

- D. Consider Adjustment to Bassett Creek Restoration Project Engineering Services Budget (10 min)
- E. Consider Approval of Attendance at Minnesota Watersheds Annual Conference (10 min)

6. COMMUNICATIONS (20 minutes)

- A. Administrator's Report
 - i. Medicine Lake Task Force and Survey Update
 - ii. Reminder of November Wednesday Meeting Date
 - iii. Update on WMWA Positions and [New Website](#)
- B. Engineer
- C. Legal Counsel
- D. Communications & Outreach Coordinator
- E. Chair
- F. Minnesota Watersheds
 - i. Report on Metro Watersheds Quarterly Meeting
- G. Commissioners
- H. TAC Members
 - i. Report on October 7th Meeting
- I. Committees
 - i. Administrative Services Committee Update on Organizational Assessment Project
 - ii. Education Committee Meeting – October 26th

7. INFORMATION ONLY (Information online only)

- A. Administrative Calendar
- B. CIP Project Updates www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects
- C. Grant Tracking Spreadsheet
- D. WCA Notice, Golden Valley
- E. September Minnesota Watersheds Newsletter

8. ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- Metro Watersheds Quarterly Meeting: Tuesday, October 20th, 7:00 p.m., Capitol Region WD
- BCWMC Education Committee Meeting: Monday, October 26th, 4:00 p.m., Brookview
- BCWMC Administrative Services Committee Meeting: Wednesday, November 4th, 12:00 p.m., Brookview
- BCWMC Regular Meeting: Wednesday, November 18th, 8:30 a.m., Golden Valley City Hall
- Minnesota Watersheds Annual Conference and Meeting: December 2 – 4, Nisswa MN



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

AGENDA MEMO

Date: October 15, 2026

To: BCWMC Commissioners

From: Laura Jester, Administrator

RE: Background Information for 10/22/26 BCWMC Meeting

1. **CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL**
2. **PUBLIC FORUM ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – ACTION ITEM with attachment**
4. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. Approval of Minutes – September 17, 2026 Commission Meeting - ACTION ITEM with attachment
 - B. Acceptance of October Financial Report - ACTION ITEM with attachment
 - C. Approval of Payment of Invoices - ACTION ITEM attachments available upon request – Commission Treasurer reviewed invoices 1 and 2; I reviewed the remaining invoices; we recommend payment.
 - i. Keystone Waters, LLC – September 2026 Administration
 - ii. Keystone Waters, LLC – September 2026 Administrative Expenses
 - iii. Barr Engineering – September 2026 Engineering Services
 - iv. Triple D Espresso – October Meeting Catering
 - v. City of Plymouth – September 2026 Accounting Services
 - vi. Kennedy & Graven – August 2026 Legal Services
 - vii. Stantec – WOMP Activities
 - viii. Kaitlyn Egan – September Communications & Outreach Activities
 - ix. Strategic Consulting and Coaching – Organizational Assessment
 - x. Finance and Commerce (Bridge Tower) – Public Hearing Notice
 - xi. ECM Publishers – Public Hearing Notice
 - xii. Shaun Kennedy – MN Watersheds Summer Tour Expenses
 - xiii. Bradley Blackhawk - Ĥaǵǵ Wakpádaŋ Water Blessing Event
 - xiv. Darlene St. Clair - Ĥaǵǵ Wakpádaŋ Water Blessing Event
 - D. Approval of Reimbursement Agreement with Met Council – ACTION ITEM with attachment – In 2015 the BCWMC entered an agreement with Met Council to be reimbursed for Commission Engineer time in design discussions and coordination meetings regarding the Blue Line LRT Project. Amendments to the original agreement were approved in 2017 and 2019. The latest agreement expired on December 31, 2020. Although the Blue Line LRT project was on pause for several years, planning has started again by the Met Council and they are again requesting input from the Commission Engineer ahead of a formal project review application. Attorney Anderson reviewed the attached agreement and his recommended changes were accepted by Met Council. Staff recommends approval.
 - E. Approval to Resolve Potential Conflicts of Interest by Directing Administrator to Review Certain Local Water Plans – ACTION ITEM with attachment – Similar to action taken in May to resolve a conflict of interest with the City of St. Louis Park's local water management plan, staff recommends conflict avoidance for review of local water plans for any city contracting with Barr Engineering for local plan development. See attached memo for additional information.

5. BUSINESS

- A. Consider Approval of Scope and Budget for Engineering Services for Phase II Lagoon Dredging and Wetland Restoration Project (20 min) – **ACTION ITEM with attachment** – [This project](#) was officially ordered at the Commission meeting last month. This project will be fully designed and constructed by the BCWMC rather than through an agreement with a member city or partner. The Commission Engineer developed the attached scope and budget for all engineering services including project design, bidding, construction administration, etc. This budget is considerably lower than the \$510,000 estimate presented in the feasibility study approved in June. Staff recommends approval.
- B. Consider Approval of Scope and Budget for Wirth/Eloise Butler Wetland Hydrology Study (20 min) – **ACTION ITEM with attachment** – The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Plan includes study S-14: Theodore Wirth Hydrology Study with a cost estimate of \$70,000. The purpose of this study is to quantify the proportional influence of groundwater, surface water, and stormwater in the Wirth / Eloise Butler wetland under current conditions to help inform ecological and peatland restoration being planned by the Minneapolis Park and Rec Board and MN Board of Water and Soil Resources. Staff recommends approval of the budget and potential contingency, if needed, using Special Project Funds.
- C. Consider Approval of Revision to Scope and Budget for Northwood and Lost Lakes TMDL Support Services (15 min) – **ACTION ITEM with attachment** – At their April 2025 meeting, the Commission approved a scope of work and budget for the Commission Engineer to update the Commission's pollutant loading model (P8), collect lake sediment cores and complete lab analysis, attend up to two stakeholder meetings, and prepare a memo on results of the technical analyses for use by the MPCA on the Total maximum Daily Load (TMDL) studies for Northwood and Lost Lakes. The Commission Engineer's work was completed in February and since that time MPCA staff have been working on developing the TMDLs. Unfortunately, two additional upcoming and critical tasks were not included in the original scope and budget. Staff recommends approval of the attached amendment to the scope and budget. This project is funded with Special Project Funds.
- D. Consider Adjustment to Bassett Creek Restoration Project Engineering Services Budget (10 min) – **ACTION ITEM with attachment** – At their meeting January, the Commission approved an updated budget for engineering services for this project and have been closely tracking time and expenses throughout the year. In order to accommodate necessary construction oversight activities in spring 2027, I am recommending an adjustment to the budget as outlined in the attached memo.
- E. Consider Approval of Attendance at Minnesota Watersheds Annual Conference (10 min) – **ACTION ITEM with attachment** – Minnesota Watersheds will host their [annual conference](#) in Nisswa MN December 2 – 4, 2026. Registration for the entire event is \$350 (+\$40 for Administrators to attend the quarterly administrators meeting); lodging is \$148/night/person. I recommend approval to send me and up to three commissioners or alternate commissioners to the conference including reimbursement for mileage, lodging expenses, and registration costs. Commissioner expenses come from the education budget; my expenses come from the Administrator budget.

6. COMMUNICATIONS (15 minutes)

- A. Administrator's Report
 - i. Medicine Lake Task Force and Survey Update
 - ii. Reminder of November Wednesday Meeting Date
 - iii. Update on WMWA Positions and [New Website](#)

- B. Engineer
- C. Legal Counsel
- D. Communications & Outreach Coordinator
- E. Chair
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Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Regular Meeting & Public Hearing

Thursday, September 17, 2026

8:30 a.m.

Council Conference Room - Golden Valley City Hall
7800 Golden Valley Rd., Golden Valley MN

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

On September 17, 2026 at 8:32 a.m. Chair Cesnik called the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (Commission) to order.

City	Commissioner	Alternate Commissioner	Technical Advisory Committee Members (City Staff)
Crystal	<i>Absent</i>	Terri Schultz	<i>Jesse Struve</i>
Golden Valley	Paula Pentel	<i>Wendy Weirich</i>	Emma Rakestraw
Medicine Lake	Clint Carlson	Shaun Kennedy	<i>Absent</i>
Minneapolis	Jodi Polzin	Nick Minderman	<i>Absent</i>
Minnetonka	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Absent</i>
New Hope	<i>Absent</i>	Jen Leonardson	Nick Macklem
Plymouth	Catherine Cesnik	<i>Absent</i>	Ben Scharenbroich
Robbinsdale	<i>Absent</i>	John Ella	Jenna Wolf
St. Louis Park	RJ Twiford	David Johnston	Erick Francis
Administrator	Laura Jester, Keystone Waters, LLC		
Communications & Outreach	Kaitlyn Egan		
Engineers	Stephanie Johnson, Josh Phillips, Greg Wilson - Barr Engineering Co.		
Legal Counsel	Dave Anderson, Kennedy & Graven		
Guests/Public	Jami Markle, Three Rivers Park District		

2. PUBLIC FORUM ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Administrator Jester requested the addition of consideration for funding for the 4th-Annual Ĥaĥá Wakpádan Water Blessing Ceremony. Item added as item 6G to the agenda.

MOTION: Commissioner Polzin moved to approve the agenda with the addition of item 6G. Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion. Upon a vote the motion carried 8-0. The city of Minnetonka was absent from the vote.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Administrator Jester requested to remove the August minutes from the consent agenda noting that Commissioner Polzin had found an error, and Commission Engineer Johnson recommended minor changes.

MOTION: Commissioner Pentel moved to approve the consent agenda as amended. Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion. Upon a vote the motion carried 8-0. The city of Minnetonka was absent from the vote.

The following items were approved as part of the consent agenda:

- Acceptance of September Financial Report
- Approval of Payment of Invoices
 - Keystone Waters, LLC – August 2026 Administration
 - Keystone Waters, LLC – August 2026 Administrative Expenses
 - Barr Engineering – August 2026 Engineering Services
 - Triple D Espresso – September Meeting Catering
 - City of Plymouth – August 2026 Accounting Services
 - Kennedy & Graven – July 2026 Legal Services
 - Bolton & Menk – Parkers Lake Chloride Reduction Project
 - Stantec – WOMP Activities
 - Kaitlyn Egan – August Communications & Outreach Activities
 - PLM Land and Lake Management – Medicine Lake Herbicide Treatment
 - HDR – Website Maintenance
 - Strategic Consulting and Coaching – Organizational Assessment
 - U of M – Annual Salt Symposium
- Approval of Staff and Commissioners to Attend [Annual Salt Symposium](#)
- Approval of Resolution 26-08 for Salt Symposium Contribution

4A. Approval of Minutes – August 20, 2026 Commission Meeting

Apply corrections to August meeting minutes: remove the names of some engineers who were on the attendance list but not actually in attendance and minor updates to the Commission Engineer's report in Item 6B.

MOTION: Commissioner Polzin moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Alternate Commissioner Leonardson seconded the motion. Upon a vote the motion carried 8-0. The city of Minnetonka was absent from the vote.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Receive Comments on Proposed 2027 CIP Projects

- i. **Dredging Sediment (Phase II) & Wetland Restoration in Bassett Creek Lagoons, Theodore Wirth Regional Park**
- ii. **Crane Lake Chloride Reduction Demonstration Project**
- iii. **Cost Share High Efficiency Street Sweeper for City of Crystal**

Chair Cesnik opened the public hearing at 8:35 a.m. No comments were made during the hearing nor received by Administrator Jester prior to the hearing. The public hearing was closed at 8:36 a.m.

6. BUSINESS

A. Consider Approval of Resolution 26-09 Ordering 2027 Improvement

- i. **Ordering 2027 Improvements**
- ii. **Making Findings Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.251**
- iii. **Certifying Costs to Hennepin County**

Administrator Jester reviewed the resolution noting that in addition to ordering the projects, it assigns implementation responsibility for each project. She noted the Commission is slated to construct the Lagoon Dredging Project and the Crane Lake Chloride Reduction Project. She also reminded commissioners of the agreement in place with the City of Crystal regarding street sweeper cost share. She also noted that the final levy request remains \$2,862,900 which is the same as the maximum levy request approved in June. She noted a minor adjustment to budget figures for the Bassett Creek Restoration Project (which did not change the levy amount) and that the resolution was reviewed by legal counsel and follows prior years' practice.

MOTION: Commissioner Polzin moved to approve Resolution 26-09 Ordering 2027 Improvement. Alternate Commissioner Leonardson seconded the motion. Upon a vote the motion carried 8-0. The City of Minnetonka was absent from the vote.

B. Consider Awarding Contract and Approving Access Agreements for Bassett Creek Double Box Culvert Repair Project (FCP-1)

Commission Engineer Phillips reported that final design for this project was posted, a pre-bid on-site meeting was held and three bids received. He reported that Minger Construction Co., Inc. was the lowest responsive bidder. Low bid came in ~\$280,000 below the engineer's estimate likely due to a competitive bidding environment and experience of the contractor. He noted the award of the contract is included in Resolution 26-10. Engineer Phillips anticipated the notice to proceed would be provided in mid-October with work to be substantially complete by end of March and final completion by end of June 2027. Risks and water controls were discussed including a potential for change orders (tunnel unknowns). It was noted the contractor will decide the method of water control within the tunnel. There were concerns about the significantly low bids compared to engineer's estimates. Engineer Phillips noted Barr Engineering has worked with Minger on past projects with good outcomes. Additional discussion included a note that trail closures aren't likely, that project funds remaining after project close out will go to the Closed Project Account, and inclusion of contingency funding if unknowns are encountered. Engineer Phillips again noted contractor past performance and noted that staff conducted follow-up QA/QC calls with Minger.

Engineer Phillips also described the access agreements needed with three private properties. He

noted that Commission Attorney Anderson drafted the agreements which may or may not be needed for contractor access but should be in place.

MOTION: Commissioner Pentel moved to approve Resolution 26-10 awarding the contract to Minger Construction Co., Inc. Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion. Upon a vote the motion carried 8-0. The city of Minnetonka was absent from the vote.

MOTION: Commissioner Polzin moved to approve the access agreements with Excel Energy, Twins Ballpark, and Minneapolis School District. Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion. Upon a vote the motion carried 8-0. The city of Minnetonka was absent from the vote.

