



## Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

### MEMO

To: BCWMC Commissioners and Alternates  
From: Administrator Jester  
Date: April 9, 2026

#### **RE: Adoption of Bassett Creek Watershed Management Plan**

Development of the 2026 – 2035 Watershed Management Plan began in 2022 by gathering input from partners, member cities, members of the public, state agencies, and regional governments. With the recognition that members of minority communities were not involved with previous planning efforts, the Commission made a concerted effort to engage with historically underserved and minority communities to develop this plan. In April 2022, the Commission held a workshop on “equity in watershed management” to develop a shared understanding of equity principles and how they could be incorporated into watershed management. Staff and commissioners attended events and communicated with Minneapolis neighborhood associations and others, with the goal of gathering input from diverse voices.

In February 2023, the Commission held a public open house to share information and continue gathering perspectives from audiences across the watershed. Additionally, between June 2022 and January 2023, 165 people responded to an online survey (Appendix F). Development of this Plan also included a gaps analysis (Appendix E) to identify new or evolving issues that required updates relative to the 2015 Watershed Plan. The gaps analysis was paired with further evaluation of several complex issues (e.g., chloride management, linear project standards, climate resiliency) to determine the appropriate role for the Commission.

The Plan Steering Committee, led by Chair Kennedy, worked for more than 2 years leading the effort to identify and prioritize issues, establish measurable goals, and develop an implementation plan incorporating a variety of policies, activities, and tools. The Plan Steering Committee developed initial Plan content or recommendations, sought and responded to feedback from the Technical Advisory Committee or broader Plan Technical Advisory Committee, and presented material to the Commission for decision-making or as informational, when appropriate.

During a 60-day review period last fall cities, agencies, and partners submitted excellent comments and suggestions for revisions. The Commission responded to each of the comments in writing and submitted the final draft for 90-day review in December.

In early March Committee Chair Kennedy, Commission Chair Cesnik, Engineer Johnson, and I presented the draft Plan to the Central Region Committee of the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). The committee recommended approval of the Plan by the full BWSR Board. The BWSR Board formally approved the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Plan on March 26, 2026.

Some minor edits were made to the Plan since the 90-day draft including:

- Bassett Creek tunnel length was corrected to 2.2 miles
- Description of MDH surface water contributing areas was corrected to clarify that those areas are a subset of drinking water supply areas where data show a direct surface water-groundwater connection
- Lake eutrophication goals in Table 3-4 were updated to reference 2015-2024 data instead of 2013-2022 data
- Commission Engineer's signature was added to the certifications page

After adoption but prior to distribution, the Plan's format will be updated for accessibility compliance. Some photos may be added or white space removed.

At this meeting, staff recommends that the Commission officially adopt the Plan by resolution and direct staff to finalize the Plan's format as noted, post the Plan on the BCWMC website, and distribute a notice to cities, agencies, and partners. Implementation of many activities in the Plan is already underway. Updated development requirements go into effect on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Member cities have two years from this date to update their local water management plans and official controls for conformance with this Plan.