



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Watershed Plan Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday November 6, 2024

8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Wirth Lake Room, Brookview

AGENDA

1. WELCOME

2. **REVIEW** OCTOBER 2 MEETING NOTES – attached

[Link to Prioritized Issues List](#)

3. **REVIEW** PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS TRACKER – attached

4. **REVIEW** UPDATED MONITORING PLAN - attached

At the October meeting the group briefly discussed the monitoring plan and requested additional information on parameters being monitored in Wirth Lake by MPRB. Commission Engineers updated the plan to include the additional vegetation monitoring of Wirth Lake, removed monitoring for AIS suitability perimeters, and provided examples of when carp monitoring may be desired. The updated plan is attached here. Staff will also present a recommendation to consider adding 2 more water quality sampling events (such as in June and July).

5. **REVIEW** LINEAR PROJECT STANDARDS AND DISCUSS POTENTIAL CHANGES – see multiple attachments

Staff, the Commission and the TAC began looking into standards and requirements for linear projects in 2022, as part of the Commission's work to address complex issues leading into the development of the 2025 Plan. Below are the meetings where this was discussed:

- December 7, 2022 TAC meeting – agenda item 3A. Options for Updating Linear Project Standards in 2025 Watershed Plan
- January 19, 2023 Commission meeting – agenda item 5E, memo from Administrator regarding Standards and Requirements for Linear Standards – Considerations for 2025 Watershed Plan
- February 16, 2023 Commission meeting – agenda item 6B, revised memo from Administrator regarding Standards and Requirements for Linear Standards – Considerations for 2025 Watershed Plan; the Commission asked staff to bring their ideas to the TAC
- March 1, 2023 TAC meeting – agenda item 3C. Discuss Linear Project Standards
- March 29, 2023 TAC meeting – agenda item 3A. Discuss Pros and Cons for Linear Project Standards Options
- April 20, 2023 Commission meeting – agenda item 6Di. Verbal update on TAC discussions

For discussion at this meeting the first two documents listed below are helpful background information. The updated pros/cons table of options **now includes the Commission Engineer's recommendation** for a new BCWMC linear projects standard.

1. Useful background information (same as October PSC materials): Agenda item 6B from the February 16, 2023 Commission meeting
2. New background information: At the October PSC meeting the group asked for information on how other watersheds are dealing with linear projects. See the "Linear Project Stds Across Metro" document which outlines the standards of some other watersheds.
3. Updated pros/cons table: Options 1 – 5 were already in the table that was included with October PSC materials. The table includes different options for the BCWMC linear project standards, in consideration of the MPCA's linear project standards (part of the MS4 permit). This table was developed at the direction of the Commission and discussed by the TAC at their March 1 and March 29, 2023 meetings. The attached table includes revisions recommended by the TAC at their March 29, 2023 meeting. The Commission Engineer's

recommendation of Option 6 was added for consideration at this meeting. Option 6 is very similar to the current MS4 permit (MPCA) standard that must be met by cities and others, but builds in a checklist that cities must complete, lowers the trigger for BCWMC review of linear projects, lowers the trigger for rate control standards for linear projects, and includes tiers for which governing body reviews proposed projects depending on size.

At the meeting Commission Engineers will present data on the water quality treatment from linear projects the BCWMC reviewed from 2017 to 2024, comparing potential outcomes using the old (2015) BCWMC linear project standards vs. actual outcomes using the current BCWMC (2017) linear project standards vs. outcomes using the current MS4 permit (MPCA) linear project standards.

It is evident that only 1 linear project triggered water quality treatment with the current BCWMC standard while 6 linear projects would have triggered water quality treatment if the Commission Engineer-recommended standard was in place.

6. DISCUSS POTENTIAL CHLORIDE REDUCTION STRATEGIES

Chloride reduction is a high priority goal but with significant challenges. Most chloride reduction strategies involve training on best practices and raising public awareness. Practical options for regulating chloride use or requiring certain activities involving winter maintenance or low salt design are limited but could include:

- Requiring or providing funding for city staff to take the low salt design workshop and/or requiring or developing a checklist for considering low salt design techniques with each development
- Developing specific requirements for appropriate snow and salt storage for development projects that meet certain parameters
- Requiring development of a winter maintenance plan for development projects that meet certain parameters. (Winter maintenance plan templates - including basic, intermediate, and detailed – are found on this page: <https://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/developer/winter-maintenance>)

The committee could also review or ask the TAC to discuss other projects, programs, and practices outlined in the 2022 Parkers Lake Chloride Reduction Project presented to the Commission in July 2022.

(www.bassettcreekwmo.org/application/files/7616/5784/5842/Item_5A_Parkers_Chloride_Memo.pdf) There were some ideas developed in that project that might warrant further investigation.

7. REVIEW UPDATED EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT PLAN

At the meeting in September, the group ran out of time to review the education and engagement plan but there was a comment that the plan didn't seem to directly tie back to the issues and goals in the draft plan. The education and engagement plan was updated to make a better connection to issues and goals. If time allows, the committee should review and discuss the draft plan and/or recommend that the Education Committee review.

8. DISCUSS PLANS FOR NEXT COMMISSION WORKSHOP ON EDUCATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS GOALS

9. ADJOURN - Next meeting proposed for December 11th at 8:30 a.m.