C. Consider Approval of 90% Plans for Sochacki Park Water Quality Project (BC-14)

Commission Engineer Wilson and Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) Natural Resources Manager Jami Markle presented the 90% designs and noted that since the feasibility study additional geotechnical investigations and contamination testing have expanded the project scope, requiring additional excavation, disposal planning, and protective liners. The Commission's \$600,000 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) contribution, combined with HUD Community Project funding and a Hennepin County Environmental Response Fund (ERF) grant, will help cover increased costs. The DNR permit for drawing down the water level of the three ponds was issued following a public open house on August 10th and documentation of support from more than 75% of riparian landowners. Additional permits are pending or being finalized. Due to expanded project footprints, approximately 400 trees are now expected to be removed, up from the original estimate of 300. The drawdown contract has been executed separately, with substantial drawdown targeted by the end of the month ahead of winter freeze. Engineers are hoping that less than 2 feet of water will remain after drawdown. Ponds should refill in the spring. Structural best management practices (BMPs) are expected to be bid in October, with construction largely planned for this winter. Final design, remaining permits, formal bidding, and contract execution with Three Rivers Park District are anticipated in November.

Upon a question, Mr. Markle noted that any HUD funding left over after completion of the water quality project will be used to enhance recreation features at the park. Other discussion covered safety of the ponds, possibility of a warm winter, and fact that drawdown and construction contracts are held by TRPD.

MOTION: Commissioner Polzin moved to approve the 90% Plans for Sochacki Park Water Quality Project (BC-14). Commissioner Pentel seconded the motion. Upon a vote the motion carried 8-0. The city of Minnetonka was absent from the vote.

D. Consider Approval of Scope and Budget for Wirth Lake Aeration Study

Commission Engineer Johnson presented the scope for this project noting the study will involve coordination with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and DNR fisheries staff, review of long-term water quality and fisheries data, and collection of additional winter depth-profile samples by the Park Board. Three alternatives (including possible no-action) will be evaluated for feasibility, cost, potential impacts on recreation and ice safety, and future maintenance needs. The study will also consider Wirth Lake's chloride impairment and potential lake stratification due to chlorides, and the current aeration system's operational history but will not include a comprehensive investigation of chloride sources. It was noted that the lake was delisted for nutrients due to the outlet structure constructed by the Commission and the Watershed Management Plan includes goals for water quality

protection. A draft report is expected in May, with a final report anticipated in June to inform future levy decisions. It was confirmed that this is similar to a feasibility study and will be funded with CIP funds.

MOTION: Commissioner Twiford moved to approve scope and budget for Wirth Lake Aeration Study. Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion. Upon a vote the motion carried 8-0. The city of Minnetonka was absent from the vote.

[Chair Cesnik called a 5-minute break.]

E. Consider Approval of Scope and Budget for Feasibility Study for Toledo Ave/Minnaqua Pond Stormwater Improvements & Flood Reduction (CIP BC-13/#9)

Commission Engineer Johnson presented the scope and budget for the proposed feasibility study to identify opportunities for flood reduction, water quality improvement, and habitat enhancement in the Minnaqua pond/backwater area and adjacent wetlands. The study will evaluate recurring flooding, including impacts to a nearby trail and properties within the 100-year floodplain, and consider potential flood-storage improvements for 2-, 10-, 50-, and 100-year flood events. The scope includes bathymetric surveys, wetland delineations, sediment sampling for contaminant screening, creek habitat and stream restoration screening, and XPSWMM modeling to assess potential flood impacts. A high-level review of upstream green spaces, parks, and wetlands will identify additional flood-storage opportunities, while nearby and planned projects will be considered to help avoid unintended impacts to other areas. The City of Golden Valley is conducting a separate, concurrent drainage study and has expressed interest in coordinating potential improvements, including trail upgrades. The estimated study cost is \$114,000, reflecting the project's broader scope and multiple study locations. A draft report is expected in May, with a final report anticipated in June to inform Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and levy planning.

Commissioner Pentel expressed support for the project and noted the localized flooding of the trail and some homes. There was a note that this project area is in proximity to a Flood Control Project structure upstream near the Crystal-Golden Valley border which may offer an opportunity to assess potential changes to the structure. There was discussion on how the study's budget compares with other feasibility studies.

MOTION: Commissioner Carlson moved to approve of scope and budget for feasibility study for Toledo Ave/Minnaqua Pond Stormwater Improvements & Flood Reduction (CIP BC-13/#9). Alternate Commissioner Schultz seconded the motion. Upon a vote the motion carried 8-0. The city of Minnetonka was absent from the vote.

F. Appoint BCWMC Representative to "Convene" Meeting on Watershed Based Implementation Funding

Administrator Jester noted the Commission must appoint a representative to attend the "convene" meeting, where eligible entities determine how Watershed Based Implementation Funding will be allocated and will work toward agreement on funding priorities. Administrator Jester noted she has served as the Commission's representative for the past three funding cycles, with authority to make funding decisions on the Commission's behalf without additional Commission approval. Jester noted that most funding in recent cycles has supported the WMWA coordinator position. The discussion included questions about whether any issues had arisen with this arrangement over the

past three years.

MOTION: Commissioner Pentel moved to appoint Administrator Jester as BCWMC's representative to "convene" Meeting on Watershed Based Implementation Funding. Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion. Upon a vote the motion carried 8-0. The city of Minnetonka was absent from the vote.

Administrator Jester noted she would send the convene meeting date and time to all commissioners.

G. Funding for the 4th-Annual Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ Water Blessing Ceremony

Administrator Jester reported the recent request for funding for the Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ Water Blessing Ceremony in the form of two \$500 stipends (\$1,000 total) from the education budget to compensate cultural advisors. She noted stipends would be paid after receipt of invoices and W-9 forms. Commissioners emphasized the importance of continuing support for cultural advisors while improving record-keeping to document the event and support future funding requests. Requested documentation will be minimal and may include photos and a brief event summary. Administrator Jester will ensure invoices include details about the services provided.

MOTION: Commissioner Pentel moved to approve \$1,000 in funding for cultural advisors for the Water Blessing Ceremony. Commissioner Twiford seconded the motion. Upon a vote the motion carried 8-0. The city of Minnetonka was absent from the vote.

[Commissioner Twiford departs the meeting. Alternate Commissioner Johnston is voting member for St. Louis Park.]

7. COMMUNICATIONS (20 minutes)

A. Administrator's Report

- i. Organizational Assessment Project - Administrator Jester noted SCC is in the midst of conducting interviews and they plan to present preliminary findings at the Administrative Services Committee meeting October 7th.
- ii. Medicine Lake Task Force and Survey - The community survey has received 49 responses to date. Outreach efforts include park postings, postcards mailed to lakeshore residents, promotion by the City of Medicine Lake, and distribution through additional community channels and events.
- iii. Reminder of October/November Meeting Dates
- iv. WMWA Educator Job Opening - The WMWA educator has stepped away from the role, and the position is now open. The job posting is available, and commissioners were encouraged to share the opportunity with potential candidates in their networks.

B. Engineer

- i. Report on Bassett Creek Restoration Project

Commission Engineer Johnson reported that the Main Stem Restoration Project construction is currently underway in the first reach. The project team is addressing design adjustments, some of which were needed to address comments from the DNR, through a change order expected to be covered by existing project contingency, with no additional levy request anticipated. Rain has affected construction progress, and the contractor is

working toward completing major work for the 2026 season by mid-December, consistent with the contract schedule.

Golden Valley TAC Member Rakestraw reported that several riparian homeowners have raised concerns and objections to the native vegetation buffers planned on their properties now that buffer boundaries have been marked on lawns. She noted that some homeowners have indicated they will remove the native plantings. The project encompasses approximately 60 private properties in total, with about 10 properties in Reach 1 and an estimated four homeowners currently requesting removal of the planned buffers. TAC member Rakestraw noted the need for a decision on whether to revise vegetation plans on certain properties so the contractor knows how to proceed.

Commissioners discussed the buffers' role in supporting stream restoration including providing pollinator habitat, helping with streambank stabilization, and protecting water quality. There was discussion on applicable city buffer requirements, maintenance, and enforcement under existing code. It was noted that project easement documents identify construction limits but do not detail planting footprints, and that ambiguity in the City's code regarding natural vegetation vs. turf grass may warrant further review.

There was discussion about the potential need for additional outreach to homeowners on the benefits of native vegetation buffers. It was noted that BCWMC goals include improving buffers and riparian ecology and habitats, particularly in conjunction with stream restoration projects. There was a suggestion to provide homeowners with a narrow corridor through the buffer for creek access or to use native plants that don't grow as tall.

Upon a question, TAC member Rakestraw noted that conversations with residents at open house events were generally positive, including discussions on buffers, but reiterated that when markings were put in lawns delineating the native buffer area, some homeowners changed their minds. She noted the City prefers to treat properties throughout the whole length of the project with consistency – either allowing for changes to the planned buffers on a property-by-property basis or not allowing changes to the buffer design throughout the project area. Commissioners discussed further. There was consensus among commissioners to proceed with the approved project as designed, including installation of native buffers, emphasizing the importance of maintaining consistency and avoiding changes that could compromise restoration outcomes or establish a precedent that allows homeowners to opt out that would require design changes and contractor change orders.

- C. Legal Counsel – No report
- D. Communications & Outreach Coordinator – Working on establishing Google Workspace account
- E. Chair – No report
- F. Minnesota Watersheds
 - i. Report on Summer Tour and Resolutions Hearing – Alternate Commissioner Kennedy noted a good summer tour with interesting projects and good networking. Commissioner Pentel and Alternate Commissioner Leonardson attended the resolutions hearing which was held online.
- G. Commissioners
- H. TAC Members
 - i. Report on Sept 2nd Meeting

- ii. Liaison for Oct 7th Meeting – Alternate Commissioner Kennedy appointed
- iii. Report Plymouth Creek Restoration Project – TAC member Scharenbroich shared construction photos and reported that restoration is nearing substantial completion. Contractor performance has been positive, and the project team is addressing homeowner concerns about removal of buckthorn which reduces vegetation screening.
- I. Committees
 - i. Report on Sept 2nd Administrative Services Committee Meeting – Alternate Commissioner Minderman reported committee’s initial discussions on public-private partnerships and the current focus on larger (CIP-funded) projects rather than smaller residential grant program.

8. INFORMATION ONLY (Information online only)

- A. Administrative Calendar
- B. CIP Project Updates www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects
- C. Grant Tracking Spreadsheet
- D. WCA Notice, Golden Valley
- E. August Minnesota Watersheds Newsletter

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission						
Statement of Financial Position as of 9/30/2026						
Unaudited				400	100	
				Capital Improvement Projects	General Fund	TOTAL
ASSETS						
Current Assets						
Checking/Savings						
	•	102 • 4MP Fund Investment		3,501,986.62	712,322.36	4,214,308.98
	•	103 • 4M Fund Investment		5,966,103.58	1,129,412.90	7,095,516.48
		104 • US Bank Checking		0.00	-6,616.53	-6,616.53
Total Checking/Savings				9,468,090.20	1,835,118.73	11,303,208.93
Accounts Receivable						
	•	111 • Accounts Receivable		0.00	0.00	0.00
	•	112 • Due from Other Governments		0.00	0.00	0.00
	•	113 • Delinquent Taxes Receivable		24,508.64	0.00	24,508.64
Total Accounts Receivable				24,508.64	0.00	24,508.64
Other Current Assets						
	•	114 • Prepays		0.00	4,187.00	4,187.00
	•	116 • Undeposited Funds		0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Other Current Assets				0.00	4,187.00	4,187.00
Total Current Assets				9,492,598.84	1,839,305.73	11,331,904.57
TOTAL ASSETS				9,492,598.84	1,839,305.73	11,331,904.57
LIABILITIES & EQUITY						
Liabilities						
Current Liabilities						
Accounts Payable						
	•	211 • Accounts Payable		42,448.53	63,485.13	105,933.66
Total Accounts Payable				42,448.53	63,485.13	105,933.66
Other Current Liabilities						
	•	212 • Unearned Revenue		200,000.00	0.00	200,000.00
	•	251 • Unavailable Rev - Property Tax		24,508.64	0.00	24,508.64
Total Other Current Liabilities				224,508.64	0.00	224,508.64
Total Current Liabilities				266,957.17	63,485.13	330,442.30
Total Liabilities				266,957.17	63,485.13	330,442.30
Equity						
	•	311 • Nonspendable prepaids		0.00	4,187.00	4,187.00
	•	312 • Restricted for improvements		4,562,582.00	0.00	4,562,582.00
	•	315 • Unassigned Funds		0.00	406,219.07	406,219.07
	•	32000 • Retained Earnings		4,765,842.18	948,037.91	5,713,880.09
Net Income				-102,782.51	417,376.62	314,594.11
Total Equity				9,225,641.67	1,775,820.60	11,001,462.27
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY				9,492,598.84	1,839,305.73	11,331,904.57

