



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

**Minutes of Regular Meeting
Thursday, October 18, 2018
8:30 a.m.**

Golden Valley City Hall, Golden Valley MN

1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

On Thursday, October 18, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. in the Council Conference Room at Golden Valley City Hall (7800 Golden Valley Rd.), Vice 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> | Mark Ray |
| Golden Valley | Absent | Jane McDonald Black | Jeff Oliver |
| Medicine Lake | Clint Carlson | Absent | <i>Absent</i> |
| Minneapolis | Michael Welch | <i>Vacant Position</i> | Liz Stout |
| Minnetonka | Mike Fruen | <i>Absent</i> | <i>Absent</i> |
| New Hope | <i>Absent</i> | Pat Crough | Megan Albert |
| Plymouth | Jim Prom | John Byrnes | Ben Scharenbroich |
| Robbinsdale | Michael Scanlan | <i>Absent</i> | Richard McCoy and Marta Roser |
| St. Louis Park | <i>Absent</i> | Patrick Noon | Erick Francis |
| Administrator | Laura Jester, Keystone Waters | | |
| Engineer | Karen Chandler and Michelle Kimble, Barr Engineering | | |
| Recorder | Absent | | |
| Legal Counsel | Troy Gilchrist, Kennedy & Graven | | |
| Presenters/ Guests/Public | Terrie Christian and Mark Sommerfeld, Plymouth residents | | |

2. CITIZEN FORUM ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Terrie Christian and Mark Sommerfeld, residents in the City of Plymouth, showed photos and described flooding that occurs during large rains along South Shore Drive on the south side of Medicine Lake. They noted the problem goes back 30 years and is getting worse. They reported they had engaged staff and council members with the City of Plymouth and in 2014 were told the problem would be reviewed. Ms. Christian and Mr. Sommerfeld said at the time city staff indicated that a wet detention pond would be needed to alleviate the flooding but that nothing has happened.

Commission Engineer Chandler reported that the Commission’s new hydrologic model could be used to determine where the water is coming from and noted some preliminary investigation indicates water during a 100-year event is coming from Golden Valley and Plymouth, making it an intercommunity drainage issue which is appropriate for the Commission to address and may even be eligible for a CIP project.

Vice Chair Prom thanked Ms. Christian and Mr. Sommerfeld for the information.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Alternate Commissioner McDonald Black moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Scanlan seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 9-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were approved as part of the consent agenda: September 20, 2018 Commission meeting minutes, acceptance of the October 2018 financial report, payment of invoices, approval to send Administrator Jester to Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts Annual meeting, and approval of Sweeney Lake Aeration Study Final Report.

The general and construction account balances reported in the October 2018 Financial Report are as follows:

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Checking Account Balance | \$ 546,577.84 |
| TOTAL GENERAL FUND BALANCE | \$ 546,577.84 |
| TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENTS ON-HAND (10/10/18) | \$ 3,181,518.01 |
| CIP Projects Levied – Budget Remaining | (\$4,035,437.41) |
| Closed Projects Remaining Balance | (\$ 853,919.40) |
| 2012-2016 Anticipated Tax Levy Revenue | \$ 4,537.93 |
| 2017 Anticipated Tax Levy Revenue | \$ 3,895.88 |
| Anticipated Closed Project Balance | (\$845,485.59) |

MOTION: Alternate Commissioner McDonald Black moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Welch seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 9-0.

5. BUSINESS

A. Review Draft Feasibility Study for Bryn Mawr Meadows Water Quality Improvement Project via Ridgedale Drive (BC-5)

Administrator Jester reviewed that at the September 2017 Commission meeting, a proposal to develop a feasibility study for this 2020 CIP project was approved. She noted the Commission Engineer has been in close communication with the Minneapolis Park and Rec Board as this project coincides with a park reconstruction project in 2022. The

draft feasibility study offers three concepts for the Commission to discuss and consider. Commission Engineer Kimble presented the draft feasibility study and the three concepts.

She noted that Bryn Mawr Meadows Park is located in the southeast corner of the Bassett Creek watershed and that much of the drainage area is supposed to flow through a MnDOT pond called Penn Pond, when then flows in a storm sewer under Morgan Ave. She noted there is little or no stormwater treatment and the storm sewer outlets into Bassett Creek. She reported that Penn Pond is undersized and not treating the stormwater runoff from the south of highway 394.

