

Memorandum

To: Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission
From: Barr Engineering Co. (Barr) (Patrick Brockamp, PE; Stephanie Johnson, PhD, PE)
Subject: Item 5A— Consider Approval of Proposal for Engineering Services for the Main Stem Lagoon Dredging Phase II Project (2027, CIP Project BC-7/#15)
BCWMC October 22, 2026 Meeting Agenda
Date: October 15, 2026

5A. Consider Approval of Proposal for Engineering Services for the Main Stem Lagoon Dredging Phase II Project (2027, CIP Project BC-7/#15)

Recommendations:

1. Consider approving the scope of work and \$301,400 budget presented in this memorandum and direct the Commission Engineer to prepare final design, develop plans and specifications, and provide permitting assistance, bidding assistance and construction services for the Main Stem Lagoon Dredging Phase II Project (2027, CIP Project BC-7/#15), scheduled for construction in winter 2027 – 2028.

Background

At the August 21, 2025 meeting, the Commission approved the feasibility study for “Main Stem Lagoon Dredging Project – Phase II (2027, CIP Project BC-7/#15)”. At the September 17, 2026 meeting, the Commission passed resolution 20-09 officially ordering the Project, at an estimated cost of \$2,669,467 to be funded by utilizing a combination of remaining funds from the original Lagoon Dredging Project (\$1,169,467), CIP levy in 2026 for collection in 2027 (\$765,000), and CIP levy in 2027 for collection in 2028 (\$765,000). Unlike most CIP projects where the Commission has an agreement with a member city to design and construct the project, the Commission will design and construct this project on its own, as was done with Phase I of the Main Stem Lagoon Dredging. The design and construction will be coordinated with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB), the City of Minneapolis, and City of Golden Valley.

The Lagoon Dredging Phase II project will remove up to 23,000 cubic yards of accumulated sediment from “Lagoon” G created along the Main Stem of Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/Bassett Creek in Theodore Wirth Regional Park, between Golden Valley Road and Highway 55 (Figure 1). The Theodore Wirth Regional Park lagoons were originally created in the mid-1930s by Civilian Conservation Corps crews. This project will improve flow capacity and habitat within this stretch of the creek and will result in significant water quality improvements by removing up to an estimated 363 lbs/year total phosphorus and 94,000 lbs/year total suspended solids which currently flow downstream through the Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ/ Bassett Creek and into the Mississippi River. The estimated project cost is higher than a typical sediment removal project due to the cost associated with landfill disposal of contaminated sediments. Sediment coring completed during the project feasibility stage showed that sediments within the lagoons are contaminated. Despite this, the project still results in a relatively cost-efficient project with a low cost per pound pollutant removal of only \$360/pound of total phosphorus.

The wetland restoration component of the project will enhance and expand the existing wetlands that have developed within the Lagoon G area since the original dredging back in the 1930s. This project will

create approximately 2.3 acres of open water, remove approximately 3.0 acres of invasive vegetation and replace it with native vegetation, and create approximately 0.8 acres of improved wetland.

The project budget includes a 3-year period of wetland vegetation management to ensure proper establishment of the restored wetland area. Long-term management of the restored wetland is still being negotiated among BCWMC, Golden Valley, and MPRB. The dredging portion of the project does not require long-term maintenance.

The feasibility report for the project (Main Stem Lagoon Dredging Project Phase II Feasibility Study, June 2026, Barr) will form the basis for the project design. The feasibility report and further project information can be found online at www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/bassett-creek-main-stem-lagoon-dredging-project.

Proposed Scope of Work

Below is a summary of the work scope components for this project:

1) Project Coordination and Project Meetings

- a) Project coordination meeting with BCWMC staff, commissioners, Minneapolis staff, Golden Valley staff and MPRB staff and preparation of meeting notes. This meeting would take place after 50% draft plans are developed.
- b) BCWMC Meeting #1: Commission meeting to present 50% design plans including memo
- c) BCWMC Meeting #2: Commission meeting to present 90% design plans including memo
- d) BCWMC Meeting #3: Commission meeting to present final report upon project completion
- e) Other coordination meetings

Within this task, we will also work with the MPRB to engage with representatives from the Indigenous community, to seek their input on the project. We assume this will include Barr providing information related to the project and that MPRB will be the main point of contact for the communications.

Meetings related to bidding and construction are incorporated under other tasks.

2) Permitting

Below is a list of anticipated permitting and approvals required for the project. Barr will pay all permitting fees and will include them on regular invoices to BCWMC.

