BCMWC 2015 Watershed Management Plan

Section 4 – Goals and Policies

Contents

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4.0 Goals and Policies

This section presents the goals set by the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) in the pursuit of its mission and the policies established by the BCWMC to achieve these goals. The policies establish responsibilities for the BCWMC and member cities and serve as decision-making guidelines. Policies address topic areas including:

- Water quality
- Flooding and rate control
- Groundwater management
- Erosion and sediment control
- Stream restoration and protection
- Wetland management
- Public ditches
- Recreation, habitat and shoreland management
- Education and outreach
- Administration

4.1 BCWMC Goals

The BCWMC established goals to address the purposes established for watershed management organizations in Minnesota Statutes 103B (see Section 1). These goals include:

- Manage the surface water resources of the watershed to meet or exceed state standards and BCWMC water quality goals for wetlands, lakes, and streams.
- Improve the quality of stormwater runoff reaching the Mississippi River by reducing nonpoint source pollution.
- Protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat in the BCWMC.
- Take into account aesthetics and recreational opportunities within the watershed when completing BCWMC projects.
- Reduce stormwater runoff volume for the purposes of improving water quality.
- Protect against flood risks along the Bassett Creek trunk system.
- Protect human life, property, and surface water systems that could be damaged by flood events.
- Reduce stormwater runoff rates and volumes to minimize flood problems, flood damages, and the future costs of stormwater management systems.
- Provide leadership and assist member cities with coordination of intercommunity stormwater runoff issues.

- Notwithstanding that which occurs from natural processes, minimize erosion and sedimentation to protect the BCWMC's water resources and health, safety and welfare.
- Maintain or improve shoreland integrity and implement stream restoration measures to maintain or enhance ecological functions as well as human health, safety, and welfare.
- Increase the quality and quantity of wetlands in the BCWMC.
- Protect the quantity and quality of groundwater resources.
- Manage public ditches in a manner that recognizes their current use as urban drainage systems and as altered natural waterways.
- Raise awareness of the BCWMC's existence and its role in protecting and improving water quality, minimizing flooding, and preserving the watershed's ecological functions and aesthetics.
- Strengthen public confidence in the BCWMC's expertise and enable meaningful public participation in the planning process and ongoing projects conducted by the BCWMC.
- Raise awareness of the impact that individuals, businesses, and organizations have upon water resources and motivate these audiences to change personal/corporate behavior that has a negative impact on the watershed.
- Minimize the spread and manage the adverse impacts of harmful aquatic invasive species.
- Develop a greater understanding of climate change and its impact on water resources, including stormwater infrastructure capacity and flooding, and develop strategies to appropriately manage future impacts.

4.2 BCWMC Policies

The BCWMC established policies to guide the BCWMC and its member cities towards the achievement of the BCWMC's goals. Policies serve as decision-making guidelines and establish responsibilities for the BCWMC and its member cities. Policies are grouped by primary topic area, but may address multiple topics and goals.

4.2.1 Water Quality Policies

1. The BCWMC will classify priority waterbodies based on desired water quality standards and other uses of the waterbodies. Table 2-6 lists the management classifications of the priority waterbodies.
2. The BCWMC adopts MPCA water quality standards (Minnesota Rules 7050, as amended) for BCWMC priority waterbodies (see Table 2-7).

3. Member cities shall classify other waterbodies according to the BCWMC classification system and include this information in their local water management plans.

4. The BCWMC will work with stakeholders to manage its priority waterbodies to meet the applicable water quality goals of the BCWMC.

5. The BCWMC and the member cities will implement the improvement options listed in the BCWMC's CIP (Table 5-3) to address the water quality of priority waterbodies based on feasibility, prioritization, and available funding (see policy 110 regarding CIP prioritization criteria).

6. The BCWMC will prioritize water quality improvement projects that are most effective at achieving water quality goals, including non-structural BMPs and education.

7. The BCWMC will cooperate with member cities, the MPCA and other stakeholders in the preparation of total maximum daily load (TMDL) studies for waterbodies on the MPCA's current or future impaired waters 303(d) list, including Northwood Lake and Bassett Creek. The BCWMC will work to align TMDL implementation items into its Watershed Management Plan to achieve efficiency. The BCWMC will work with the cities to evaluate funding options for the TMDL studies.

