WATERBODY & WATERSHED QUALITY
PSC Recommendations for Commission Workshop Aug 2024
(Find previously finalized issues and goals in this category here)

ATTACHMENT B

WATERBODY AND WATERSHED QUALITY

Aquatic Invasive Species – Medium Priority

Issue Statement: Aquatic invasive species (AIS) present in the Bassett Creek watershed can negatively impact water quality, lake and stream ecology, and are exacerbated by climate trends.

Desired Future Condition	Goal (10-year)	Implementation Activities (some potential examples; highlight = new activity)
No new AIS infestations in lakes or creeks. Existing AIS managed such that they are not negatively impacting beneficial functions.	1. Prevent new AIS infestations in lakes or creeks throughout the watershed.	- Implement BCWMC's aquatic plant management/aquatic invasive species (APM/AIS) policies ($40,000) - Assist TRPD, Hennepin County, and others with AIS inspection programs ($5,000) - Work with partners and agencies to identify and track emerging AIS threats – new activity ($ unknown) - Work with Hennepin County, member cities, and other partners to provide signage, education, and early detection training to residents, boaters, anglers, and lakeshore landowners ($46,000 current education programs)
	2. Mitigate the impact of existing AIS infestations through application of BCWMC policies and practices.	- Implement BCWMC's aquatic plant management/ aquatic invasive species (APM/AIS) policies ($40,000) - Work with TRPD and MnDNR to manage and assess curly-leaf pondweed, starry stonewort, and zebra mussels in Medicine Lake (included in $40,000 above) - Follow AIS Rapid Response Plan when needed - $ unknown

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Groundwater – Surface Water Interactions – Medium Priority

Issue Statement: The ~~uncertainty~~ complexity of groundwater and surface water interactions complicates our ability to protect, restore, and responsibly manage natural resources.

Desired Future Condition	Goal (10-year)	Implementation Activities (some potential examples; highlight = new activity)
Areas with significant groundwater – surface interaction are identified and potential negative impacts due to interaction are minimized. Hennepin County develops and implements county groundwater plan.	1. ~~Understand~~ Identify areas of groundwater-surface water interaction ~~characteristics~~ corresponding to~~of~~ BCWMC priority waterbodies.	- Work with Met Council or other agencies to map groundwatersheds and evaluate groundwater-surface water interactions and groundwater dependency of BCWMC priority waterbodies – new activity ($50,000 possible estimate) - Lobby Hennepin County to develop county-wide groundwater management plan (similar to Dakota and Washington Counties) – new activity $0 - Consider identifying groundwater-surface water interactions when performing subwatershed analyses
	2. Reduce or mitigate negative impacts of groundwater-surface water interactions during development and project implementation.	- Assist with development of regional or statewide policies regarding infiltration of stormwater – new activity ($5,000 possible estimate) - Through BCWMC Requirements Document: maintain requirements detailing circumstances where stormwater infiltration is limited or prohibited for the protection of groundwater resources (consistent with the MPCA Construction Stormwater General Permit) – fee for service - Consider updating BWCMC requirements so infiltration is also consistent with MDH guidance - Through BCWMC project reviews, require information on groundwater-surface water interactions where groundwater contamination is suspected to have potential for negative impacts to surface water quality

Commented [LJ1]: Group C: Should the area be expanded beyond priority waterbodies? (Sochacki Park ponds is an example.)

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Degradation of Riparian Areas – Low Priority

Issue Statement: Degraded vegetated buffers in riparian areas result in decreased ecological function and habitat and allow excess pollutant loading to water resources, contributinge to impairments (water quality and biological)~~, and result in decreased ecological function and habitat~~.

