



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

DRAFT Minutes of Regular Meeting Thursday, September 15, 2022 8:30 a.m.

Golden Valley City Hall, 7800 Golden Valley Road

1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

On Thursday, September 15, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. Chair Cesnik brought the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (Commission) to order.

Commissioners, city staff, and others present

City	Commissioner	Alternate Commissioner	Technical Advisory Committee Members (City Staff)
Crystal	D. Anderson	Joan Hauer	Mark Ray
Golden Valley	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Absent</i>	Eric Eckman
Medicine Lake	Clint Carlson	Shaun Kennedy	<i>Absent</i>
Minneapolis	Michael Welch	Jodi Polzin	Katie Kowalczyk
Minnnetonka	Maryna Chowan	<i>Vacant Position</i>	Sarah Schweiger
New Hope	Jere Gwin-Lenth	Jen Leonardson	Nick Macklem
Plymouth	Catherine Cesnik	<i>Absent</i>	Ben Scharenbroich
Robbinsdale	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Vacant Position</i>	Mike Sorenson
St. Louis Park	<i>Vacant Position</i>	<i>Absent</i>	Erick Francis
Administrator	Laura Jester, Keystone Waters		
Engineers	Karen Chandler and Greg Wilson, Barr Engineering		
Recording Secretary	<i>Absent</i>		
Legal Counsel	Sarah Sonsalla, Kennedy & Graven		
Presenters/ Guests/Public	Jim Rock, Golden Valley Resident		

2. PUBLIC FORUM ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No comments from the public were made.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Gwin-Lenth moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0, with the cities of Robbinsdale, St. Louis Park, and Golden Valley absent from the vote.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were approved as part of the consent agenda.

- Approval of Minutes – August 18, 2022 Commission Meeting
- Acceptance of September 2022 Financial Report
- Approval of Payment of Invoices
 - Keystone Waters, LLC – August 2022 Administrative Services
 - Keystone Waters, LLC – August 2022 Meeting Expenses
 - Barr Engineering – August 2022 Engineering Services
 - Kennedy & Graven – July 2022 Legal Services
 - Redpath – August 2022 Accounting Services
 - Triple D Espresso – Meeting Catering
 - Juan Del Valle Lopez – BCWMC Intern
 - MMKR – 2021 Financial Audit
 - Shaun Kennedy – Salt Symposium Registration Reimbursement
- Approval to submit comments on MAWD Draft Strategic Plan
- Approval to amend Clean Water Fund Grant Agreement for Bryn Mawr Water Quality Project for chair to execute amended agreement

MOTION: Commissioner Welch moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Gwin-Lenth seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0, with the cities of Robbinsdale, St. Louis Park, and Golden Valley absent from the vote.

5. BUSINESS

A. Consider Approval of Scope and Budget for Additional Analysis of Issues for Watershed Management Plan

Administrator Jester noted this item was tabled at the August meeting. She noted that at the Commission meeting in July, the Commission reviewed results of the Plan Steering Committee workshop and directed staff to develop a scope and budget for additional analysis of certain challenging or emerging issues as included in Phase 2 of the original Watershed Plan Update scope.

Commission Engineer Chandler noted that 6 of the 13 challenging issues identified for deeper analysis would need a more technical analysis by the Commission Engineers. She reviewed those 6 issues within the memo:

- Climate Change and Climate Resiliency – This work would include analyzing a larger storm event and developing flood inundation maps
- Chloride Pollution – This work may include looking at better site design to reduce winter maintenance issues and deicer use and/or may include establishing protection zones. Chair Cesnik added her desire to explore how chloride-laden waters mobilize heavy metals.
- Water Quality Standards for Linear Projects – This will take into consideration the new MS4 permit requirements and another analysis of the impacts of linear projects in BCWMC.
- Bassett Creek Valley Study – This work will consider next steps and possible Commission roles
- Manage and Restore Riparian Areas – This work will be related to the item below and may look at appropriate buffer regulations, shoreland management practices, etc.
- Evaluating Stream Health to Address Biotic Impairments – This work will include results of MPCA's stressor ID work in 2023 and discussions with MPCA on expectations for urban streams

Engineer Chandler noted the total cost of these analyses of \$38,375. There was some discussion about how investigation of changing Medicine Lake water levels might work into the Climate Change and Climate Resiliency issue. Commissioner Welch noted the Commission should set its own stream health goals if MPCA's goals don't seem appropriate.

