



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

**Minutes of Regular Meeting
Thursday, August 19, 2021
8:30 a.m.**

Via video conference due to the COVID-19 global pandemic

1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

On Thursday, August 19, 2021 at 8:31 a.m. via video conference. Vice Chair Welch brought the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) to order.

Commissioners, city staff, and others present

City	Commissioner	Alternate Commissioner	Technical Advisory Committee Members (City Staff)
Crystal	Dave Anderson	<i>Vacant Position</i>	Mark Ray
Golden Valley	Stacy Harwell	Jane McDonald Black	Eric Eckman, Jeff Oliver, RJ Kakach, Drew Chirpich
Medicine Lake	Clint Carlson	Gary Holter	<i>Absent</i>
Minneapolis	Michael Welch	Jodi Polzin	Liz Stout, Katie Kowalczyk
Minnetonka	Mike Fruen	<i>Vacant Position</i>	Leslie Yetka
New Hope	<i>Absent</i>	Patrick Crough	Megan Hedstrom
Plymouth	<i>Absent</i>	Jim Prom	Ben Scharenbroich
Robbinsdale	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Vacant Position</i>	Marta Roser, Richard McCoy
St. Louis Park	Jim de Lambert	Angela Lawrence	Erick Francis
Administrator	Laura Jester, Keystone Waters		
Engineers	Karen Chandler and Meg Rattei, Barr Engineering		
Recorder	<i>Absent</i>		
Legal Counsel	Sarah Sonsalla, Kennedy & Graven		
Presenters/ Guests/Public	None present		

2. PUBLIC FORUM ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No members of the public were present for the public forum.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner de Lambert moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 7-0, with the cities of Plymouth and Robbinsdale absent from the vote.

Vice Chair Welch made three suggestions for running a smooth meeting: make a motion and a second before having discussions, mute when not speaking and saving the chat for logistical items.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were approved as part of the consent agenda. Item 4A was pulled from the agenda for further review and discussion.

- B. Acceptance of August 2021 Financial Report
- C. Approval of Payment of Invoices
 - i. Keystone Waters, LLC - July 2021 Administrator Services
 - ii. Keystone Waters, LLC - July 2021 Expenses
 - iii. Barr Engineering - July 2021 Engineering Services
 - iv. We All Need Food and Water - July 2021 Administrative and Education Services
 - v. Kennedy & Graven – June 2021 Legal Services
 - vi. Stantec – July WOMP Services
 - vii. Redpath – June Accounting Services
 - viii. Talbott Promotions – Dog Waste Bag Dispensers
- D. Approval of West Metro Water Alliance Updated Education and Outreach Plan

The general and construction account balances reported in the August 2021 Financial Report are as follows:

Current Assets	Capital Improvement Projects	General Fund	TOTAL
Checking	354,473.23	134,728.62	521,473.85
4MP Fund Investment	3,501,105.22	262.12	3,501,367.34
4M Fund Investment	1,483,511.82	37.42	1,483,549.24
Total Checking/Savings August 2021	5,339,090.27	135,028.16	5,506,390.43

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to approve the consent agenda as amended. Commissioner de Lambert seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 7-0, with the cities of Plymouth and Robbinsdale absent from the vote.

4A. Minutes of the July 15, 2021 Minutes – Commissioner Welch requested minor changes in a few areas.

MOTION: Alternate Commissioner Crough moved to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2021 BCWMC meeting. Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 7-0, with the cities of Plymouth and Robbinsdale absent from the vote.

5. BUSINESS

A. Receive Presentation on 2020 Lake Monitoring Results

Commission Engineer Chandler introduced Meg Rattei to present the 2020 monitoring results on Sweeney Lake, Twin Lake and Medicine Lake.

Sweeney Lake

Ms. Rattei summarized the parameters measured. Sweeney Lake has elevated levels of chlorides with levels rising over the years from an average of 208 mg/l in 2017 to 280 mg/l in 2020 in the North Basin. This is failing to meet the MPCA standard. In 2002, average chloride concentrations were 105 mg/l.