- a) *Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) Approval* - The City of Golden Valley is the LGU for the project location. The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) oversees administration of the WCA statewide. A permit related to wetland impacts will likely be required. Although it is also likely the project will be covered under WCA no-loss criteria 8420.0415 (B), the LGU will make the final determination. We will complete the joint application form and submit for approval.
- b) *US Army Corps of Engineers permit (Section 404 Permit and Section 401 Certification)* – We will submit the joint permit applications to both the LGU and the USACE. It is likely the proposed project will fall under a USACE Nationwide Permit from the USACE if the project can be performed through excavation only (i.e., no grading or filling). However, it is ultimately up to the

discretion of the USACE. USACE decisions on Nationwide permits typically happen within 60 days of submittal.

- i. *State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)* - Any determination by USACE would be subject to SHPO review and concurrence. During the feasibility study USACE indicated this project could likely receive a “no adverse effect” determination, so long as the applicant provides adequate documentation showing that the proposed dredging activities are adhering to the original park plans from the 1930s, and temporary impacts associated with project are minimized as much as practicable. However, coordination with SHPO could result in a different determination and delay the permitting process. Because the project area was completely impacted during construction in the 1930s, and that dredging would only occur within the limits of the original design, it is not anticipated that there would be any significant cultural resources impacted by this project. The proposed budget assumes no additional cultural resources surveys will be required.
- c) *Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) public waters work permit* – Bassett Creek is a public watercourse and Lagoon G is a public water, so the proposed work will require a MDNR public waters work permit. We will prepare and submit this permit application.
- d) *Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW)* – Minnesota Rules Section 4410.4300, Mandatory EAW Categories, Subp. 27A requires the preparation of an EAW for “projects that will change or diminish the course, current, or cross-section of one acre or more of any public water or public waters wetland.” The rule further states that in this situation, “the local government unit shall be the RGU.” Based on these requirements, an EAW is required for the Main Stem Lagoon Dredging Project Phase II, and the City of Golden Valley is the Regional Government Unit (RGU). We will prepare and submit an EAW for the project to the City of Golden Valley for review and approval.
- e) *Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) permitting* – this project is not anticipated to disturb more than one (1) acre of upland and therefore would not require a construction stormwater general permit or a stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP). However, we are including some budget to make sure the design follows MPCA guidelines. If the scope of construction changes and the one-acre threshold of upland disturbance is exceeded, this task would need to be re-evaluated.
- f) *Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) construction permit* - MPRB Construction Permits are required for construction related activities on parkland and are administered by the MPRB Planning Services Division. Since this project does not propose to utilize Theodore Wirth Parkway, the level of permitting is less complex than in Phase I. We will prepare and submit this permit application.
- g) *City of Golden Valley stormwater management permit* - The City of Golden Valley requires a Stormwater Management Permit for land-disturbing activities that remove soils or vegetation, including but not limited to clearing, digging, dredging, draining, or filling. This project exceeds the thresholds that trigger this permit. We will prepare and submit this permit application.

3) Design

We will build upon the feasibility study concept design to develop the project design. This scope assumes that design will be split into two (2) separate packages. The first design package will be for dredging, site grading, and preparation, and the second contract will be for wetland restoration and vegetation maintenance. Each of the design packages will include the following, other than the water quality modeling which is only pertinent to the dredging design:

- a) *Construction Drawings*: We will develop the following and provide to Cities of Golden Valley and Minneapolis and the MPRB for review and comment ahead of presenting to BCWMC:
 - i. 50% plans and a cover memo to the BCWMC
 - ii. 90% plans and a cover memo to BCWMC
 - iii. 100% plans for bidding and construction
 - iv. Following each submittal, we will edit the plans based on reviews from City of Golden Valley, City of Minneapolis, MPRB, and BCWMC.
- b) *Specifications*: We will develop front-end documents (including instructions to bidders, bid form, contract (form of agreement), performance and payment bonds, general and supplementary conditions, prevailing wages, etc.) and technical specifications for the 90% & 100% submittals. We will coordinate with the Commission attorney regarding the front-end documents.
- c) *Engineer's opinion of probable cost*: We will prepare an engineer's opinion of probable construction costs for the 50%, 90% & 100% submittals. We will report the opinion of costs to the Commission in a unit price format.
- d) *Water quality modeling updates*: The scope includes additional refinements to the water quality modeling completed as part of the feasibility study, as the design components are finalized and incorporation of the constructed improvements into the model after completion of the project. We will report on the modeling results within the 50% & 90% design submittal memos to the Commission.

4) Public Engagement

We will coordinate with staff from the BCWMC, Minneapolis, Golden Valley, and MPRB to determine the best means to gather public input on project plans and to keep the public informed on impacts to the park during construction. Primary groups for public engagement will be the park users, nearby residents, and property owners. The budget for this task includes time to prepare for and attend one public meeting including preparing handouts, boards, and/or presentation. This task also includes assisting with updates to the project partners through MPRB and BCWMC website project page and responding to public questions and comments. We assume that meeting coordination, expenses, and set-up will be largely completed by the BCWMC staff with assistance from the cities and MPRB.