Desired Future Condition	Goal (10-year)	Implementation Activities (some potential examples; highlight = new activity))
Riparian areas throughout the watershed are ecologically healthy with well established, diverse native vegetation.	1. Require e~~E~~stablishment and ~~maintain~~ maintenance of native vegetation along streams through BCWMC buffer requirements, wherever triggered.	- Require vegetated buffers adjacent to priority streams for projects triggering BCWMC review (ensure enforcement of existing stream buffer standard – new activity $ unknown) - Provide education to creek homeowners including riparian protection/ restoration workshops – new activity ($5,000)
	2. Restore degraded riparian areas adjacent to ~~75% of~~all applicable BCWMC CIP projects (e.g., creek restoration projects or those adjacent to waters or wetlands)~~, where applicable~~.	- Assess the condition of riparian areas on BCWMC priority streams and lakes and prioritize areas for action – new activity ($ included in activities under other issues) [*determine where this activity would apply – along all waters or only where CIP projects are proposed?*] - Incorporate elements to improve riparian areas on all stream-focused and lake-adjacent BCWMC capital improvement projects. - CIP

Degradation of Upland Areas – Low Priority

Issue Statement: Natural areas in uplands may be threatened by development pressure, lack of proper management, and negative impacts from climate change.

Desired Future Condition	Goal (10-year)	Implementation Activities (some potential examples; highlight = new activity)
Natural areas throughout the watershed are well managed, ecologically healthy, and accessible to the public, where possible. High quality uplands are not lost or negatively impacted by development projects.	1. Consider and support preservation or enhancement of upland natural areas and ~~greenway~~ corridor connections within BCWMC interest and authority.	- Evaluate aesthetics, habitat, and accessibility during CIP project selection and prioritization - CIP - Encourage and support public and private landowners to maintain, preserve or restore open space and native habitats ($46,000 current education programs) - Member cities shall consider opportunities to maintain, enhance, or provide new open spaces and/or habitat. $0 - Cooperate with the MDNR and other entities, as requested, to protect rare and endangered species under the State's Endangered Species Statute. The BCWMC will review the Natural Heritage Information System during the design phase of Commission projects – CIP - Cooperate, when appropriate and as resources allow, with partners and organizations that identify and work to preserve connected greenway corridors and other natural areas - Incorporate trails, parks, and natural areas into BCWMC watershed map. (to be included with current map update)

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Groundwater Quality – Low Priority

Issue Statement: Groundwater quality impacts public health as a source of drinking water and may be threatened by infiltration of stormwater and associated pollutants.

Desired Future Condition	Goal (10-year)	Implementation Activities (some potential examples; highlight = new activity)
Groundwater is safe to drink, meets all drinking water standards, and is not adversely impacted by pollutants.	1. Reduce negative impacts to groundwater quality from proposed projects reviewed by the BCWMC.	- Through BCWMC Requirements Document: maintain requirements detailing circumstances where stormwater infiltration is limited or prohibited for the protection of groundwater resources (consistent with the MPCA Construction Stormwater General Permit) – fee for service - Review all MDNR groundwater appropriation permit applications in the BCWMC excluding applications for temporary appropriations permits - $3,000 - Consider updating BWCMC requirements so stormwater infiltration practices are consistent with MDH guidance
	2. Prevent negative impacts to groundwater quality from BCWMC projects.	- Evaluate CIP projects for potential impacts to groundwater before implementation - CIP

Commented [LJ2]: Group C: Do we need to add a goal to understand current GW contamination (like chloride levels)? I think that's out of the scope of this plan.

Commented [KC3R2]: I agree that it's outside the scope of this plan for BCWMC to "understand" gw contamination. But I do think it's important for the BCWMC to be aware of contamination issues and their potential impact on surface waters. For chlorides, I think it's a similar comment.

Commented [LJ4]: Group B: Discussion on chloride as GW pollutant of concern and wondering our role in reducing chloride pollution to groundwater. Review chloride issue and goals?

Commented [KC5R4]: Reducing chloride pollution to groundwater is an outcome of reducing chloride use on the landscape. As less salt is applied, less chloride will end up in the groundwater. It's likely out of scope, but monitoring the surficial groundwater for chloride concentrations would help us know the long-term impact of reduced salt application in the watershed, as it will take longer for the chlorides to flush out of the groundwater (I assume). Maybe there could be a second DFC for chlorides should include something about reduced chloride concentrations in groundwater?