



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

**Minutes of Regular Meeting
Thursday, October 17, 2019
8:30 a.m.**

Golden Valley City Hall, Golden Valley MN

1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

On Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 8:31 a.m. in the Council Conference Room at Golden Valley City Hall (7800 Golden Valley Rd.), Vice Chair Prom called the meeting of the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) to order.

Commissioners and city staff present:

City	Commissioner	Alternate Commissioner	Technical Advisory Committee Members (City Staff)
Crystal	Dave Anderson	<i>Vacant Position</i>	Mark Ray
Golden Valley	Stacy Harwell (Treasurer)	Jane McDonald Black	Eric Eckman
Medicine Lake	Clint Carlson	Gary Holter	Susan Wiese
Minneapolis	Michael Welch (Vice Chair)	<i>Vacant Position</i>	Shahram Missaghi
Minnetonka	Mike Fruen	<i>Absent</i>	Sarah Schweiger
New Hope	<i>Absent</i>	Pat Crough	Megan Hedstrom
Plymouth	Jim Prom (Chair)	<i>Absent</i>	Ben Scharenbroich
Robbinsdale	<i>Vacant Position</i>	<i>Absent</i>	Richard McCoy, Marta Roser
St. Louis Park	<i>Absent</i>	Patrick Noon	Erick Francis
Administrator	Laura Jester, Keystone Waters		
Engineer	Karen Chandler and Greg Wilson from Barr Engineering		
Recorder	Dawn Pape, Lawn Chair Gardener		
Legal Counsel	Dave Anderson, Kennedy & Graven		
Presenters/ Guests/Public	Ted Hoshal, Medicine Lake resident		

2. CITIZEN FORUM ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Welch moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Fruen seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 8-0, the City of Robbinsdale absent from the vote.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were approved as part of the consent agenda: September 19, 2019 Commission meeting minutes, acceptance of the October 2019 financial report, and payment of invoices.

The general and construction account balances reported in the October 2019 Financial Report are as follows:

Checking Account Balance	\$ 569,608.22
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TOTAL GENERAL FUND BALANCE	\$ 569,608.22
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TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENTS ON-HAND (10/09/19)	\$ 4,280,847.84
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CIP Projects Levied – Budget Remaining	\$ (6,830,281.49)
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Closed Projects Remaining Balance	\$ (345,053.42)
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2012-2017 Anticipated Tax Levy Revenue	\$ 7,330.29
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2018 Anticipated Tax Levy Revenue	\$ 8,770.47
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Anticipated Closed Project Balance	\$ (328,952.66)
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MOTION: Commissioner Fruen moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 8-0, the City of Robbinsdale absent from the vote.

5. BUSINESS

A. Receive Presentation on Results of Carp Population Study on Schaper Pond and Sweeney Lake

Administrator Jester noted that at the September 2018 meeting, the Commission approved additional study on the movement and population of carp in Schaper Pond and Sweeney Lake after an initial survey found large numbers of carp in Schaper Pond that may be impacting water quality in the pond and downstream in Sweeney Lake. Commission Engineer, Greg Wilson, gave a presentation with an overview of pollutant loads in Schaper Pond and the final results of the carp study. And, he made management recommendations to consider as part of the grant-funded Sweeney Lake Water Quality Improvement Project.

Engineer Wilson explained that there were a few potential factors that could be limiting the effectiveness of the pond to remove pollutants including limited time to equilibrate to start up conditions after the Schaper Pond Diversion Project, high flows through the pond, carp, watershed construction on Douglas Drive, new upstream water treatment, and changes to bathymetry. He noted it was clear just by looking at the pond that carp were a major factor because they were visible from the surface in three areas of the pond.

Commissioner Welch asked if the baffle (diversion project) made a difference? Engineer Wilson replied there was no evidence of that so far, that total phosphorus and total suspended solids concentrations had increased since the project was complete.

Engineer Wilson reported that a bathymetric survey and initial carp population survey were completed and the carp survey showed that Schaper Pond is likely serving as a carp hatchery. He described how the carp survey was completed by PIT tagging the carp and noted that most of the 206 tagged carp stayed where they were tagged and didn't move between Schaper Pond and Sweeney Lake. He reported that the 2018-19 carp monitoring confirmed large numbers of carp inhabit Schaper Pond and Sweeney Lake at densities five to ten times higher than the threshold associated with water quality impacts. PIT tag monitoring indicated movement between Schaper and Sweeney in the spring, along with upstream movement. There was no movement of the young of year carp confirming that Schaper functions as a nursery.