5) Grant Application Support

We will assist the Commission Administrator with an application for a DNR Conservation Partners Legacy grant for the wetland restoration portion of the project. This task is assumed to include review of

application text, quantification of impacts and benefits, and providing other relevant data to support the application. If awarded, we will include any grant specific criteria in the project plans and specifications.

6) Bidding Services

This scope assumes that construction will be split into two (2) separate bid packages. The first bid will be for dredging, site grading, and preparation, and the second bid will be for wetland restoration and vegetation maintenance. Each of the bid packages will include the following services:

- a) Prepare bidding documents and issue addenda (if necessary)
- b) Hold a pre-bid meeting
- c) Post the bid via QuestCDN online bidding and administer the bidding process, including responding to questions from bidders and preparing any required addenda
- d) Prepare bid tabulation, review bids and assist the BCWMC with selection of Contractor

7) Construction Services

This scope assumes that construction will be split into two (2) separate construction contracts. The first contract will be for dredging, site grading, and preparation, and the second contract will be for wetland restoration and vegetation maintenance. Each of the construction contracts will include the following services:

- a) *Pre-construction meeting:* We will hold a pre-construction meeting. Invitees to include contractor, MPRB, City of Golden Valley, City of Minneapolis, and Commission administrator.
- b) *Construction Observation:*
 - i. *Contract 1 – Dredging:* The scope includes budget for up to 200 hours of project observation during the construction phase of the project. The budget assumes full-time observation at the start of construction for (2) weeks and reduces to part-time (up to 12 hours weekly) thereafter. Construction is assumed to take (12) weeks.
 - ii. *Contract 2 – Wetland Restoration:* The scope includes budget for up to 140 hours of project observation and restoration support during the construction and establishment phases of the project. The budget assumes periodic observation of the restoration contractor with up to 9 site visits over three years of restoration and establishment. An ecologist will complete three site visits in the first year to assess existing vegetation, coordinate site preparation and seeding with the contractor. During years 2 and 3, the ecologist will perform up to six additional site visits to review plant establishment, guide contractors, and assess stabilization and restoration conditions. We estimate that each site visit will require up to 4 hours of staff time including travel. As part of this task, we have also budgeted time for the ecologist to coordinate with the restoration contractor, review seed mixes, recommend treatment strategies, prepare maps, and document field conditions and restoration success.
- c) *Construction Administration:* We will provide the following services:

- i. *Submittals*: We will manage all submittals (any products or documentation requiring the engineer's review and/or approval) including tracking, review, resubmittals and approvals.
 - ii. *Pay Applications*: We will manage and review pay applications, including verification of pay quantities.
 - iii. *Change Orders*: We will review contractor's change order requests and prepare all change orders.
 - iv. *Updates and Modifications*: We will prepare and distribute updated construction documents for any changes made during construction. This assumes the changes are small adjustments to the design and not substantial changes in construction scope or duration.
 - v. *Contractor Communication*: We will communicate with the contractor to clarify plans and specifications and answer questions that arise during construction.
- d) *Record drawings*: We will receive record survey information from the contractor. We will then provide record drawings showing locations and elevations of project features, following completion of the project.

8) Project Management

We will manage project scheduling and budgeting, in close coordination with the Commission Administrator, provide assistance with grant reporting, and prepare and send project email updates (bi-weekly during design, weekly during construction) that briefly summarize:

- a) Work completed since the previous updates
- b) Upcoming work
- c) Information, data or actions we need from others

9) Deliverables

We will provide the Commission with the following deliverables during the proposed work:

- a) 50%, 90% & 100% construction drawings
- b) 90% & 100% specifications
- c) 50%, 90% & 100% opinion of cost
- d) Memos accompanying the 50% & 90% construction plans. The memos will describe the project, how the project follows or departs from the feasibility study, and the water quality impacts.
- e) Presentations for the Commission meetings to present the 50% and 90% construction plans.
- f) Record drawings.
- g) Presentation on completed project at a Commission meeting.
- h) Project meetings, pre-bid meeting, and pre-construction meeting
- i) Project email updates

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Cost Estimate

The table below summarizes our cost estimate for the scope of work outlined above.

