

SUMMARY OF INPUT

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This document summarizes information received in response to the Plan update notification letter sent to Plan review agencies and select partners by the BCWMC Administrator on April 14, 2022. The Plan update notification letter is required per Minnesota Rules 8410.0045 Subp. 3 and requested input from several state agencies and local partners. The following entities provided responses:

- Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)
- Metropolitan Council
- Hennepin County
- Three Rivers Park District (TRPD)

Priority issues, strategies, and opportunities from the Plan review agencies and partners are summarized in this memorandum according to topic. Reference material and data provided by respondents is generally omitted for brevity. Table 1 illustrates the overlap of frequently cited priority issues or opportunities.

Table 1. Select issues and opportunities identified by multiple agencies/partners

Issue or Opportunity (briefly)	BWSR	MDNR	MPCA	Met Council	Hennepin Co.	TRPD
Emphasis on addressing chloride pollution	X	X	X			X
Focus on impaired waterbodies and TMDL partnerships			X	X	X	X
Consider impacts and opportunities related to climate change	X		X	X	X	
Emphasis on measurable goals and progress assessment	X		X	X		
Opportunities for AIS management/native protection		X			X	X
Consider equity issues in watershed planning			X	X		
Consider grant funding for small-scale BMPs					X	X

Responses by topic from the review agencies are listed below. All complete response letters are available from the BCWMC Plan update webpage at: <https://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/document/2025-plan-update>.

1.0 Plan Development Process (Prioritized, Targeted, Measurable)

- The planning process should provide an opportunity for upfront issue identification to affirm, align, or change priorities relative to the current Plan. The BCWMC plan process should define a strategy to identify the top resource priorities (BWSR).
- The planning process should be collaborative and include multiple local governmental units and stakeholders (BWSR).
- The Plan should include clear measurable goals and actions and develop metrics to measure progress (BWSR, MPCA).
- The Plan should identify priority geographic areas or resources for implementation (MPCA).
- The Plan should consider the integration of water resource issues, goals, and actions through the Watershed Health Assessment Framework, which includes: hydrology, biology, connectivity, geomorphology, and water quality (MDNR).
- Met Council has published a new dataset, "Equity dataset Considerations for Place-Based Advocacy and Decisions in the Twin Cities Region." This data replaces the former "Areas of Concentrated Poverty" and may be useful for planning (Met Council).
- Incorporate environmental justice into planning (MPCA).

2.0 Plan Implementation, Funding, and Evaluation

- The Plan must include a prioritized implementation program that identifies what the BCWMC will do over 10-years regardless of whether additional grant funding is received (BWSR).
- The Plan should address organizational capacity with increased emphasis on self-evaluation, accountability, and efficiency of implementation. The Plan should include a procedure to evaluate implementation progress at least every 2 years (BWSR).
- The implementation program should include strategies from completed TMDLs (MPCA).
- Hennepin County has potential funding sources to support environmental education, invasive species management, tree planting, and other services (Hennepin County).

3.0 Water Quality

- Continue to support the incorporation of MIDS (and the LID approach) into future development and redevelopment in the watershed (MDNR).
- Investigate new stormwater management techniques (MDNR).
- Maintain a non-degradation policy relative to water quality (TRPD, MPCA).
- Include reference to the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Chloride TMDL and incorporate elements of the Chloride Management Plan (BWSR).
- Reduce chloride to surface and ground water (MPCA).

- Consider promoting local business and city applicator participation in the Smart Salting Training (to reduce chloride loading) offered through the MPCA (MDNR).
- Chloride management plans are needed for new development and redevelopment areas (TRPD).
- 17 impaired waters within the BCWMC are included in the 2022 impaired waters list (MPCA).
- The Plan should identify Met Council priority waters, which include (draft): Medicine Lake, Parkers Lake, Wirth Lake, and Bassett Creek (Met Council).
- Met Council monitors several waterbodies in the BCWMC through its Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP). CAMP data is provided for planning (Met Council).
- Assist local partners to accelerate targeted reductions for priority impaired waters (MPCA).
- Review progress and collaborative project opportunities related to the Medicine Lake TMDL (watershed and in-lake) (TRPD).
- Consider using a framework for evaluating whether and when alum treatment of a lake is appropriate (e.g., Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District). Additional alum treatment guidance is provided by the MDNR (MDNR).
- Consider collaborative opportunities for curlyleaf pondweed management in Medicine Lake (TRPD).
- Explore opportunities to make progress towards water quality (e.g., TMDL) and other goals (e.g., climate action) related to Hennepin County-owned transportation facilities (Hennepin County).
- Consider partnerships with Hennepin County to support landowner projects to address shoreline erosion and stormwater management issues (Hennepin County).
- Consider cost-share programs for smaller projects that are not identified in the CIP (e.g., landowner BMPs) (TRPD).

4.0 Ecological Health and Natural Areas

- Keep water where it falls by protecting and restoring wetlands (MDNR).
- Protect and create buffers of native vegetation along watercourses and water bodies (MDNR).
- Support land use planning and practices that protect, restore, and enhance priority ecological resources (MDNR).
- Maintain and enhance perennial vegetation including protection of working forest lands (MDNR).
- Include plans to combat invasive species in watershed project plans and designs (MDNR).
- Promote education of the public on the control and spread of invasive species – public awareness efforts targeting riparian property owners (lakeshore owners) are needed (MDNR).
- Use assessment data of watershed characteristics and natural resource features (e.g., native plant communities, sites of biodiversity significance) in Plan development (MDNR).
- Include goals and policies to address how rare species and habitat will be protected (MDNR).
- MDNR recommends the establishment of native grassland and herbaceous plant communities in the place of mowed turf grasses on watershed and highway projects (MDNR).
- MDNR recommends keeping forested riparian areas forested (MDNR).
- Communities should be planning for emerald ash borer (EAB) impacts and take action now to reduce the sudden financial burden that comes with EAB management (MDNR).