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission									
Actual vs Budget Year to Date Comparison - General Fund - Unaudited									
9/30/2026									
				Annual Budget	September	October	Year to Date	Budget Balance	
Ordinary Income/Expense									
Income									
			411 · Assessments to Cities	672,830.00	0.00		672,830.00	0.00	
			412 · Project Review Fees	77,000.00	2,500.00		42,752.00	34,248.00	
			413 · WOMP Reimbursement	5,000.00	0.00		4,500.00	500.00	
			414 · Grants	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	
			415 · Investment earnings	0.00	34,639.56		301,019.37	-301,019.37	
			416 · Transfer from CIP and LT Accounts	65,070.00	0.00		0.00	65,070.00	
			417 · Reimbursement for Expenses	0.00	0.00		3,179.63	-3,179.63	
			418 · Insurance Dividend	300.00	0.00		0.00	300.00	
			Total Income	820,200.00	37,139.56	0.00	1,024,281.00	-204,081.00	
Expense									
			1000 · Engineering						
			1010 · Technical Services	150,000.00	12,862.00	11,468.00	99,906.50	50,093.50	
			1020 · Development/Project Reviews	90,000.00	3,922.00	3,393.00	47,349.00	42,651.00	
			1030 · Non-fee and Preliminary Reviews	30,000.00	1,944.00	2,095.00	13,976.50	16,023.50	
			1040 · Commission and TAC Meetings	16,000.00	562.50	1,350.00	11,371.62	4,628.38	
			1050 · Surveys and Studies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
			1060 · Water Quality / Monitoring	178,000.00	23,459.56	9,937.77	140,986.02	37,013.98	
			1070 · Water Quantity	9,000.00	507.90	1,323.40	7,060.35	1,939.65	
			1080 · Annual Flood Control Inspection	15,000.00	0.00	1,139.00	1,593.50	13,406.50	
			1090 · Municipal Plan Review	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	
			1100 · Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program	34,500.00	1,746.00	2,301.00	19,272.75	15,227.25	
			1110 · Annual XP-SWMM Model Updates	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
			1120 · APM/AIS Work	40,000.00	12,575.88	0.00	12,575.88	27,424.12	
			Total 1000 · Engineering	564,500.00	57,579.84	33,007.17	354,092.12	210,407.88	
			2000 · Plan Development						
			2010 · Next Gen Plan Development	10,000.00	0.00	449.50	8,066.35	1,933.65	
			2020 · Savings for 2036 Plan	15,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,000.00	
			Total 2000 · Plan Development	25,000.00	0.00	449.50	8,066.35	16,933.65	
			3000 · Administration						
			3010 · Administrator	81,900.00	7,148.59	6,045.00	55,405.60	26,494.40	
			3015 · Additional Staff	40,000.00	1,944.00	1,404.00	3,756.00	36,244.00	
			3020 · MAWD Dues	7,500.00	0.00	0.00	7,500.00	0.00	
			3030 · Legal	28,000.00	1,881.00	991.80	12,782.68	15,217.32	
			3040 · Financial Management	19,230.00	1,461.48	1,415.00	17,005.94	2,224.06	
			3050 · Audit, Insurance & Bond	26,000.00	0.00	0.00	24,752.00	1,248.00	
			3060 · Meeting Catering	2,400.00	197.53	197.53	1,975.30	424.70	
			3070 · Administrative Services	4,200.00	135.44	358.89	1,910.40	2,289.60	
			Total 3000 · Administration	209,230.00	12,768.04	10,412.22	125,087.92	84,142.08	
			4000 · Education						
			4010 · Publications / Annual Report	1,300.00	0.00	0.00	908.50	391.50	
			4020 · Website	2,000.00	495.69	0.00	3,666.06	-1,666.06	
			4030 · Watershed Education Partnership	18,350.00	0.00	0.00	7,850.00	10,500.00	
			4040 · Education and Public Outreach	37,350.00	500.00	1,493.50	17,201.69	20,148.31	
			4050 · Public Communications	1,000.00	0.00	591.24	591.24	408.76	
			Total 4000 · Education	60,000.00	995.69	2,084.74	30,217.49	29,782.51	
			5000 · Maintenance						
			5010 · Channel Maintenance Fund	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25,000.00	
			5020 · Flood Control Project Long-Term	35,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	35,000.00	
			Total 5000 · Maintenance	60,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	60,000.00	
			6000 · Special Projects						
			6030 · Bassett Creek Valley Floodplain Study	68,275.00	5,355.50	870.00	49,604.50	18,670.50	
			6040 · Northwood & Lost Lake TMDL Assistance	9,247.00	0.00	0.00	8,384.00	863.00	
			6050 · XPSWMM to PCSWMM Model Conversion	44,000.00	3,083.00	8,261.50	12,514.50	31,485.50	
			6060 · Organizational Assessment Project	59,950.00	3,975.00	8,400.00	18,937.50	41,012.50	
			Total 6000 · Special Projects	181,472.00	12,413.50	17,531.50	89,440.50	92,031.50	
			Total Expense	1,100,202.00	83,757.07	63,485.13	606,904.38	493,297.62	

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission									
Actual vs Budget Year to Date Comparison - Construction in Progress									
9/30/2026									
Unaudited									
				Project Budget	September	October	Year to Date	Inception to Date Expense	Remaining Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense									
	·	1000 · Engineering		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	·	2024CR-M · CIP-BS Main Stem Restore		3,534,580.00	18,257.42	28,444.50	201,818.25	702,147.78	2,832,432.22
	·	2026CR-P · Plymouth Creek Restor Dunk 38th		2,600,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	155,556.08	2,444,443.92
	·	BC-12 · CIP-CostShare Pur High Eff St S		150,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,500.00	146,500.00
	·	BC-14 · CIP-Sochacki Pk Wter Quality Im		600,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,500.00	586,500.00
	·	BC-2381 · CIP-DeCola Ponds/Wildwood Pk		1,300,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	84,049.39	1,215,950.61
	·	BC-5 · CIP-Bryn Mawr Meadows		1,835,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	755,689.56	1,079,310.44
	·	BC-7 · CIP-Main Stem Lagoon Dredging Phase		4,289,000.00	0.00	0.00	77,081.36	1,702,602.35	2,586,397.65
	·	BCP-2 · CIP- Basset Cr Pk & Winnetka		1,123,351.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,075,698.32	47,652.68
	·	ML-12 · CIP-Medley Park Stormwater		1,500,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,358,137.20	141,862.80
	·	ML-21 · CIP-Jevne Park Stormwater Mgmt		500,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	56,390.75	443,609.25
	·	ML-22 · CIP-Ponderosa Wood Strm Restora		407,238.00	0.00	0.00	332,267.80	404,925.11	2,312.89
	·	NL-2 · CIP-Four Seasons Mall		990,000.00	0.00	0.00	544,774.77	754,455.33	235,544.67
	·	PL-7 · CIP-Parkers Lake Stream Restore		485,000.00	159.00	0.00	2,224.00	253,750.62	231,249.38
	·	SL-3 · CIP-Schaper Pond		612,000.00	107.50	173.00	23,964.72	606,785.02	5,214.98
	·	TW-2 · CIP-Twin Lake Alum Treatment		163,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	91,037.82	71,962.18
	·	CL-4 · CIP-Crane Lake Chloride Reduction Pro		464,200.00	0.00	0.00	47,521.75	115,796.29	348,403.71
	·	FCP-1 · CIP-Flood Control Project Double Box		1,504,000.00	22,939.74	10,900.03	134,708.06	179,896.58	1,324,103.42
	·	CIP 36 · Wirth Lake Aeration Study		0.00	0.00	265.00	265.00	265.00	-265.00
	·	Stormwater Improvements & Flood Reduction		0.00	0.00	2,666.00	2,666.00	2,666.00	-2,666.00
	·	CIP30 · Cost Share High Efficiency Street Swe		19,300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19,300.00
Total Expense				22,076,669.00	41,463.66	42,448.53	1,367,291.71	8,316,849.20	13,759,819.80

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission								
Long Term Accounts - General Fund								
Unaudited		Total			Year		Inception	
		Project Alloc.	September	October	to-Date	Prior Years	to Date	Remaining Project Funds
Income	· Fld1 · Flood Control Long Term Maint		0.00	0.00	0.00	259,421.90	259,421.90	
Expense	· Fld2 · Flood Control Long Term Exp	699,980.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	548,013.41	548,013.41	
Total		699,980.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-288,591.51	-288,591.51	411,388.49
Income	· Flood1 · Emergency FCP Income		0.00	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	
Expense	· Flood2 · Emergency FCP Expense	500,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	
Total		500,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	500,000.00
Income	· Gen · Next gen Plan Development Income		0.00	0.00	0.00	38,000.00	38,000.00	
Expense	· Gen1 · Next gen Plan Development Exp	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	38,000.00	38,000.00	
Total		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Income	· Qual · Channel Maintenance Fund		0.00	0.00	0.00	620,000.00	620,000.00	
Expense	· Qual1 · Channel Maintenance Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	265,837.70	265,837.70	
Total		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	354,162.30	354,162.30	354,162.30
Income	· 410 · Special Projects Fund	0.00	34,639.56	0.00	301,019.37	1,104,690.80	1,405,710.17	
Expense	· 410 · Special Projects Fund	225,472.00	12,413.50	17,531.50	89,440.50	184,042.55	273,483.05	
Total		-225,472.00	22,226.06	-17,531.50	211,578.87	920,648.25	1,132,227.12	1,132,227.12



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

MEMO

To: BCWMC Commissioners

From: Administrator Jester

Date: October 14, 2026

RE: Invoices for October 22nd BCWMC Meeting

I have reviewed invoices 3 – 14 below and recommend payment by the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission at the October 22, 2026 regular meeting. Commission Treasurer Polzin reviewed invoices 1 and 2 and recommends payment.

	Vendor	Service	Amount
1	Keystone Waters LLC	September 2026 Administration	\$ 6,045.00
2	Keystone Waters LLC	September 2026 Administrative Expenses	\$ 358.89
3	Barr Engineering Co	September 2026 Engineering Services	\$ 81,556.20
4	Triple D Espresso	October Meeting Catering	\$ 197.53
5	City of Plymouth	Services	\$ 1,415.00
6	Kennedy & Graven	August 2026 Legal Services	\$ 2,171.30
7	Stantec	WOMP Activities	\$ 2,301.00
8	Kaitlyn Egan	Outreach Activities	\$ 1,404.00
9	Strategic Consulting & Coaching	Organizational Assessment	\$ 8,400.00
10	Bridge Tower OpCo LLC	Public Hearing Notice	\$ 97.24
11	ECM Publishers, Inc.	Public Hearing Notice	\$ 494.00
12	Shaun Kennedy	MN Watersheds Summer Tour Expenses	\$ 493.50
13	Bradley Blackhawk	Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ Water Blessing Event	\$ 500.00
14	Darlene St. Clair	Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ Water Blessing Event	\$ 500.00

**AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
AND BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF STAFF TIME**

This Agreement is made and entered into by and between the **Metropolitan Council** ("Council"), a public corporation and political subdivision of the State of Minnesota, and the **Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission**, a special purpose local unit of government located in Hennepin County, Minnesota ("BCWMC").

WHEREAS:

1. Minnesota Statutes Section 473.405 Subd. 4 gives the Council the authority to engineer, construct, equip, and operate transit and paratransit systems, projects, or any parts thereof, including facilities useful or related to public transit; and
2. The Council is engaged in various planning and preparation activities regarding the development of the Blue Line Extension ("BLE") Project between downtown Minneapolis and Brooklyn Park, Minnesota (the "Project"). The Council has adopted light rail transit ("LRT") as the Locally Preferred Alternative ("LPA") for the transitway. The Council is in the "Project Development" phase of the Federal Transit Administration ("FTA") New Starts process and is authorized to engage in project development activities to secure the appropriate federal, state, and local approvals to advance the Project into the Engineering Phase.
3. The Project improvements could impact the Bassett Creek Watershed, which is governed by BCWMC.
4. The BCWMC is a local unit of government created by a joint powers agreement ("JPA") between multiple municipalities for the purpose of controlling flooding, maintaining and enhancing the quality of the surface and groundwater resources in the watershed.
5. The BCWMC is authorized by its JPA and implements through its Watershed Management Plan a program to review development and improvement projects to ensure that they conform to the policies and requirements of the BCWMC and to collect established fees for such reviews.
6. Prior to finalizing plans and submitting a development review application for the Project, and because of the complexity of the Project, the Council seeks review and assistance from the Commission engineer related directly to the Project's planning and development. Such review and assistance includes attendance at multiple meetings with Project, agency and city staff; consultation regarding plans for stormwater management and hydraulic processes; and assistance with and review of hydrologic

modeling. Because there is no pending application yet, the costs related to these activities fall outside of the Commission's general fee/reimbursement structure.

7. Further, the BCWMC is the Local Government Unit authorized to implement the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act ("WCA") for land within the Bassett Creek Watershed within the City of Robbinsdale. The Cities of Crystal, Golden Valley, and Minneapolis have requested assistance from BCWMC with tasks associated with the Project which fall under the WCA.
8. The BCWMC project review fee structure authorizes the BCWMC to charge applicants, including the Council, for the actual cost of tasks completed during WCA administration including participating on a Technical Review Panel, reviewing wetland delineation reports and wetland assessments, and reviewing determination requests and mitigation plans.
9. The Parties wish to enter an Agreement to govern the Council's reimbursement of the actual costs of BCWMC staff time spent performing work under this Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises contained in this Agreement, the Parties agree as follows:

I. SCOPE

The purpose of this Agreement is to provide a mechanism through which the Council can reimburse BCWMC for Commission staff time spent on reviewing the Project and other activities associated with the Project as specified in this section. BCWMC staff will engage in consultation regarding hydrology and hydraulics and stormwater management, including attending meetings with Project staff and reviewing associated modeling. BCWMC staff will review project designs and provide information about standard BCWMC requirements. BCWMC staff may also engage in wetland delineation review, review of potential incidental wetland determination requests, potential Minnesota Routine Assessment Method (MN RAM) review, pre-application communication, attending related meetings, and wetland permitting.

BCWMC agrees to perform these activities in a satisfactory and proper manner under applicable federal, state, and local law. The projected cost of these activities is shown in Exhibit A, which is incorporated by reference. The Council will reimburse BCWMC for actual costs of staff and consultant time spent on activities supporting the Project in an amount not to exceed \$15,000 pursuant to the terms of this Agreement. The Parties recognize that the activities contemplated herein precede the Council's submission of any formal BCWMC development review application for the Project. Any such future application(s) will be subject to the BCWMC fee schedule.

II. COMPENSATION, METHOD OF PAYMENT

2.01 Maximum Total Compensation. The maximum total compensation to be paid to BCWMC for work performed under this Agreement must not exceed \$15,000.

2.02 Method of Payment. For payment of the actual costs of staff time spent pursuant to this Agreement, BCWMC will submit to the Council a monthly, written invoice referencing this Agreement number and containing a detailed list of project labor and hours showing, for each task described in Section I above, the hours, rate, titles, and amounts actually paid for the Project work, and any supporting documentation. Upon verification and acceptance by the Council, the Council will pay BCWMC within 30 days.

2.03 Flat Fees. In consideration of the Council's payment of actual costs as specified in this Agreement, BCWMC shall not charge the Council its standard, flat fees which would otherwise apply for the work anticipated by this Agreement.

III. GENERAL TERMS

3.01 Term and Termination. This Agreement is effective as of August 1, 2026, and will terminate on the earlier of December 31, 2029 or the date that all obligations have been satisfactorily fulfilled. This Agreement may be terminated upon 30 days' written notice by either Party, or immediately upon mutual agreement of the Parties. Termination of this agreement will not relieve the Council from its obligation to reimburse the BCWMC for its actual costs up to the amount specified in Section 2.01, until the effective date of the termination.