Commissioner Welch added that this area is very low. Commission Engineer Kimble said that some of the park to the north is in a 10-year and 100-year floodplain where soils are fill, clay, and organic. She noted that the park area was likely an old wetland and the groundwater is shallow.

Commission Engineer Kimble noted there is a second unnamed MnDOT pond beneath I-394. This pond does not show up on any of the MnDOT plans and it is not clear how the pond functions with Penn Pond and the downstream storm sewer located along Morgan Avenue. She reported that information gathered on a site visit showed an incoming storm sewer, but no outlet structure. She stated further investigation is required to determine if the pond is providing additional water quality benefits prior to the runoff flowing downstream to Morgan Avenue and Bryn Mawr Meadows Park.

Commission Engineer Kimble reported that the Commission Engineer participated in a design meeting with the Minneapolis Park and Rec Board (MPRB) where they provided input on where stormwater treatment makes sense within the park. She noted there has been considerable stakeholder input with MPRB and a technical stakeholder meeting, but no permits from the Army Corps of Engineers are required for the CIP project. She also reminded commissioners that the park reconstruction project will require stormwater treatment, but the CIP project would provide treatment above and beyond requirements. She also reported that public input has been sought in conjunction with MPRB engagement on the park reconstruction project.

Commission Engineer Kimble presented the proposed concepts, noting they will reduce sediment and phosphorus loading to Bassett Creek and all downstream water bodies. Multiple alternatives were evaluated for removing sediment and improving water quality. The measures considered for potential implementation include the following:

- Diverting runoff from a 15.9-acre residential area west of the park into a stormwater pond (Concept 1 – Northwest Neighborhood Diversion)
- Diverting low flows from Penn Pond discharge and 29.2-acre residential area west of the park into a stormwater pond (Concept 2 – Penn Pond Low Flow Diversion). The engineer considers this option to be the most cost effective.
- Combine Concepts 1 and 2 (Concept 3 – Northwest Neighborhood Diversion and Penn Pond Low Flow Diversion)
- Other concepts considered, but not developed (treatment of full flows, infiltration, iron enhanced or other filtration)

Commission Engineer Kimble reported that infiltration isn't possible due to high groundwater and poor soils and that iron-enhanced infiltration systems were considered but are not a good option for this site. She noted that estimated costs assume excavated soils need to be landfilled and that costs could be reduced by about half if the soils don't need to be landfilled.

TAC Member Stout and Commissioner Welch noted that it's not appropriate for a "first flush" of runoff from MnDOT property and highways to be treated in open water systems within a park. There was discussion about the responsibility of MnDOT to maintain Penn Pond and ensure that it is functioning properly. There was consensus that the Commission shouldn't put CIP funding into a project that addresses a MnDOT issue, if at all possible. Administrator Jester suggested that the Southwest LRT Project may also be working in the area near Penn Pond.

Commissioner Scanlan asked about neighborhood meetings. Administrator Jester and Commissioner Welch commented that there were no impacts to neighbors.

Alternate Commissioner McDonald Black stated that Concept #3 is a good value for cost per pound of pollutant removal when compared with other CIP projects. Jester reiterated that MnDOT needs to maintain their ponds.

MOTION: Alternate Commissioner McDonald Black moved to continue analyzing Concept #3 and engage MnDOT regarding the survey and maintenance of Penn Pond and other adjacent stormwater management features. Commissioner Scanlan seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 9-0.

B. Review Draft Bassett Creek Watershed Sign at Westwood Hills Nature Center

Administrator Jester showed and described components of the latest draft of the BCWMC sign that will be installed at the Westwood Hills Nature Center. She noted the sign is 5.5'x 2.5' and that the audience is both adults and children. Alternate Commissioner McDonald Black commented that a more specific action or stronger language should be used rather than "use less salt." She suggested "avoid salt." Alternate Commissioner Byrnes pointed out that the sign is already fairly wordy. Commissioner Fruen suggested not listing all nine cities, since they can be shown on the map. Changing around the graphics and reducing redundancy was also discussed. Commissioner Welch liked the specifics and didn't think there was too much text.

Commissioner Scanlan brought up that there is an "Adopt a Drain" program that is being implemented metro-wide in 2019. It was agreed the website for that program should be included on the sign.

