin County re: Plymouth Creek Restoration Project Opportunity Grant reporting requirements
- Began DNR permit application for herbicide treatment of curly-leaf pondweed, Medicine Lake
- Prepared requests for quotes and contracting materials and disseminated to herbicide contractors
- Drafted agreement with Three Rivers Park District for cost sharing curly-leaf pondweed control project
- Developed responses and recommendations on staff evaluation/Commission direction questionnaire
- Drafted and edited newsletter articles for West Metro Water Alliance Water Links newsletter
- Coordinated with organizer of faith community environmental fair and recruited volunteers
- Reviewed new Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program policies and procedures