



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

MEMO

To: BCWMC Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners
From: Laura Jester, Administrator on behalf of BCWMC Technical Advisory Committee
Date: November 11, 2025

RE: Technical Advisory Committee Recommendations

The BCWMC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on November 5, 2025 to discuss next steps resulting from the Street Sweeping Prioritization Study, consider a request from the City of Plymouth to cost share the purchase of monitoring equipment for Medicine Lake, and hear about activities related to the West Metro Water Alliance and Watershed Based Implementation Funds.

Attendees at the TAC meeting included:

City/Partner	Technical Advisory Committee Members and Others
Crystal	Jesse Struve
Golden Valley	Michael Ryan and Emma Rakestraw
Medicine Lake	Susan Weise
Minneapolis	None
Minnetonka	Eric Eckman
New Hope	Nick Macklem
Plymouth	Ben Scharenbroich
Robbinsdale	Jenna Wolf
St. Louis Park	Erick Francis
Others	Administrator Jester, Commission Engineer Johnson, Commissioner Pentel

TAC Chair Scharenbroich opened the meeting at 10:32. Introductions were made around the room. He requested the addition of an agenda item related to the purchase of monitoring equipment for Medicine Lake.

1. MEDICINE LAKE MONITORING EQUIPMENT

TAC Chair Scharenbroich reported that the City of Plymouth would like a way for the public to see Medicine Lake water levels in real time to inform the public on periods of wake restrictions. He reported on equipment called LAKESCOUT that could be used throughout the year to monitor lake levels and surface temperatures; results would be accessible via an online dashboard. He noted the city would purchase the equipment and is requesting funding from partners including the BCWMC. There was discussion about the various parameters, aside from water level, that could be added to the equipment for continuous monitoring. It was noted that the most beneficial data for monitoring lake dynamics comes from readings throughout the water column rather than only at the surface. TAC member Wiese indicated the City of Medicine Lake is interested in anything that would help keep the public informed. After more discussion, members agreed the primary benefit of the equipment is for recreation and that the water level data is not inherently valuable to the BCWMC. TAC chair Scharenbroich withdrew his cost share request and noted the city will purchase the equipment and share the data with BCWMC, as desired.

2. DISCUSS NEXT STEPS RESULTING FROM STREET SWEEPING PRIORITIZATION ANALYSIS

Commission Engineer Johnson reminded TAC members that the Commission requested input from the TAC on how to utilize results of the street sweeping study to inform and improve street sweeping operations by member cities. She noted the draft 2026 watershed plan includes \$40,000/year starting in 2027 for implementing enhanced street sweeping activities. Administrator Jester noted City of Minneapolis staff weren't able to attend this meeting. She read an email from TAC member Stout that was primarily focused on implementing enhanced sweeping equitably, keeping in mind benefits of trash collection and beautification in low income areas of the city. TAC members indicated they would like to stay focused on the nutrient reductions related to sweeping.

Commissioner Pentel noted that other city staff (for example, city managers) may need to receive the study results to effectively advocate for improved sweeping operations through public works departments. Engineer Johnson asked what data, documents, presentations, meeting assistance, etc. is needed by cities to foster internal discussions and improve sweeping operations. TAC members noted that the final project report, GIS data, maps, cost benefit information, and previously developed presentations would be helpful. No city requested assistance with meetings or development of additional documents or presentations.

There was a discussion about the primary barriers reported by cities to performing enhanced sweeping. It was noted that the study found barriers to be disposal, staff shortages, and costs. There was discussion about where each of the cities haul their fall sweeping debris. Most of the cities answered that they haul their sweepings away. The City of Plymouth brings street sweepings to their Yard Waste Site, which has limits to its capacity. TAC member Scharenbroich noted that the city is currently reviewing their yard waste processing procedures. When discussing barriers with staff capacity, the group agreed that \$40,000/year would not be enough to supplement additional sweeping across even one city.

There was acknowledgement of the benefits of enhanced sweeping but differing views among TAC members on the equity of providing funding for one city to do the same amount of sweeping that another city is already doing. In the end, there was consensus that BCWMC funds should not be spent to augment member cities' current sweeping operations.

