



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

**Minutes of Regular Meeting
Wednesday, November 20, 2019
8:30 a.m.
Golden Valley City Hall, Golden Valley MN**

1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

On Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 8:32 a.m. in the Council Conference Room at Golden Valley City Hall (7800 Golden Valley Rd.), 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>	<i>Absent</i>
Golden Valley	Stacy Harwell (Treasurer)	<i>Absent</i>	Drew Chirpich
Medicine Lake	Clint Carlson	Gary Holter	<i>Absent</i>
Minneapolis	Michael Welch (Vice Chair)	<i>Vacant Position</i>	Shahram Missaghi, Liz Stout, Lisa Goddard
Minnetonka	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Absent</i>	Sarah Schweiger
New Hope	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Absent</i>	Megan Hedstrom
Plymouth	Jim Prom (Chair)	<i>Absent</i>	Ben Scharenbroich
Robbinsdale	<i>Vacant Position</i>	Wayne Sicora	Marta Roser
St. Louis Park	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Absent</i>	Erick Francis
Administrator	Laura Jester, Keystone Waters		
Engineer	Karen Chandler, Barr Engineering		
Recorder	Dawn Pape, Lawn Chair Gardener		
Legal Counsel	Sarah Sonsalla, Kennedy & Graven		
Presenters/ Guests/Public	Chris Meehan and Eileen Weigel, Wenck Associates		

2. CITIZEN FORUM ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Administrator Jester requested an amendment to the agenda to move 6Aii from the communications part of the agenda to 5E in the business section of the agenda.

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Harwell seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 6-0. [Cities of Minnetonka, New Hope and St. Louis Park absent from the vote.]

4. CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were approved as part of the consent agenda: October 17, 2019 Commission meeting minutes, acceptance of the November 2019 financial report, and payment of invoices, approval of City of Plymouth reimbursement request for Plymouth Creek Restoration Project (PC-2017), Approval of Amendment to Extend Term of Clean Water Fund Grant Agreement for Harrison Neighborhood Project.

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

Checking Account Balance	\$486,915.14
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TOTAL GENERAL FUND BALANCE	\$ 486,915.14
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TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENTS ON-HAND (11/13/19)	\$ 4,253,577.40
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CIP Projects Levied – Budget Remaining	\$ (6,811,161.35)
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Closed Projects Remaining Balance	\$ (353,203.72)
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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	\$ (337,102.96)
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MOTION: Commissioner Welch moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 6-0. [Cities of Minnetonka, New Hope and St. Louis Park absent from the vote.]

5. BUSINESS

A. Receive Presentation of Draft Bassett Creek Valley Floodplain and Stormwater Study Report

Administrator Jester noted that the Commission contracted with Wenck Associates to complete a study to evaluate options to investigate unlocking the potential in natural resources, recreation, and redevelopment by integrating floodplain and stormwater management into a regional solution for the Bassett Creek Valley. She noted the project is being conducted largely on behalf of the City of Minneapolis; the city is reimbursing the Commission for this study and all but \$2,000 of the Commission Engineers’ time related to the study. She reported that she and the Commission Engineer had participated in a design charrette and other meetings to review the draft project outcomes and options.

Administrator Jester introduced Chris Meehan, with Wenck Associates. He opened by thanking the Commission for the opportunity to work on this interesting project that has great partners. He further added that since there is a lot happening in the Bassett Creek Valley, it is important to have a good plan in place so that parcel by parcel floodplain mitigation and water quality treatment isn’t needed. Mr. Meehan walked through the development requirements (i.e. floodplain, stormwater runoff) and constraints (i.e. floodplain, contaminated soils, groundwater, geotechnical

challenges, and land ownership) of the project. He then gave an overview of the goals and objectives of plans and future projects including: light rail, Luce Line Trail realignment, redevelopment, etc. In this overview, he showed many examples of projects elsewhere with similar constraints. He noted the overall goal of creating and improving outdoor amenities while optimizing available floodplain storage and improving water quality.