   The BCWMC may append future studies to this Plan with the intent that they serve as the equivalent to a TMDL study.

8. The BCWMC will continue to identify opportunities to achieve and maintain excellent water quality in priority waterbodies.

9. The BCWMC will continue to monitor its priority waterbodies on a rotating schedule as described in the BCWMC Monitoring Plan (Appendix A). Monitoring may include biota, vegetation, and water chemistry (e.g., nutrients, chloride in streams).The objective of the monitoring is to detect changes or trends in the water quality over time and the effectiveness of efforts to preserve/improve water quality. The BCWMC will determine the appropriate frequency of monitoring under programs funded by the BCWMC.

10. For every year sampling is conducted for the BCWMC's lakes and/or streams, the BCWMC will compile the available monitoring data, include the data in an annual report available on the BCWMC website, and submit the data to the MPCA in an appropriate format.

11. The BCWMC will coordinate monitoring efforts with other programs including:

    - Member city monitoring
    - Metropolitan Council Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP) and Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program (WOMP)
    - Three Rivers Park District monitoring

- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board monitoring
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Citizen Lake Monitoring Program (CLMP) and other monitoring
- Hennepin County River Watch Program

12. The BCWMC requires all stormwater to be treated in accordance with the MPCA's Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS) performance goal for new development, redevelopment, and linear projects. If the MIDS performance goal is not feasible and/or is not allowed for a proposed project, then the project proposer must implement the MIDS flexible treatment options, as shown in the MIDS Design Sequence Flow Chart, or BCWMC approved alternative.

13. The BCWMC will review projects and developments to evaluate compliance with the MPCA's Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS) performance goals, triggers, and flexible treatment options (which are adopted by the Commission as BCWMC water quality management standards) if the projects are located in member cities that have not adopted the MIDS performance goals, triggers, and flexible treatment options, or at the request of the member city. For projects located in member cities that have adopted the MIDS performance goals, triggers, and flexible treatment options, the member cities shall review projects for conformance with MIDS water quality treatments standards, unless Commission review is requested by the member cities.

14. The BCWMC requires public agencies to comply with water quality management standards and policies presented in this Plan in order to maintain or improve water quality of stormwater runoff.

15. Member cities shall not allow the drainage of sanitary sewage or non-permitted industrial wastes onto any land or into any watercourse or storm sewer discharging into Bassett Creek.

16. The BCWMC will maintain a water quality model (e.g., P8) for the watershed. Each year, member cities shall provide the BCWMC with plans for BMPs constructed within their city. The BCWMC will update the model annually to incorporate completed BCWMC capital improvements and BMP information provided by the member cities. The BCWMC will develop a summary report of the water quality model results and provide that report to the member cities to assist in their MS4 reporting.

17. The BCWMC encourages member cities to implement best management and good housekeeping practices to minimize chloride loading to surface water and groundwater resources, utilizing emerging technology, as appropriate.

18. The BCWMC will assist and cooperate with member cities, MPCA, MDNR, MnDOT, other watersheds and other stakeholders in implementing projects or other management actions resulting from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Twin Cities Metro Chloride Project or future chloride TMDL.

4.2.2 Flooding and Rate Control Policies

19. The BCWMC will maintain a Flood Control Emergency Repair Fund for funding emergency repairs of the BCWMC Flood Control Project features.

20. The BCWMC will maintain a Long-Term Maintenance Fund with annual assessments. The BCWMC will use the Long-Term Maintenance Fund to fund major repairs and major maintenance of the BCWMC Flood Control Project features (Flood Control Project features are listed in Table 2-8).

21. The BCWMC will regularly inspect the BCWMC Flood Control Project system, including water level control and conveyance structures, and perform the follow-up reporting. This is part of the BCWMC's annual water quality and flood control programs (see Table 5-4).

22. During the first five years of Plan implementation, the BCWMC will work with the member cities to determine responsibilities for major rehabilitation and replacement of the BCWMC Flood Control Project features and establish the associated funding mechanisms.

23. The BCWMC will finance major maintenance and repair of water level control and conveyance structures that were part of the original BCWMC Flood Control Project on the same basis as the original project. New road crossings of the creek that were installed as part of the project will be maintained by the city where the structure is located.