C. Update on Local Water Management Plan Reviews

- i. Commission Comments on New Hope Local Surface Water Management Plan
- ii. Commission Comments on Minnetonka Water Resources Management Plan

Administrator Jester updated the Commission on the status of the local plan submittals to the Commission and reviews noting that Golden Valley's plan was approved at the September meeting; Minneapolis, New Hope, Minnetonka, and Plymouth had submitted draft plans; that Crystal submitted an initial draft plan (pre-comment period); and that Robbinsdale, Medicine Lake and St. Louis Park had yet to submit draft plans. She reported the Commission is providing comments on plans as quickly as possible and is automatically requesting extensions to the comment period. She noted that if commissioners have any comments on the New Hope and Minnetonka plans in addition to those provided already by staff, they should let her know. Attorney Gilchrist wondered if action was needed to allow for formal submittal of comments between Commission meetings. Administrator Jester responded that a local plan will not be approved except for at a Commission meeting with a formal resolution. There was consensus that commissioners were comfortable with the process so there is no need for a motion.

D. Discuss Invitation to Officially Join Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts

Administrator Jester reported that the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) is a nonprofit organization that represents the local governments that focus on the management of water on watershed boundaries rather than political boundaries, such as cities and counties. She noted that until now, only watershed districts, and not watershed management organizations, could be members. She noted that MAWD is now inviting WMOs to be members for an initial fee of \$500. She reviewed a fact sheet included with meeting materials which indicates that MAWD members benefit from having an organization that provides a unified voice for watershed management and that works diligently to maximize the availability of the tools and resources that allow members to most effectively and efficiently meet their water management goals. It notes that primary areas of focus include providing education and training opportunities, lobbying and advocacy services, and regular communications.

Administrator Jester noted that her recommendation is not to join MAWD at this time, mostly because WMOs would not be given voting rights at MAWD business meetings. Commissioner Welch encouraged Administrator Jester to advocate for WMOs to get voting rights. He suggested that she write a letter to MAWD on the subject for review at the November Commission meeting. He also noted that a subset organization, Metro MAWD, meets quarterly and that the Commission should be invited to those meetings and consider attending.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. **Administrator's Report** – Administrator Jester noted that her written report was in the meeting packet and added the following points:
 - i. Loppet Foundation – Urban Portage Event – Administrator Jester reported that this event that took place on October 13th originally planned to include paddlers moving through several lakes within the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes and then into Wirth Lake, Bassett Creek, Sweeney Lake and Twin Lake – with portaging in between. She reported that several groups were very concerned about AIS being transferred from infested waters into Sweeney and Twin Lakes. She reported a large meeting of all stakeholder groups was held and that plans for a decontamination station before Sweeney Lake were agreed upon. However, she reported that at the last minute, the race course was changed not to include Sweeney or Twin Lakes. She reported that considerable time was spent on this issue including Commission engineering time.
 - ii. Smart Salt Certification Course – Administrator Jester reported that about 15 people attended the course and that it went really well.
 - iii. Workshop for Lake Groups: Options for Organizing – Administrator Jester reported that 17 people from 5 different lakes attended the meeting and that a full report would be provided at the November meeting.
 - iv. Reminder of WEDNESDAY November 14th Commission Meeting

- B. **Chair**
Nothing to report

- C. **Commissioners**
Commissioner Scanlan shared his thoughts about the Smart Salting Training and salting practices in general.

- D. **TAC Members**
 - i. Marta Roser complimented Administrator Jester on her AIS presentation at the Water Resources Conference.

- E. **Committees**
 - i. Administrative Services Committee – Scheduled for October 24th to evaluate staff. Administrator Jester was directed to send the evaluation form to TAC members and commissioners and ask them to send any comments to Chair de Lambert.
 - ii. CIP Prioritization Committee – Meeting scheduled for November 5th

- F. **Legal Counsel**
Attorney Gilchrist noted that the letter to BWSR which he was directed to write at the last meeting was included with "information only" materials. He noted he has not received a reply.

- G. **Engineer** - Engineer Chandler gave the following reports:
 - i. Tunnel Inspection will probably not happen on Oct. 30th due to delays with the Army Corps of Engineers
 - ii. Schaper Pond Carp Survey update: Tagged 18 adults and 51 young of year in Schaper Pond and 133 adults in Sweeney Lake.
 - iii. Sediment Sampling in Jevne Park— It was decided this was not needed, based on review of sediments during wetland delineation.
 - iv. Sweeney Lake Aeration Study — The report included in the consent agenda includes information on alum treatment costs and recommendations on aquatic plant management.

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. Sun Sailor Article: DeCola Ponds B & C Improvement Project
- E. Letter from Commission Legal Counsel to BWSR
- F. West Metro Water Alliance Water Links Newsletter

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Signature/Title

Date