



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Watershed Plan Development - Progress Tracker June 2025 Update

At their meeting on June 4th, the Plan Steering Committee (PSC) reviewed feedback gathered during the Commission Plan Development Workshop. They also revisited the vision statement that was originally written at the beginning of the plan development process. The revised vision statement being recommended is: *Stewardship of the H̓a̓h̓a Wakpádaŋ / Bassett Creek Watershed to reduce flood risk and improve ecosystem health.*

At their June meeting, the PSC also decided on where and how to incorporate the creek's co-name (H̓a̓h̓a Wakpádaŋ) into the plan.

Finally, the PSC reviewed and provided valuable feedback on new sections of the draft plan including the executive summary, list of acronyms, summary of land and water resources inventory, and the appendix that summarizes public engagement and input during the plan development process. PSC members will give a final review of the complete plan in the coming weeks and are expected to recommend submittal for 60-day review at the July meeting.

The PSC discussed outreach to the public, partners, and interested groups – in addition to outreach already happening with some city commissions and councils. They decided that outreach should begin at the start of the 60-day review period with a press release and targeted outreach to stakeholder groups.

The PSC meeting next on Monday, July 7th. All PSC meetings are open to commissioners and the public (see meeting schedule in online calendar). Plan development materials can be found at: <https://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/document/2025-plan-update>.

Month and Year	Plan Steering Committee Work
September 2023 thru February 2024	<p>Developed format for presenting and discussing issue statements, desired future conditions, 10-year goals, potential actions/strategies, and tracking notes.</p> <p>Developed mission statement: <i>Stewardship of water resources to reduce flood risk and improve watershed ecosystem health.</i></p> <p>Developed issue statements and measurable goals addressing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impaired waters• Chloride loading• Streambank and gully erosion• Lakeshore erosion• Wetland health and restoration

Month and Year	Plan Steering Committee Work
	<p>Received update on plan development budget.</p> <p>Reviewed input from the Plan TAC which met in December 2023.</p> <p>Planned for January 2024 Commission workshop and responded to input received.</p> <p>Discussed implementation capacity of Commission.</p>
March 7, 2024	<p>Reviewed and approved updated waterbody classification table; recommended keeping current list of priority waterbodies.</p> <p>Reviewed plan development calendar and timeline.</p> <p>Revisited discussion on future funding and governance structure, acknowledging complicated matter given JPA status and difficulty writing a 10-year plan considering that the future structure or funding of the organization could change . General approach agreed to: 1) get the JPA updated and keep the JPA update simple; 2) engage with cities to gain support for additional staff hours/higher operating budget; 3) build the plan with a tiered approach dependent on staffing and structure; 4) analyze organizational structure early in plan Implementation.</p> <p>There was concern from some that momentum for analyzing organizational structure will wane once new JPA is adopted. PSC members acknowledged that future structure will be further explored within the “organizational effectiveness” category in the coming months and a commission workshop would incorporate this item.</p> <p>Developed issue statements, measurable goals and possible implementation actions for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquatic Invasive Species • Groundwater – Surface Water Interaction (partial)
April 3, 2024	<p>Revisited discussion on future funding and governance structure for the Commission. Noted that at March Commission meeting, the topic was introduced but without enough background and written materials. The group considered providing a memo on the governance item to the Commission but ultimately decided to provide a monthly status report to the Commission that includes a summary of PSC discussions and plan development progress. Again, the PSC confirmed the funding and governance topic would be subject of a future Commission workshop.</p> <p>Finalized development of issue statements, measurable goals and possible implementation actions for Waterbody and Watershed Quality category including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groundwater – Surface Water Interaction • Degradation of Riparian Areas • Degradation/Loss of Upland Areas • Groundwater Quality

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	<p>Discussed format and timing for next Plan TAC meeting.</p> <p>Rescheduled June and July PSC meetings.</p>
May 1, 2024	<p>Developed issue statements, measurable goals and possible implementation actions for a portion of the Flooding and Climate Resiliency category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of climate change on hydrology, water levels, and flood risk <p>Reviewed draft mockup of Waterbody and Watershed Quality Issues and Goals section.</p> <p>Discussed timing and topics for next Commission workshop.</p>
June 12, 2024	<p>Finalized issue statements, measurable goals and possible implementation actions for a portion of the Flooding and Climate Resilience category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of climate change on hydrology, water levels, and flood risk • Bassett Creek Valley flood risk reduction and stormwater management opportunities • Groundwater quantity <p>Began developing issue statements, measurable goals and possible implementation actions for Education and Outreach category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide outreach to and develop relationships with diverse communities (need policy from Commission before finalizing) • Recreation opportunities
July 10, 2024	<p>To the extent possible (without a DIEA policy), finalized issue statements, measurable goals and possible implementation actions for Education and Outreach category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide outreach to and develop relationships with diverse communities • Protect recreation opportunities • POTENTIAL NEW ISSUE: Increase resident and stakeholder capacity for stewardship <p>Developed issue statements, measurable goals and possible implementation actions for some issues in the Organizational Effectiveness category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational assessment of capacity and staffing • BCWMC funding mechanisms <p>Begin planning for Commission August 15th Commission workshop to discuss the remaining 9 goals of the Waterbody and Watershed Quality category and all 10 goals in the Flooding and Climate Resilience category.</p>
August 7, 2024	<p>Reviewed Planning TAC input on remaining goals in Waterbody and Watershed Quality category and all goals in Flooding and Climate Resiliency category</p> <p>Finalized plans for August 15th Commission Workshop</p>