24. Member cities shall be responsible for routine maintenance and repair of BCWMC Flood Control Project structures located within each city. Each member city shall be responsible for routine cleaning, including removal of debris, brushing, and tree removal from the BCWMC Flood Control Project features located within their city.

25. The BCWMC will reevaluate flood elevations and flood risk to affected properties based on the most recent NOAA precipitation data (e.g., Atlas 14) and will determine actions for protection, including partnering with and applying for grants from Federal and State agencies.

26. When implementing BCWMC flood risk reduction projects, the BCWMC will identify properties prone to flooding. The most effective and reasonable solutions as approved by the member city will be evaluated. Solutions to be considered may include purchase of the properties, with attention to impact on tax base and other community factors.

27. The BCWMC will develop criteria for the allocation of funding for flood risk reduction projects, which may include the purchase of property prone to flooding.

28. The BCWMC will monitor or coordinate with other entities to monitor water levels on the primary lakes in the watershed. Water levels on Bassett Creek and other waterbodies will be monitored periodically during flooding events.

29. The member cities must implement the BCWMC's development policies, including minimum building elevations of at least 2 feet above the 100-year flood level for new and redeveloped

structures, as outlined in the BCWMC's *Requirements for Improvements and Development Proposals* document (BCWMC, 2015, as revised).

30. The BCWMC encourages property owners to implement best management practices to reduce the volume of stormwater runoff beyond the minimum requirements imposed by the city's MS4 permit, NPDES construction stormwater permit and MIDS performance goal adopted by the BCWMC. Examples of stormwater runoff volume reduction methods include:

    - Reducing the amount of planned impervious surface (as areas develop).
    - Reducing the amount of impervious surface (during redevelopment).
    - Additional infiltration and/or evapotranspiration.
    - Stormwater reuse.

31. The BCWMC and member cities must require rate control in conformance with the Flood Control Project system design and this Plan.

    The BCWMC requires cities to manage stormwater runoff so that future peak flow rates leaving development and redevelopment sites are equal to or less than existing rates for the 2-year, 10-year, and 100-year events.

32. The BCWMC requires the retention of on-site runoff from development and redevelopment projects consistent with the MPCA's Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS) performance goals. These include the retention of:

    - 1.1 inches of runoff from impervious areas for new development creating more than 1 acre of new impervious area
    - 1.1 inches of runoff from new or fully reconstructed impervious areas for redevelopment creating one or more acres of new or fully redeveloped impervious area
    - 0.55 inches of runoff from new or fully reconstructed impervious areas for linear projects creating one or more acres of new or fully redeveloped impervious area (or 1.1 inches from the net increase in impervious area, whichever is greater)
    - If an applicant is unable to achieve the performance goals due to site restrictions, the MIDS flexible treatment options approach shall be used, following the MIDS design sequence flow chart.

    For all other projects, the BCWMC encourages the use of infiltration, filtration, or other abstraction of runoff from impervious areas for all development and redevelopment projects as a best practice to reduce stormwater runoff.

33. The BCWMC will revise floodplain elevations along the trunk system as necessary to reflect channel improvement, storage site development, or requirements established by appropriate state or federal governmental agencies.

34. The BCWMC will allow only those land uses in the BCWMC-established floodplain that will not be damaged by floodwaters and will not increase flooding. Allowable types of land use that are consistent with the floodplain include recreation areas, parking lots, temporary excavation and storage areas, public utility lines, agriculture, and other open spaces.

35. The BCWMC prohibits the construction of basements in the floodplain; construction of all other infrastructure within the floodplain is subject to BCWMC review and approval.

36. The BCWMC prohibits permanent storage piles, fences and other obstructions in the floodplain that would collect debris or restrict flood flows.

37. Where streets, utilities, and structures currently exist below the 100-year floodplain, the BCWMC encourages the member cities to remove these features from the floodplain as development or redevelopment allows.

38. The BCMWC requires that projects within the floodplain maintain no net loss in floodplain storage and no increase in flood level any point along the trunk system. The BCWMC prohibits expansion of existing non-conforming land uses within the floodplain unless they are fully flood-proofed in accordance with codes and regulations.