3.03 Audits. As required by Minnesota Statutes, section 16C.05, the records, books, documents, and accounting procedures and practices of BCWMC relating to work performed pursuant to this contract shall be subject to audit and examination by the Council and the Legislative Auditor or State Auditor. BCWMC shall permit the Council or its designee to inspect, copy, and audit its accounts, records, and business documents at any time during regular business hours, as they may relate to the performance under this agreement. Audits conducted by the Council under this provision shall be in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Financial adjustments resulting from any audit by the Council shall be paid in full within 30 days of the BCWMC's receipt of audit.

3.04 Liability. The Parties will be responsible for their own acts and omissions and the results thereof to the extent authorized by law. The BCWMC and the Council's liability shall be governed by the Minnesota Municipal Tort Claims Act, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 466, and

other applicable law. Each party will be solely responsible for its own employees for any worker compensation claims.

3.05 Waiver. The failure by the non-breaching party to insist in any one or more instances upon the performance of any term or condition of this agreement shall not be construed as a waiver or relinquishment of the right to such performance, or to future performance, of such term or condition by the breaching party, and the obligation of both parties for performance of that term or condition shall continue in full force and effect.

3.06 Amendments. The terms of this agreement may be changed by mutual agreement of the Parties. Such changes shall be effective only on the execution of written amendment(s) signed by the Council and the BCWMC.

3.07 Assignment. Neither party shall transfer its rights or obligations under this Agreement without the express written consent of the other Party.

3.08 Data Practices. The Parties will comply with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13, as it applies to all data created, collected, received, stored, used, maintained, or disseminated in accordance with this Agreement. The civil remedies of Minnesota Statutes, section 13.08, apply to the release of the data referred to in this section by either Party.

3.09 Notice. Notice for purposes of this Agreement shall be sufficient if personally delivered or sent by certified mail to the other party at the following addresses:

For the Council:

Alicia Vap
Blue Line Extension Project Office
6465 Wayzata Boulevard, Suite 500
St. Louis Park, MN 55426
alicia.vap@metrotransit.org

For the BCWMC:

Laura Jester
BCWMC Administrator
P.O. Box 270825
Golden Valley MN 55427
laura.jester@keystonewaters.com

3.10 Severability. The provisions of this agreement shall be deemed severable. If any part of this agreement is rendered void, invalid, or unenforceable, such rendering shall not affect the validity and enforceability of the remainder of this agreement unless the part(s) which are void, invalid or otherwise unenforceable shall substantially impair the value of the entire agreement with respect to the parties.

3.11 Federal Clauses. The funding provided by the Council pursuant to this Agreement is composed in part of federal funds. BCWMC shall abide, and shall cause its Contractor or any

other entities, employees, agents, or subcontractors performing work under this Agreement to abide by all relevant federal rules and regulations, including but not limited to those regulations identified in Exhibit B, attached hereto and incorporated herein. If there is an inconsistency between Exhibit B and the terms of this Agreement, the terms of Exhibit B will prevail.

3.12 **Complete Agreement.** This agreement, including exhibits and other documents incorporated in this agreement, or made applicable by reference, constitutes the complete and exclusive statement of the terms and conditions of the agreement between the BCWMC and the Council. This agreement supersedes all prior representations, understandings, and communications. The validity in whole or in part of any term or condition of the agreement shall not affect the validity of other terms or conditions.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this agreement to be executed by their duly authorized representatives on the dates specified below.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

**BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

Alicia Vap
Director, Blue Line Extension Project

Catherine Cesnik
Chair

Date: _____

Date: _____

EXHIBIT A

BCWMC COST ESTIMATE

Total Estimated Costs for Tasks Related to the Project

1. Consultation/review regarding rate control, water quality, hydrology and hydraulics:
Estimated cost: \$10,000. Covers consultation regarding rate control, water quality, hydrology and hydraulics, attending meetings with the BLW design team and potential model and requirements review. Cost does not include performing the modeling.

2. Review of Project Design:
Estimated cost: \$5,000. Covers the cost of the BCWMC review per the requirements document (e.g. rate control, water quality, erosion/sediment control).



MEMO

To: BCWMC Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners
From: Laura Jester, Administrator
Date: October 15, 2026

RE: Recommendation to Resolve Potential Conflicts of Interest

Recommendation: I recommend the Commission take action to avoid a conflict of interest by directing the Administrator to review, on the Commission's behalf, any member city's local water management plan that was drafted by Barr Engineering.

Background:

Metro cities are beginning the process of developing their Local Surface Water Management plans as a component of their comprehensive plans and required by Met Council. Local water management plans must be aligned with watershed management plans. The Commission Engineer typically reviews the local water management plans on behalf of the BCWMC.

At the Commission meeting in May, the board took action to avoid a conflict of interest regarding Barr Engineering's contract with the City of St. Louis Park to assist with developing the city's Surface Water Management Plan. The Commission directed me to review the city's plan on behalf of the BCWMC. This action was in conformance with the Commission's conflict of interest policy (attached) which indicates that one method of addressing the conflict is to *decline to waive the conflict and contract with an outside firm for review or other remedies deemed appropriate* (Item 3.a.ii.).

The Commission Engineer recently informed me that two more member cities (Golden Valley and Minneapolis) are considering contracting with Barr Engineering for assistance in developing their local water management plans. Additional member cities may also contract with Barr for similar work.

I recommend the Commission take the same action as they did in May: to avoid the conflict of interest by directing the Administrator to review, on the Commission's behalf, any member city's local water management plan that was drafted by Barr Engineering.

BCWMC Addressing Potential Conflicts of Interest
Approved November 17, 2020
Updated February 16, 2023

This framework is meant to clarify the process for addressing potential Commission Engineer COI so that staff has clear direction and staff and commissioners have congruent expectations.

Barr will continue to operate within the provisions of MN Administrative Rule 1805.0300. In all cases of actual or potential conflicts, transparency about the situation and reporting by and to all parties is of utmost importance.

1. Administrative review (no approval needed)
 - a. Projects in the Bassett Creek watershed related to water or natural resources that do not require commission review or approval (such as natural resources protection plans, environmental impact statements, response action plans, etc.)
 - i. This is for scenarios where the provisions in Minn. R. 1805.0300 do not apply because there is no actual conflict, nor is the Commission Engineer being compensated by the commission for the same project
2. Administrative waiver (Administrator, Chair and Attorney):
 - a. Projects where the administrator documents in writing findings on the clear unity of interest, secures the consent of the chair and advice of attorney, and the timeframe of the work is either emergency in nature or requires an expedited timeline such that there is not time for Commission approval; and the administrative waiver is disclosed at the next Commission meeting. (Administrator can always choose to bring the matter to the commission.)
3. Commission waiver required:
 - a. Projects that require Commission review and approval (whether by the commission proper or the administrator under delegated authority). In these scenarios, the Commission will determine whether to:
 - i. waive the conflict
 - ii. decline to waive the conflict and contract with an outside firm for review or other remedies deemed appropriate
 - iii. decline to waive the conflict

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

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
Page: 7

Cost Estimate

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

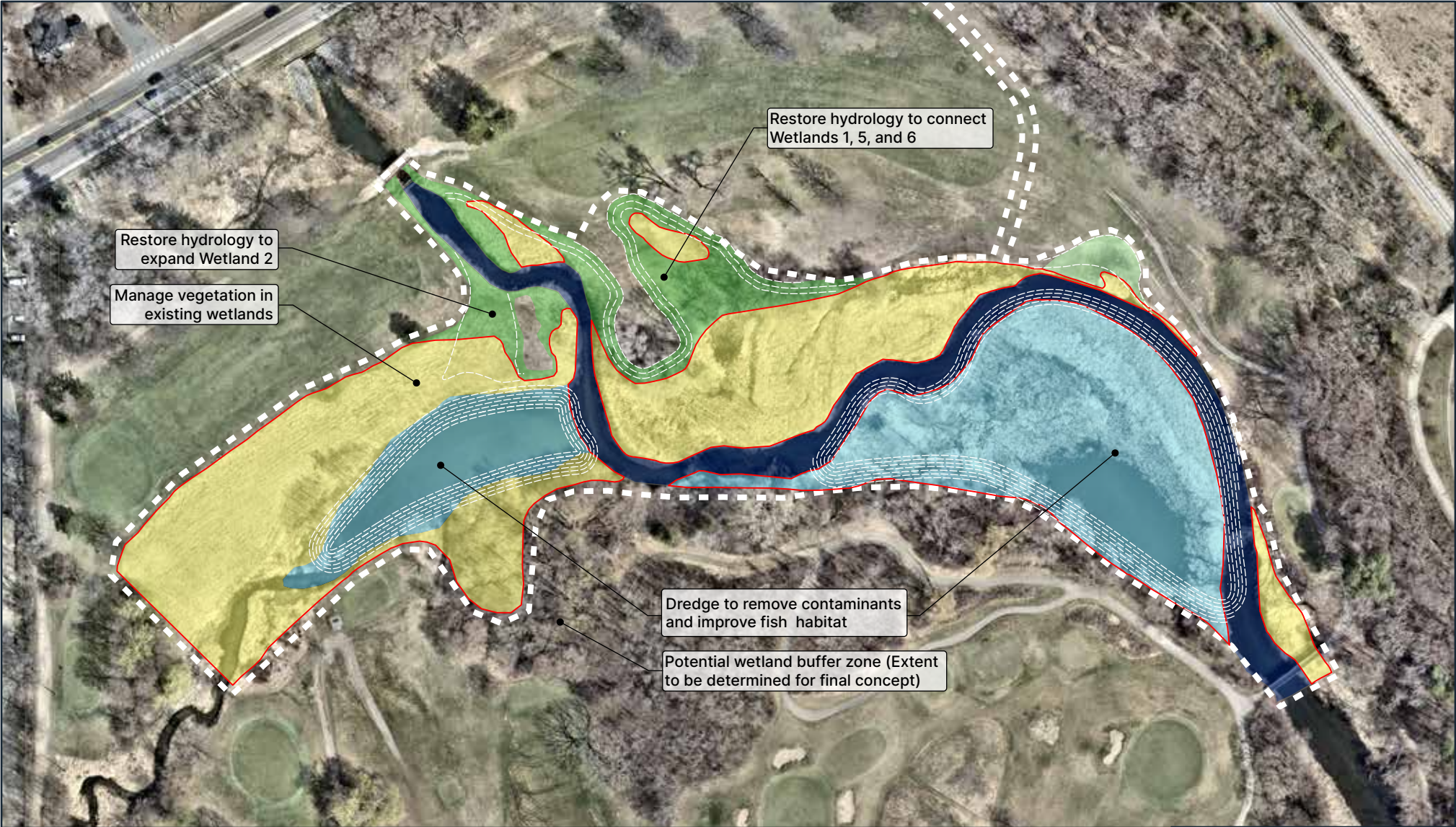
Tasks	Estimated Total
1) Project Coordination and Project Meetings	\$24,300
2) Permitting	\$80,600
3) Design	\$66,800
4) Public Engagement	\$7,400
5) Grant Application Support	\$3,400
6) Bidding Services	\$9,500
7) Construction Services	\$93,600
8) Project Management	\$15,800
Total	\$301,400

Schedule

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

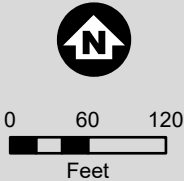
Tasks and milestones	Estimated Schedule
Design – complete 50% plans for review and permitting	Winter/Spring 2027*
Design – complete 90% plans for review	Spring/Summer 2027
Permitting	Summer 2027
Design – complete 100% plans for review	Fall 2027
Bidding	Fall 2027
Construction	Winter 2027/2028
Record drawings,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



Memorandum

To: Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC)
From: Barr Engineering Co. (Stephanie Johnson, PhD, PE; Dan Tix; Alexander Reimers, PG)
Subject: Item 5B – Consider Approval of Scope of Work and Budget for Wirth/Eloise Butler Wetland Hydrology Study
BCWMC October 22, 2026 Meeting Agenda
Date: October 14, 2026

5B. Consider Approval of Scope and Budget for Wirth / Eloise Butler Wetland Hydrology Study

Recommendations

- i. Consider approving the proposed scope of work with a budget of \$78,200, plus a contingency of \$14,900 as presented in this memorandum for Commission Engineers to complete the Wirth / Eloise Butler Wetland Hydrology Study utilizing Special Project Funds.

Background

The Wirth / Eloise Butler wetland area is located within Theodore Wirth Park, south of Wirth Lake and bordered to the north by Glenwood Avenue and to the south and west by the Eloise Butler Wildlife Garden. The wetland area drains to the north under Glenwood Avenue toward Wirth Lake, and includes an ephemeral pond that Eloise Butler referred to as the “Mallard Pond”. The wetland is bisected by an elevated trail built on a berm/dike that divides the wetland into two areas. A culvert through the berm/dike connects the two open water portions (see Figure 1).

The MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) has indicated there was historic peatland in the Wirth / Eloise Butler wetland. Peatland resources in Minnesota are declining, especially in southern Minnesota and the metropolitan area. BWSR has also noted the importance of peatlands in capturing and retaining greenhouse gases which aides in addressing climate change. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) and BWSR are partnering on a project to address concerns with the degradation of this historic peatland area. This is part of a larger initiative being led by the MPRB to advance ecological improvements within the wetland, including the removal and control of invasive vegetation throughout the wetland area, restoration of native species, and work related to the safe passage of turtles between the wetland area and Wirth Lake during hatching season.

The MPRB and BWSR are concerned that the peatland areas within the wetland are degrading, leading to subsidence (gradual lowering of the ground surface) and a loss of viable native wetland vegetation. BWSR staff believe that changes to the historic hydrology of the area over many decades of park and community development may be contributing to the peatlands degradation. BWSR has conceptualized engineering design solutions for the peatland restoration but more information is needed about the historic and existing hydrology.

BWSR has allocated funding through its peatland restoration program to support the design and installation of water control structures within the wetland, with a plan for construction and additional restoration work to begin in 2028. To deepen their understanding of the current amount and sources of

water entering the wetland and to support the design of their proposed water control structures, BWSR and the MPRB have requested the BCWMC to perform a hydrology study of the Wirth / Eloise Butler wetland area. The 2026 Bassett Creek Watershed Management Plan includes this study S-14: Theodore Wirth Hydrology Study (Table 4-5) slated for 2027 with cost estimate of \$70,000, recommended to come from the BCWMC Special Projects Fund. The purpose of this hydrology study is to quantify the proportional influence of groundwater, surface water, and stormwater that supports the Wirth / Eloise Butler wetland under current conditions.

