Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

MEMO

To: BCWMC Commissioners and Alternates
From: Administrator Jester on behalf of Plan Steering Committee
Date: July 10, 2025

RE: Recommendation to Submit Draft Watershed Management Plan for 60-day Review

The Plan Steering Committee has been developing the draft watershed plan since September 2023 including identifying and prioritizing issues, developing issue statements, expressing desired future conditions, drafting 10-year measurable goals, developing policies, updating implementation tools, and crafting the 10-year activity and program schedule and 10-year capital improvement program.

Of course, this work has been accomplished with much input and feedback along the way including initial input from the public and partners (details found in Appendix F), feedback from the TAC and the Plan TAC (which includes review agencies and other partners), and review and input at six Commission Workshops.

At this time, the Plan Steering Committee seeks feedback on the complete plan from the Commission. Barring no serious concerns or issues, the committee recommends that the Commission approve submitting the draft plan for a formal 60-day review – from approximately August 1 to September 29, 2025. The draft plan would be submitted to state, local, and regional review agencies; partners such as TRPD and MPRB; member cities; lake groups; Minneapolis neighborhood associations; and interested residents. A press release and content for city newsletters or social media will be drafted to announce the review period and solicit comments.

At the end of the 60-day review, the Commission is obligated to respond in writing to every comment it receives. A public hearing on the plan is slated for this November with a subsequent 90-day review period that will extend into next year. Staff anticipates plan adoption sometime next spring.

There are a few minor adjustments and additions that should be made before 60-day submittal including:

- Add photo credits throughout
- Add references in Section 5.0
- Add Section 4.6 outlining how progress toward goals will be assessed and reported
- Adjust creek labels on Figure 2-1 (and in Appendix A, as needed)
- Add acronyms lists to each appendix
- Update section numbering in Appendix B
- Add references to sections, tables, and figures where currently missing
- Adjust formatting for readability