



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Minutes of Regular Meeting October 16, 2014 Golden Valley City Hall, 8:30 a.m.

Commissioners and Staff Present:

| | | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Crystal | Commissioner Guy Mueller, Vice Chair | Robbinsdale | <i>Not represented</i> |
| Golden Valley | Commissioner Stacy Hoschka, Treasurer | St. Louis Park | Commissioner Jim de Lambert, Chair |
| Medicine Lake | Commissioner Clint Carlson | Administrator | Laura Jester |
| Minneapolis | Alternate Commissioner Lisa Goddard | Attorney | Troy Gilchrist, Kennedy & Graven |
| Minnetonka | <i>Not represented</i> | Engineer | Karen Chandler, Barr Engineering Co. |
| New Hope | <i>Not represented</i> | Recorder | Amy Herbert |
| Plymouth | Commissioner Ginny Black | | |

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Members/ Other Attendees Present:

| | |
|--|--|
| Erick Francis, TAC, City of St. Louis Park | Jeff Oliver, TAC, City of Golden Valley |
| Christopher Gise, Golden Valley Resident | Bob Paschke, TAC, City of New Hope |
| Chris Long, TAC, City of New Hope | Ben Scharenbroich, City of Plymouth |
| Linda Loomis, Chair, Plan Steering Cmte | Liz Stout, TAC, City of Minnetonka |
| Tom Mathisen, TAC, City of Crystal | Dave Tobelmann, Alternate Commissioner, City of Plymouth |
| Richard McCoy, TAC, City of Robbinsdale | Pete Willenbring, WSB & Associates (partial attendance) |

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

On Thursday, October 16, 2014, at 8:34 a.m. in the Council Conference room at Golden Valley City Hall, Chair de Lambert called to order the meeting of the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) and asked for roll call to be taken. The Cities of Minnetonka, New Hope, and Robbinsdale were absent from the roll call.

2. CITIZEN FORUM ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No items were raised.

3. AGENDA

Administrator Jester made several announcements including reminding the Commission that the November monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 19th, the Commission's press release recognizing its volunteers has been distributed, and Tom Mathisen has announced that he will be retiring on December 5th from his role with the City of Crystal and with the BCWMC TAC.

Commissioner Black moved to approve the agenda. Alternate Commissioner Goddard seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 6-0 [Cities of Minnetonka, New Hope, and Robbinsdale absent from vote].

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Black moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Alternate Commissioner Goddard seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 6-0 [Cities of Minnetonka, New Hope, and Robbinsdale absent from vote].

[The following items were approved as part of the Consent Agenda: the September 18, 2014, Commission Meeting minutes, the monthly financial report, the payment of the invoices, Approval of Markay Ridge Streambank Stabilization Project in Golden Valley, Approval of Agreement with Golden Valley for Use of Channel Maintenance Funds, and Approval of Plymouth City Flats in Plymouth.]

The general and construction account balances reported in the Financial Report prepared for the October 16, 2014, meeting are as follows:

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Checking Account Balance | \$563,410.64 |
| <hr/> | |
| TOTAL GENERAL FUND BALANCE | \$563,410.64 |
| <hr/> | |
| TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENTS ON-HAND (10/06/14) | \$3,043,473.65 |
| <hr/> | |
| CIP Projects Levied – Budget Remaining | (\$2,728,308.72) |
| <hr/> | |
| Closed Projects Remaining Balance | \$315,164.93 |
| <hr/> | |
| 2013 Anticipated Tax Levy Revenue | \$8,756.59 |
| <hr/> | |
| 2014 Anticipated Tax Levy Revenue | \$428,419.50 |
| <hr/> | |
| Anticipated Closed Project Balance | \$752,341.02 |
| <hr/> | |

5. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Receive Comments on the Proposed 2015 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Chair de Lambert opened the public hearing and called for comments. Commissioner Black stated that she hopes the project will use as much soft armoring as it can because in the long run residents are usually happier with the soft armoring. Chair de Lambert called for additional comments. Upon hearing none, he closed the public hearing.

6. BUSINESS

A. Consider Resolution Ordering 2015 Improvements

Administrator Jester pointed out that approval of this resolution also approves entering into the contract with the City of Golden Valley for the City to design and construct the project.

Commissioner Black asked what amount would be left in the Commission's Closed Project Fund if the Commission uses \$503,000 from that fund for this Main Stem restoration project. Administrator Jester responded \$250,000. Commissioner Black noted that it's possible the Commission should hold a higher amount in the Closed Project Account and that policy should be reviewed in the near future.

Commissioner Black moved approval of the resolution 14-06 ordering improvements and approval of the agreement with the City of Golden Valley for construction of the Main Stem restoration project and authorization for the Recording Secretary to sign the documents (along with the Commission Chair) for the Commission Secretary. Commissioner Mueller seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 6-0 [Cities of Minnetonka, New Hope, and Robbinsdale absent from vote].

B. Consider Approval of Agreement with City of Golden Valley for Construction of Main Stem Restoration Project (CR2015)

[See Agenda item 6A].