Engineer Wilson recommended removing as many carp as possible in spring 2020, performing post-removal monitoring, and determining additional actions, if needed.

Commissioner Welch asked if the baffle could have increased the carp population. Engineer Wilson didn't see evidence of that, explaining that there is no impediment to carp movement on either side of the pond, and there is no way to build a structure to impede movement.

Commissioner Welch asked if removing carp from the pond is just temporary solution. There was a discussion about tagging and tracking of carp to better target carp removal.

Engineer Wilson reported the first alum treatment in Sweeney Lake is scheduled for the fall of 2020. It will be followed by post-treatment monitoring. The second phase of the alum treatment will take place some time thereafter.

Commissioner Welch noted that he likes the idea of barriers in addition to carp removal. Engineer Wilson said there are non-physical barriers (electrical current, for instance) that could be considered. The Commission would like to keep apprised of management techniques.

Alternate Commissioner McDonald Black asked if more curly-leaf pondweed is likely to grow as a result of better water quality following alum treatment. Chair Prom shared a similar experience on a different lake where more curly-leaf pondweed grew after an alum treatment.

Engineer Wilson noted that carp are not likely to affect alum treatment because they are in shallow areas and alum is effective in deeper waters. Commissioner Welch mentioned again that he thinks it's important to prioritize the investigation of carp barriers in addition to carp removal.

Engineer Wilson's recommendations include implementing carp removal and control consistent with the 319 grant funded workplan/budget. The project should be designed to:

- Obtain necessary permits
- Drawdown Schaper Pond (water level)
- Electrofish and remove carp from Schaper Pond and Sweeney Lake in the spring of 2020
- Install four baited box nets for carp removal from Sweeney Lake.
- Perform post-treatment carp monitoring. If the post-treatment monitoring shows original carp, we can determine the difference in population before and after removal. Pollutant removal can be estimated from the number of carp removed. The post-treatment monitoring will include looking at longitudinal total phosphorus monitoring.

B. Receive Update on Jevne Park Stormwater Improvement Project

Administrator Jester reported that the Medicine Lake City Council voted not to move forward with the Jevne Park Stormwater Quality Improvement Project at their October 4, 2019 city council meeting. The Commission discussed options for moving forward: putting the project on indefinite hold or removing the project from its 2020 CIP list and

reallocating those 2020 levy funds to a different project. Administrator Jester noted she had discussed the situation with Hennepin County staff and that the timing was such that if the Commission decided to remove the project from the 2020 list right now, the \$500,000 that was allocated to the Jevne Project could be allocated to a different project on the 2020 list before the County Board approves the final 2020 list of projects and levy. She noted that either way, the Commission can and should keep the final levy at its current level – it's just a matter of which projects are officially on the list.

Commissioner Carlson explained that the city council meeting was confusing, at times hard to distinguish fiction from fact, and that there was a brand-new city council member in attendance, and another city council member who may have supported the project was absent. He noted the city had selected Wenck Associates to design the project and that their quote was \$27,000 less than estimated in the feasibility study. He requested that the Commission not remove the project from the 2020 list right now in order to have more time to make sure all facts are presented to the city council.

Chair Prom noted that the Medicine Lake City Council still had not agreed to the language in the draft agreement between the City and the Commission.

MOTION: Alternate Commissioner Crough moved to table discussion of the Jevne Park Stormwater Improvement Project regarding its placement on or off of the 2020 CIP list. Commissioner Fruen seconded the motion.

Discussion: The Commission discussed how approval of the motion would result in giving the city more time to discuss the project by ending discussion of the project at this meeting. Administrator Jester provided a recap of the implications of removing the project from the 2020 CIP list and noted it would not mean a different project that currently is not on the 2020 list would get added. Commissioner Harwell indicated that it doesn't feel like the right time to totally remove the project from the list. Commissioner Welch noted that there are a long list of good projects. Chair Prom noted he wasn't comfortable with this project due to possible construction impacts on the road or adjacent properties.

VOTE: Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 6-2, the cities of Crystal, Golden Valley, Medicine Lake, Minnetonka, New Hope, and St. Louis Park voting in favor of the motion; the cities of Minneapolis and Plymouth voting against the motion; and the City of Robbinsdale absent from the vote.