39. The BCWMC requires member cities to maintain ordinances that are consistent with BCMWC floodplain standards. Member cities must submit ordinances to the BCWMC for review.

40. The BCWMC will review changes in local water management plans, comprehensive land use plans, and other plans, for their effect on the adopted floodplain and Flood Control Project, when such plans are submitted to BCWMC.

41. The BCWMC will update, as necessary, the existing flood profile to reflect any increases resulting from modifications to a flood storage site or the Flood Control Project system, following the approval of those modifications by the BCWMC, local and state agencies, and after a public hearing on the modification plan has been held.

42. BCWMC will review diversion plans to determine the effect of the proposal on the Bassett Creek watershed and such plans will be subject to BCWMC approval. With respect to diversions, the BCWMC:

    - Prohibits any diversions of surface water within, into, or out of the watershed that may have a substantial adverse effect on stream flow or water levels at any point within the watershed.

- Requires that plans for intra- or inter-watershed diversions must include an analysis of the effects of the diversion on flooding, water quality and aesthetic quality along the creek.

- Requires effort be made to ensure that there is no fish migration from one watershed to another.

43. 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 water and groundwater resources to long-term changes in precipitation and hydrology.

44. 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 water and groundwater resources to long-term changes in precipitation and hydrology.

4.2.3 Groundwater Management Policies

45. The BCMWC will review all MDNR groundwater appropriation permit applications in the BCWMC excluding applications for temporary appropriations permits.

46. The BCWMC will work with member cities to consider a program to review development or redevelopment projects which include long-term dewatering within 1,000 feet of priority waterbodies.

47. The BCWMC will collaborate with local and state agencies if/when these agencies develop a groundwater action plan in an effort to gain a better understanding of groundwater-surface water interaction and develop management strategies that consider the protection of both resources. The role of the BCWMC may include:

    - Collaborate with local and state agencies to identify data gaps and attempt to fill those gaps through collection of groundwater level data and/or surface water flow data.

    - Coordinate with appropriate local and state agencies to develop a groundwater budget for the watershed.

    - Coordinate with appropriate local and state agencies to develop and utilize tools to assess surface water impacts and groundwater impacts of groundwater use (e.g., refinement of the Metro groundwater model, synchronization of the BCWMC XP-SWMM model with groundwater models).

48. To protect groundwater quality, the BCWMC requires infiltration practices to be implemented in accordance with the following guidance for determining the feasibility of infiltration:

    - NPDES General Construction Stormwater Permit (2013, as amended)

- Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS) Design Sequence Flow Chart (2013, as amended)

- Minnesota Department of Health's *Evaluating Proposed Stormwater Infiltration Projects in Vulnerable Wellhead Protection Areas* (MDH, 2007)

The BCWMC recommends that infiltration practices be designed with consideration for the following guidance:

- BCWMC's *Requirements for Improvements and Development Proposals* (BCWMC, 2015, as revised)

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's *Minnesota Stormwater Manual* (http://stormwater.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/Main_Page)

49. The BCWMC encourages member cities to educate residents regarding the importance of implementing BMPs to protect groundwater quality and quantity.

50. Member cities shall share groundwater elevation data, where available, with the BCWMC.

4.2.4 Erosion and Sediment Control Policies

51. Member cities shall continue managing erosion and sediment control permitting programs and ordinances as required by their NPDES MS4 permit and the NDPES Construction Stormwater General Permit. These programs must address:

    - Permitting and inspection of erosion controls

    - Erosion and sediment control at individual building sites

    - Requirements and procedures for reviewing, approving, and enforcing erosion control plans

52. The BCWMC will review projects and developments to evaluate compliance with BCWMC erosion and sediment control standards.

    The types of projects that must be submitted to the BCWMC for review, the BCWMC's review procedure, submittal requirements, guidelines, design criteria, etc. are provided in the BCWMC's document *Requirements for Improvements and Development Proposals* (BCWMC, 2015, as revised).

53. The BCWMC requires preparation of erosion control plans for construction projects meeting the applicable BCWMC threshold. Erosion control plans shall meet the standards given in the NPDES Construction Stormwater General Permit (as amended), and shall show proposed methods of retaining waterborne sediments onsite during the construction period, and shall specify methods and schedules for restoring, covering, or re-vegetating the site after construction.