C. Review Draft Feasibility Report for Honeywell Pond Expansion (BC-4)

Administrator Jester reminded the group they had discussed this feasibility study at the September meeting but the item was tabled until this meeting to allow refinement of the study. Engineer Chandler announced that the number of options had been narrowed. She explained that option one is the Honeywell Pond expansion, and the diversion of water from Douglas Drive to the Honeywell pond. She said that options 2a and 2b include taking storm water and using it for irrigation and infiltration in different locations, and option 3 is a combination of the Honeywell pond and the storm water use option.

Engineer Chandler noted that the storm water re-use option would only make sense if the Honeywell pond is expanded because there would need to be enough water in the pond to facilitate the irrigation. She pointed out that for this reason the feasibility study recommends option 1 as the priority project and options 2a and 2b can be considered if there are funds available to construct that part of the project. Administrator Jester added that options 2a and 2b aren't stand-alone projects.

Alternate Commissioner Tobelmann asked if funding for the irrigation portion of the project would come from the City. Engineer Chandler pointed out the table in the memo that shows that the City is planning to contribute a significant portion of funding.

There was discussion of the project cost, the status of Honeywell's interest in the irrigation option, and the effects on pond water levels by using the water for irrigation purposes. Mr. Oliver and Engineer Chandler

responded to questions. Administrator Jester reiterated that the cost to the Commission of option 1 is approximately \$470,000 and the Commission's cost for option 3 is approximately \$795,000. She reminded the Commission that next month the group will be taking action on the Northwood Lake Improvement Project, which is also on the Commission's CIP for 2016. Administrator Jester explained that the \$285,000 project cost listed in the CIP table for the Honeywell Project was a placeholder since the feasibility hadn't been undertaken to determine the cost.

Commissioner Black said that she likes option 1 because it doesn't rule out the storm water reuse options but moves the project forward and allows for other projects to move forward that also have been on the Commission's CIP for a long time.

Engineer Chandler pointed out that the Commission has anticipated that some portion of the Northwood Lake Improvement Project will be levied over two years.

Commissioner Black stated that the cost of construction has increased since the time when the Commission set its practice of maintaining its annual levy at \$1,000,000. She said that perhaps the Commission needs to re-evaluate that practice and implement a practice in which every three years the Commission looks at project costs and determines the target annual levy amount for the next three years. There was a brief discussion.

Mr. Oliver stated that the City would like the Commission to support option 3, which is the design of the pond expansion along with the irrigation. He said that as of now, the City feels that the amount of funding it can commit to the project is a good estimate. He added that from a cost perspective the City would much prefer to do the pond expansion and the irrigation construction at the same time. He said if the irrigation part was done at a later time it could easily cost an extra 50% due to remobilization costs.

Commissioner Black said that she would like the Commission to determine how irrigating the Honeywell property fits into the mission of the Commission. Engineer Chandler pointed out that the project will provide more phosphorous removal by including the irrigation portion of the project.

Commissioner Carlson moved that the Commission commit to a preference for option 3 and that the Commission approves the feasibility study with the incorporation of the Engineer's comments. Alternate Commissioner Goddard seconded the motion.

Mr. Long with the City of New Hope provided a brief update on the Northwood Lake project in New Hope and said it will come back in front of the Commission at its November meeting. Commissioner Black said that she would like to see this Golden Valley project and the New Hope project in terms of how the funding of these two projects integrates with or impacts the funding set aside for other projects on the Commissions CIP.

Upon a vote, the motion carried 6-0 [Cities of Minnetonka, New Hope, and Robbinsdale absent from vote].

D. Consider Moving Forward with Twin Lake Alum Treatment

Administrator Jester reminded the Commission that just over a year ago the Commission added the Twin Lake Alum Treatment project to the CIP along with other 2014 CIP projects. She said that the Commission did not order the project because the commissioners had some questions about whether or not the fish communities may shorten the effective life of the alum treatment and whether or not better water quality in recent years would be ongoing. Administrator Jester stated that a fish survey of Twin Lake was conducted by Blue Water Science and that additional water quality monitoring was conducted this year.

Administrator Jester said that she and the Commission Engineers met with Jeff Oliver of Golden Valley to review the data and the situation. She stated that it is their recommendation that the Commission move ahead

with the alum treatment on Twin Lake. She explained that the treatment would occur in two phases, with the first phase occurring in spring 2015. Administrator Jester said that a public outreach plan would need to be developed as well.

Commissioner Black asked if it is known how long the benefits of the alum treatment would last. Engineer Chandler said that the application processes have improved so now the benefits of treatment last for decades and the feasibility study for this project reports that the benefits will last 20 years.

There was a discussion on internal phosphorous loading in Twin Lake, access to the lake, and history of the area before development.

Commissioner Black moved that the Commission order the alum treatment on Twin Lake and direct staff to prepare the Cooperative Agreement and the public outreach plan. Commissioner Mueller seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 6-0 [Cities of Minnetonka, New Hope, and Robbinsdale absent from vote].