- Hennepin County is updating its Natural Resource Management Plan that includes goals and actions relevant to the BCWMC’s mission and may be a reference for planning (Hennepin County).
- Continue to pursue and utilize Natural Resource Opportunity Grants with partners (Hennepin County).
- French Lake Regional Park is located in the watershed. The Plan needs to address any issues, problems, capital projects, or land use changes related to the regional park (Met Council).
- Provide support for new AIS initiatives (TRPD)
- Consider management actions for Starry Stonewort (TRPD).

5.0 Flooding and Water Quantity

- Design culverts and bridges to retain floodplain functions and bank stability on natural channels and other drainage systems (MDNR).
- Ensure water courses are connected to their floodplains, and manage stormwater runoff with rate control and volume reduction standards (MDNR).
- Address storm sewer infrastructure capacity and corresponding flooding problems (MDNR).

6.0 Roles, Responsibilities, and Authorities

- Define the BCWMC’s process for evaluating implementation of local water plans (BWSR).
- Define who is responsible for inspection, operation, and maintenance of stormwater facilities in the BCWMC (BWSR).
- Hennepin County wishes to abandon jurisdiction over three public ditches (County Ditch 25, 30, and J-6) and place them under MNDNR jurisdiction as public watercourses (Hennepin County).

7.0 Groundwater

- MDNR recommends the BCWMC’s Plan contain key objectives and actions, including (MDNR):
 - Increase communication about the risks of overuse and promote water conservation.
 - Maintain and enhance aquifer recharge (quality and quantity)
 - Increase coordination of monitoring activities with partners
 - Increase coordination of communication activities with partners

8.0 Climate Resilience

- The BCWMC should continue its efforts to address climate resiliency. The BWSR Climate Resiliency Toolbox (<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/bwsr-climate-resiliency-toolbox>) may be useful (BWSR).
- Hennepin County has developed a Climate Action Plan that includes goals and actions relevant to the BCWMC’s mission and may serve as an input or reference for planning (Hennepin County).
- Met Council has developed tools that can assist in community planning efforts in preparing and adapting to climate change. (Met Council).
- Increase community and environmental resilience to climate change. Planning should incorporate changing weather patterns to help communities be prepared for extreme weather events (MPCA).



Bassett Creek Watershed Management

MEMO

To: BCWMC Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners
From: Laura Jester, Administrator
Date: June 29, 2022

RE: Summarized and Compiled City Input

The BCWMC asked for perspectives from city staff and elected or appointed officials on water resources in their community and the role of the Commission. Six cities responded to the survey. Most surveys were completed by city staff members. Some surveys also included input from BCWMC commissioners and/or environmental commissioners. (Of the cities who have not responded: The City of Minneapolis plans to provide input in the coming weeks. The City of Robbinsdale indicated they do not have formal input at this time. The City of Medicine Lake did not respond to this request by the time of this writing.)

Key messages from the survey:

- Overall, cities agree BCWMC is doing a good or excellent job with its programs and services.
- BCWMC should continue core programs such as water monitoring, modeling, Flood Control Project inspections, and CIP program
- BCWMC could expand education programming including outreach to diverse communities
- BCWMC should consider starting a cost share or grant program for installation of best management practices by residents, businesses, and cities

For additional information, see survey responses summarized and compiled on pages 3 – 8.

The survey asked cities to rate their level of concern about certain issues and their desired level of BCWMC involvement in addressing the issue. Table 1 shows the number of cities within each response.

Table 1. Number of cities responding to levels of concern and BCWMC involvement in various issues

Issue (Please provide additional detail as needed)	Level of concern about the issue in your city AND desired level of BCWMC involvement in addressing the issue		
A. Pollution from winter deicers (chlorides) and potential need for additional regulations	Very Concerned 4 cities	Somewhat Concerned 3 cities	Not Concerned
	Very Involved 5 cities	Somewhat Involved 1 city	Not Involved
B. Addressing and incorporating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion principals	Very Concerned 3 cities	Somewhat Concerned 4 cities	Not Concerned
	Very Involved 1 city	Somewhat Involved 4 cities	Not Involved
C. Adequacy of current performance standards for linear projects to protect and improve water quality	Very Concerned 1 city	Somewhat Concerned 3 cities	Not Concerned 3 cities
	Very Involved 3 cities	Somewhat Involved 3 cities	Not Involved
D. Current process for identifying projects or implementing the Capital Improvement Program (CIP)	Very Concerned	Somewhat Concerned 3 cities	Not Concerned 4 cities
	Very Involved 2 cities	Somewhat Involved 4 cities	Not Involved
E. Stormwater management (flooding and water quality) in the Bassett Creek Valley and implementation of the Bassett Creek Valley plan to create regional flood	Very Concerned 1 city	Somewhat Concerned 4 cities	Not Concerned 1 city
	Very Involved 3 cities	Somewhat Involved 4 cities	Not Involved
F. Carbon footprint or climate impact of BCWMC projects and programs	Very Concerned 3 cities	Somewhat Concerned 2 cities	Not Concerned 1 city
	Very Involved 3 cities	Somewhat Involved 1 city	Not Involved 1 city

Below please find a summary of city input for each of the questions asked.