There was discussion about how the “deeper analysis” work should be iterative and include regular check-ins with the Plan Steering Committee/Commission to make sure expectations are aligned between Commission and staff/cities. It was also noted that some technical analysis of other issues not included here is expected throughout the plan development process. It was also noted that the Commission shouldn’t revise current policies and roles if not warranted.

Golden Valley resident, Jim Rock, noted that stream health assessments should also consider indigenous indicators of health such as wild rice stands and other relationships with the natural world.

MOTION: Commissioner Welch moved to approve the scope and budget for the Phase II analyses with a not to exceed amount of \$38,375. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0, with the cities of Robbinsdale, St. Louis Park, and Golden Valley absent from the vote.

B. Receive Report on Salt Symposium and Awards to Minneapolis and Golden Valley

Chair Cesnik congratulated the cities of Minneapolis and Golden Valley on their Environmental Leadership Awards, recognized at the Salt Symposium. Chair Cesnik reported that she attended the whole conference and learned a lot including how salty water mobilizes heavy metals. She indicated it might be good to have a study session on the content of the symposium. Administrator Jester indicated she would send links or recordings of presentations, if available. Alternate Commissioner Kennedy agreed that the symposium was very informative, with great detailed information presented.

C. Consider Selection of Contractor and Awarding Contract for Sweeney Lake Alum Treatment

Commission Engineer Chandler reported that the Commission Engineers recommend that the Commission award a contract for Sweeney Lake Alum Treatment Phase II to the lowest responsible bidder, SOLitude Lake Management, by adopting Resolution No. 22-07 and authorizing the chair to sign the notice of award. She noted that although two bids were received by the bidding deadline, one company withdrew their bid from consideration.

Commission Engineer Greg Wilson noted that although the price is about 30% higher than the 2020 Sweeney Lake alum treatment, the price is fair given the economy. He also noted he has worked with staff at SOLitude Lake Management in the past and is comfortable with their abilities and equipment. There was some discussion about the bidder that withdrew and reasons for choosing the lowest responsible bidder.

MOTION: Commissioner Welch moved to adopt Resolution 22-07, accepting the bid of \$185,994 from SOLitude Lake Management for the Sweeney Lake Alum Treatment. Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion.

There was discussion about overall project costs continuing to rise. Commission Engineer Wilson noted that prices do seem to be moderating in recent weeks. Upon request, Engineer Wilson also explained how an alum treatment works to reduce phosphorus and improve water quality.

VOTE: The motion carried 6-0, with the cities of Robbinsdale, St. Louis Park, and Golden Valley absent from the vote.

D. Consider Approving Scope and Budget for Study of Chloride Extraction/Dilution from Parkers Lake

Commission Engineer Chandler reviewed the scope and budget to perform an initial study of Parkers Lake to determine the practicality of removing chloride-laden water from within Parkers Lake as part of the Parkers Lake Chloride Reduction CIP Project. She noted that two options would be studied: extraction (removing bottom waters from the lake and discharging to the sanitary sewer); and dilution (pumping and treating bottom waters using reverse osmosis to remove the chloride before returning water to the lake). The work includes monitoring by Three Rivers Park District (through an existing agreement with the City of Plymouth, and a future agreement with either the Commission Engineer or the City of Plymouth) and the study will determine the mass of chloride in the lake. She reviewed the steps of the study including data collection, modeling, discussions with Met Council regarding discharge to the sanitary sewer, and further evaluation of concepts.

It was acknowledged that this study is an iterative process and that discussions with Met Council will help determine the path forward. Alternate Commissioner Polzin indicated that the study has intriguing solutions and she would like to see additional information included in the final report such as impacts on the sanitary sewer and a list of potential

partners or grant funds that might be available if a solution moves forward. It was noted that this seems more like a demonstration project.

There was discussion about ongoing sources of chloride within the lake’s subwatershed, including the Hennepin County maintenance facility. It was noted that there is historical, high chloride loading to the lake being addressed here and that this project is just one mechanism being used to reduce chlorides in the lake.

