



## Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

### MEMO

To: BCWMC Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners  
From: Laura Jester, Administrator  
Date: June 5, 2023

**Recommendation:** Provide (non-monetary) support for creation of ĦaĦa Wakpadaŋ pronunciation video

Last summer, the BCWMC participated in the [ĦaĦa Wakpadaŋ Community Celebration](#) at Valley Presbyterian Church in Golden Valley. (ĦaĦa Wakpadaŋ is the Dakota name for Bassett Creek.) A subset of the ĦaĦa Wakpadaŋ / Bassett Creek Oral History Project is now underway: the production of a short video describing the pronunciation of "ĦaĦa Wakpadaŋ." The oral history project is funded by UW-Madison and the Golden Valley Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Commission, with additional support from Valley Community Presbyterian Church.

Participants in the oral history project identified one of their priorities as increasing awareness of Indigenous place names. The intended audience for the short pronunciation video is anyone who would like to learn how to pronounce the Dakota name of Bassett Creek, including people living in the Bassett Creek watershed and people interacting with the oral history materials.

The video is intended to serve multiple purposes, including:

- Teach people how to pronounce ĦaĦa Wakpadaŋ
- Increase awareness of the Dakota name for Bassett Creek
- Show that Dakota people and the Dakota language are alive and thriving today (they are not relics of the past)
- Gather community support for Native-produced media
- Engage Native vendors and speakers through paid opportunities

The video will be about 2 minutes long, with a focus is how to pronounce ĦaĦa Wakpadaŋ and it will be comprised almost entirely of short clips of people saying the creek's name, very similar to the video for [how to pronounce Wakan Tipi](#). Partner logos will be placed at the end of the video. See the attached flyer for more information.

Last week I met at the creek with the oral history project lead, Crystal Boyd, along with the videographer (Tiana LaPointe); Joelle Allen, Chair of Golden Valley's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Commission; and Jennifer Biggs, Chair of the Land Acknowledgement Task Force at Valley Community Presbyterian Church to discuss the project and shoot clips of the creek.

I believe this project is in line with BCWMC goals to educate the public about all aspects of the creek. I recommend that the BCWMC officially support the pronunciation video and provide a logo for inclusion.



Photo courtesy of Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

# Ĥaĥa Wakpadaŋ / Bassett Creek Pronunciation Video

In the Dakota language, Ĥaĥa Wakpadaŋ is the name for Bassett Creek. American Indians have lived, worked, and played in areas surrounding the creek for thousands of years.

In 2021, Valley Community Presbyterian Church (VCPC) received a grant to conduct oral history interviews with American Indians who are connected to the creek’s watershed. The interviews explored how Native people experience the area as part of their historic and contemporary cultures.

VCPC developed the project in partnership with cultural advisors, the Hennepin History Museum, and Dr. Kasey Keeler, a scholar of American Indian history from the University of Wisconsin—Madison.

**What is the next step?**  
VCPC has hired Tiana LaPointe (Sicangu Lakota) to produce a short video that teaches people how to pronounce “Ĥaĥa Wakpadaŋ.” Tiana will record up to 12 Dakota speakers saying the creek’s name.

**When will the recordings take place?**  
Tiana will meet with the speakers in late May and early June 2023.

**How much time will it take?**  
Recordings usually take less than 30 minutes.

**Will speakers be compensated?**  
Yes! Each speaker will receive \$25. VCPC and its partners are grateful for your time and expertise.

**How will the video be shared?**  
The video will be shared online through webpages, YouTube channels, and social media platforms. It will be shared broadly by VCPC, the Hennepin History Museum, the project partners.

**Where can I learn more?**  
[www.valleychurch.net/land-acknowledgement](http://www.valleychurch.net/land-acknowledgement)

For more information, please contact project manager Crystal Boyd at [crystalboydconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:crystalboydconsulting@gmail.com)



\*As a faith congregation opening hearts, opening minds, and opening lives to God, Valley Community Presbyterian Church (VCPC) seeks to honor the important stories and lived experiences of its members and neighbors. VCPC sits on the ancestral and contemporary land of the Dakota people, for whom the land holds historical, spiritual, political, and cultural significance.

We acknowledge the ongoing injustices that we have committed against the Dakota people and pledge to interrupt this legacy. We will educate ourselves about Indigenous history and recognize, support, and advocate for our Native neighbors.



This project is made possible through funding from Valley Community Presbyterian Church, the University of Wisconsin—Madison, and the people of Minnesota through a grant funded by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.



Photo courtesy of Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

# To everyone who has been involved so far: Thank You!

## Narrators

Sydney Beane  
Ben Blackhawk  
Brad Blackhawk  
Eric Buffalohead  
Roxanne Gould  
Sam Majhor  
Jim Rock  
Tawnya Stewart  
Grant Two Bulls  
Cathee Vick  
Debbi Williams  
David Wilson  
Diane Wilson  
Ben Yawakie

## Cultural Advisors

Brenda Child  
Darlene St. Clair

## Project Personnel

Kasey Keeler, project lead  
Sarah Lundquist, transcriptionist  
Margo Mandel, transcriptionist

## VCPC Land Acknowledgment Task Force

Rev. Richard Buller  
Mariah Messer, VCPC staff  
Jen Biggs, task force lead  
Crystal Boyd, project manager  
Lyn Boyd  
Jan Fedora  
Jeanine Miakotina  
Julie Westerlund

## VCPC Staff

William Glasper  
Hunter Sheldon  
Sheila Sheldon

## Project Partners

John Crippen, Hennepin History Museum  
Larry Johnson, photographer  
Michele Pollard, Hennepin History Museum  
Teresa Martin, GV Historical Society  
Kyle Scott, GV Historical Society  
Stan Waldhauser, photographer



Photo credit: Stan Waldhauser



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