54. Member cities shall perform regular erosion and sediment control inspections for projects triggering BCWMC review and subject to BCWMC erosion and sediment control standards. The member cities will annually report to the BCWMC regarding compliance with BCWMC standards as part of annual MS4 reporting or as requested by the Commission.

55. The BCWMC requires local water management plans to describe existing and proposed city ordinances, permits, and procedures addressing erosion and sediment control.

56. The BCWMC will work with member cities to evaluate end-of-pipe sediment sources and controls. Following adequate source control, the BCWMC may fund removal of end-of-pipe sediment deltas downstream of intercommunity watersheds, or facilitate collaboration among responsible parties to remove these deltas.

4.2.5 Stream Restoration and Protection Policies

57. The BCWMC will continue to maintain a Channel Maintenance Fund through an annual assessment. This fund will be used to help finance minor stream maintenance, repair, stabilization and restoration projects and/or portions of larger stream restoration projects.

58. The Channel Maintenance Fund may also be used to finance the BCWMC's share of maintenance projects that have a regional benefit, or to partially fund smaller, localized projects that cities wish to undertake.

59. Major stream and streambank stabilization and restoration projects will be considered and prioritized by the BCWMC for inclusion in its annual CIP. Stabilization and restoration projects may include any or all of the following components:

    - Restoration of a stream or streambank area to the designed flow rate
    - Restoration or stabilization of a stream or streambank area that has either resulted in damage to a structure, or where structural damage is likely
    - Restoration or stabilization of a stream or streambank to reduce erosion, improve water quality, and improve riparian or in-stream habitat
    - Restoration or stabilization of a stream or streambank to address flooding, mitigation of water quality impairment, or minimizing the potential for water quality impairment

60. Recognizing their benefits to biodiversity and more natural appearance, the BCWMC will strive to implement stream and streambank restoration and stabilization projects that use soft armoring techniques (e.g., plants, logs, vegetative mats) as much as possible and wherever feasible.

61. The BCWMC will consider improving natural habitat and navigability, and will consider the needs of pedestrians when planning and implementing near-stream and in-stream projects, and when rehabilitating existing projects.

62. The member cities are responsible for funding maintenance and repairs that are primarily aesthetic improvements.

63. The BCWMC will take into account aesthetic and habitat values of future flood control and stabilization/restoration projects.

64. Member cities shall maintain and enforce buffer requirements adjacent to priority streams for projects that will result in more than 200 yards of cut or fill, or more than 10,000 square feet of land disturbance. Buffer widths adjacent to priority streams must be at least 10 feet or 25 percent of the distance between the ordinary high water level and the nearest existing structure, whichever is less.

    Allowable land uses, and vegetative criteria for buffers are specified in the BCWMC's *Requirements for Development and Redevelopment* (BCWMC, 2015, as amended). Member cities may allow exemptions for public recreational facilities parallel to the shoreline (e.g. trails) up to 20 feet in width, with that width being added to the required buffer width.

4.2.6 Wetland Management Policies (with amendments effective Aug 2020)

65. The BCWMC requires member cities to inventory, classify and determine the functions and values of wetlands, either through a comprehensive wetland management plan or as required by the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA).

    Member cities shall maintain a database of wetland functions and values assessment results.

    The BCWMC encourages member cities to complete comprehensive wetland management plans as part of their local water management plan or as an implementation task identified in their local water management plan. Completed comprehensive wetland management plans shall be submitted to the BCWMC for review and comment.

66. The BCWMC requires member cities to develop and implement wetland protection ordinances that consider the results of wetland functions and values assessments, and are based on comprehensive wetland management plans, if available. For wetlands classified as Preserve or Manage 1 (or comparable classification if BWSR's Minnesota Rapid Assessment Method (MnRAM) is not used), member cities are encouraged to implement standards for bounce, inundation, and runout control that are similar to MnRAM; member cities are encouraged to apply standards for other wetland classifications.

67. The BCWMC recommends that cities use the Minnesota Rapid Assessment Method (MnRAM) (or similar) wetland assessment method and wetland management classification system. Member cities are encouraged to use such a method for all wetland assessment and classification, but are not required to perform reassessments for wetlands already assessed.