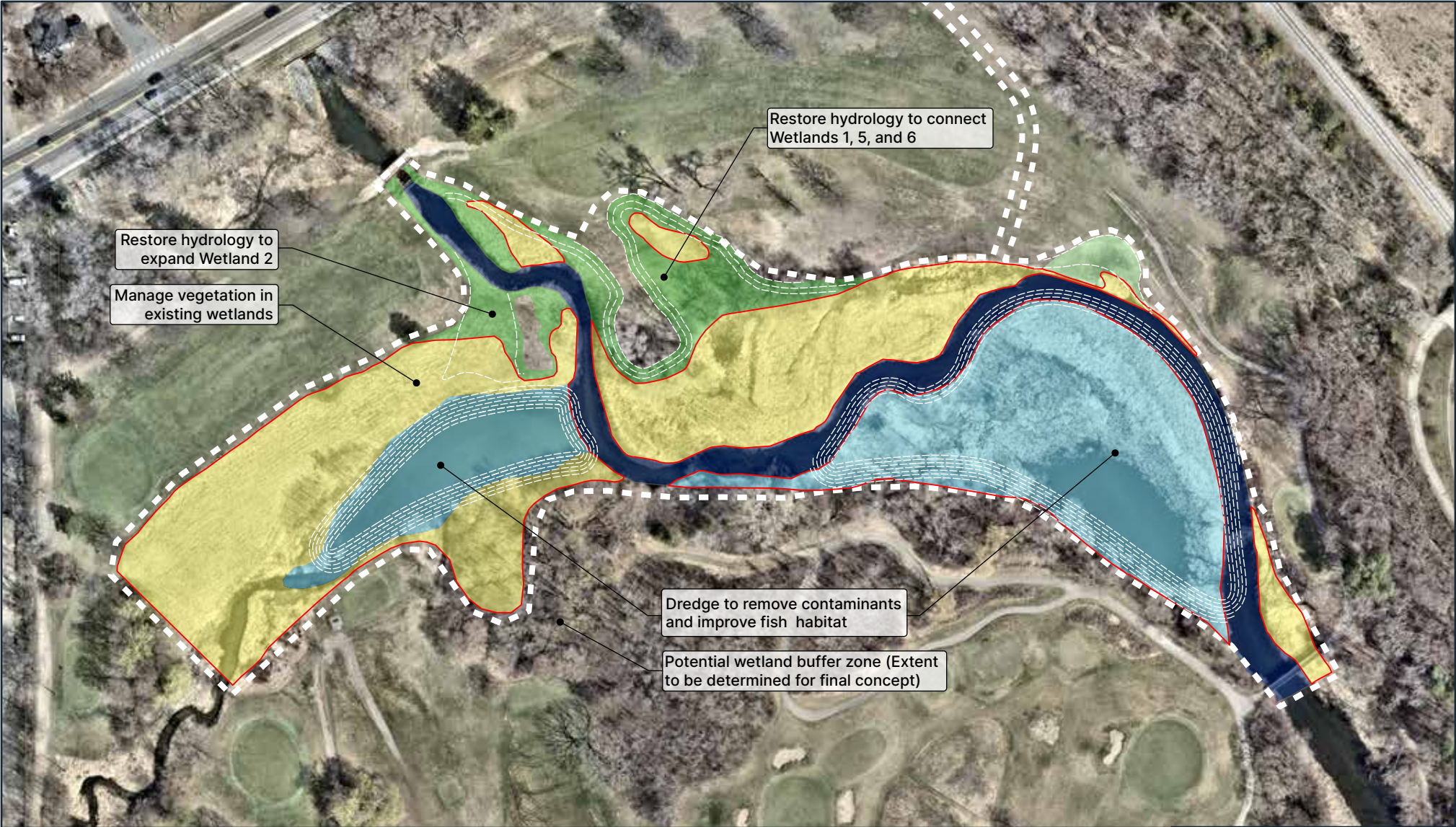
Tasks	Estimated Total
1) Project Coordination and Project Meetings	\$24,300
2) Permitting	\$80,600
3) Design	\$66,800
4) Public Engagement	\$7,400
5) Grant Application Support	\$3,400
6) Bidding Services	\$9,500
7) Construction Services	\$93,600
8) Project Management	\$15,800
Total	\$301,400

Schedule

We will complete the tasks and milestones outlined in the scope of work on the following estimated schedule.

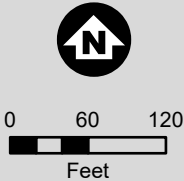
Tasks and milestones	Estimated Schedule
Design – complete 50% plans for review and permitting	Winter/Spring 2027*
Design – complete 90% plans for review	Spring/Summer 2027
Permitting	Summer 2027
Design – complete 100% plans for review	Fall 2027
Bidding	Fall 2027
Construction	Winter 2027/2028
Record drawings, final restoration, project closeout	Spring/Summer 2028

* 50% design plans will be substantially completed in sufficient time for grant submittal in January.



- Project Area
- Proposed 1' Contour
- Existing Wetland
- Manage Existing Wetland
- Expand Wetland
- Shallow, Open Water

Note: Existing land use meets Golden Valley buffer requirements for Alternative 3



Lagoon G
Wetland Restoration
Main Stem Lagoon Dredging
Phase II
Golden Valley, Minnesota
FIGURE 1

