



## Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

### MEMO

To: BCWMC Commissioners  
From: Laura Jester, Administrator  
Date: April 9, 2019

**RE: Technical Advisory Committee Recommendations: 2021- 2025 Capital Improvement Program**

The BCWMC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on March 8 and 26 to discuss possible projects to include in the 5-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and to score projects using the new CIP Project Scoring Matrix.

The 2021 – 2025 CIP table shows the TAC's recommendations with changes from the 2020 – 2024 CIP shown with underline and strikeout. Fact sheets for each of the projects on the 2021 – 2025 schedule are included with online meeting materials.

Proposed Additions and Changes to 2021 – 2025 CIP:

- Adding a project within the **Medicine Lake Rd and Winnetka Ave Long Term Flood Mitigation Plan Project** (BC- BC-2,3,8, 10). The DeCola Pond F Flood Storage & Diversion Project and the SEA School Flood Storage Project are each slated for \$1.3M. Although it's not currently known which project will come first, these are slated for 2022/2023 and 2025/2026 in the CIP.
- Moving the **Restoration and Stabilization of Historic Bassett Cr Channel, Main Stem Watershed** (BC-9) until after 2025 to better align with the Blue Line LRT Project construction in the same area.
- Adding the **Sweeney Lake Water Quality Improvement Project** (SL-8) in 2020/2021 to provide the local match of \$220,000 for the 319 grant to control carp in Schaper Pond and perform an alum treatment in Sweeney Lake.

The TAC scored the projects proposed for 2021 – 2025 (and the Sweeney Lake Water Quality Improvement Project). The scoring matrix shows scores ranging from 5.5 to 12.5. The TAC discussed the merits of the lowest scoring project, the Bassett Creek Park Water Quality Improvement Project (BC-11). While the details of the project aren't yet known, this project will coincide with redevelopment of MPRB's Bassett Creek Park in Minneapolis, and includes an opportunity to restore a historic wetland in a consistently wet area of the park. Since wetland restoration is a rare opportunity in the watershed, the TAC recommends leaving it on the CIP list despite a low score.

Other lower scoring projects include areas where significant gullies/ravines along tributaries to Medicine Lake (ML-20) and Parkers Lake (PL-7) would be stabilized. These projects will greatly reduce sediment and nutrients eroding from these areas into Priority 1 lakes, but have few other secondary

benefits, resulting in lower scores. Again, the TAC still recommends implementing these projects given the water quality benefits to the lakes.

The TAC also discussed the prospect of dredging Bassett Creek Park Pond in Crystal as the second phase of the Bassett Creek Park Pond/Winnetka Pond Dredging Project. However, the high cost/low benefits of the project make it difficult to justify at this point. The pond will need to be dredged in the future so it's included as a possible project in 2026. Alternatively, the TAC agreed that instead of dredging the pond, a streambank restoration project along the North Branch Bassett Creek from 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave. to Bassett Creek Park Pond might be more cost effective and beneficial, overall. The TAC also discussed dredging a forebay within the pond rather than dredging the whole pond as a stand-alone project or combining it with the stream restoration project. These options will be reviewed and considered between now and next year when the 2022 – 2026 CIP list will be compiled.