1. With regard to BCWMC programs and services (e.g., water quality monitoring, hydraulic and pollutant load modeling, development reviews, capital improvement program, Flood Control Project inspections, technical assistance):

a. How would you rate the overall level of service and quality of programs provided by the BCWMC?

- Five cities responded “Excellent” or “Good”
- One city responded “Just Adequate”

b. Which services are the most helpful or useful to your city? (What’s working well?)

- Water monitoring
- Watershed modeling and model maintenance
- CIP program for flood reduction and water quality improvements
- Development reviews
- Flood Control Project inspections
- Education and outreach (including the MOU with cities to help fulfill MS4 requirements)
- Collaboration on projects
- Curly-leaf pondweed control on Medicine Lake

c. What programs or services could be improved? (What’s not working well?)

- Education/outreach could be improved
 - Focusing on diversity, equity, and inclusion
 - Finding ways to be more effective and reach different audiences outside of people around lakes and streams
- Flood Control Inspections - could use additional assistance with routine maintenance
- More coordination with cities to ensure the BCWMC is not paying for work that the cities are already having done.
- More focus on floodplain management
- Planning and implementation process of the CIP seems excessive, time consuming and more expensive than typical of the market.
- The permit process for reviewing projects.

d. Overall, would you prefer the BCWMC provide more and broader programs and services, or smaller/fewer programs and services?

- About the same as current levels (three cities)
- Intentional effort on fewer programs but focused on key priorities which are likely to have a positive effect. Examples being native plantings, reduced salt use, other things people/businesses can do to protect water quality.
- Narrower focus on a few key issues like flooding and redevelopment standards, would be most cost effective.

- BCWMC should have comprehensive programs relating to water quality improvements and public outreach/education

e. **Which programs or services should be expanded, or which should be reduced?**

- The website should be the main hub of all “things watershed” including using ArcGIS mapping to improve story telling on projects and sharing real time data when possible.
- Increase educational efforts including on chlorides and routine homeowner maintenance activities that impact water quality; work on expanding outreach to underserved and diverse communities
- Add incentive program for private landowners (cost-share, technical assistance)
- XPSWMM model could be updated less frequently as the watershed isn’t changing that much to warrant updates as often.

2. Are there practices or programs implemented by other watershed management organizations/watershed districts that you think should be implemented in the BCWMC?

- Cost share programs for things such as shoreline restoration, raingardens, water harvesting/reuse, green infrastructure. Similar to Shingle Creek WMC, offer financial assistance for best management practices that are smaller than the typical CIP. This could be offered to both cities and developers in order to be more responsive to development driven opportunities. (three cities)
- Planning and projects related to high quality resources and protection of those resources (eg. Restoration of high-quality wetlands)

3. What education and public engagement activities performed by the BCWMC are the most beneficial? What additional or expanded education or public engagement services would you like to see the BCWMC perform?

- Partnering with other groups (Metro Blooms, WMWA)
- Hosting trainings and workshops
- Keeping maintained website
- Developing and disseminating educational materials specifically designed to meet the City’s requirements under the MS4 program
- Leading the Hennepin County Chloride Initiative
- Coordinating with other watershed organizations and agencies to ensure consistent messaging
- Improving and building relationships and outreach programs with communities that traditionally have been hard to reach in the past, including renters and underserved and diverse communities.
- Attendance or presence at festivals, events, nature centers, beaches, parks
- Consistent seasonal messaging
- Education to lakeshore owners regarding vegetation

4. What and where are the city's primary concerns regarding water quality, such as:

a. Water quality of specific water bodies

- MnDOT pond east of Bassett Creek Park Pond (open water year round)
- Bassett Creek, Sweeney Lake, Twin Lake, Wirth Lake.
- Crane Lake
- Northwood Lake
- Westwood Lake
- All waterbodies in Bassett Creek Watershed that are impaired or have potential for impairment.

b. Specific pollutants of concern

- Chlorides (five cities)
- Lawn fertilizers and resident-generated organic waste from yard maintenance
- Dog waste and bacteria

c. Pollutant loading hot spots

- Highway 100
- Lawns
- Offices and retail
- Community gathering areas with significant deicing operations
- Ridgedale Center
- Area that drains toward Northwood Lake
- Golf courses
- P8 Map from watershed model.
- Direct drainage areas to lakes and streams without treatment.

5. What and where are the city's primary concerns regarding water quantity or flooding, such as:

a. Flooding at specific locations

- Area around Bassett Creek Park (Crystal) primarily and some upstream areas that connect to North Branch
- All areas identified by the BCWMC floodplain modeling, where it impacts homes, businesses, and infrastructure
- Oberlin Park and surrounding neighborhood
- Rosalyn Court/Medicine Lake Rd. (Decola Ponds Area)
- Upper Sweeney Lake watershed redevelopment
- Medicine Lake at Evergreen Lane

b. Excessive flow rates and/or erosion

- Markwood channel
- North Branch where it enters Bassett Creek Park (Crystal)

- Areas of the creek where streambank stabilization/restoration has not occurred.
- Shoreline erosion on Northwood Lake is a concern during periods of high water.
- Westwood Lake outlet channel
- Plymouth Creek upstream of Medicine Lake.

c. High or low water levels

- High groundwater in the Oberlin Park area
- Along Northwood Lake
- Medicine Lake

d. Structures in the floodplain

- Homes in the area around Bassett Creek Park Pond in the known FEMA flood area
- Hundreds of existing structures in the FEMA, BCWMC, and local jurisdiction floodplain
- Homes in the Oberlin Park area
- Medicine Lake and areas along Plymouth Creek

6. What and where are your city's primary concerns regarding wetlands, habitat, or natural areas? What role, if any, would you like to see the BCWMC assume in managing, protecting, or restoring these resources?