Results of 2020 monitoring show that Sweeney Lake met Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and BCWMC water quality standards for Secchi disc depth (a measure of clarity), total phosphorus, and chlorophyll a. Trend analyses show improving water quality with statistically significant decreases in total phosphorus concentrations and increases in water clarity over the last 10 years. The lake met the MPCA maximum standard for chloride but failed to meet the MPCA chronic standard for chloride.

The lake is suitable for many aquatic invasive species such as: for rusty crayfish, faucet snail, zebra mussel, spiny water flea, and starry stonewort and partially meets the suitability requirements for the Chinese mystery snail.

The numbers of plant species and the quality of the plant community improved, phytoplankton numbers declined, and zooplankton numbers declined because fish were better able to see and prey upon zooplankton.

Both the number of plant species in the lake and Floristic Quality Index (FQI) values (a measure of plant species quality) were better than the MNDNR Plant Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) thresholds.

In the spring of 2020, an herbicide (diquat) was applied within portions of Sweeney Lake to control invasive curly-leaf pondweed. The successful treatment reduced CLP frequency in the lake (two locations in June 2020 compared with 13 locations in June 2017). Other AIS species observed in 2020 were yellow iris, purple loosestrife, reed canary grass, and narrow-leaved cattail. The appearance of yellow iris is concerning because it spreads rapidly and competes with native shoreland vegetation.

[Alternate Commissioner Prom joins the meeting.]

Recommendations

- Identify management measures to reduce chloride runoff from the lake's watershed
- Communicate with landowner to request removal of yellow iris
- Continue to provide education and information to residents and lake users to reduce the chance of AIS introduction.
- Continue water quality and biological monitoring at a 3-year frequency

Alternate Commissioner McDonald Black and acting Chair Welch asked where do we start with reducing chloride? Commissioner Welch asked the city staff where the salt is coming from. It was noted that Highways 55 and 100 drain to the lake. Commissioner Harwell noted that MNDOT is handling salt application well and thought the smaller applicators are the problem. Commissioner Welch added that the elder care facility adjacent to Schaper Pond is a big impervious area. Eric Eckman agreed that road authorities have reduced salt use. He noted all residents and businesses have responsibilities to reduce salt. Golden Valley is reviewing their MPCA MS4 permit and reviewing policies, including those related to chlorides.

Commissioner Carlson asked about how much the new street sweeper has been used. Has it been used Highways 100 and 55? Mr. Eckman responded that the City of Golden Valley doesn't have a high-efficiency sweeper yet (cost sharing of a new sweeper is a 2024 CIP project). He noted that Highways 100 and 55 are operated by MNDOT, so it's unlikely excess salt is being swept. Commissioner Carlson advocated that new sweeper be used.

Commissioner Welch pointed out that communication with the Sweeney Lake Association and the elder care facility would be beneficial. He would like the Administrator to develop a focused chloride reduction effort to reduce chlorides in the Sweeney Lake subwatershed.

Administrator Jester acknowledged that this is important and to more closely identify where the chloride is coming from. She summarized the work the Commission is doing on chlorides including coordinating the Hennepin County

Chloride Initiative and the Parkers Lake Chloride Reduction Project. She noted the Isaak Walton League has a program that includes a kit to help educate and monitor salt use.

Commissioner Welch asked that this topic be revisited at a future meeting in the next few months.

Commission Engineer Chandler added that we do have a CAMP volunteer for Sweeney Lake and that perhaps it's possible to add chloride to what is being tested. She also pointed out that Medicine Lake has a lot of highways around it but chloride levels are lower. That could be because of the lake size.

Twin Lake

Ms. Rattei reported that chloride levels met standards but did go up slightly between 2017 and 2020. The total phosphorus easily met the MPCA standard and the trend is no change. Chlorophyll-a met MPCA standards and shows a statistically insignificant declining trend. Water clarity also met MPCA standards and shows a statistically insignificant improving trend.

Both the number of plant species in the lake and Floristic Quality Index (FQI) values, a measure of plant species quality, were better than the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Plant Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) thresholds. The 2020 summer average zooplankton numbers were the highest to date, a favorable change for the lake.