Month and Year	Plan Steering Committee Work
	<p>Finalized issue statements, measurable goals and possible implementation actions for Organizational Effectiveness category.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress assessment • Public ditch management • Carbon footprint of BCWMC projects
September 4, 2024	<p>Reviewed input from August Commission Workshop and made revisions to issues and goals.</p> <p>Finalized issue statements, measurable goals and possible implementation actions for remaining goals area under the Education and Outreach category and Organizational Effectiveness category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement of diverse communities • Projects and programs implemented through a DEI lens <p>Discussed mechanism for developing and discussing technical policies and implementation strategies such as street sweeping, buffer standards, linear project requirements, chloride reduction strategies, etc.</p>
October 2, 2024	<p>Finalized DEIA-related issues and goals</p> <p>Reviewed proposed street sweeping prioritization study</p> <p>Reviewed format for portion of draft Plan section(s) addressing activities</p> <p>Began discussing linear project standards.</p> <p>Reviewed draft water monitoring plan</p> <p>Set next Commission workshop on Education and Organizational Effectiveness goals for November 20th.</p>
Nov 6, 2024	<p>Discussed possible revisions to the BCWMC's Requirements document including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential changes to linear project standards • Requirements related to winter maintenance and chloride minimization design practices, including chloride management plans for applicable projects/locations <p>Requested TAC input on linear project and chloride management standards/requirements</p> <p>Finalized monitoring plan</p> <p>Finalized plans for Commission workshop on Education & Engagement and Organizational Effectiveness goals.</p>
Dec 11, 2024	<p>Reviewed input from November Commission Workshop and revised issues and goals, accordingly.</p>

Month and Year	Plan Steering Committee Work
	<p>Reviewed updated plan development schedule.</p> <p>Reviewed draft education and engagement plan. Requested Education Committee review.</p> <p>Reviewed and discussed potential revisions to stream and wetland buffer requirements. Requested TAC input.</p> <p>Did not review as a group Commission Engineer recommendations on changes to Requirements Document – sent to TAC for review.</p>
January 3, 2025	<p>Reviewed status of plan development budget</p> <p>Reviewed TAC input and revised Commission staff recommendations for linear project standards, stream and wetland buffers, chloride management requirements - finalized recommended standards</p> <p>Briefly commented on draft Implementation Section 5.1.</p>
February 5, 2025	<p>Reviewed draft table of contents</p> <p>Reviewed and discussed the format and the new issues vs. tools matrix in revised Implementation Section 4.1 (formerly 5.1)</p> <p>Discussed development and use of equity metrics to help prioritize and guide Commission work and CIP projects</p>
March 19, 2025	<p>Reviewed Plan TAC input on issues/goals/draft updates to standards and requirements</p> <p>Discussed CIP program implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential Projects • Prioritization Metrics • Implementation Roles • Eligible Project Costs • Project Maintenance • Added Benefits Cost Share Program (for above and beyond stormwater treatment)
April 3, 2025	<p>Final discussions of CIP program implementation</p> <p>Reviewed 10-year CIP</p> <p>Reviewed Non-CIP Implementation schedule</p>

Month and Year	Plan Steering Committee Work
	Discussed engaging public on draft plan and the next Commission workshop
May 7, 2025	Review complete Implementation Section 4.0 Review complete Issues and Goals narrative Section 3.0 Review draft presentation for city commissions, councils, other groups Plan for May 15 th Commission Workshop
May 15, 2025	Commission Workshop on Proposed Updates to Standards/Requirements
June 4, 2025	Revisited vision statement Discussed creek co-naming formats Reviewed the complete Plan document: Executive Summary Acronyms List Sections 1 – 4 Appendix C: Revised Education and Engagement Plan Appendix F: Summary of Public Engagement and Input
June 1 – 30, 2025	Presentations to city commissions, councils, other groups
June 10, 2025	Plan TAC reviewed implementation sections, implementation tables, requirements document updates
July 7, 2025	PSC review Plan TAC input and finalize any remaining issues
July 17, 2025	Commission approves draft plan and submittal for 60-day review
July 21 – September 22, 2025 (approx)	60-day comment period
October 1, 2025 (earliest)	Review comments and discuss draft responses to comments
November 5, 2025 (earliest)	Review and finalize responses to comments Plan for public hearing (required per MN Rule 8410) Prepare recommendations to Commission
November 19, 2025 (earliest)	Public Hearing on Draft Plan (during November Commission meeting)
December 2025	Catch up month, if needed
Jan – March 2026	90-day comment period; presentation to BWSR (likely week of Jan 5, 2026); target January 28, 2026 BWSR Board meeting for approval
April 2026	Final BWSR approval and Commission adoption

*Plan TAC = Regular city TAC members plus state and local agencies and other partners