- We don't see the scope of the watershed's responsibilities/authorities increasing beyond what they are now. (three cities)
- Hope to see collaborations to enhance native ecosystems around waterways as New Hope has done with Hidden Valley Park and Northwoods Park.
- Natural areas along the floodplain of Bassett Creek and trunk system, and large existing wetlands (public waters).
- Restoration activities in the Crane Lake preserve area; maintenance in several high-quality wetlands
- Maintain existing wetlands, habitat and natural areas
- If there are opportunities to increase natural areas throughout the watershed, they should be explored including shoreline restoration projects, and establishing native plantings.

7. What are your city's primary concerns regarding stormwater management, such as:

a. Inspection, maintenance, and repair of your stormwater system

- Continued inspections of the Flood Control Project structures
- Repair/replacement of aging infrastructure
- Inspection, maintenance, and repair of your stormwater system
- Maintenance will continue to be an area of concern as BMPs and new technologies continue to advance.
- Time and funding

b. Future capacity issues resulting from growth or climate change

- Continued leadership role in the modeling of the storm water system and maintenance of the established policies regarding maintenance of various structures along the waterways.
- Accommodating increased precipitation volumes and rates with our current infrastructure (future conditions)
- Need to discharge more stormwater downstream and downstream capacity
- Find more storage opportunities
- Encourage study and evaluation of climate change impacts on our waterbodies and municipal storm systems
- General volume capacity and managing expectations during the extreme events.
- Concern that increased rainfall amount, frequency and runoff rates will affect the entire system

c. Implementation or enforcement of local stormwater controls

- The watershed should continue to look to the City for implementation and enforcement actions. The watershed does not have the staff or other good mechanisms for enforcement.
- Require additional resources to maintain compliance with regulatory procedures.

d. Stormwater utility and/or other funding mechanisms

- Continued pursuit of grant funding and levying for projects.
- Continue cost share programs with member cities
- Add rainwater rewards program
- A resources fund set up to assist in paying for programs and projects implemented by cities
- The costs associated with service expansion along with other environmental priorities will financially strain residents and businesses.

e. Regulatory compliance (e.g., MS4 permit)

- Watershed takes a leadership role in the education/outreach requirements
- Technical assistance to communities as needed
- Require additional resources to maintain compliance with regulatory procedures.
- Continue to work with cities as regulations are updated and change.
- Illicit discharge
- Increased requirements and increased costs, which fall on local agencies to fund and manage with limited staff

8. What are your organization's primary concerns regarding groundwater resources, such as:

a. High or low groundwater levels

- Low groundwater levels only for our emergency backup wells.
- High groundwater negatively impacting infrastructure, homes and businesses
- High groundwater levels by Oberlin Park neighborhood area

- Flooding basements and associated living conditions.
- How increased rain may increase shallow groundwater near homes.

b. Adequacy for drinking water supply (if applicable)

- Not a major concern (five cities)

c. Groundwater/surface water interaction issues

- Not a concern (three cities)
- Always an issue when groundwater levels are high, sump pump discharges in the winter.
- Potential for contaminants to impact potable water supply

d. Well-head protection and groundwater quality

- A priority for some cities but not considered a BCWMC function.

e. Effects of infiltration practices on groundwater

- Not applicable (three cities)
- Prohibitions regarding infiltration in proximity to sanitary sewers.
- Chlorides and infiltration is also concerning.
- Potential for contaminants to impact potable water supply

9. How would you characterize your city's working relationship with the BCWMC?

Overall, good working relationships.

a. What barriers limit the effectiveness of this relationship?

- Commissioners are volunteers
- Staff time is limited
- Finding commissioners from cities with small portions in the watershed
- Engineers' memos and presentations are often difficult to understand for non-technical staff

b. What changes would you recommend to improve the working relationship between the BCWMC and your city?

- Cities need to keep Environmental Quality Commissions informed about watersheds
- Include a virtual option for commission meetings for staff to attend.
- Continue to communicate effectively with city staff, elected officials, and commissioners.
- More information on city websites and in city newsletters
- Shorter presentations

Table 1. BCWMC Plan Steering Committee Workshop (July 11, 2022) Outcomes from Small Group Categorization Exercise

Numbers represent the number of small groups that assigned the issue to a particular column.

ISSUE	CURRENT BCWMC ROLE IS GENERALLY APPROPRIATE (Green)	IMPORTANT ISSUE; SIGNIFICANT ANALYSIS NEEDED TO DETERMINE BCWMC ROLE (Yellow)	IMPORTANT ISSUE BUT NOT BCWMC'S ROLE TO LEAD (Red)
1. Focus on impaired waters and pollutant loading hotspots	3.5	0.5	
2. Focus on reducing flood risk and flood impacts	3.5	0.5	
3. Monitor water quality of lakes and streams	4		
4. Evaluate stream health to address biotic impairments	2	2	
5. Modeling and model maintenance for pollutant loads and hydrology (P8 model and XPSWMM model)	4		
6. Flood Control Project inspections, maintenance, repair per current policies	3	1	
7. Strategies to address chloride pollution		3.5	0.5
8. Assess impacts of climate change on water resources and build climate resiliency		4	0.5
9. Manage aquatic invasive species (AIS)	0.5	3	0.5
10. Provide grant funding for small scale BMPs by residents or businesses	1	2	1
11. Water quality standards for linear projects (like road reconstruction projects)		3.5	1
12. Standards and requirements related to non-linear projects	3	1	