68. Member cities shall maintain and enforce buffer requirements for projects containing more than one acre of new or redeveloped impervious area. Average minimum buffer widths are required according to the MnRAM classification (or similar classification system):

    - An average of 75 feet and minimum of 50 feet from the edge of wetlands classified as Preserve (or comparable classification if BWSR's MnRAM is not used)
    - An average of 50 feet and minimum of 30 feet from the edge of wetlands classified as Manage 1 (or comparable classification if BWSR's MnRAM is not used)
    - An average of 25 feet and minimum of 15 feet from the edge of wetlands classified as Manage 2 or 3 (or comparable classification if BWSR's MnRAM is not used).

    Allowable land uses and vegetative criteria for buffers are specified in the BCWMC's *Requirements for Development and Redevelopment* (BCWMC, 2015, as amended).

    Member cities may allow exemptions for public recreational facilities parallel to the shoreline (e.g. trails) up to 20 feet in width, with that width being added to the required buffer width.

69. The member cities are required to manage wetlands in accordance with the WCA. The BCWMC will assist the member cities with managing wetlands in accordance with the WCA, as requested. The MnDOT is the LGU within its right-of-ways.

70. The BCWMC will serve as the local governmental unit (LGU) responsible for administering the WCA for member cities, as requested (currently Medicine Lake, Robbinsdale, and St. Louis Park).

71. The BCWMC prefers any wetland mitigation to be performed within the same subwatershed as the impacted wetland.

72. The BCWMC requires that member cities annually inspect wetlands classified as Preserve (or comparable classification if BWSR's MnRAM is not used) for terrestrial and emergent aquatic invasive vegetation, such as buckthorn and purple loosestrife, and attempt to control or treat invasive species, where feasible.

73. The BCWMC encourages member cities to pursue wetland restoration projects, as opportunities allow.

74. The BCWMC encourages member cities to participate in wetland monitoring programs (e.g., Wetland Health Evaluation Program).

4.2.7 Public Ditch Policies

75. The BCWMC encourages member cities to petition Hennepin County to transfer authority over public ditches in the BCWMC to the member cities (per MN Statute 383B.61). If authority is transferred to the member cities, the BCWMC and cities will manage these drainages similar to

other BCWMC waterways, in accordance with the BCWMC's latest adopted Plan. Until authority over public ditches is transferred, the BCWMC will continue to recognize Hennepin County's jurisdiction over public ditches in the BCWMC.

76. In consideration for the original function of public ditches to provide drainage of agricultural lands, the BCWMC will support the efforts of other entities to pursue legislation abandoning public ditches on land zoned non-agricultural.

77. The BCWMC will manage abandoned or transferred public ditches that are part of the trunk system consistent with the policies of this Plan. Member cities will be responsible for management of abandoned or transferred public ditches that are not on the trunk system, but are currently part of their municipal drainage system.

4.2.8 Recreation, Habitat, and Shoreland Management Policies

78. The BCWMC will consider developing and implementing a shoreland habitat monitoring program for its Priority 1 lakes to monitor biological and physical indicators and to recommend management actions (to cities or for the Commission's consideration) based upon monitoring results. If implemented, monitoring may include assessment of upland and aquatic vegetation, buffer zones, erosion, sedimentation, and the presence of non-native invasive species.

79. The BCWMC will support and collaborate with other entities (e.g., agencies, lake association, cities, counties) to manage and prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species; BCWMC services may include point-intercept surveys of aquatic vegetation, feasibility studies, technical analysis, education, exploring funding options, and applying for grants. The BCWMC will not manage increased growths of native aquatic vegetation resulting from improved water quality.

80. The member cities are responsible for shoreland regulation and are required to adopt MDNR-approved shoreland ordinances, in accordance with the MDNR's priority phasing list.

81. The BCWMC will promote the protection of natural and native shoreland areas, including the preservation of lakeshore and streambank vegetation during and after construction projects, and the establishment and maintenance of buffers adjacent to priority waterbodies. The BCWMC will seek opportunities to restore disturbed shorelines and streambanks to their natural state where feasible.