It is believed that the Wirth / Eloise Butler wetland area was historically primarily groundwater fed, with several documented, historic springs surrounding the study area and a small surface water drainage area. Under current conditions, the Wirth / Eloise Butler wetland continues to receive groundwater and also has surface drainage ditches that drain water into it – most notably, one prominent ditch that drains into the wetland from the west in the area of the historic Great Medicine Spring. The wetland area drains out toward the north, through a concrete pipe extending under Glenwood Avenue, and into a bordering wetland complex which then discharges to Wirth Lake.

Work on this project is proposed to begin in fall of 2026, extending through the end of 2027. The first phase of work is focused on gathering site-specific data including wetland characterization, identifying contributing surface water features, and beginning to collect groundwater hydrology information. Shallow monitoring wells and piezometers will be installed beginning in the fall of 2026 to collect hydrologic measurements through the end of 2027. Data loggers will be installed within the open water areas of the wetland and flow monitoring equipment installed to collect surface water measurements over the course of the 2027 monitoring season. Results from the field assessment and monitoring efforts will be used to complete a water balance model for the wetland and to quantify the major sources of water flowing into and out of the wetland areas. The study's findings will be presented in a technical memo and are expected to inform design of the restoration work, to be completed by BWSR and their partners.

Scope of Work

The scope of work for this project includes the following tasks:

1. Project meetings and collaboration

To begin the effort, we will hold a project kickoff meeting with BWSR, BCWMC, and MPRB staff to discuss this project in detail and describe specific steps for assessing the project area hydrology and vegetation. It is expected that this meeting will occur in person on site or at a mutually agreed upon location and will include at least three Barr staff: a wetland ecologist, hydrogeologist, and water resources engineer. This meeting will allow BWSR and MPRB staff to provide background information to Barr and identify specific information and data needed for this project.

We anticipate three additional team meetings with project partners. One meeting will be completed in the winter 2026-27 to review data collected in 2026. The second meeting will be held in the summer of 2027 to review conditions and discuss the status of design, planning, and data collection; it is assumed that this meeting will be held in-person and on-site. The third meeting will occur after the draft report is provided to the project partners for their review and discussion before finalizing the report.

Deliverables:

- Project kickoff meeting agenda, meeting materials, and notes.
- Up to three additional project coordination meetings with project partners; including one in-person on-site meeting and two virtual meetings.

2. Field assessment and monitoring equipment installation

Barr scientists will review the site to better understand drainage patterns, the soils, hydrology, and vegetation. We will complete some initial site investigations to collect data including the following:

- Assess the vegetation and plant communities within and near the wetland, specifically identifying the vegetation on areas with peat soils.
- Soil information, primarily within the wetland to assess the peat quality and depth, where practical.
- Where possible, identify the historic spring locations and characterize any infrastructure remaining.

In parallel to the initial site visit, Barr will install monitoring equipment to observe the wetland's hydrology. For the fall / early winter monitoring of 2026, this will include nested shallow piezometers for shallow groundwater and stilling wells for monitoring wetland water surface elevations. During the 2027 monitoring season, this will also include a flow meter at the culvert under Glenwood Ave and a weir for monitoring flow within the main ditch draining into the wetland system.

For this proposal we assume the following for the initial assessment and monitoring set-up (to be completed fall 2026):

- i. One wetland ecologist on site for one full day to assess the wetland vegetation and plant communities and collect soil and vegetation data.
- ii. Installation of three pairs of nested water level piezometers that will be completed by hand auger or hand driving wells into the peat. If the deeper piezometer of the pair cannot be installed by hand into mineral soil or needs to exceed 15 ft depth, other methods may be considered (see Alternative 1 – Mechanized well drilling).
 - a. Each piezometer (6 total) will have a data logger that will collect hourly water level data
- iii. Barr will collect 3 soil samples near the edge of the delineated wetland with a Shelby Tube and conduct a Permeability Test for each sample through a certified local laboratory. The holes from the sampling will be backfilled to ground surface. The permeability testing will estimate in-situ vertical hydraulic conductivity of the soil beneath and surrounding the wetland.
- iv. Installation of two stilling wells in the wetland, one on either side of the trail.
 - a. Each stilling well will have a data logger that will collect hourly water level data.
- v. One surveyor for ½ day to record elevations of installed piezometers, stilling wells, and inverts and diameters of culverts draining the wetland.

The data loggers installed in the fall of 2026 may need to be removed before winter freeze-up to avoid damage to the equipment. Early spring 2027, the equipment will be re-installed and monitoring commenced. At this time, in addition to the above, we will also install two flow monitoring stations at the following locations:

- i. Installation of an area-velocity meter within the culvert draining to the north under Glenwood Avenue.
- ii. Installation of a weir and data logger to monitor flow within the ditch draining into the northern wetland from the area near the Great Medicine Spring.
- iii. One surveyor for ½ day to re-survey wells and piezometers after the winter season and record monitoring weir elevations.

The proposed budget includes the purchase of the necessary data loggers, materials, laboratory testing and fabrication of the nested groundwater piezometers, wetland stilling wells, and weir. It is assumed that the area-velocity meter will be rented for the 2027 monitoring season.

Following the initial survey and monitoring equipment set-up, data will be processed and summary data sheets compiled for future reporting and communication. This data will be reviewed internally for quality control purposes and will be made available to project partners.

Deliverables:

- Monitoring equipment, including fabricated weir, stilling wells, piezometers, and data loggers for monitoring elevations.
- Summary of wetland vegetation and soil sampling results.
- Laboratory results from Permeability Testing.

3. Collect monitoring data

Barr scientists will collect data from monitoring equipment during multiple site visits. It is expected that the monitoring equipment will be installed in October 2026 and monitored until freezing conditions. We assume Barr staff will conduct two field visits during this time; with the second occurring in November or December 2026 and including the removal of the data loggers (leaving piezometers, stilling wells, etc. in place over the winter). In the spring of 2027, monitoring equipment will be re-installed (including installation of the two flow monitoring stations). Barr staff will conduct field visits over the course of the monitoring season, through freeze-up in November or December of 2027. The proposed budget assumes up to 14 field visits over the course of the season. Each monitoring visit will include basic site observations, equipment operation checks, manual measurements, and data collection from the monitoring devices. Following each monitoring visit, data will be processed and compiled for future reporting.

Key assumptions for the monitoring cost estimates:

- i. Each monitoring visit will be completed by one Barr field technician in approximately six hours including travel time.

- ii. The cost estimate assumes that the monitoring equipment will remain operable and undamaged throughout the project. Damage caused by actions out of Barr's control including vandalism, natural events, etc. could require replacement and potentially additional cost.

Deliverables:

- Observed water surface elevations and groundwater levels for fall 2026 and 2027 monitoring season.
- Observed surface water flows and elevations for 2027 monitoring season.

4. Estimate water balance and ditch flow

Within this task, Barr will update the Commission's existing P8 model for the surrounding study area using as-builts, available LiDAR data, and field survey provided by MPRB and BWSR, as well as monitoring results collected in Tasks 1-3. Results of the modeling will be used to estimate surface water and stormwater runoff into the wetland area. Modeling results will then be combined with results from the 2026 / 2027 monitoring to complete and estimate the water balance surrounding the wetland – including contributions from surface, stormwater, and groundwater contributions. Results will include an estimate of the amount and variability of flow coming through the main ditch during the monitored time period.

Results from the groundwater monitoring and permeability testing will establish a groundwater contribution estimate to the wetland and help to verify the results of the P8 modeling. The nested piezometers will verify groundwater vertical gradients and establish groundwater elevations in relation to surface water elevations. Permeability testing results will provide vertical hydraulic conductivity estimates of the shallow subsurface soils beneath and surrounding the wetland that will help quantify the groundwater Darcy flux into or out of the wetland system at each location. If deemed appropriate, the spatial distribution of groundwater flux will be interpolated across the site. Groundwater flux(es) will then be translated into a groundwater volume estimate (independent of the P8 modeling) incorporating the area of the delineated wetland.

Deliverables:

- Updated P8 model for immediate study area.
- Estimated water balance for fall 2026 / 2027 monitoring season.
- Estimated groundwater contribution with reported uncertainty.

5. Project Reporting

A report or technical memorandum will be prepared to document the observed field conditions, summarize monitoring results, and present results from the water balance and groundwater analysis. Barr will provide the draft report to BCWMC, MPRB, and BWSR staff for review and comment. Feedback from the project partners will be provided in writing and in person at a team meeting (Task 1) and incorporated into the final report to be prepared by Barr and provided to the project partners.

Barr will develop a presentation summarizing results from the final report and present the information to the BCWMC Board of Commissioners at a regularly scheduled meeting.

For this proposal we assume one round of comments and review from project partners.

Deliverables:

- Draft project report.
- Final report, including final electronic deliverables.
- PowerPoint presentation summarizing study results.

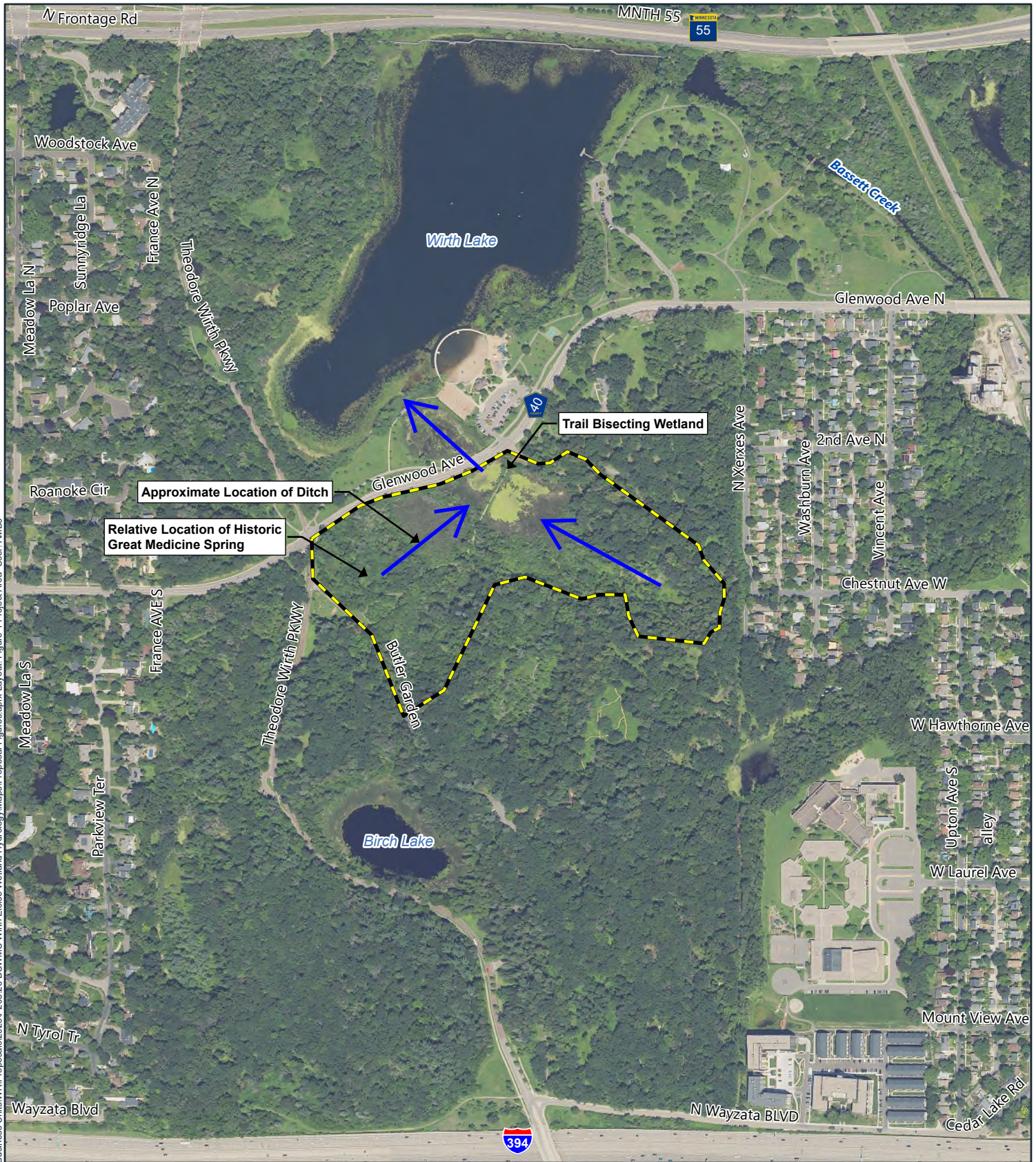
6. Alternative 1 – Mechanized Well Drilling (Contingency Task, Only If Needed)

Task 6 is included within the proposed scope as a contingency item. Within Task 2, Barr proposes to install the groundwater piezometers by hand; however, depending on site conditions, mechanized well drilling of the deeper piezometers may be needed. Potential reasons why mechanized well drilling could be necessary may include: encounters of large boulders, soil cement, buried waste, or groundwater that is deeper than 15 feet. Barr will make every attempt to install the groundwater piezometers by hand, however, if hand augering is not working to install the wells deep enough to obtain the monitoring data needed, Barr will notify the BCWMC administrator of the issue and decide how to proceed. Barr will not proceed with this alternative without the approval of the BCWMC administrator. If mechanized well drilling is chosen, Barr will contact a local licensed well driller to install the remaining groundwater piezometers according to applicable state laws and regulations.

Proposed Timeline and Commission Engineers' Estimated Costs

The following table summarizes the estimated budget and anticipated schedule for Commission Engineers to complete this study.

Task	Estimated Budget	Estimated Schedule
1. Project meetings and collaboration	\$7,600	Throughout Project
2. Field assessment and monitoring equipment installation	\$32,700	October – November 2026; March 2027
3. Collect monitoring data	\$18,600	October 2026 – November 2027
4. Estimate water balance and ditch flow	\$6,000	December 2027
5. Project reporting and final presentation	\$13,300	February 2028
Total	\$78,200	
6. Alternative 1 – Mechanized Well Drilling (Contingency Task, Only if Needed)	\$14,900	
Total (with Alternative 1, if deemed necessary)	\$93,100	



Approximate
Study Area



Generalized Flow
Direction



0 300 600
Feet



Project Area
Wirth / Eloise Wetland
Hydrology Study
Golden Valley, MN

Figure 1



Memorandum

To: Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC)
From: Barr Engineering Co. (Greg Wilson, P.E., Stephanie Johnson, Ph.D., P.E.)
Subject: Item 5C– Consider Approval of Revision to Scope and Budget for Northwood and Lost Lakes TMDL Support Services
BCWMC October 22, 2026 Meeting Agenda
Date: October 14, 2026

5D. Consider Approval of Revision to Scope and Budget for Northwood and Lost Lakes TMDL Support Services

Recommendations:

1. Consider amending the April 17, 2025 engineering services scope to include the additional two tasks as outlined in this memorandum and to increase the approved professional services budget by \$5,900 to \$45,400.