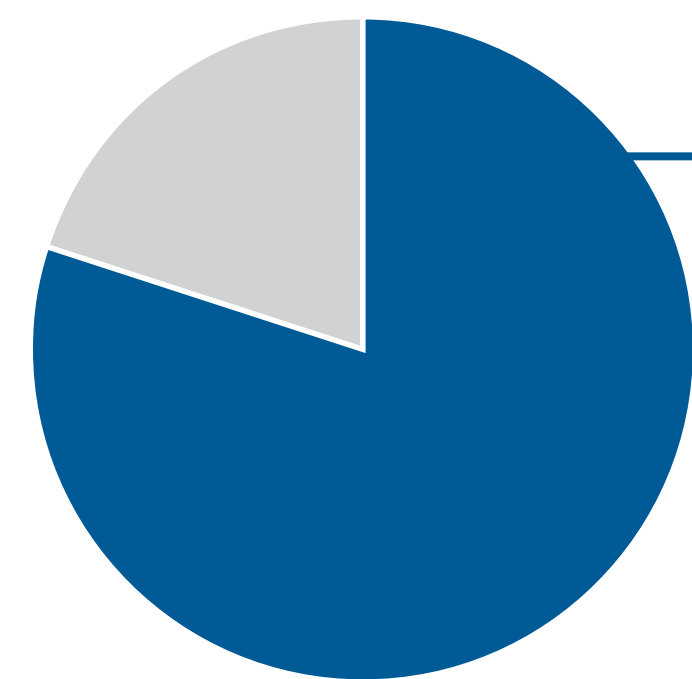
ISSUE	CURRENT BCWMC ROLE IS GENERALLY APPROPRIATE (Green)	IMPORTANT ISSUE; SIGNIFICANT ANALYSIS NEEDED TO DETERMINE BCWMC ROLE (Yellow)	IMPORTANT ISSUE BUT NOT BCWMC'S ROLE TO LEAD (Red)
13. Capital improvement program (CIP) including project identification and program implementation	1	3	
14. Assess and/or mitigate carbon footprint of BCWMC projects and programs		1	3
15. Stormwater management (flooding and water quality) in Bassett Creek Valley, Minneapolis	1.5	2.5	
16. Programs to manage or restore wetlands	2	1	1
17. Programs to manage or restore riparian areas	1	2.5	0.5
18. Programs to manage or restore high priority upland natural areas		0.5	3.5
19. Buffer requirements (streams, wetlands, lakes)	2	1.5	0.5
20. Groundwater monitoring or management		0.5	3.5
21. BCWMC priority classifications of waterbodies	3	1	
22. Policy development for addressing sediment deltas in streams and lakes		2	1.5
23. Implement projects and programs through a diversity, equity, and inclusion lens		4	
24. Outreach to and building relationships with diverse communities (including Native cultures)	0.5	3.5	

ISSUE	CURRENT BCWMC ROLE IS GENERALLY APPROPRIATE (Green)	IMPORTANT ISSUE; SIGNIFICANT ANALYSIS NEEDED TO DETERMINE BCWMC ROLE (Yellow)	IMPORTANT ISSUE BUT NOT BCWMC'S ROLE TO LEAD (Red)
25. Expand education and outreach program (education to groups/residents; helping cities fulfill stormwater education requirements, etc.)		4	
26. Training, orientation, and education for commissioners and alternate commissioners	1	3	
27. Provide/enhance water access and recreation opportunities			4
28. Organizational capacity (e.g., BCWMC staffing)	1	3	
29. BCWMC funding mechanisms	3	1	
30. Water level variability		1	

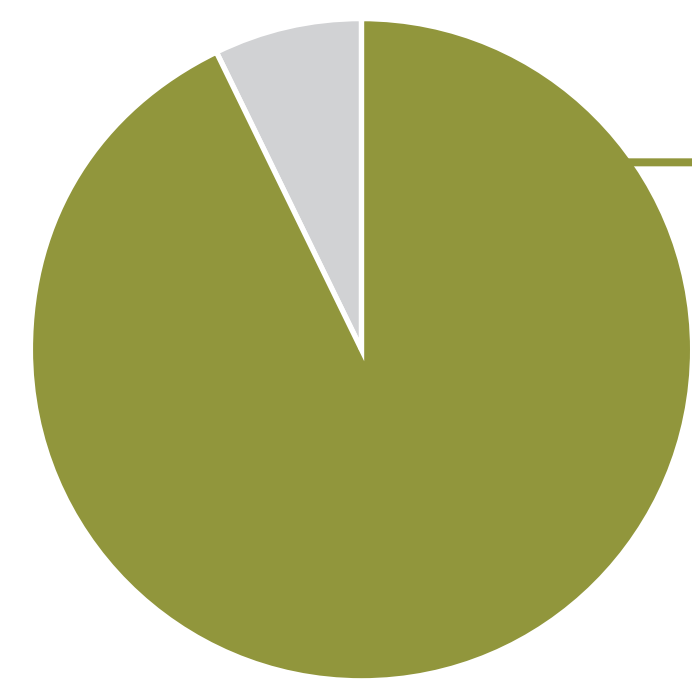
Bassett Creek Public Input Survey Results