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) observed in 2020 were curly-leaf pondweed, purple loosestrife, reed canary grass, and narrow-leaved cattail.

Like Sweeney Lake, the lake is suitable for many aquatic invasive species such as: for rusty crayfish, faucet snail, zebra mussel, spiny water flea, and starry stonewort and partially meets the suitability requirements for the Chinese mystery snail.

Recommendations

- Continue to provide education and information to residents and lake users to reduce the chance of AIS introduction.
- Continue water quality and biological monitoring at a 3-year frequency

Commission Engineer Chandler mentioned that there was an alum treatment in 2015 that was very effective and that is what is keeping the lake in good condition. There was another treatment planned but it is not needed yet. Commissioner Harwell asked that the Twin Lake alum treatment be added to our "library of information" regarding alum treatment.

Medicine Lake

Ms. Rattei reported that in 2020, Three Rivers Park District monitored Medicine Lake for water chemistry (nutrients, chlorophyll a, chloride), water clarity and dissolved oxygen, temperature, and specific conductance, as well as macrophytes (aquatic plants). In 2020, BCWMC partnered with TRPD to add phytoplankton and zooplankton to the monitoring program.

Notably, total phosphorus levels in 2020 met MPCA and BCWMC standards. This is the only year on record that the lake met total phosphorus standards, but the data shows a statistically insignificant declining trend.

Results of 2020 monitoring show that Medicine Lake met the applicable MPCA and BCWMC water quality standards for Secchi disc and total phosphorus, but did not meet the MPCA and BCWMC water quality standard for chlorophyll-a. Trend analyses show no significant change in water quality over the last 10 years.

Zebra mussels were first found in 2017, and over the past few years, they have spread and increased in number. Curly-leaf pondweed was treated in 2020 but curly-leaf pondweed was present in many locations in areas outside of

the treatment area. Starry stonewort was discovered in 2018 and is expanding around the lake. Despite efforts by MNDNR to treat for starry stonewort for 3 years, it is still spreading.

In 2020 there were four invasive species recorded: curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil, starry stonewort, and zebra mussels. Zebra mussels eat so much algae that there may not be enough for other copepods.

Medicine Lake is impaired for fish, but the higher IBI score shows improvement.

Recommendations

- Consider an alum treatment to reduce internal loading and improve water quality.
- Consider completing a Vegetation Management Plan for the lake.
- Assess feasibility of a partial lake drawdown to expose the littoral lake bed to a winter freeze, freezing out curly-leaf pondweed plants and turions (reproductive structures that act like seeds). If feasible and implemented, we recommend working with MNDNR and the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center to monitor impacts of the winter freeze on zebra mussels and starry stonewort.
- Complete an annual herbicide treatment of CLP to reduce total phosphorus loading during plant die off in mid-summer.
- Complete an annual herbicide treatment of starry stonewort to reduce abundance near the boat launch and help minimize its spread.
- Continue water quality and biological monitoring at a 3-year frequency

Commissioner Welch asked the administrator how we take a holistic approach to Medicine Lake management. There was discussion about possibly needing a task force. It was acknowledged that the monitoring data are important to be used to inform management decisions. Administrator Jester suggested collaborating with others (like TPRD, cities of Plymouth and Medicine Lake, and MAISRC) and creating an organized effort. It was noted the BCWMC has an AIS rapid response plan in place and has an APM/AIS budget line.

There was discussion about performing a lake drawdown this year due to the lake's very low water levels and discussion on curly-leaf pondweed treatment locations. However, it was noted that a vast majority of lakeshore owners must agree to the drawdown project and that this is large undertaking that's not possible this year.

Alternate Commissioner Prom offered that the first step should be developing a lake vegetation management plan.

There was consensus that a lake vegetation management plan is a good first step. Commissioner Welch noted he could help determine if a starting a task force is a good idea. Ben Scharenbroich would like to be involved in Medicine Lake discussions. Commissioner Carlson would also like to be involved.