Background

At their April 2025 meeting, the Commission approved a scope of work and \$39,500 budget for the Commission Engineer to develop updates to the Commission's pollutant loading model (P8), collect lake sediment cores and complete laboratory analysis, to attend up to two stakeholder meetings, and to prepare a memorandum on results of the technical analyses for use by the MN Pollution Control Agency in the completion of a Total maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study for Northwood and Lost Lakes. This work was completed in February 2026 and since that time MPCA staff have been working on developing the Northwood and Lost Lakes TMDLs.

As of late September, the MPCA had completed the in-lake modeling and technical analyses required for calculation of the TMDLs and was working to establish load reduction goals for each of the primary sources of excess nutrients to the waterbodies. Later this fall, MPCA staff plan to meet with representatives from contributing governments including BCWMC, City of Plymouth, City of New Hope, Hennepin County, and the MN Department of Transportation to discuss their findings. In a similar timeframe, MPCA will also host a meeting with a broader stakeholder group (including lake shore residents) to present results from the draft TMDL and information on next steps. MPCA staff will then complete and distribute a draft TMDL report for review and comment by the public agencies. Following receipt of comments, a final report will then be completed and submitted to the USEPA for approvals.

These remaining two Northwood and Lost Lakes TMDL project meetings and the review/ commenting on the draft TMDL study were unfortunately not included in the original scope and budget approved by the Commission on their April 2025 meeting. This request is to amend the inclusion of these tasks into the approved scope and budget.

To: Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC)
From: Barr Engineering Co. (Greg Wilson, P.E., Stephanie Johnson, Ph.D., P.E.)
Subject: Item 5C– Consider Approval of Revision to Scope and Budget for Northwood and Lost Lakes TMDL Support Services
BCWMC October 22, 2026 Meeting Agenda
Date: October 14, 2026
Page: 2

Additional information is included below:

Task 1 – Attend Stakeholder Meetings to Review Allocations and Proposed TMDL

We will attend two additional project meetings including one with local governments and one with lake residents on behalf of the BCWMC to review and discuss MPCA findings on the Northwood and Lost Lakes TMDL project. Our proposed budget estimate assumes one of these meetings will be virtual and the other will be in-person. We assume that MPCA staff will create any presentation materials required for the discussions.

Task 2 – Review and Provide Comments on Draft TMDL Report

Barr will review and provide comments on the MPCA's draft TMDL study report for the Northwood and Lost Lakes project. We will also review the in-lake modeling and calculation of required load reductions completed for this study. Comments will be provided to MPCA staff for consideration and inclusion within the final version of the TMDL study report. The proposed budget also includes a meeting with MPCA staff to discuss the Commission's comments before completing the final report, if needed.

Deliverables

- Attendance at two additional project meetings.
- Review and comment on the draft TMDL study report; including a meeting with MPCA staff to discuss BCWMC comments, if needed.

Estimated Cost: The estimated cost for completing these tasks is: \$5,900

Recommendation: Consider amending the April 17, 2025 engineering services scope to include the Commission Engineer's attendance at two additional project meetings and for the review and comment on the draft TMDL report and to increase the approved professional services budget by \$5,900 to \$45,400.



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

MEMO

To: BCWMC Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners
From: Administrator Jester
Date: October 14, 2026

RE: Adjustment to Bassett Creek Restoration Project Engineering Services Budget

Recommendation: Allow up to \$58,000 in environmental contingency funds to be used for construction observation and approve the use of up to \$58,000 in CIP Closed Project Funds (with Administrator and Chair approval) for environmental investigation and cleanup if contamination is discovered and there is a time-sensitive need to address it.

Background:

At their meeting in January 2026, the Commission approved an updated budget for engineering services for the Bassett Creek Restoration Project, Regent Ave. to Golden Valley Rd. to be performed by the Commission Engineer. Engineering services include project design, permitting, assistance with public engagement, bidding services, development of access easement drawings, construction services including construction observation, and project management. The budget also includes contingency for an archeological survey which was utilized in June 2025 when such a survey became a permit requirement. Finally, the budget includes contingency for environmental investigations and cleanup should contaminated sediment be discovered during construction.

Project progress has been relayed to commissioners during Commission Engineer reports at most monthly Commission meetings this year. Construction in reach 1 of the project area is complete, and construction for reach 2 started October 12. Construction observation is being performed by Commission Engineers (as planned in the engineering services scope of work).

Commission Engineers have been closely tracking their activities and budgets per task over time and recently alerted me to potential budget concerns as the project progresses. Several tasks this year took more time than anticipated including 1) refining/revising easement drawings as access routes changed upon recommendation from the contractor, and as homeowners finalized their participation decisions; 2) considerable "back and forth" with the DNR about permissible in-stream structures; and 3) additional no-rise modeling to meet permit requirements.

Currently, the remaining budget includes:

\$35,000 for construction administration and project management (meetings, pay application review, coordination, weekly updates, additional minor easement updates);
\$20,000 for construction closeout (record drawings, final payment, final reporting); and
\$58,000 contingency for environmental investigations and contamination clean up.

This leaves \$8,000 for construction observation which is likely to be used during the remainder of this construction season, leaving little or no funding for construction observation in 2027.

In order to reduce budget pressure and due to the competence of the contractor, the Commission Engineers have been reducing construction oversight hours in recent weeks. Further, Commission Engineers and I met with Golden Valley staff to discuss the possibility of city staff performing more observation. City staff noted this project does already consume much staff time, and they are unsure of their ability to provide additional hours in the coming months due to other projects and obligations throughout the city.

I recommend an adjustment to the engineering services budget to provide flexibility in funding the current and critical task of construction observation. I recommend the Commission allow up to \$58,000 currently slated for environmental contingency funds to be used for construction observation, and to approve the use of up to \$58,000 in CIP Closed Project Funds for environmental investigation and cleanup if contamination is discovered and there is a time-sensitive need to address it. This approval to use Closed Project Funds would require Administrator and Chair approval if time sensitive, or would be brought to the Commission for consideration if time allows.

DEC
2-4,
2026

December

GRAND VIEW LODGE
Nisswa, Minnesota

Conference SCHEDULE

Lodging = \$148/night
Registration = \$350
(Administrator registration = \$390)

Wednesday, Dec. 2 *Note: Shuttle Runs 6 am - 11 pm*

7 - 10 am	Breakfast Buffet	Main Lodge — Heritage Room
7:30 am	Registration and Welcome	Gull Lake Center
8 am	Workshop Wednesday	
8 am - 3 pm	Minnesota Watersheds Drainage Workshop	Norway Center
8 am - 2:30 pm	Watershed Management Workshop	Gull Lake Center — Lake Margaret
8 am - 2:30 pm	Staff Technical Training Workshop	Gull Lake Center — Ballroom A
8 am - 2:30 pm	Staff Administrative Training workshop	Gull Lake Center — Ballroom B
11:30 am	Lunch Buffet	Main Lodge — Heritage Room
3:30 - 5 pm	Regional Caucuses	
	Region I Caucus	Norway Center Boardroom
	Region II Caucus	Gull Lake Center — Lake Hubert
	Region III Caucus	Gull Lake Center — Lake Margaret
6 - 9 pm	Trade Show Opening Night	Gull Lake Center — Ballroom
6 - 9 pm	Night at the Movies	Gull Lake Center — Lake Itasca

Thursday, Dec. 3 *Note: Shuttle Runs 6 am - 11 pm*

7 - 10 am	Breakfast Buffet	Main Lodge — Heritage Room
8 am - 1 pm	Visit the Trade Show	Gull Lake Center — Ballroom
8:30 am - 4 pm	Concurrent Sessions	Gull Lake Center — Lake Margaret and Lake Itasca
11:45 am	Lunch	Norway Center and Main Lodge — Heritage Room
12:45 - 1 pm	Prize Winner Announcements	Gull Lake Center — Ballroom
6 - 9 pm	Social Hour, Banquet and Awards	Gull Lake Center — Ballroom

Friday, Dec. 4

7 - 10 am	Breakfast Buffet	Main Lodge — Heritage Room
8 - 11 am	Business Meeting	Norway Center
11 am - noon	Minnesota Watersheds Board Meeting	Norway Center Boardroom



2026

Wednesday WORKSHOPS

The Minnesota Watersheds Drainage Workshop will focus on managing risk in drainage systems. Sessions include risk in repair petitions, risk in repairs and drainage projects, risk in contracting, and risk in real-world drainage projects. A case law update will be given. Attendees will also test their knowledge in session entitled Are You Smarter Than a Drainage Professional?

The Watershed Management Workshop will cover the purposes, powers, and governance structures of WDs and WMOs; planning, implementation, and evaluation in watershed management; transparency and statutory requirements; working relationships of boards and staff; and real-world examples of on-the-ground projects and board involvement in the process. We encourage board and staff to attend this workshop.

The Staff Administrative Training Workshop is geared toward watershed administrators and will cover stream restoration and public water permitting, self-insurance pools, document accessibility, and a session on navigating the legislative session.

The Staff Technical Training Workshop is meant for watershed staff and will focus on BWSR grants management, funding opportunities for watershed projects, AI for watershed communications, cybersecurity for watershed staff, and includes a watershed project sharing session.

Please note that the agendas for these sessions are being developed and are subject to change.

**CHOOSE THE
WORKSHOP that
fits your focus**

Wednesday

OPTION
ONE

THE MINNESOTA WATERSHED DRAINAGE WORKSHOP

8 am - 3 pm NORWAY CENTER

WEDNESDAY WORKSHOPS | CHOOSE ONE

- 7:30 am REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
- 8 am WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS, *Tom Gile, Board of Water and Soil Resources*
- 8:05 AM **Risk in Repair Petitions** *Chris Otterness, Houston Engineering, Inc. & Chad Martini, Stearns County*
Submitting a petition to repair or redetermine benefits on a drainage system is relatively straightforward. Understanding the financial implications of a petition, however, can be much more challenging. This is especially true when system records are incomplete and assessed benefits are limited. This presentation will explore potential financial liabilities that may be triggered by a petition and discuss strategies for helping petitioners understand cost obligations before and during drainage proceedings.
- 8:30 am **Risk in Regulatory Requirements: Repairs** *Adam Nies, Houston Engineering, Inc. & Tom Schmidt, Rice Creek Watershed District* — Drainage system repairs can trigger a surprisingly wide range of local, state, and federal regulations. Anoka County Ditch 53-62 provides an interesting case study of a seemingly simple repair effort that required navigation of a complex web of regulatory requirements.
- 9:15 am **Risk in Regulatory Requirements: Drainage Projects** *Chuck Brandel, ISG*
This session will examine the differences between repair and improvement project permitting requirements, the technical information needed to support permit applications, and considerations for changing direction when project conditions differ from original assumptions.
- 10 am **Risk of Legal Precedent: Case Law Update** *John Kolb, Rinke Noonan*
Recent court decisions can significantly influence how drainage authorities approach their responsibilities. This session reviews key legal developments and their implications for drainage admin and project implementation.
- 10:30 am **Risk of Humiliation** *Chris Otterness, Houston Engineering, Inc. & Tom Gile, Board of Water and Soil Resources*
Think you know Minnesota public drainage? Test your knowledge of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103E in this episode of Are You Smarter Than a Drainage Professional? To give you a little help, our classroom of drainage experts will even let you peek at their answers. Just hope they are right!
- 11:30 am LUNCH — *Provided with Registration*
- 12:30 pm **Risk in Contracting: Three-Party Agreements and Roles** *Chad Engels, Moore Engineering, Inc. & Lukas Croaker*
Construction contracts define the responsibilities and protections of drainage authorities, engineers, and contractors. This session will discuss contract structures, participant roles, and key considerations for protecting each parties interests throughout the construction phase of the project.
- 1 pm **Risk in Contracting: Construction Administration** *Chuck Brandel, ISG*
Effective construction administration requires a clear understanding of the responsibilities of engineers, owners, contractors, and subcontractors. This session will discuss project observations, documentation, communication, and areas where risk may arise during construction.
- 1:30 pm **Risk in Contracting: Change Order Process** *James Guler, Moore Engineering, Inc.*
What is the change order process? This session will explain when change orders are appropriate, how they are evaluated, and the potential impacts they can have on project costs, schedules, and risk management.
- 1:45 pm **Risk in Contracting: BWSR Contracts** *Tom Gile, Board of Water and Soil Resource*
You may work in the world of Chapter 103E, but funding partners outside the drainage system often do not. Clear communication regarding contract authority, funding agreements, and cost-share expectations is critical. This session will highlight common questions, potential pitfalls, and best practices for ensuring all parties understand their roles and responsibilities.
- 2 pm **Risk in Real-World Drainage Activities** *Moderator: Jacob Rischmiller, Moore Engineering, Inc.; Panelists: Chad Engels (Moore Engineering, Inc.), Chris Otterness (Houston Engineering, Inc.), Chuck Brandel (ISG)* — Experience is often the best teacher. In this interactive consultant panel, participants will examine real-world drainage challenges and discuss solution options, associated risks, and practical considerations under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103E.
- 3 pm **Adjourn**

Wednesday



WATERSHED MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

8 am - 3 pm

GULL LAKE CENTER | LAKE MARGARET

SUBJECT: Understanding the Purpose, Responsibilities, and Impact of Watershed Governance

INSTRUCTORS: Julie Westerlund, Board of Water and Soil Resources, Louis Smith, Smith Partners, PLLP, Dan Money, Two Rivers Watershed District, Michelle Overholser, Yellow Medicine River Watershed District, Mike Isensee, Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District

7:30 am REGISTRATION

8 am **Welcome and Introductions**

To help guide the day's discussion, presenters will begin by learning more about attendees and their interests. Participants should be prepared to share the organization they represent, their role within that organization, and questions they have about watershed management. This interactive discussion will help instructors tailor the workshop to attendees' needs and interests.