MOTION: Commissioner Welch moved to authorize a not to exceed amount of \$45,000 for the Study of Chloride Extraction/Dilution from Parkers Lake. Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0, with the cities of Robbinsdale, St. Louis Park, and Golden Valley absent from the vote.

E. Consider Approval of Resolution 22-08 Certifying Final 2023 Levy to Hennepin County

Administrator Jester reminded commissioners that at the meeting in June, the Commission set a maximum 2023 levy of \$2,207,000 and that final 2023 levy figures are due to Hennepin County at the beginning of October. She noted her recommendation to certify a final levy of \$2,207,000 by resolution. She further explained how additional expenses for the Bryn Mawr Project were added to the 2023 levy by moving funds away from the SEA School-Wildwood Park Flood Reduction Project in 2023 and into the 2024 levy. She reviewed impacts to the overall CIP table.

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to adopt Resolution 22-08 certifying a final levy of \$2,207,000 to Hennepin County for 2023. Commissioner Gwin-Lenth seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0, with the cities of Robbinsdale, St. Louis Park, and Golden Valley absent from the vote.

F. Receive Report on One Water Summit

Administrator Jester gave a brief report on the One Water Summit she attended in Milwaukee, WI as part of the Met Council’s delegation. She noted that she attended several sessions on providing equity in water services and participated in a three-hour workshop on how to use the Equity Guide for Green Stormwater Infrastructure Practitioners. She noted the Summit was a very large event with over 800 people from all over the United States and video or in-person addresses from Vice President Kamala Harris, Wisconsin Governor Evers, Wisconsin DNR Commissioner, and President Biden’s appointee to lead implementation of the new Infrastructure and Investment and Jobs Act.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Administrative Report

Administrator Jester asked for volunteers for the September 25th events. She also reported on attending an event in the Jordan Neighborhood in Minneapolis; an abstract for a presentation on water quality improvements in Sweeney Lake being accepted for the MAWD conference; a request for a presentation on the history of the BCWMC and watershed management for the Golden Valley Historical Society; and articles in the Sun Post and Sun Sailor on the BCWMC Plan Update process and public input survey.

B. Chair

Chair Cesnik asked about the Commission’s role in filling vacant commissioner and alternate commissioner positions. Administrator Jester noted it is the member city’s role to fill positions but that she can help develop materials for recruiting. There was discussion about mechanisms, barriers, and drivers for recruiting volunteers.

C. Commissioners

Commissioner Carlson relayed the pressure that property owners get from their lawyers and the public to apply more winter salt to avoid slip and fall lawsuits. Commission Engineer Chandler noted that Barr Engineering staff attended the Salt Symposium and will bring ideas for salt reduction to the Commission.

D. TAC Members

TAC Chair Mark Ray reported on a blue green algae bloom in Winnetka Pond. Golden Valley TAC member Eric Eckman reported that bids for the Medley Park Stormwater Improvement Project came in under engineer’s estimates and that a contract would be awarded by the city soon. Plymouth TAC member Ben Scharenbroich reported a blue green algae bloom on Lost Lake.

It was noted the TAC will meet during their regular time on Wednesday October 5th at 10:30 a.m. at Brookview. Alternate Commissioner Hauer agreed to be the liaison.

E. Committees

No reports were given.

F. Legal Counsel

No report was given.

G. Engineer

Commission Engineer Chandler reported that the Main Stem Lagoon Dredging project bid documents were posted on September 9th, with bids due September 30th, and she expects an engineer's recommendation to award the contract at the October Commission meeting. She also noted that the hot, dry summer has contributed to blue green algae blooms, including continued high numbers in Northwood Lake.

Before the meeting adjourned, there was discussion about where to hold future BCWMC meetings. There was discussion that the current meeting space (the Council Conference Room at Golden Valley City Hall) seemed to work nicely and should be used moving forward. The room may also support hybrid meetings in the future.

7. INFORMATION ONLY (Information online only)

- i. BCWMC Administrative Calendar
- ii. CIP Project Updates www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects
- iii. Grant Tracking Summary and Spreadsheet
- iv. WCA Notices – Plymouth
- v. [News Story on Winnetka Pond Blue Green Algae](#)

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m. Future meetings will be held in the same room.