[agenda reordered]

C. Consider Approval of Recommendations from Technical Advisory

The TAC met on July 29th to discuss adoption of a new XP-SWMM model and possible implementation of CIP components by the city of Plymouth at the Four Seasons Mall site, among other minor topics.

Mark Ray reviewed the TAC memo recommendations for the XP-SWMM Model:

- The TAC recommends that the BCWMC direct Commission Engineers to begin the process of updating the H&H model in 2021, starting with the model recently prepared for FEMA (the "storage maintained" version), and complete the update and adopt the updated model as the Commission's official H&H model in 2022. (Work in 2021 would be covered under the Surveys and Studies budget line; the proposed 2022 Operating Budget already includes this modeling work). The Commission Engineers would start by requesting that cities submit 2019 – 2021 data on landscape changes, developments, or projects that would impact the model.
- The TAC recommends that the Commission Engineers annually request that cities submit data for future model updates and that model updates be scheduled not on a regular timeline, but once every few to several years, depending on the amount of new data and changing conditions.

- The TAC recommends that the Commission's Operating Budget include an annual, steady budget for model maintenance to save for years when the more time-consuming (i.e., expensive) model updates are needed and to minimize significant fluctuations in the budget.

Commission Engineer Chandler reminded the group that the current official model (Phase 2) is based on 2015 data. The Commission Engineers updated that model with data current through 2018 to create a new model for FEMA, under an MNDNR grant (the FEMA model). The Commission Engineer would update the FEMA model with the most current data such as new developments, redevelopment, crossings, new surveys, etc. to create the Commission's new official model. There was agreement that it makes sense to update the model.

[Commissioner Harwell departs the meeting; Alternate Commissioner McDonald Black becomes Golden Valley voting member.]

MOTION: Alternate Commissioner Crough moved to approve the TAC recommendations 1A, 1B, 1C. Commissioner de Lambert seconded the motion.

It was noted that Commissioner Harwell attended the TAC meeting and had concerns about the schedule for updating the model moving forward. Administrator Jester read Commissioner Harwell's comments from the Zoom chat window including having a loose plan for updating the model creates a potential for many problems – administratively for the cities and for maintaining the integrity of the model as staffing changes happen.

Alternate Commissioner McDonald Black voiced her agreement with Commissioner Harwell and advocated for scheduling regular updates to the model.

Commission Engineer Chandler noted that during the TAC meeting, there was much discussion about how often to update the model including ideas ranging from once every 3 years to once every 10 years. At the end of the discussion there seemed to be consensus that the model should be updated when there are significant changes in the watershed to warrant an update. She noted that she feels comfortable that after reviewing the data submitted annually by the cities, that the Commission Engineers would be able to make a recommendation on whether or not it was time to update the model. She expressed that updating the model once every ten years isn't wise and that once every 3 to 5 years would work better.

TAC Chair Ray, when asked his opinion, noted that the TAC recommendation was intentionally kept fluid in order to allocate some budget annually to model updates, but to maintain flexibility to address other issues and schedule model updates only when warranted by the data.

Alternate Commissioner McDonald Black expressed concern about not at least scheduling a regular interval to formally check on possible model update needs. There was further discussion about the timing and cost of future model updates.

VOTE: Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 8-0, with the city of Robbinsdale absent from the vote.

Commissioner Welch noted that this topic should be revisited at the next TAC meeting.

BREAK

B. Consider Approval of 90% Design Plans for Parkers Lake Drainage Project and Mt. Olivet Stream Restoration Project

At the June 2020 meeting, the BCWMC conditionally approved the 60% design plans for the 2021 Mount Olivet Stream Restoration and Parkers Lake Drainage Improvement Projects which were prepared by WSB, the city of Plymouth's consulting engineers. Commission Engineer Chandler walked through the review memo and noted that

the memo includes the responses to all comments from the review of the 60% plans and that the Commission Engineers agreed with the responses. She recommended conditional approval of the 90% plans with minor comments, namely erosion and sediment control.

