



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Next Generation Plan Steering Committee Meeting Notes

4:00 p.m ~ Monday July 7, 2014
Golden Valley City Hall

Attendees: Committee Chair Linda Loomis; Commissioner Ginny Black; Commissioner Clint Carlson; Alternate Commissioner Lisa Goddard; TAC member Joe Fox; Engineers Karen Chandler and Greg Williams; Administrator Laura Jester

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Loomis called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

2. Approve Meeting Notes from May 19, 2014 and June 9, 2014 Plan Steering Committee Meetings

There were no changes suggested for these meeting notes. Consensus to approve as presented.

3. Review Draft Policies for Chlorides and Climate Change

Administrator Jester noted that the Met Council is reporting very high chloride levels at the Bassett Creek WOMP station over several years. Chair Loomis indicated she understands the chloride concentrations may be leveling off but have not decreased as other pollutants levels have in recent years. The group discussed the draft policies presented that would be included in the Water Quality section of the Plan. Commissioner Black noted that according to Derek Asche, the MPCA recently commissioned Fortin Consulting to develop a large spreadsheet of alternative deicers and best practices. She wondered if that should be incorporated into the policies. After more discussion, the group decided to combine draft policies #1 and #2 (from agenda) into one, more general (broad) policy and use the terms "alternative practices, innovative practices, and/or emerging technologies" rather than listing specific practices. Staff is to bring revised policy to the Commission workshop. The group decided draft policy #3 (from agenda) was okay as written.

Administrator Jester noted that one goal for the Plan, approved by the Commission, is related to gaining a better understanding of climate change and its impact on water resources and infrastructure. The group discussed how the term "climate change" is controversial and wondered if the goal should be reworded. Jester reminded them the goal was already approved by the Commission and noted it could be a lengthy discussion if it were brought back to the Commission. The group decided to leave the goal as written but reworded the draft policies as such:

1. The BCWMC will pursue opportunities to collaborate with state agencies and other entities in the development of action plans (or similar management tools) related to the response of surface and groundwater resources to long-term changes in precipitation and hydrology.
2. The BCWMC will continue to monitor water quantity and quality in the watershed, and will seek opportunities to contribute BCWMC data to other datasets, for the purpose of assessing the response of surface and groundwater resources to long-term changes in precipitation and hydrology.

4. Review Wetland Policies

Policy #97: The group had questions about whether or not function and value assessments are required with WCA delineations or applications; who attends technical evaluation panels; and under what circumstances the Commission would require function and value assessments – for wetlands on the parcel, in the project area, or only those potentially impacted. The group thought it would be a good idea to require cities to keep a database of assessment results if the city does not have a comprehensive wetland management plan.

For the first bullet in the policy, the group considered deleting the second half of the sentence and simply stating that cities should complete a comprehensive management plan or perform assessments as required by WCA. As part of the first bullet or as a new bullet, the group recommended adding the requirement that cities keep a wetland database (as noted in previous paragraph). For the second bullet, they wondered if that was redundant with the first bullet. They also thought the third bullet could be combined with the second bullet.

Staff will take these suggestions, revise the policy and bring back to this committee.

Policy #98: The group discussed what protections could be granted to wetlands besides buffers already established in policy #100. After much discussion it was decided that cities should be required to regulate the amount of bounce within and discharge from Manage 1 and Preserve wetlands and the same should be encouraged for Manage 2 and 3 wetlands. Staff is to revise the policy and bring it back to this committee.

Policy #99: Okay as written.

Policy #100: Okay as written (previously discussed and decided)

Policy #101: Okay as written

Policy #102: Okay as written

Policy #103: Will be moved to the Administrative Section, as noted.

Policy #103a: Okay with this new policy but change “encourages” to “prefers.”

Policy #103b: Okay as written.

Policy #103c: There was much discussion about this draft policy and the possible implications on current (Schaper Pond) and future projects. Commissioner Black noted decisions made by Plymouth 20 years ago to use existing wetlands as stormwater treatment facilities and how they are now problematic due to flooding. She cautioned cities against this practice and said she thought the Commission should require that no wetland (not just those classified as “Preserve”) be used as a stormwater treatment facility. The group decided the inclusion of only “Preserve” wetlands be kept in the policy (as written) but that the phrase “or wetlands not currently used as stormwater treatment” be included in the policy. The policy will be revised and sent to the Commission at a workshop for discussion.

Policy #103d: This policy will be split into two policies. There was some discussion about whether or not the Commission would “support” (financially) wetland restoration projects. After reviewing the new “eligible project costs” table it was decided to leave language in the policy as “encourage.”

There was some discussion about the Wetland Health Evaluation Program. Mr. Fox reported that although he volunteers for the program, Golden Valley does not financially support the program. Commissioner Black indicated the Commission should consider funding WHEP in future budgets.

5. Review Revised Ditch Policies

Administrator Jester noted that Counsel LeFevere had reviewed the previous draft policies and offered revisions.

Policy #104: After some discussion about ditch authority and how the former ditches would be managed if the ditch authority was transferred to cities, the group decided to include in the policy the fact that the Commission along with cities would manage the streams. The policy will also be revised with language indicating the former ditches would be managed in the same manner as current non-ditch streams including the Bassett Creek mainstem and major tributaries. Revised language will go to the Commission workshop.

Policy #105: Okay as written.

Policy #106: Okay as written.

6. Review Shoreland Management Policies

Policy #107: Administrator Jester noted that this policy was previously considered by the committee during a different discussion and is slated to go to a Commission workshop.

Policy #108: Administrator Jester noted this policy was also previously discussed and approved. However, she noted that she heard about new grants to help with AIS control. She would incorporate language on the grants into this policy.

Policy #109 and 110: These were already approved in the Water Quality section of the Plan and will be moved to the Shoreland Management section.

7. Review Recreation, Habitat, and Wildlife Policies

Policy #111: The group agreed with the policy but a reference to the buffer policy will be added as well as an encouragement regarding the limited use of impervious surface or use of pervious materials to help reduce runoff to nearby waterbodies.

Policy #112: Okay as written.

Policy #113: "Uplands" will be added to the list of habitats.

Policy #114: "Wetland modification" will be changed to "wetland restoration or creation" and "development" will be added to the list.

Policy #115: Okay as written.

Policy #116: Okay as written.

8. Set Commission Workshop

The group agreed to hold the next Commission Workshop on Monday August 11th at 4:00 – 6:00. Administrator Jester will find an appropriate venue.

This meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.