



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Commission Workshop to Discuss and Refine Draft Commission Goals Meeting Notes

10:30 – Noon

Thursday July 18, 2013

Medicine Lake Conference Room; 3400 Plymouth Blvd; Plymouth, MN 55447

Attendees: Chair Black, Commissioner Hoschka, Commissioner Hoshal, Commissioner Millner, Commissioner Mueller, Commissioner Welch, Alternate Commissioner Crough, Alternate Commissioner Goddard, Alternate Commissioner Hanson, Alternate Commissioner Tobelmann, Plan Steering Committee Chair Loomis, TAC members Asche, Edman, Long, Oliver, Stout, Engineer Chandler (Barr Engineering), Engineer Williams (Barr Engineering), Kate Drewry (DNR), Karen Jensen (Met Council), Emily Resseger (Met Council), and Brad Wozney (BWSR).

Chair Black opened the meeting at 10:30 a.m. Ms. Loomis summarized the information in the Commission's meeting packet about the prioritization exercise conducted at the previous workshop and mentioned the discussion at the workshop about the goal setting process. Introductions were made around the table. Engineer Chandler provided a summary of the plan section development process. She noted that Barr Engineering is compiling the water quality and water quantity monitoring data. She said they are looking at completing those sections, within the inventory section, in the next three weeks. Ms. Loomis opened the discussion on commission goals and suggested that the group review them by going through the table [Table 1. Draft 2014 Plan Goals] compiled by Ms. Chandler and Mr. Williams. The table was available in hard copy and on a presentation screen in the meeting room.

Ms. Loomis explained that the issues were prioritized according to the priorities set by this group and the residents. Engineer Williams explained that in the tables, the column on the left is the goal language written in the BCWMC's 2004 *Watershed Management Plan* and the column on the right is the proposed goal language. The group began its review with the Water Quality goals. There was a discussion of state standards and the proposed language in goal No. 1 related to "meet state standards." Engineer Williams commented that he reads the proposed language as the Commission will meet state standards as well as the standards that the Commission sets. Chair Black said that she sees the state standards as the floor, so to speak, that the Commission has to meet, and if the Commission wants to go beyond those standards, it would be a different standard from the state and would be the Commission's standard. Commissioner Welch wanted to know when in the Plan update process the Commission will set its standards. Chair Black said it seems like it would be the next step after the Commission agrees on its goals. Commissioner Welch wanted to know how Barr Engineering will know what to include in the draft standards. Engineer Chandler said that Barr Engineering would put together draft performance standards, as part of its policies and strategies section, for people to react to and to discuss at another workshop. She said that Barr Engineering is recommending that approach because it seems effective for people to have something to look at and revise. Mr. Wozney asked if it is the Commission's goal to de-list all of its impaired water bodies in the next 10 years, because he interprets the language in goal No. 1 as broadly saying so. He said that some groups will set interim goals, like the quantifiable goal of de-listing four water bodies. There was a discussion of goals versus strategies. Ms. Jensen said that when she hears the words standards, it references the specific numerical standards set by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. She explained

that those standards are in a revision process, which likely will be done in the next five years. There was more discussion. Commissioner Welch summarized that in response to Mr. Wozney's question, the Commission answers yes. Engineer Chandler noted that the word surface should be added to the language to read "Manage the surface water resources..."

The group had no comments on goal No. 2. The group discussed goal No. 3 and agreed to revisions in the wording. There was discussion regarding the phrase "from developed areas" in goal No. 4 and whether the phrase was too specific. The group agreed to let the Plan Steering Committee reword the wording of goal No. 4. There were no comments on goals No. 5, 6, or 7. Mr. Wozney asked if goal No. 8 is a goal or a strategy. Ms. Loomis said that his point is noted. There were no comments on goal No. 9. Chair Black suggested that due to time, the group should start reviewing just the goals highlighted in the table to indicate they have changes compared to the 2004 goals. The group agreed and skipped over goal No. 10. There was agreement to remove the words "whenever necessary" from goal No. 11, and goal No. 12 was skipped.

Commissioner Welch remarked that to him goal No. 13 is written to say that the BCWMC is not going to do it itself and won't take a leadership position. There was discussion. Commissioner Welch requested that staff come up with different language that would be a more affirmative statement of the watershed's interest in exercising its role as best as possible in its efforts to protect ground water resources. He said that the Commission as a water management entity has responsibility for the waters of the state and that includes both surface water and ground water. Ms. Chandler suggested keeping the language for this policy the same as is written in the 2004 Plan and then using the proposed goals No. 13 and No. 14 as strategies. The group agreed.

No changes were made to goals No. 15 and No. 16. Mr. Wozney commented on the word "promote" in goal No. 17 and said that BWSR (the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources) is not a huge fan of that word. The group suggested different words, and Mr. Wozney agreed that, from BWSR's perspective, "strengthen" would be a better word. The discussion moved onto Emerging Issues. There was discussion of goal No. 19, and the group decided to have the Plan Steering Committee rework it. Engineer Chandler noted that she liked Ms. Drewry's rewording suggestion: "manage the adverse impacts of harmful aquatic invasive species". There were no comments on goal No. 20. Commissioner Welch said that he would e-mail to Administrator Jester a link to the presentation about a study that was done in the City of Minneapolis and the City of Victoria. He recommended that the Commission coordinate having this presentation made at a future meeting. The group agreed to remove goal No. 21 from the goal list and to turn it into a strategy.

Having made it through all of the highlighted goals, the group went back to review the skipped over goals. There was a discussion of goals No. 9 and No. 10, and the group agreed to combine them. Mr. Williams suggested new wording and the group agreed. Commissioner Welch requested that goal No. 12 be revised to be a more ambitious goal. Ms. Drewry suggested that the goal be a net gain of wetlands. There was a long discussion and several suggestions were made. Mr. Wozney took the suggestions and recommended "improve net function of wetlands in the watershed." Regarding goal No. 15, Engineer Chandler asked if a public ditch goal was necessary. Mr. Wozney stated that under BWSR's new rules, the Commission wouldn't need a ditch goal. The group decided that it could eliminate goal No. 15, and that concluded the review of the draft 2014 Plan goals.

Ms. Loomis announced that the Plan Steering Committee will meet next Monday and will plan the next steps. Commissioner Welch said that he had some other comments, which he would e-mail to Ms. Loomis, Administrator Jester, and Engineers Chandler and Williams.