



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

MEMO

To: BCWMC Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners
From: Administrator Jester
Date: December 10, 2025

RE: Recommendations for Additional Revisions to 2026 Watershed Management Plan

During development of the draft 2026 Watershed Plan, many of the policies included in the 2015 plan were also included in the new plan. However, Commission Engineers recently discovered that some policies either weren't moved into the new plan, or that there's an opportunity for policy language in the new plan to better reflect current practices and policy intent.

Therefore, in addition to the plan revisions resulting from the responses to comments that were approved at the November meeting, staff recommends the following updates to the new plan which will be submitted for the final 90-day review early in January .

- 1. Policy 60 in the 2015 Plan states:** *Recognizing their benefits to biodiversity and more natural appearance, the BCWMC will strive to implement stream and streambank restoration and stabilization projects that use soft armoring techniques (e.g., plants, logs, vegetative mats) as much as possible and wherever feasible.*

In the new plan, Policy 27 (in Section 4.1.8 discussing the CIP program) is similar but doesn't convey the same message: *Improvements to the ecological health of the waterbody or project area will be incorporated into most capital projects. The BCWMC will aim to incorporate Indigenous land and water care practices into their capital projects, where appropriate.*

Staff recommends adding another policy to the CIP narrative to reflect old policy 60 and to apply more broadly than just soft armoring techniques.

Recommended policy language: *The BCWMC prioritizes the use of low-impact design and practices that promote biodiversity and a more natural aesthetic in its CIP projects, where feasible (e.g., prioritizing green stormwater infrastructure and soft-armoring methods for stream restoration projects).*

- 2. Policy 50 in the 2015 Plan states:** *Member cities shall share groundwater elevation data, where available, with the BCWMC.*

The new plan does not address data sharing from member cities. Staff recommends adding a new policy to require sharing of monitoring data relevant to surface water and groundwater. The policy could be added to Section 4.1.5 (Monitoring) and would also be included in the requirements for member cities (Table 4-4).

Recommended policy language: *Member cities shall share relevant monitoring data with the BCWMC.*

- 3. Policy 85 in the 2015 Plan states:** *Member cities shall consider opportunities to maintain, enhance, or provide new open spaces and/or habitat as part of wetland creation or restoration, stormwater facility construction, development, redevelopment, or other appropriate projects.*

The new Plan notes the BCWMC's interest in pursuing adjacent restoration opportunities with its CIP, but does not require member cities to consider those opportunities for their own projects. While many cities do this, staff recommends the addition of a policy in the new plan that would require cities at least consider such opportunities. The policy could be added to Section 4.1.2 (Inter-Agency Planning and Collaboration) and would also be included in the requirements for member cities (Table 4-4).

Recommended policy language: *Member cities shall consider opportunities to improve ecological health, habitat, and natural areas as part of City projects, where feasible.*

- 4. Policy 58 in the 2025 Plan states:** *The Channel Maintenance Fund may also be used to finance the BCWMC's share of maintenance projects that have a regional benefit, or to partially fund smaller, localized projects that cities wish to undertake.*

While Section 4.3.2 in the new plan describes the use of the channel maintenance fund, it does not capture the language from the 2015 policy 58. Staff recommends adding that text to section 4.3.2 within the narrative (not as an additional policy). This language is also included into the Commission's [Policy Manual](#).