Commissioner Welch asked about a comparison with a prior cost estimate. It was noted that the cost estimate is within the feasibility study's estimate.

TAC member Ben Scharenbroich noted that the optional culvert crossing of the Mt. Olivet stream was removed from the plans because the property owners don't want to pay for it. Mr. Scharenbroich expected the project to go out for bid in October or November.

MOTION: Commissioner Fruen moved to approve the 90% Design Plans for Parkers Lake Drainage Project and Mt. Olivet Stream Restoration Project with Commission Engineer's comments. Commissioner de Lambert seconded the motion.

Commissioner Welch expressed concern about potentially having more riprap than expected and about the class of rip rap used. Engineer Chandler and Mr. Scharenbroich explained that the larger stones are appropriate for the expected flow velocities and will limit the amount needed. Commissioner Welch also asked who will oversee the tree clearing. Mr. Scharenbroich clarified that city staff will oversee it.

VOTE: Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 8-0, with the city of Robbinsdale absent from the vote.

C. Consider Approval of Recommendations from Technical Advisory Committee (continued)

TAC chair, Mark Ray, reviewed TAC recommendations related to the implementation of CIP projects at Four Seasons Mall. He explained that the first recommendation is to start work on a detailed agreement to start the process to design and build the CIP project components that the Commission had previously approved. He indicated that what is important to note is that 100 pounds of total phosphorus will be captured with the project components as originally planned.

Commissioner Welch commented that this an unusual and creative approach – to build a CIP project ahead of future redevelopment. Administrator Jester restated that an agreement with the city would be necessary. She reminded the Commission that the 90% plans had already been approved and may not need to be reviewed by the Commission Engineer again. Mr. Scharenbroich echoed Administrator Jester in trying to minimize engineering costs that the Commission would incur.

Commissioner Welch asked Commission Engineer Chandler for her opinion. She stated that the “devil is in the details” and it depends on if or how much the original plans are changed. Mr. Scharenbroich explained that the majority of the water comes from the north and is already routed into the new pond area and wetland restoration area. Engineer Chandler brought up several points and Commissioner Welch acknowledged there were still issues to work out.

[Commissioner Fruen departs the meeting.]

MOTION: Commissioner Welch moved to approve the following:

- The Commission enter an agreement with the city of Plymouth to construct the previously approved BMPs, provide CIP-fund reimbursement for construction with review and approval of the 90% plans by the Commission.
- No BCWMC funding will be used to create storage or water quality benefits that would be required of any proposed development.
- The current impervious surface area of 11.93 acres be set as the “existing condition” upon which future stormwater management requirements would be based, with a sunset clause of 20 years.

Commissioner Prom seconded the motion.

Commissioner Welch noted that the Commission should be flexible in the terms of the agreement with how stormwater management pollutant removal is “divvyed up” between the CIP components implemented by the city and the future redevelopment.

Alternate Commissioner McDonald Black asked about the cost per pound was to remove phosphorus. Commission Engineer Chandler quickly reviewed the 90% plan review memo looking for that figure but couldn’t find it.

Alternate Commissioner Prom weighed in that the city won’t tear down the building now because of the disincentive for future development.

VOTE: Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 6-1, with the Cities of Minnetonka and Robbinsdale absent from the vote and Golden Valley voting against.

[Alternate Commissioner Prom departs the meeting.]

D. Consider Approval of 2022 BCWMC Operating Budget

At the June meeting, the Commission approved the proposed BCWMC Operating Budget and city assessments for 2022. The proposed budget and assessments were sent to all member cities at the end of June with requests for comments to be submitted by August 1st. Administrator Jester did not receive comments from any city. Staff recommends approval of the 2022 budget and city assessments as approved in June. Alternate Commissioner McDonald Black reminded the Commission that BCWMC had low increases in the past couple of years, and the proposed 2022 budget includes using funds from the TMDL budget to keep down the budget increase, but will likely have to have larger increases coming in future years.

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to approve the 2022 BCWMC Operating Budget as presented. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 6-0, with the cities of Minnetonka, Plymouth, and Robbinsdale absent from the vote.