8:30 am **Why Watersheds? Purposes, Powers, and Governance Structures**

Why were watershed organizations created and what legal authorities do they have? This session will explain the similarities and differences in watershed management governance structures. An overview will be given of how watershed districts throughout Minnesota operate under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103D and how metro watershed districts and watershed management organizations operate under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103B.

9:45 am BREAK

10 am **Why Watershed Management? Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation**

Planning, implementation, and evaluation are the foundation of effective watershed management. This session will explore why watershed plans are important, how they guide organizational priorities, and the respective roles board members and staff play in developing, implementing, and assessing watershed projects and programs.

11:30 am LUNCH — *Provided with Registration*

12:30 pm **Why Transparency? Statutory Requirements**

Transparency is essential to effective watershed governance and public trust. Watershed boards are subject to laws and policies that govern how meetings are conducted, how decisions are made, and how information is shared with the public. This session will provide an overview of the Open Meeting Law, the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, and other governance requirements that help ensure accountability and public access.

1:30 pm **Why Working Relationships? Watershed Boards and Staff**

Successful watershed organizations are built on strong working relationships. Effective leadership, communication, and teamwork between board members and staff are critical to achieving organizational goals. This session will examine the distinct roles and responsibilities of boards and staff and discuss strategies for productive and professional relationships.

2 pm **What's Working? Real-World Examples**

Learning from experience is one of the best ways to understand watershed governance. In this session, administrators from the Two Rivers, Yellow Medicine River, and Carnelian Marine St. Croix Watershed Districts will highlight successful projects and describe their boards' involvement throughout the process, from initial concept and planning to implementation and evaluation. Attendees will gain practical insights into how effective governance contributes to successful outcomes.

3 pm **Adjourn**

Wednesday

OPTION
THREE

STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE TRAINING WORKSHOP

8 am - 3 pm GULL LAKE CENTER | BALLROOM A

WEDNESDAY WORKSHOPS | CHOOSE ONE

7:30 am

REGISTRATION AND NETWORKING

Check in, connect with colleagues, and enjoy coffee before the program begins.

8 am

Welcome and Opening Remarks *Andy Henschel, Shell Rock River Watershed District*

8:05 am

Stream Restoration and Public Water Permitting: Finding a Clearer Path *Andy Henschel, Shell Rock River Watershed District; Jon Janke, Coon Creek Watershed District; Mori Maher, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District* — Stream restoration projects can improve water quality, reduce erosion, and restore habitat, but navigating public waters permits can add uncertainty to project design, budgets, and schedules. This session will explore the Minnesota DNR stream restoration permitting work group's efforts and Minnesota Watersheds' legislative initiative to improve permit efficiency. Participants will learn about current efforts and opportunities to help shape future improvements.

9:15

Self-Insurance Pool: A Health Insurance Approach to Consider? *Joni Giese, Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District* — Due to the great work of Minnesota Watershed's lobbyist during the 2026 legislative session, watershed districts and watershed management organizations can now join with other cities, counties, and school districts to jointly insure for employee health benefits! But what are self-insurance pools and how do they work? Staff from Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District have been investigating the feasibility of joining a self-insurance pool for health benefits and will share their current understanding of how self-insurance pools are structured, along with potential benefits and drawbacks when considering whether to join a self-insurance pool.

10:15 pm

NETWORKING BREAK

10:30 pm

Document Accessibility *TBD*

Creating accessible documents is essential for ensuring information is available to all audiences and for meeting legal accessibility requirements. This session will provide practical guidance on creating accessible Word documents, PDFs, presentations, and digital materials. Attendees will learn common accessibility standards, how to identify and correct accessibility issues, and simple techniques to improve readability and usability for individuals using assistive technologies. Participants will leave with tools and best practices they can immediately apply to their organization's communications and public-facing documents.

11:30 pm

LUNCH — *Provided with Registration*

12:30 pm

Navigating the Legislative Session *Kevin Matzek, Lockridge Grindal Nauen*

With Minnesota Watersheds expanded lobbying efforts, legislative platform, and updated resolutions process, questions have emerged regarding the role of watershed administrators in legislative advocacy. This interactive question-and-answer session will provide clarity on expectations, opportunities for engagement, and effective participation during the legislative session.

2:30 - 3 pm

Wrap Up & Next Steps *Andy Henschel, Shell Rock River Watershed District*

Attendees will review key takeaways from each session, identify areas requiring additional information or clarification, and discuss possible follow-up actions.

3 pm

Adjourn

Wednesday

OPTION
FOUR

STAFF TECHNICAL TRAINING WORKSHOP

8 am - 2:30 pm

GULL LAKE CENTER | BALLROOM B

WEDNESDAY WORKSHOPS | CHOOSE ONE

7:30 am

REGISTRATION AND NETWORKING

Check in, connect with colleagues, and enjoy coffee before the program begins.

8 am

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS *Ashlee Ricci, Ramsey-Washington-Metro Watershed District*

8:05 am

BWSR Grants Management *Luke Olson, Board of Water and Soil Resource*

Administering a BWSR grant can be complex. This session will explore a grantee's responsibilities from award through final closeout, including project implementation requirements, financial management, record retention, reporting expectations, and post-grant assurances. Attendees will gain practical guidance on maintaining compliance and successfully managing grant-funded projects.

9 am

Funding Opportunities for Watershed Projects *Courtney Phillips, Shell Rock River Watershed District*

This session will provide an overview of funding sources available to watershed organizations, including the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC), Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) grants, Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR), state bonding opportunities, and dedicated sales tax funding. Attendees will learn strategies for identifying, pursuing, and leveraging funding opportunities to support watershed priorities.

15-MINUTE BREAK

10:15 am

AI for Watershed Communications: Create Better Content, Faster, While Maintaining Trust

Valerie Franklin Lockhart, Executive Director, Minnesota Technology Network

Artificial intelligence can help watershed organizations create clearer, more consistent public communications while reducing the time staff spend drafting social media posts, flyers, brochures, newsletters, project updates, and educational materials.

In this practical session, participants will learn how to use AI as a communications assistant rather than simply a content generator. We'll explore real-world watershed examples, including how to turn technical information into accessible public-facing content and efficiently adapt one message for multiple audiences and formats.

Participants will also learn the CCC prompting framework — Context, Constraints, and Calibration — a simple method for getting more accurate, useful, and organization-appropriate results from AI tools.

The session will also take a practical look at AI policy and governance, including protecting sensitive information, verifying AI-generated content, maintaining human oversight, addressing copyright and imagery concerns, and establishing clear expectations for staff use. Participants will leave with practical techniques they can use immediately and a framework for using AI more responsibly and consistently within their organization.

11:30 pm

LUNCH — *Provided with Registration*

12:30 pm

Cybersecurity for Watershed Staff *Christian Torkelson, League of Minnesota Cities*

Cybersecurity threats continue to evolve and pose risks to organizations of all sizes. This session will cover common cyber threats, employee best practices, risk mitigation strategies, and practical steps watershed organizations can take to safeguard sensitive data, financial information, and operational systems.

1:30 pm

Watershed Project Sharing Session *Kyle Axtel, South Washington Watershed District; Jon Roeschlein and Steve Zeece III, Sauk River Watershed District; Tracy Halstensgard, Roseau River Watershed District*

This interactive session highlights successful watershed projects and lessons learned from across the state. Presenters will share project goals, implementation strategies, challenges, outcomes, and key takeaways. Attendees will have opportunities to ask questions, exchange ideas, and discuss real-world applications that can be adapted to their own organizations.

2:30 pm

Adjourn

Thursday

CHOOSE YOUR CONCURRENT SESSIONS

PICK ONE
FOR EACH TIME
slot and fill up
your day

8:30 - 8:50 am

OPTION 1 ☐ **"We Should" to "Here's How" Practical Diversity and Equity Actions for Watershed Management**

What began as a call to action at the 2021 Minnesota Watersheds Conference has evolved into the Watershed Equity Alliance (WEA). While the group did not yet have a name or formal structure for the first few years, its mission was clear: to create space for watershed professionals to share experiences, expand our knowledge, and advocate for incorporating equity into watershed management. This presentation will reflect on the evolution from a small group of professionals working to create change into an established alliance supporting diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) across Minnesota's watershed management community. Presenters will explore how members have learned from one another and translate those lessons into both small and large organizational changes. The presentation will highlight scalable DEIA actions developed through the WEA and examples of how member organizations have adapted and implemented these practices. Five years of shared learning demonstrate how collaboration can transform individual experiences into practical resources and meaningful, sustainable change.

OPTION 2 ☐ **We Can Have All Three: Flow, Habitat, and Beavers**

The Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District and Andy Riesgraf, M.S. Certified Beaver Management Professional, will present nature-based approaches to managing the outlet of Big Marine Lake and the restoration of Mill Stream through Burriss Park in Marine on St. Croix. At the lake outlet, the district is implementing nonlethal beaver flow devices to maintain flows through large wetland complexes while allowing beavers to remain part of the landscape. In another location, the district is integrating beaver dam analogs and post-assisted log structures as part of a designated trout stream restoration design for a short, ecologically degraded reach affected by low-head dams and altered channel conditions. The presentation will examine how these approaches can reduce annual maintenance costs, improve habitat and stream function, reduce heavy equipment disturbance, and respond to community priorities.

9 - 9:20 am

☐ **A Tornado Hit a District Lake — Now What?**

On the evening of July 6, 2026, a tornado carved a seven-mile long, half-mile wide path through Becker County, Minnesota. That path included the popular Big Floyd Lake in the Pelican River Watershed District (PRWD). Three people were injured, 100 homes damaged, numerous boats, pontoons, docks and lifts were tossed, and established oak trees and other vegetation was destroyed. Staff from the PRWD will tell the story of the immediate aftermath, coordination of local groups, and all the soggy details of the cleanup efforts in the lake.

☐ **From Salt to Strategy: A Watershed Approach to Chloride Reduction**

Chloride management remains a persistent challenge in urban watersheds because of diffuse sources, legacy loading, and limited treatment effectiveness. Watershed districts are well positioned to advance watershed-scale reduction through monitoring, planning, outreach, and implementation. The Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD) is developing a Chloride Reduction Strategy (CRS) that uses modeling and monitoring to prioritize coordinated, long-term management actions.

Developed alongside RWMWD's 2027-2036 Watershed Management Plan, the CRS integrates chloride reduction into communications and engagement, monitoring, stewardship grants, regulatory programs, and projects/research. As a living strategy, it combines prevention, mitigation, and behavior change across public and private sectors and will evolve as new data and implementation options become available. This presentation will show how chloride loading analysis and priority mapping are combined with strategic implementation actions that help translate chloride assessment into action.

GULL LAKE CENTER

LOCATION:

Lake Margaret

PRESENTERS:

*Mary Fitzgerald,
Ramsey-Washington
Metro WD; Elizabeth
Boor, Nine Mile Creek
WD; Emily Heinz,
Comfort Lake-Forest Lake
WD; Lindsay Schwantes,
Capitol Region WD*

LOCATION:

Lake Itasca

PRESENTERS:

*Mike Isensee,
Carnelian-Marine-
St. Croix WD and
Andy Riesgraf,
Beaver Innovations*

LOCATION:

Lake Margaret

PRESENTERS:

*Shanna Bach,
Josh Beranek,
Pelican River WD*

LOCATION:

Lake Itasca

PRESENTERS:

*Ashlee Ricci,
Ramsey-Washington
Metro WD and
Tyler Olsen, Barr
Engineering Co.*

9:30-9:50 am**□ What to do When FEMA Changes My Floodplain?**

An explanation about the process of how and why FEMA changes floodplains along with how the Wild Rice Watershed District and the communities of Halstad, Hendrum, and Perley dealt with changes to the floodplain to address resultant mandatory floodplain insurance requirements.

□ The Road to Chloride Reduction: Building a Strategy for Lasting Change

Chloride reduction is a complex, multifaceted challenge that requires more than individual actions - it requires a strategy for prioritizing resources, coordinating efforts, measuring progress, and creating opportunities for innovation. The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District has been actively working to reduce chloride through projects, partnerships, education, and policy efforts. While this work has made meaningful progress, our experience has shown that strategic planning can make good work even better by helping us prioritize actions, establish accountability, and focus resources where they can have the greatest impact.

Capitol Region Watershed District and the Clean Water Council will demonstrate what strategic planning can look like in action. CRWD will share updates from its chloride action plan, including how it is prioritizing district actions, informing legislative efforts, and supporting innovative approaches such as a chloride grant program. The CWC will highlight statewide policy and guidance efforts that can create greater consistency across jurisdictional boundaries. Together, these examples show how strategic planning and policy can build existing efforts and turn individual actions into coordinated, measurable, and lasting progress.

LOCATION:

Lake Margaret

PRESENTERS:

Tara Jensen, Wild Rice WD and Jerry Bents, Houston Engineering, Inc.

LOCATION:

Lake Itasca

PRESENTERS:

Elizabeth Boor, Nine Mile Creek WD; Sarah Wein, Capitol Region WD; and Jessica Wilson, Clean Water Council

10 -10:20 am**□ Improving Habitat Restoration in Drainage Water Management**

Most of the drainage systems within the state were constructed in the early 1900s to promote settlement and agriculture. While many of these systems were successful, there are challenges presented by the existing land use and limitations of the original ditch design. These challenges often include degraded habitat on natural landscapes, undersized capacity of entire systems, or localized drainage issues. In the Roseau River Watershed, there are multiple projects underway within the Lost River State Forest and the Roseau River WMA which serve to improve these conditions, providing benefits to private land while enhancing natural habitats affected by drainage. These projects focus on improving drainage system efficiency by restoring hydrology to natural landscapes, improving water quality, and reducing burden on drainage systems and the affected private lands. The application of these principles can be implemented statewide to improve efficiency of legal drainage systems for greater use and resiliency.

LOCATION:

Lake Margaret

PRESENTERS:

Tracy Halstensgard, Roseau River WD and Torin McCormack, HDR, Inc.

□ Wake Boat Impacts on Alum Effectiveness in a Residential Minnesota Lake

Alum treatments are used to reduce internal phosphorus (P) loading in lakes by binding sediment P and limiting release under anoxic conditions. However, the stability of alum-treated sediments in lakes with high sediment disturbance is still uncertain. Recent research has shown that wake boats may redistribute or mix sediments. Lotus Lake, a deep lake in Chanhassen, MN, has undergone two alum applications (2018 and 2024) and experiences substantial wake boat activity during peak season. These conditions provided an opportunity to evaluate impact on alum treatment effectiveness.