There was agreement that cost sharing equipment upgrades is a good use of Commission funding. Some TAC members advocated for regular updates to the street sweeping study as conditions change. The TAC reviewed/discussed possible changes to the existing BCWMC policy on use of CIP funds for capital equipment purchases (see recommendation below). There was also a brief discussion on the need for additional empirical data to help further validate modeled sweeping results and the value that additional empirical data might provide in helping cities to report on street sweeping for credits toward waste load allocations from TMDLs. TAC member Ryan indicated Golden Valley will have data on recent sweeping operations this fall.

RECOMMENDATION: The TAC recommends that BCWMC funding slated for improved street sweeping not be used to augment city sweeping activities and, instead, be used to cost share equipment upgrades. The TAC recommends minor changes to the BCWMC policy on use of CIP funds for capital equipment purchases (shown on following page). The TAC also recommends that the Commission consider periodic updates to the Street Sweeping Prioritization Study as conditions change and new information becomes available.

3. RECEIVE INFORMATION & PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING PROJECT

Administrator Jester reported the BCWMC has \$44,000 in Watershed Based Implementation Funds for a small-scale BMP at a multi-family housing property to be implemented by Hennepin County. She noted county staff are drafting an RFP for a contractor to evaluate potential properties, engage with residents and property owners about potential designs/project components, and complete the design work. Project construction would be a separate phase. She asked if cities know of contractors who should receive the RFP and potential properties that might be good candidates for the project. She noted additional funding will be needed for the construction phase, which may need to come from cities. TAC members provided a list of contractors that might be interested in receiving the RFP. TAC member Ryan reported Golden Valley is planning some affordable housing and may be able to provide funds for this type of project.

4. FUTURE of WEST METRO WATER ALLIANCE – ALL PARTNER STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING

Administrator Jester reminded TAC members about an upcoming meeting on the future of WMWA and encouraged attendance.

BCWMC Capital Improvement Program

Policy on Use of CIP Funds for City Equipment Purchase

Approved April 16, 2020 (Updated XX)

Capital equipment that has been demonstrated to reduce loading of TMDL pollutants such as TP, TSS, or chloride, may be eligible if the request meets the CIP “gatekeeper questions” in Policy 110 from the [2015 Bassett Creek Watershed Management Plan](#) and the following requirements are met:

- 1) The equipment is new and is an upgrade to existing equipment in terms of effectiveness and/or efficiency. (Replacement of existing equipment is not eligible.)
- 2) The equipment will be used to undertake a new or expanded pollutant load-reducing activity to address specific water quality impairment(s).
- 3) Use of the equipment for the stated load reductions is supported by academic or governmental research.
- 4) The city agrees to document for at least five years the effectiveness of the capital equipment in achieving the stated load reductions. An agreement with the city will specify the documentation required.
- 5) For street sweeping equipment used to address a nutrient impairment, operation will be ~~scheduled~~ prioritized to maximize the collection of leaves and leaf litter debris in the fall, followed by sweeping of organic debris in the spring, followed by summer sweeping. Sweeping should be prioritized in ~~from~~ areas with high tree canopy cover that drain directly to high priority waterbodies (i.e., areas that do not drain first to a structural stormwater BMP). Priority subwatersheds for street sweeping to address nutrient loading to BCWMC priority waterbodies are noted within the BCWMC Street Sweeping Prioritization Study (2025, or as updated-version).
- 6) The amount of funding to be provided will be based on the percentage of the city’s total area within the watershed (see Table 1). The maximum funding will be the percentage in Table 1 multiplied by the total equipment cost.
- 7) Funding will only be provided for initial equipment purchase and not operational costs or maintenance.

Member City	Percentage of City Area in BCWMC
Crystal	33.6
Golden Valley	100.0
Medicine Lake	100.0
Minneapolis	4.6
Minnetonka	6.0
New Hope	38.3
Plymouth	51.2
Robbinsdale	18.0
St. Louis Park	10.8

Examples of equipment purchase that may be eligible include equipment to begin or expand pre-wetting or anti-icing, or adding or upgrading to a regenerative air street sweeper. Only the incremental cost of such an upgrade would be eligible for cost share.