Survey open June 2022 - January 2023

165 Respondents



80% indicate natural resources like lakes, streams, and wetlands are very important to their quality of life



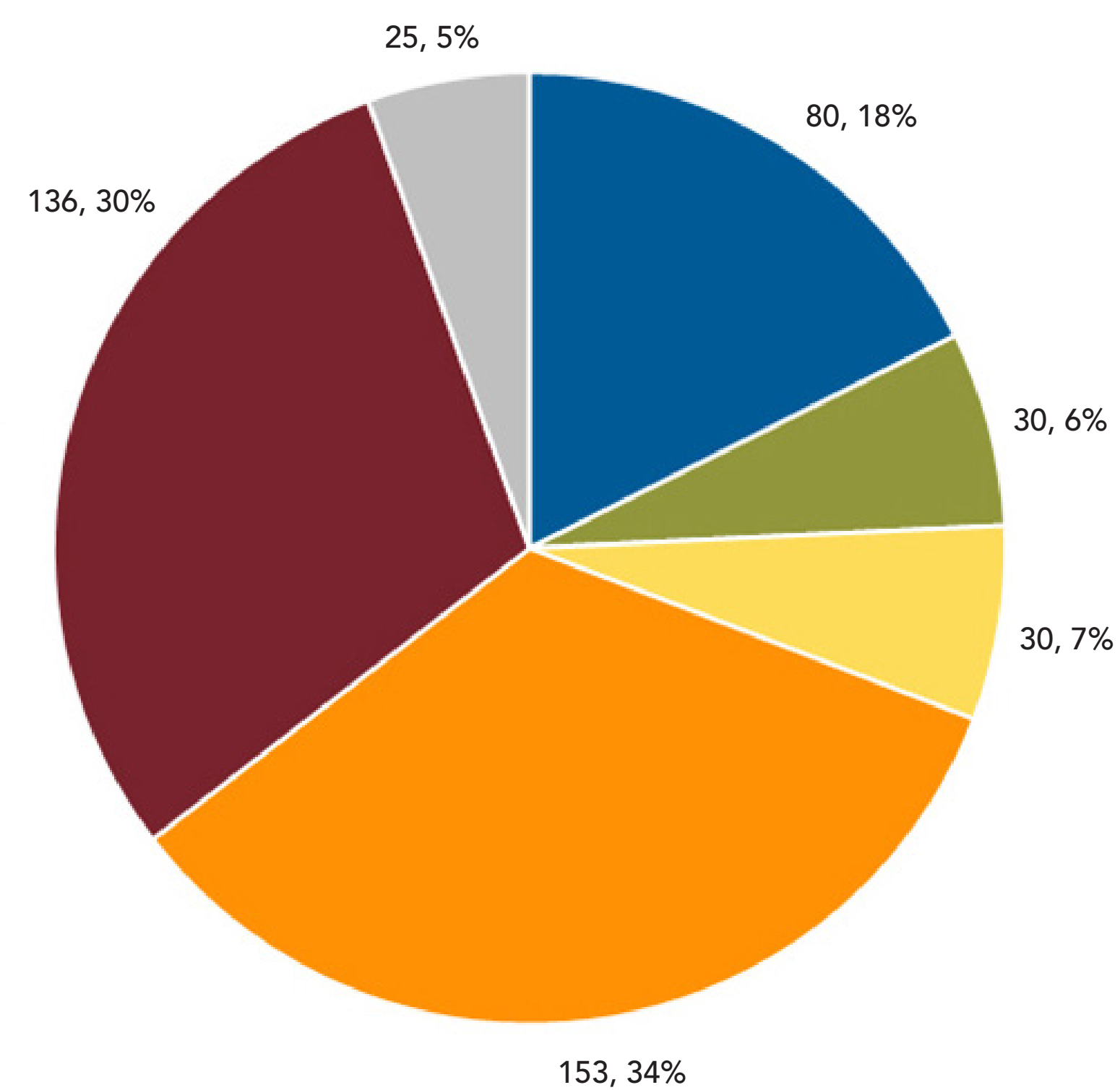
93% of respondents indicate they have adequate access to natural resources in their community; 7% DO NOT have adequate access

SUGGESTIONS

on what could be improved in the watershed included the following:

- Less trash in lakes and along streams
- Lower chloride levels (less salt!)
- More logs for turtles
- Less streambank and shoreline erosion
- More education of residents
- Better access to the creek for paddlers and enjoying nature
- Incentives for native plantings and other best practices

How do you interact with the water and natural resources (lakes, streams, wetlands, natural areas) in the BCWMC?