E. Receive Update on Next Generation Watershed Management Plan Development

Administrator Jester pointed out that the meeting notes from the Next Generation Plan Steering Committee's August meeting is in today's meeting packet and the September meeting notes are being reviewed by the Committee.

She reported that the Commission, TAC, and review agencies finished their reviews of all the policy areas at the October 8th Commission Workshop. She said that the implementation portion of the plan has been sent around electronically to Commissioners, TAC members, and review agencies for comments since there wasn't enough time at the workshop to review and discuss it. She said that those comments will be addressed at the Plan Steering Committee's meeting on Monday.

Administrator Jester announced that the Committee's goal is to have a complete draft plan for Commission review for its November meeting. She explained that at the November meeting, staff will be seeking direction to distribute the draft plan for 60-day review.

Administrator Jester described the tentative timeline for the plan review and adoption. Chair de Lambert encouraged everyone to get familiar with the plan before the discussion at the November meeting.

F. Review 2014 Budget Status

Administrator Jester reminded the Commission that in August it asked that staff bring back at the October meeting another review of the 2014 budget status. She presented her analysis and forecast of the Commission's total expenses at the end of its fiscal year 2014. She explained that her forecast shows the Commission should be approximately \$7,800 under budget by the end of the fiscal year. Administrator Jester described the three-year Next Generation Plan budget of \$110,000 and reported that by the end of the current fiscal year, \$94,000 of that budget will have been spent. She said that it cannot be determined at this point if the remaining budget of \$16,000 will cover the remainder of the plan expenses since the Commission doesn't yet know how many comments it will receive during the comment period and how much time the Commission will need to spend reviewing and responding to the comments.

Engineer Chandler provided more detail on the status of the 2014 engineering budget.

Administrator Jester said that it is her recommendation that the Commission does not stop any Commission programs or projects at this time. The Commission agreed with her recommendation.

G. Review Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Memo

Erick Francis, TAC Chair, reported that the TAC met and discussed CIP projects in Table 5-3 in the draft

Watershed Plan and had many suggested changes to the table, which were incorporated into the version reviewed at the Commission workshop.

He stated that the TAC began discussing needed revisions to the Commission’s Requirements Document. He said that the TAC recommends that the Commission Engineer bring recommended changes for the Requirements Document and related discussion items to future Commission meetings and TAC meetings.

Mr. Francis described how the TAC began developing guidelines for annualized costs per pound of pollutant removal from CIP projects. He said that the TAC recommends the Commission Engineer develop draft guidelines for methods to use in future feasibility studies for review and discussion at a future TAC meeting.

He reported that the TAC recommends that the Commission’s November meeting be held on Wednesday, November 19 since many TAC members will attend the annual American Public Works Association conference held November 20 and 21.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Administrator:

- i. Administrator Jester announced that the bid opening for the 2012 Main Stem project in Wirth Project was held, and she is waiting for a report on the results.
- ii. Administrator Jester reported on her meetings out in the field with the River Watch teachers and students.
- iii. Administrator Jester said that she sent out an email yesterday to schedule a meeting of the Administrative Services Committee.
- iv. Administrator Jester reported that the Bassett Creek Watershed’s success in delisting Wirth Lake from the Impaired Waters List is slated to be the front cover of the report on Clean Water Funds for the Clean Water Council.
- v. Administrator Jester communicated that yesterday she spoke with an MPCA staff person about Schaper Pond and whether the City can take credit in its MS4 permit for Sweeney Lake. She said that staff person reported that the MPCA is working on this issue internally and staff has recommendations that will be forwarded to MPCA management.

B. Chair:

- i. Chair de Lambert reported on his attendance at the Minnesota Water Resources Conference and the number of compliments he received on behalf of the Commission and its work.

C. Commissioners:

- i. Commissioner Hoschka reported on a field trip that she, Jeff Oliver, and Eric Eckman facilitated for students of the Perpich Center for the Arts.

D. TAC Members: No TAC Communications

E. Committees: No Committee Communications

F. Legal Counsel: No Legal Communications

G. Engineer:

- i. Engineer Chandler reported on some of her discussions at the Minnesota Water Resources Conference.
- ii. Engineer Chandler announced the opportunity to come to hear the Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency speak next week at Barr Engineering Company.

8. INFORMATION ONLY (Available at <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/Meetings/2014/2014-October/2014OctoberMeetingPacket.htm>)

- A. Grant Tracking Summary and Spreadsheet
- B. WMWA September 2014 Meeting Minutes
- C. WCA Notices, Plymouth
- D. BWSR Snapshots Article on Wirth Lake
- E. Invitation to Metro Blooms Garden Awards Event 11/6
- F. Invitation to Mississippi River Forum 10/17: Can we harvest rainwater for Indoor Use?
- G. Invitation to Metropolitan Council Water Resources Policy Plan Workshops 10/21, 10/23, or 10/30
- H. Invitation to a talk at Barr Engineering Company by MPCA Commissioner

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair de Lambert adjourned the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission Regular Meeting at 10:28 a.m.

Amy Herbert, Recorder

Date

Secretary

Date