82. The BCWMC encourages cities to develop and maintain water-related recreational features (such as trails adjacent to waterbodies and water access points), with consideration for buffers, use of pervious surfaces, and other best management practices to reduce runoff.

83. The BCWMC will take into account aesthetics, habitat, and recreation benefits during CIP project selection and prioritization, and when considering how a project might address multiple Commission goals (see policy 110).

84. The BCWMC will encourage public and private landowners to maintain, preserve or restore open space and native habitats such as wetlands, uplands, forests, shoreland, streambanks, and prairies for the benefit of wildlife through education and by providing information on grant programs.

85. Member cities shall consider opportunities to maintain, enhance, or provide new open spaces and/or habitat as part of wetland creation or restoration, stormwater facility construction, development, redevelopment, or other appropriate projects.

86. The BCWMC will cooperate with the MDNR and other entities, as requested, to protect rare and endangered species under the State's Endangered Species Statute. The BCWMC will review the Natural Heritage Information System during the design phase of Commission projects.

87. The BCWMC will submit data, as available, and encourages others to submit data regarding occurrences of rare and endangered species and native plant communities to the State's Natural Heritage Information System.

88. The BCWMC will consider implementing a grant or cost-share program to fund the establishment of buffers adjacent to priority waterbodies.

89. Member cities shall adopt State buffer and/or shoreland management requirements for public waters in incorporated areas, if and when they are promulgated.

4.2.9 Education and Outreach Policies

90. The BCWMC will develop an education and outreach plan (see Appendix B). The education and outreach plan will identify key messages about watershed management and guidance for distributing that information to specific stakeholder audiences using various, targeted methods. The BCWMC will regularly review its education and public involvement plan and update it, as necessary.

91. The BCWMC will develop and maintain standard BCWMC messaging items to increase awareness of the BCWMC and its role.

92. The BCWMC will evaluate the success of its education and public involvement plan.

93. The BCWMC will recruit volunteers to conduct monitoring and participate in activities sponsored or promoted by the BCWMC and will provide training as needed (e.g., Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program, River Watch, adopt-a-stream, adopt-a-wetland programs).

94. The BCWMC will support cooperative educational and volunteer programs, such as the West Metro Water Alliance, Blue Thumb, River Watch, Metro Blooms, Metro Watershed Partners, Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program, Wetland Health Evaluation Program, etc.

95. The BCWMC will develop and implement a recognition program (certificates, letters of appreciation, events, thank you ads, etc.) for BCWMC volunteers.

96. The BCWMC will update and maintain its website and use it to communicate with and provide information to the public.

97. The BCWMC will seek opportunities to incorporate education and public involvement efforts into all of its proposed projects.

98. The BCWMC will seek opportunities to use a citizen advisory committee to complete tasks meaningful to the Commission.

99. The BCWMC will distribute BCWMC meeting notices and agendas to city officials and key staff. The meeting notice and/or agenda will include a description of the key discussion item(s).

100. The BCWMC will post informational signs at BCWMC projects during construction.

    The BCWMC will consider installing permanent informational signs at BCWMC watershed projects, major BCWMC waterbodies, monitoring sites, demonstration projects, adopt-a-stream/wetland sites, etc.

    The BCWMC will work with cities and other road authorities to install stream identification signs along roads at stream crossings.

101. The BCWMC will regularly hold watershed tours for the Commission and the public.

102. The BCWMC will tailor its communications and educational strategies to present complex and/or technical issues in a manner that is appropriate for the audience.

4.2.10 Administration Policies

103. The BCWMC will fund 100 percent of eligible project costs for those projects listed in the 10-year CIP (Table 5-3). Eligible project costs are listed in Table 5-1. The Commission will determine eligibility of project costs following the completion of a feasibility study for the project. The projects will be funded in accordance with the BCWMC joint powers agreement and (specifically) Minnesota Statutes 103B.251. The BCWMC will follow the process for ordering projects as outlined in its joint powers agreement and summarized in Section 5.2.1.1.

104. The Commission will review projects that trigger BCWMC review. The types of projects that must be submitted to the BCWMC for review, the BCWMC's review procedure, submittal requirements, guidelines, design criteria, etc. are provided in the BCWMC's document *Requirements for Improvements and Development Proposals* (BCWMC, 2015, as revised).