Through the scenario development process, two areas within Bassett Creek Valley became the focus of large-scale flood mitigation projects: underground and above ground storage in Bryn Mawr Meadows Park and widening the Bassett Creek floodplain corridor between Cedar Lake Rd and Van White Blvd. Each area was reviewed to determine specific impacts to the flood elevation, flooding of the region, and ability to provide regional amenities. A cost range of each option was also presented. Mr. Meehan commented that appropriately mitigating floodplain increases land value which justifies the high cost of the mitigation projects. It was noted that the Commission is not necessarily part of the funding scenario for these future projects.

Commissioner Harwell wondered about soil and groundwater contamination as well as engineering for the freeze/thaw cycle of cold climates. Ms. Goddard confirmed that these issues were investigated and modeled and that all roads and buildings will be supported on significant pilings. Alternate Commissioner Sicora noted that the floodplain would need to be remapped if it is changed.

Commissioner Welch noted that BCWMC has a big decision to make about floodplain management. He commended Wenck on the report that sorts out a lot of complicated issues and asked Ms. Stout how this impacts the Bassett Creek restoration project. Minneapolis TAC member, Liz Stout commented that the erosion repair project is very limited in scope, and uses more temporary solutions such as vegetation and a rock toe. Commissioner Welch asked if the erosion repair project would ultimately be “torn up” and irrelevant. Administrator Jester said the timing of redevelopment and floodplain mitigation construction is unclear, that it could be several years in the future so it may not be prudent to put the erosion repair project on hold. She also mentioned it’s possible the Commission will need to consider tradeoffs between floodplain management and water quality requirements and mentioned perhaps a more important pollutant to manage here would be chloride.

Engineer Chandler noted her concern about how this study ties into the Bryn Mawr CIP project and also noted the creek’s floodplain would be larger and the elevation would be lower. She also noted that she didn’t think the proposed underground storage would be able to provide the water quality treatment discussed in the report because poor soils and high groundwater will prevent infiltration and that the storage is likely too far away from where the treatment is needed. Mr. Meehan acknowledged the challenges, noted that many details are yet to come, and reiterated that it’s important to have a path forward. It was noted the Commission’s Bryn Mawr CIP project could be impacted by the potential above ground and underground storage proposed for the park.

Commissioner Harwell asked about adding language regarding the potential for better chloride management in this area. It was noted that this is not an action item and that a final report will be brought to a future meeting, likely in December.

B. Make Determination on Contracting Entity for Four Seasons Redevelopment Project

Administrator Jester explained that earlier in the year there was a question about whether the Commission could enter into an agreement with a private entity to implement a capital improvement project. Commission Attorney, David Anderson, reviewed the BCWMC Joint Powers Agreement and state law regarding this matter and included his conclusions in the memo in the meeting packet. Although Mr. Anderson could not attend the meeting, his colleague (Sarah Sonsalla) was present to answer questions. Administrator Jester said she is looking for explicit direction from the Commission confirming that an agreement directly with Dominion for the Four Seasons Redevelopment Project is how the Commission wants to proceed.

Commissioner Welch expressed approval of entering into an agreement directly with Dominion and suggested including maintenance requirements into the agreement as explicit assurances on maintenance are needed.

Chair Prom added that he hoped this project might also treat pollutant runoff coming from the “big woods” area across Lancaster Lane. Mr. Scharenbroich added that the City of Plymouth is already working to treat that flow.

MOTION: Commissioner Welch moved to contract directly with Dominion in coordination with the City of Plymouth for the Four Seasons Redevelopment Project. Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion.

Discussion: There was a brief discussion on how the various city and commission agreements might overlap but that they will enforce identical standards.

VOTE: Upon a vote, the motion carried 6-0. [Cities of Minnetonka, New Hope and St. Louis Park absent from the vote.]

C. Receive Report on Ordinance Updates by Member Cities

Administrator Jester reported that she recently polled the member cities regarding the status of ordinances and enforcement of stream and wetland buffers required by the 2015 Bassett Creek Watershed Management Plan. She noted the results are varied and are included in a memo in the meeting materials. She noted most cities have adopted appropriate ordinances or are in the process of doing so but that they might need assistance with the wetland protection ordinance.

Commissioner Welch noted the cities should be asked how the Commission can help get the appropriate ordinances and controls adopted. He noted this issue is crucial to the organizational arrangement of a joint powers agreement; that cities must implement and be in compliance with the watershed management plan. Administrator Jester will ask TAC members at the next meeting how the Commission can help with ordinances.