C. Receive Update on Rice Ponds/Sochaki Park Subwatershed Assessment

Administrator Jester reminded the Commission about a meeting with residents near South Rice Pond about their frustration with the poor water quality in the ponds (including North Rice Pond and Grimes Pond). She noted that Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) is committed to improving Sochacki Park and assessing the ponds. Also, the Sochacki Park Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) group that includes Golden Valley, Robbinsdale, and TRPD recently approved a resolution to create and develop a water resources plan for the ponds. She reported that she and Commission Engineer Chandler recently met with TRPD staff to discuss the scope of the project. Engineer Chandler added that Grimes Pond is outside of the park, but will be included in some of the monitoring and subwatershed analysis.

Administrator Jester informed the Commission about the subwatershed assessment and explained there might be a future request for funding or technical support from the Commission to perform the assessment.

D. Receive Additional Information on Status of Main Stem Erosion Repair Project

Administrator Jester noted that at the September meeting, the city of Minneapolis provided an update and memo on new developments and constraints related to this project. At that meeting, the Commission requested additional information about the implications of these changes. Answers to those questions are included in the memo in the meeting packet. TAC member Shahram Missaghi, Minneapolis, was there to answer questions, but there were none.

E. Appoint Delegates to Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD)

Administrator Jester reported that according to the MAWD bylaws, the Commission should appoint two delegates to attend the MAWD conference and may also appoint alternate delegates. The delegates (or alternates in the

delegates' absence) would represent the Commission at MAWD meetings and would cast votes on resolutions and other business. She noted that ideally, the delegates would attend MAWD's annual meeting in Alexandria December 5 – 7 (or at least the business meeting and regional caucus on December 6).

MOTION: Chair Prom moved to appoint Michael Welch as one delegate. Commissioner Fruen seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 8-0, with the City of Robbinsdale absent from the vote.

MOTION: Commissioner Welch moved to appoint Jim Prom as a second delegate. Commissioner Fruen seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 8-0, with the City of Robbinsdale absent from the vote.

MOTION: Chair Prom moved to appoint Stacy Harwell as the alternate delegate. Commissioner Welch seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 8-0, with the City of Robbinsdale absent from the vote.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Administrator's Report

- i. Reminder: WEDNESDAY November 20 Commission Meeting
- ii. Administrator Jester noted there was progress regarding the manufactured treatment devices (MTD) with MPCA responding to the Commission's letter from July and asking clarifying questions (to which the Commission and partnering watersheds responded) and requested a meeting with watersheds.

B. Chair

- i. Nothing to report

C. Commissioners

- i. Report on Golden Valley Sustainability Fair—TAC member Susan Wiese noted it was cold and wet and that she and Commissioner Harwell were present and talked with a few folks.
- ii. Commissioner Harwell noted she attended a session on effective signage and how to develop educational signage at the Water Resources Conference. She will share the presentation with the Commission.
- iii. Alternate Commissioner McDonald Black noted she met the executive director of BOMA, Kevin Lewis. She shared that this would be a great organization to partner with, particularly on chloride reduction.
- iv. Commissioner Welch talked about the watershed "reform" group that is organizing and meeting. He noted it is a nonprofit comprised of a small group of people who have proposed legislation with unreasonable restraints on water resource protection agencies.
- v. Commissioner Carlson asked Ben Scharenbroich about the Medicine Lake dam survey. The survey results will be included in the Flood Control Inspection report to the Commission.

D. TAC Members

- i. Report on 10/4 TAC Meeting. TAC chair, Mark Ray, noted the TAC discussed the current monitoring program, brainstormed goals for the program, and prioritized those goals.

E. Education Consultant

- i. Update on Chloride Education Activities. Education Consultant, Dawn Pape, gave a presentation. She explained that the MPCA wants the Commission to concentrate efforts on educating residents, rather than contract applicators. She outlined the audiences, objectives, messages, strategies and timeline. She also walked through potential partners and showed rough drafts of the hand-outs and saltsmart.info website. Ms. Pape explained that websites are efficient ways to link to information through social media, etc. While the MPCA's website is comprehensive, it is not geared for our audiences and is difficult to link to.

Commissioner Harwell thought was a great idea to catch people doing good practices, but wondered if store managers needed to attend trainings. Ms. Pape replied that attending trainings will always be encouraged, but the basic best practices are simple to summarize and implement without trainings. Harwell suggested to add that salt "permanently" pollutes to the handout.

F. Legal Counsel

- i. Nothing to report.