105. At the request of the member cities, the BCWMC will review projects that would not otherwise trigger review per the BCWMC's *Requirements for Improvements and Development Proposals* (BCWMC, 2015, as revised).

106. The BCWMC will review local water management plans for compliance with this Plan's goals and policies.

107. The BCWMC will annually evaluate member cities' compliance with the goals and policies of this Plan (see Section 5.1.1.6). The BCWMC will take appropriate administrative or legal action in response to non-compliance.

108. The BCWMC will review applications for MDNR Work in Public Waters Permits.

109. The BCWMC will annually review and update its 10-year CIP. The BCWMC will re-evaluate new or proposed additions to the CIP annually or as new data or opportunities develop, with consideration for the criteria outlined in policy 110.

110. The BCWMC will consider including projects in the CIP that meet one or more of the following "gatekeeper" criteria.

- Project is part of the BCWMC trunk system (see Section 2.8.1, Figure 2-14 and Figure 2-15)
- Project improves or protects water quality in a priority waterbody
- Project addresses an approved TMDL or watershed restoration and protection strategy (WRAPS)
- Project addresses flooding concern

The BCWMC will use the following criteria, in addition to those listed above, to aid in the prioritization of projects:

- Project protects or restores previous Commission investments in infrastructure
- Project addresses intercommunity drainage issues
- Project addresses erosion and sedimentation issues
- Project will address multiple Commission goals (e.g., water quality, runoff volume, aesthetics, wildlife habitat, recreation, etc.)
- Subwatershed draining to project includes more than one community
- Addresses significant infrastructure or property damage concerns

The BCWMC will place a higher priority on projects that incorporate multiple benefits, and will seek opportunities to incorporate multiple benefits into BCWMC projects, as opportunities allow.

111. The BCWMC defines the trunk system as the collection of waterbodies and natural or constructed conveyances listed in Table 2-9 of this Plan.

112. The BCWMC may review proposed changes to member city development regulations (e.g., zoning and subdivision ordinances) at its discretion or the request of the member cities.

113. Member cities must inform the BCWMC regarding updates to city ordinances or comprehensive plans that will affect stormwater management. Stormwater management elements of the member cities' comprehensive plans must conform to the BCWMC Plan.

114. The BCWMC will annually assess its progress towards the goals presented in this plan, using quantitative metrics where appropriate. The BCMWC will provide this analysis, or a summary, to BWSR, as part of its annual reporting.

115. The BCWMC will work with member cities to assess the financial impact of regulatory controls and identify areas where the BCWMC may assist member cities in meeting the requirements of their MS4 permits.

116. The BCWMC will periodically review its capital improvement program (CIP) process and revise the process, as necessary.

117. The BCWMC will assist in calculating or calculate when necessary, the apportionment of costs between adjoining communities for water resource projects with intercommunity participation.

118. The BCWMC will assist member cities in resolving watershed management disputes, as requested. The BCWMC will follow the dispute resolution procedure described in Section 5.1.1.5 of this Plan.

119. The BCWMC will maintain a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to promote communication and cooperation between the BCWMC and member cities. Member cities shall appoint a technical advisor to the TAC and encourage the technical advisor to attend BCMWC meetings.

120. The BCWMC will continue to rely on member cities to implement the BCWMC's policies at the time of development and redevelopment. Member cities shall inform developers and other project applicants regarding BCWMC requirements.

121. The BCWMC will continue to rely on member cities to issue permits. Member cities shall permit only those projects that conform to the policies and standards of the BCWMC. The BCWMC will review proposed projects after the member city has provided preliminary approval (indicating compliance with the member city's local water management plan) and submitted a signed BCWMC application form to the BCWMC. Member cities shall not issue construction permits, or other approvals, until the BCWMC has approved the project.

122. For CIP projects that have been ordered by the Commission, the BCWMC requires member cities to acquire and maintain easements, right-of-way, or interest in land necessary to implement and maintain projects upon order of the BCWMC (the cost of land acquisition may be eligible for Commission reimbursement, see Table 5-1).

Flysheet Line 1

Flysheet Line 2

Flysheet Line 3