



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

MEMO

To: BCWMC Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners
From: Administrator Jester
Date: October 14, 2026

RE: Adjustment to Bassett Creek Restoration Project Engineering Services Budget

Recommendation: Allow up to \$58,000 in environmental contingency funds to be used for construction observation and approve the use of up to \$58,000 in CIP Closed Project Funds (with Administrator and Chair approval) for environmental investigation and cleanup if contamination is discovered and there is a time-sensitive need to address it.

Background:

At their meeting in January 2026, the Commission approved an updated budget for engineering services for the Bassett Creek Restoration Project, Regent Ave. to Golden Valley Rd. to be performed by the Commission Engineer. Engineering services include project design, permitting, assistance with public engagement, bidding services, development of access easement drawings, construction services including construction observation, and project management. The budget also includes contingency for an archeological survey which was utilized in June 2025 when such a survey became a permit requirement. Finally, the budget includes contingency for environmental investigations and cleanup should contaminated sediment be discovered during construction.

Project progress has been relayed to commissioners during Commission Engineer reports at most monthly Commission meetings this year. Construction in reach 1 of the project area is complete, and construction for reach 2 started October 12. Construction observation is being performed by Commission Engineers (as planned in the engineering services scope of work).

Commission Engineers have been closely tracking their activities and budgets per task over time and recently alerted me to potential budget concerns as the project progresses. Several tasks this year took more time than anticipated including 1) refining/revising easement drawings as access routes changed upon recommendation from the contractor, and as homeowners finalized their participation decisions; 2) considerable "back and forth" with the DNR about permissible in-stream structures; and 3) additional no-rise modeling to meet permit requirements.

Currently, the remaining budget includes:

\$35,000 for construction administration and project management (meetings, pay application review, coordination, weekly updates, additional minor easement updates);
\$20,000 for construction closeout (record drawings, final payment, final reporting); and
\$58,000 contingency for environmental investigations and contamination clean up.

This leaves \$8,000 for construction observation which is likely to be used during the remainder of this construction season, leaving little or no funding for construction observation in 2027.

In order to reduce budget pressure and due to the competence of the contractor, the Commission Engineers have been reducing construction oversight hours in recent weeks. Further, Commission Engineers and I met with Golden Valley staff to discuss the possibility of city staff performing more observation. City staff noted this project does already consume much staff time, and they are unsure of their ability to provide additional hours in the coming months due to other projects and obligations throughout the city.

I recommend an adjustment to the engineering services budget to provide flexibility in funding the current and critical task of construction observation. I recommend the Commission allow up to \$58,000 currently slated for environmental contingency funds to be used for construction observation, and to approve the use of up to \$58,000 in CIP Closed Project Funds for environmental investigation and cleanup if contamination is discovered and there is a time-sensitive need to address it. This approval to use Closed Project Funds would require Administrator and Chair approval if time sensitive, or would be brought to the Commission for consideration if time allows.