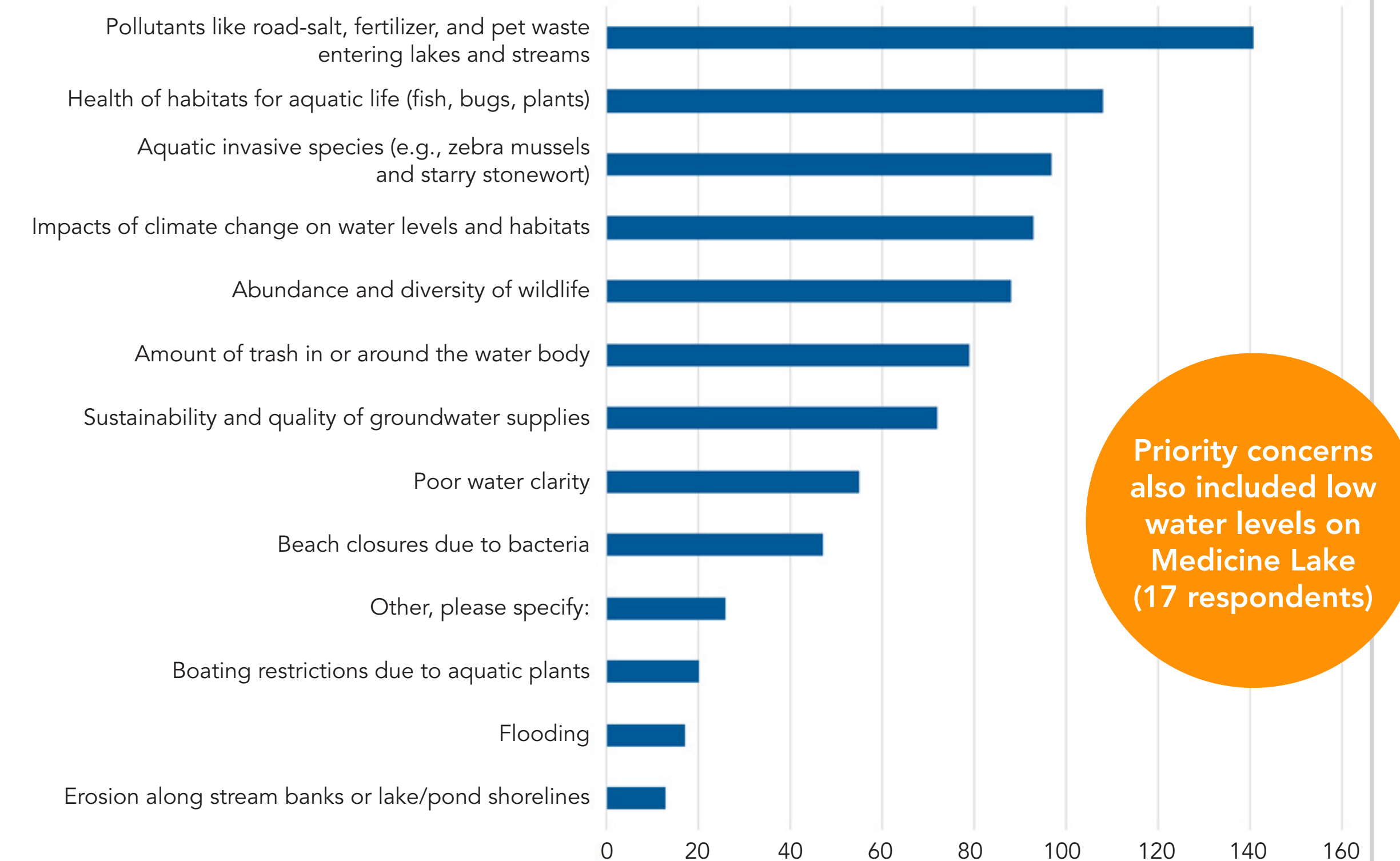


- Boat (power or paddle) on lakes
- Paddle streams
- Fish from pier or shore
- Bike/walk/run on trails near water
- Watch birds or wildlife / enjoy nature
- Other activity



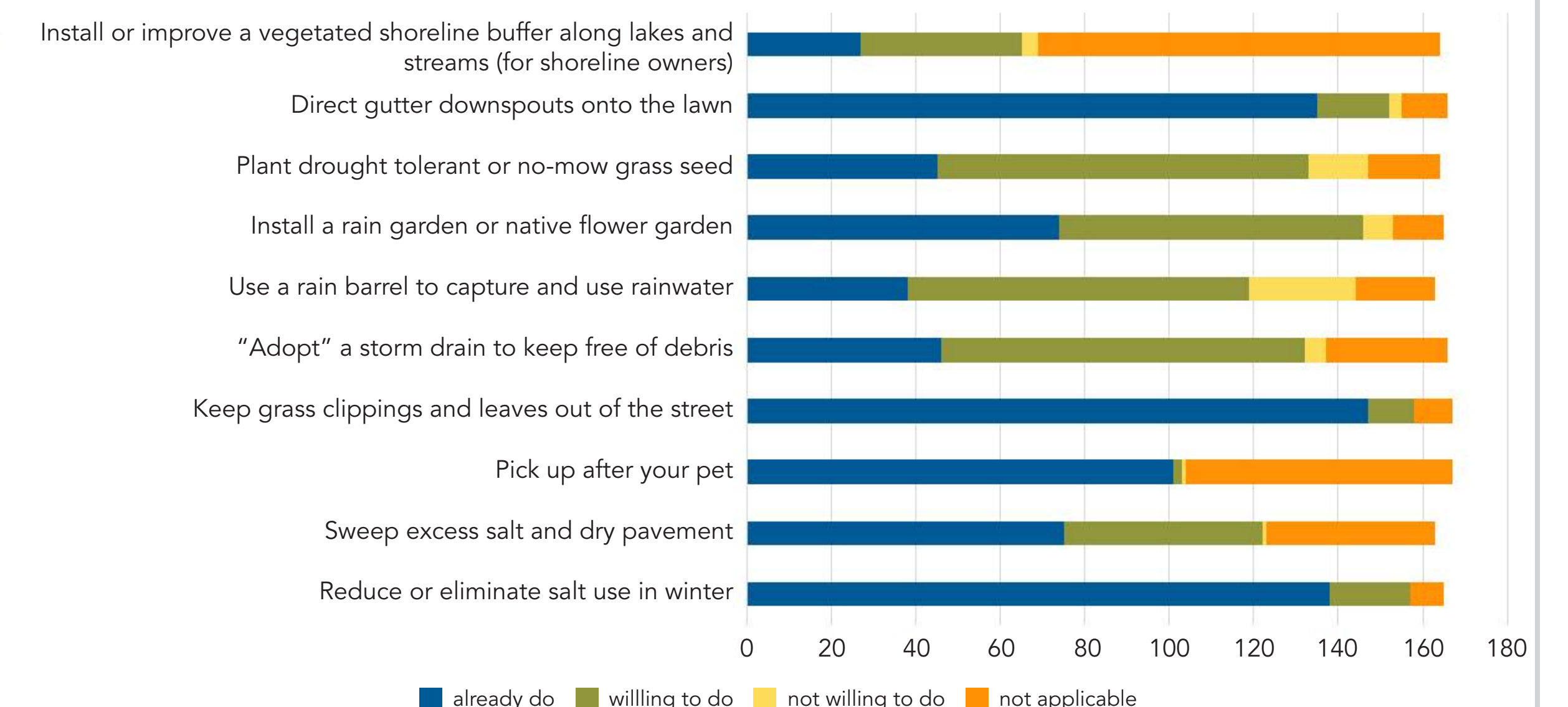
*These results do not include a similar survey about water resources from the City of Plymouth that had 220 responses from across the city, including areas outside the Bassett Creek watershed.