D. Assign TAC Meeting Liaison

The following commission members may attend the upcoming November 25th TAC meeting (10:00 – 12:00, Golden Valley City Hall): Chair Prom, Alt. Commissioners Cesnik, Commissioner de Lambert, and/or Commissioner Welch. The agenda will include a review of the water monitoring goals developed at the last TAC meeting, a discussion on how the Commission is achieving those goals; and development of recommendations on any needed changes to the water monitoring programs.

E. Update on Sochacki Park/Rice Ponds

Administrator Jester reported the Commission Engineer has been helping Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) develop a scope of work for a subwatershed analysis for the area. She noted the Commission last monitored the ponds in 2013, but no longer monitors them because they are not priority waterbodies for the Commission. Administrator Jester noted that, initially, Commission staff thought the TRPD would contract with BCWMC to perform the sub-watershed analysis, but recently learned that the TRPD would like to contract directly with Barr Engineering to perform the work. She noted this seems like a good scenario for project efficiency, while still allowing the Commission a seat at the table throughout the study. Engineer Chandler wanted to ensure there isn't a perceived conflict of interest if Barr Engineering performs the study. Administrator Jester noted the study is similar to a feasibility study; Engineer Chandler said it is more water quality focused. It was noted that if any CIP projects were slated for this area in the future, an actual feasibility study would be needed. Commissioner Welch expressed that it makes sense for TRPD to contract directly with Barr Engineering for this work and appreciated that it was brought to the Commission for a discussion.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Administrator's Report

- i. Update on BSWR Watershed-Based Funding. Compared to the last round of watershed based funding, the boundaries have been redefined and now the BCWMC will be collaborating with other watersheds that drain to the Mississippi River from the west (Mississippi West). BWSR allocated \$874,000 to go towards projects in the Mississippi West watershed. As a group, it needs to be decided how this money will be spent including developing a mechanism to rank projects to target funding to the best projects. An informational meeting will be held on December 17th at the Ramsey County Public Works facility from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Chair Prom asked the administrator to send meeting information to all commissioners.
- ii. Update on Revised Requirements Documents

All requirements documents have been updated with new requirements for manufactured treatment devices and posted on the website.

- iii. Administrator Jester asked how the Administrative Services Committee would like to evaluate staff this year. There was direction to send an evaluation form to all commissioners, alternate commissioners, and TAC members and the committee will review responses and hold a meeting.
- iv. Administrator Jester will email commissioners confirming their preference for meeting packets – printed vs. electronic.

B. Chair

- i. The chair is looking forward to attending the MAWD meeting with Commissioner Welch.

C. Commissioners

- i. Commissioner Welch complimented Administrator Jester and the Commission Engineers for their work on AIS issues and noted other watersheds are looking at it.

D. TAC Members

- i. Upcoming meeting 11/25
- ii. Ben Scharenbroich is bringing approval to closeout the Plymouth Creek Restoration Project to a December city council meeting.

E. Committees

- i. Administrative Services committee in December or January

F. Education Consultant

- i. The AIS cards were developed for 6 specific lakes and will be distributed soon. Commissioner Harwell asked if these cards could be changed into signs for boat landings.
- ii. The salt smart cards have been completed and ordered. They will be distributed to TAC members for use at city halls.
- iii. An “Aquatic Invasive Species and You” forum will be held at Ramsey County Public Works 11/21/19 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

G. Legal Counsel

- i. No report

H. Engineer

- i. The deep tunnel inspection will happen next summer or next fall.

7. INFORMATION ONLY (Information online only)

- A. Administrative Calendar
- B. CIP Project Updates <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects>
- C. Grant Tracking Summary and Spreadsheet
- D. WMWA October Meeting Minutes
- E. AIS Education Cards for Lake Residents
- F. Children’s Water Festival Thank You
- G. WCA Notice of Application, Golden Valley
- H. WCA Notice of Applications (3), Plymouth Hollydale Development Project
- I. WCA Notice of Application, Plymouth
- J. WCA Notice of Decision, Crystal

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m.