E. Consider Approval of Minor Amendment to Watershed Management Plan

In April, the BCWMC submitted a proposed minor plan amendment to review agencies and held a public hearing in May. The purpose of the amendment is to update the Capital Improvement Program by adding five projects and removing one project. There were no comments from review agencies (except to commend the Commission for maintaining an updated CIP) and the Hennepin County Board approved the amendment at its August 10th meeting. At the public hearing in May, the Commission heard comments from a Plymouth resident who had questions about how CIP projects are selected and consideration of the cost benefits of projects. He requested more transparency on the CIP process. Administrator Jester is currently drafting a fact sheet outlining the BCWMC CIP process for use on the website and during future CIP updates and plan amendment procedures. Staff recommends approval of the plan amendment.

MOTION: Commissioner Welch moved to approve the Minor Amendment to Watershed Management Plan with the location of item BC-12 be added to the description. Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 6-0, with the cities of Minnetonka, Plymouth, and Robbinsdale absent from the vote.

Commissioner Carlson noted that he would like the Golden Valley Street sweeper cost share project moved to an earlier year.

F. Discuss Potential MAWD Resolutions

At the July meeting, the Commission was asked if there were any ideas for resolutions that could be considered by the MN Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) for their annual resolutions process. No new ideas for resolution were brought forward at that time, but commissioners were given a month to consider ideas. Resolutions are due September 1st.

MOTION: Commissioner Welch moved to direct the Administrator to send a letter to MAWD that notes that BCWMC does not have any new resolutions but reinforces BCWMC's support for soil health and chloride limited liability resolutions. Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 6-0, with the cities of Minnetonka, Plymouth, and Robbinsdale absent from the vote.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Administrator's Report

- i. Comments on PRAP – It was noted that comments should be received soon in order to forward to BWSR so the PRAP report can be finalized.
- ii. Hennepin County Board Levy Decision—Reported on a good meeting with Commissioner Fernando. She is supportive of BCWMC's work and would like the Commission to do even more. She mentioned her desire to hold a large meeting or summit about flooding issues vs. redevelopment in the Bassett Creek Valley.
- iii. Clean Water Fund Grant Application was submitted for the Medley Park Project.
- iv. Report on Salt Symposium—Interesting research happening on different ice melting procedures.
- v. Update on BCWMC Bicycle Tour—Still planned with social gathering outside at Utepils on Bassett Creek

B. Chair

Commissioner Welch introduced Jodi Polzin as the Minneapolis Alternate Commissioner. He also welcomed Katie Kowalczyk with the city of Minneapolis.

C. Commissioners—none

D. TAC Members—none

E. Committees

- i. Report on Education Committee Meeting—They met and discussed the AIS grant project

F. Education Consultant—none

G. Legal Counsel—none

H. Engineer

- i. Report on Work on Hwy. 55 Structure—Reported on newly installed gate by MnDOT which has since been removed and MnDOT understands several permits would be needed for future work.

Administrator Jester showed photos of low water levels around the watershed. There was a brief discussion.

7. INFORMATION ONLY (Information online only)

- A. [BCWMC Administrative Calendar](#)
- B. [CIP Project Updates](#)
- C. [Grant Tracking Summary and Spreadsheet](#)
- D. [Public Notices for Reissuances of MS4 Permits for Multiple BCWMC Cities](#)
- E. WCA Notice of Application, Golden Valley
- F. WCA Notices of Application and Decision, Plymouth
- G. 2021 Minnesota Stormwater Research Council Highlights
- H. [MAISRC Research & Management Showcase – Registration Open](#)

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- Bryn Mawr Meadows Park Project Public Open House: September 7th, time and location TBD
- BCWMC Regular Meeting and Public Hearing: Thursday September 16th, 8:30 a.m, Location TBD
- MAISRC Research & Management Showcase: Wednesday September 22nd, online or in person, U of M St. Paul
- BCWMC Bicycling Tour and Social Gathering: Thursday September 30th, approximately 4:00 start, Utepils Brewery, Minneapolis