Of the following, what concerns you about the condition of lakes, streams, and natural areas in the Bassett Creek Watershed? (select top five concerns)



Priority concerns also included low water levels on Medicine Lake (17 respondents)

How willing are you to take the following actions around your home and yard to improve surface water and groundwater quality?



Feedback Gathered from Public Open House Feb 2023

It was clear that many participants learned new things about water resources, the BCWMC, and the BCWMC's work and activities at the event. There was a lot of good discussion and engagement with residents, partners, and stakeholders. Actual comments recorded included (by topic):

Natural Habitats and Stream/Lake Shorelines

- Suggestion to create and distribute new homeowners packet of information for new lakeshore and streambank homeowners so they know how lakes and streams "work" and why restored shorelines and streambanks are important, etc.
- Need more access to the creek for nearby residents in the Bassett Creek Valley

Water Quality and Pollution:

- Too much trash including tennis balls and plastic in Parkers Lake
- Need new/stronger stormwater requirements for street projects (Plymouth resident)

Equity/Inclusion/Outreach

Diversity and Equity:

- Consider hosting more "drop in" events like this – especially at libraries; have open houses or workshops in diverse communities. Consider spaces for outreach like Y's, community centers, churches, Three Rivers Park District parks
- Can be difficult to address diversity issues as some populations are transient
- Might reach new audiences with text messages
- Difficult for some community members to worry about surface water issues when more pressing and immediate needs are present (like food security, housing, public safety)

General Education Ideas:

- Need to communicate how everyday contaminants damage the water
- Combine efforts and share resources, events, and information with other cities
- Adopt a Drain Program is valuable and effective – especially when neighbors have signs at the storm drain indicating that it drains to a water body
- Bassett Creek Watershed sign at Westwood Nature Center is effective
- Need residents to identify Bassett Creek as being "THEIR creek" - develop a stronger sense of identity with water
- New homeowners guides for lawn care, shoreline care
- Youth education at elementary schools

Where People Get Their News:

- U of M, BCWMC website, Department of Natural Resources, Educational Fair, Minnesota Public Radio, Clean Water Action, newspapers, talking with neighbors, Washington Post, blogs, Sun Sailor, daily paper, city hall, summer picnic held by city, 10:00 news, Minnehaha Creek Watershed website

Ideas for Updating Watershed Map (green paper/folded map):

- Population density
- Areas of focus or concern
- Biking and walking trails
- Add QR code for more information
- Name the minor watersheds (rather than enumerating)

BCWMC Roles & Responsibilities:

(from Shingle Creek WMC Commissioner)

- BCWMC should work more with the West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA) (education activities)
- Fully fund WMWA’s educator position to full time
- More collaboration

Final Prompts:

Did we miss any issues or opportunities important to you?

- Work with school to educate kids and summer camps
- Education around dredging
- Monitor/regulate wake boating (this comment also received an “awesome” from another person)
- #1 invasive species like starry stonewort

What is the ONE most important thing BCWMC can do to improve waters in your community?

- Make Medicine Lake cleaner and the entire watershed will be better and cleaner!
- Help on salt reduction
- Use small amounts of chlorine to kill the carp
- Educate property owners on how to improve banks (shorelines/streambanks)
- Educate homeowners on best practices (mulching, composting, less fertilizers)
- Educate homeowners on the benefits of buffers and encourage planting through education and helping to source plants

Participants ranked the issues from lowest (bottom of paper) to highest (top of paper) according to the amount of effort and resources BCWMC should use in addressing or improving the issue.

Flooding/water levels and climate resiliency were generally grouped as a high priority, followed by water quality and pollution; and natural habitats and lake/creek shorelines. Education, outreach and equity appear to rank lower, followed by BCWMC work (who, how, funding).

Color coding:

- Flooding/Water Levels & Climate Resiliency
- Water Quality & Pollution
- Natural Habitats & Lake/Creek Shorelines
- Education, Outreach, & Equity
- BCWMC Work: Who, How, Funding