Sediment cores were collected across treatment zones in spring and fall 2025. Vertical sediment cores were analyzed for total aluminum distribution within the top 25 cm, sediment phosphorus fractionation, and anoxic sediment phosphorus release rates. Distinct differences were observed in the aluminum distribution between spring and fall cores. Higher aluminum concentrations were observed within surficial sediments in spring compared to fall cores though despite these differences, hypolimnetic P concentrations and anoxic release rates remained significantly reduced relative to pre-treatment conditions. While this study adds to the growing understanding of wake boat impacts using real-world evidence, more analysis is needed to quantify long-term effects on sediment inactivation treatments.

LOCATION:

Lake Itasca

PRESENTERS:

Terry Jeffery, Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek WD and Kate Lucas, \Barr Engineering

10:30 - 10:50 am

▣ Stabilizing the Clearwater River

A collaborative effort between the Red Lake Watershed District, Houston Engineering, Inc., and Minnesota DNR identified a project to reduce severe degradation within a 2.3 river mile stretch of the Clearwater River that stems back to a channel straightening project performed in the 1950s. Although the straightening project reduced overland flooding in the area, the steeper grade line and reduction in channel length resulted in erosion eight to ten feet in depth within the channel. The collaborative team analyzed geomorphology, hydraulics, and countless alternatives to determine the final design. The final design includes the installation of five new rock riffles, one rock arch rapids, and modifying two existing riffles to enhance the severely degraded channel, reducing velocity and facilitating fish passage. The project also includes stabilizing nine locations of streambank with bioengineering practices. Construction is nearly complete and we look forward to sharing this success story.

▣ What the Plants Are Telling us: Ecological Health as a Watershed Management Lens

What can rare aquatic plants reveal about the systems we manage? At Brown's Creek Watershed District (BCWD), the answer is reshaping watershed management.

BCWD's recently completed fifth-generation watershed management plan elevates ecological health from a supporting consideration to a central organizing principle. Developed with an engaged advisory community, the plan integrates restoration of water resources and natural systems, protection of the uplands that sustain them, and stormwater infrastructure designed to deliver co-benefits for water quality, habitat, carbon sequestration, and community resilience. The process produced an unexpected discovery: soft-water plant communities among the rarest in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and Minnesota. Their presence, sustained by distinctive surface-water chemistry and hydrology, revealed connections between water, landscape, and the biological communities that depend on them - and provided new insight into which resources are most important to protect.

Join BCWD and EOR to explore ecological health not simply as a management objective, but as a lens for understanding watershed function and shaping measurable, actionable priorities for long-term stewardship.

LOCATION:

Lake Margaret

PRESENTERS:

Tammy Audette, Red Lake WD; Tony Nordby, HEI; and Michael Kelly, DNR

LOCATION:

Lake Itasca

PRESENTERS:

Karen Kill, Brown's Creek WD and Jimmy Marty, Emmons and Olivier Resources, Inc.

11 - 11:20 am

▣ Friends Don't Let Friends Over-Model

Projects often face pressure for increasingly complex technical analyses, particularly when reviewing regulatory impacts. On the Whetstone River, the challenge was not whether a larger, more sophisticated model could be built, but whether the significant investment in complicated analysis would improve the decision-making process. Restoration objectives need to be balanced with downstream flood risk, dam operations, infrastructure constraints, regulatory requirements, and stakeholder concerns extending beyond the project footprint.

The Upper Minnesota River Watershed District with its consultant, Houston Engineering, Inc., worked with multiple state and federal agencies to identify the decisions that needed to be made, then selected the minimum level of analysis necessary to answer those questions. The result was a submittal that addressed regulatory concerns while avoiding unnecessary complexity, cost, and uncertainty.

Attendees will learn practical lessons for defining project objectives, working with regulators, communicating uncertainty, and matching technical analyses to project risks and decision-making needs.

▣ The Land of 10,000 Lakes and 34,000 Miles of Shoreline: Making Shoreline Protection Work for Landowners and Local Governments

Minnesota continues to lose natural shoreline despite the existence of shoreline protections, technical guidance, and permitting programs. The challenge is not simply a lack of regulation. Through the Minnesota Natural Shoreline Partnership's Shoreline Protection Subcommittee, state and local partners identified recurring barriers, including inconsistent guidance and administration, limited local technical capacity, fragmented jurisdiction, and landowners receiving assistance only after damaging alterations occurred.

This session will share those findings and the practical solutions advanced through four 2026 resolutions adopted by Minnesota Watersheds: dedicated local technical assistance, common training and evaluation standards, updated public guidance, and improved regulatory and permitting-process coordination. Using real-world examples of local watershed permitting and shoreline management, the presentation will explore how these changes could help preserve natural shorelines and increase the use while expanding

LOCATION:

Lake Margaret

PRESENTERS:

Amber Doschadis, Upper Minnesota River WD and Lisa Odens, Houston Engineering, Inc.

LOCATION:

Lake Itasca

PRESENTERS:

Tom Langer and Mike Isensee, Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix WD

landowner access to native shoreline restoration and bioengineered applications practices. Participants will leave with practical examples of how shoreline protection can become easier to understand, more consistently administered, and more workable for landowners, contractors, and local governments.

11:45 am - 12:45 pm Lunch and Networking

LOCATION:
Main Lodge
Dining Room

1 - 1:20 pm

□ From Education to Celebration: Untangling Public Perception in a Dam Modification Project

Buck's Mill Dam on the Pelican River presented intertwined safety, ecological, fish-passage, and community challenges. The modification project sought to improve fish passage and dam safety while preserving seasonal lake water levels, requiring the team to address technical knowledge gaps, public concerns, and residents' attachment to the site. Construction was supported by a deliberate communication and engagement strategy. A multi-stakeholder advisory committee identified concerns early and shaped outreach while regular updates kept the public informed before, during, and after construction. The team monitored local email threads, social media groups, and newspapers, and held one-on-one and small-group conversations to explain tradeoffs in accessible language. Educational materials clarified fish-passage function and expected water-level behavior. A partnership with the Becker County Museum connected engineering, ecology, and local history through interactive exhibits. The approach aims to strengthen understanding and trust while offering a replicable model for using cultural institutions in water resource education and celebrating community ownership of project outcomes.

LOCATION:
Lake Margaret

PRESENTERS:
Shanna Bach, Pelican River WD and Garrett Monson and Lauren Weller, Moore Engineering, Inc.

□ Engaging Owners in BMP Maintenance

It's not uncommon that someone buys a new property with a permanent BMP and has no idea it's there - much less how to maintain it. Staff inspections can be helpful in identifying issues and making the owner aware of the BMP, but don't bridge the gap in understanding how it functions and what maintenance needs to be done. We'll look at some successes CLFLWD has had in engaging owners in managing their BMPs and what can be done, with a special focus on small businesses and residential homeowners.

LOCATION:
Lake Itasca

PRESENTERS:
Victoria D'Amico, Comfort Lake-Forest Lake WD

1:30-1:50 pm

□ Persistence Pays Off: Fountain Lake Dredging Moves to Completion

The Shell Rock River Watershed District's Fountain Lake Restoration Project reflects a long-term, multi-phase effort to improve one of southern Minnesota's most visible and economically important water resources. Fountain Lake, located in Albert Lea, has been impaired by nutrient enrichment, poor water clarity, sediment resuspension, and degraded aquatic habitat, with a 2012 TMDL identifying internal phosphorus loading from accumulated sediments as a major driver. Since dredging began in 2018, SRRWD has advanced the project through persistence, partnerships, state funding, and local option sales tax support. The first two phases included construction of a confined disposal facility and removal of approximately 1.2 million cubic yards of sediment. With an additional \$9 million from the Minnesota Legislature, the final phase will remove about 600,000 cubic yards from Main Bay and portions of Bancroft Bay. Attendees will learn how dredging, permitting, vegetation management, and habitat enhancement support improved water quality, fisheries, and long-term lake health.

LOCATION:
Lake Margaret

PRESENTERS:
Andy Henschel, Shell Rock River WD and Julie Blackburn, ISG

□ LIDAR Analysis Targets, Near Channel Erosion Sources, and Results in Prescriptive BMP Implementation

Modeling and terrain analysis enhancements were made possible by the recent release of a second generation of Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) topographic mapping. Sand Creek has been impaired for high total suspended solids (TSS) and turbidity since 2002, and watershed monitoring data confirmed that monitored stream segments exceed the TSS standard by two to eight times. Work completed for the Sand Creek watershed used both sets of LiDAR mapping and stream monitoring data to target specific sources of near-channel erosion and prioritize exact locations for implementing improvement options. This presentation will demonstrate how GIS terrain analysis and watershed monitoring and modeling results were combined to quantify near channel erosion volumes, develop statistical relationships with TSS and prioritize specific sites that have delivered the highest levels of excess runoff and sediment load. The results were checked for agreement with past geomorphic surveys and are getting used for management plan updates.

LOCATION:
Lake Itasca

PRESENTERS:
Melissa Bokman Ermer, Scott WMO and Greg Wilson, Barr Engineering Co.

2 - 2:20 pm

□ Partnership Through Permitting: A Model for Minnesota Watersheds

An inherent challenge sits at the interface of land use and water, where development decisions shape hydrology and water quality. How the land-use community experiences watershed permitting can shape outcomes beyond the regulatory process, but when watersheds engage after land-use decisions are fixed, friction arises and opportunities for collaboration narrow.

Recurring policy proposals, including recent efforts to consolidate watershed authority, highlight the importance of an innovative regulatory approach that demonstrates how permitting can protect water resources while supporting broader community goals.

MCWD's Land & Water Partnership framework advances this approach. With permitting as a primary implementation arm, MCWD engages early, provides technical assistance, and builds relationships to achieve outcomes beyond compliance.

Drawing on interviews with developers, cities, and metro watersheds, this session will examine the inherent tensions of regulatory programs, explore partnership case studies, and offer Minnesota watersheds a practical model for building relationships, protecting water, and demonstrating public value.

LOCATION:

Lake Margaret

PRESENTERS:

James Wisker, Veronica Sannes, and Abigail Couture, Minnehaha Creek WD and Louis Smith, Smith Partners

□ Finding Your Bearings: Creating a New Baseline of Project Inspection Data to Support Project Performance

Watersheds need projects to function as designed to be successful in protecting water, and functioning projects and partnerships rely on solid information and an understanding of current conditions. With over 180 stormwater projects across 24 years of partner grants in the community, in 2026 the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) began a journey to understand how built projects are functioning. Through reviewing past project BMPs and populating a geospatial database to track visual inspections, MWMO has garnered insights into the status and function of our partners' projects. This required simplification of subjective data collection, connectivity between various programs, and legwork by staff to get the job done. As MWMO continues to work to support long-term performance and understanding of project impacts, staff anticipate going deeper and further into monitoring approaches to point towards how past projects can be sustained for performance for our partners, communities, and the Mississippi River.

LOCATION:

Lake Itasca

PRESENTERS:

Adam Flett and Emmy Baskerville-Doeckel, Mississippi WMO

2:30 - 2:50 pm

□ Fundamental Principles, Complaint Procedures, and Indemnification in Watershed Governance

Public administrators who serve Minnesota watershed organizations operate in a complex governance environment. They are employees or officers of a public entity, but they also work closely with an appointed Board of Managers that sets policy, approves budgets, adopts rules, and supervises the overall direction of the district. This relationship can create difficult questions when an administrator has a human resources complaint, becomes the subject of litigation for work performed on behalf of the district, or needs clarity about how internal governance policies should be applied. A well-designed governance framework should answer these questions before conflict arises. It should provide a clear complaint pathway, a fair process for response and appeal, and an accurate explanation of defense and indemnification obligations. This session will inform board members and administrators how to design and navigate this framework.

LOCATION:

Lake Margaret

PRESENTER:

Louis Smith, Smith Partners

□ From Park Improvements to Climate-Resilient Community Infrastructure

The Central Park redevelopment in Hopkins demonstrates how strong local partnerships can transform a traditional park improvement project into a multifunctional investment in community resilience. Led by the City of Hopkins, the project began as an effort to upgrade park amenities. Through relationship-building and collaboration with the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, the project expanded to integrate recreation, stormwater management, and climate resilience. The district contributed design expertise, funding, and support in securing a \$5 million grant, helping the city advance a project with benefits far beyond recreation. Emerging from the District's DEIA work, the partnership intentionally focused investment in an area of the watershed more vulnerable to climate-related impacts. The resulting multi-use space provides improved recreational opportunities while reducing flood risk, improving water quality, and mitigating the urban heat island effect. Central Park illustrates how watershed districts can build trusted partnerships that leverage public investments to address environmental vulnerabilities while meeting community priorities.

LOCATION:

Lake Itasca

PRESENTER:

Elizabeth Boor, Nine Mile Creek WD

3 - 3:20 pm

□ The Future of One Watershed, One Plan

Very soon, Minnesota will have completed a 10-year transition to statewide watershed-based planning through the One Watershed, One Plan program. The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources is exploring ideas for continuous improvement of the program as plans enter their second planning and implementation cycle. In this session, BWSR staff will share what they've learned, and ideas for program improvement to strengthen partnerships, accelerate clean water results, and share success stories. This will be an interactive session that will build on a series of summer listening sessions and a survey, continuing the discussion about potential program modifications aimed at streamlining planning, cultivating consistency while maintaining flexibility, and improving how results are communicated.

□ Revealing Opportunity: Turning Watershed Goals into Action in the Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay Sub Watershed

MCWD has learned that effecting meaningful change for water resources, and the communities anchored by them, often require looking beyond its own area of expertise - seeking unique project opportunities on the landscape in partnership with those who transform it.

For over a decade, MCWD has cultivated relationships with its Six Mile Creek - Halsted Bay Sub watershed communities, integrating water resources and land use. By recognizing where watershed goals intersect with community aspirations for sustainable growth, MCWD and its partners unlocked a diverse project portfolio, including habitat restorations, stormwater retrofits, and corridor improvements, while continuing to plan together for the future.

Rather than focus on what watersheds can accomplish alone, this session will explore how identifying shared goals with land-use actors reveals opportunities to advance watershed priorities while achieving broader community objectives. Attendees will gain practical ideas for discovering common ground and turning opportunities into projects that generate meaningful local and downstream change.

LOCATION:

Lake Margaret

PRESENTER:

*Julie Westerlund,
Moriya Rufer, and
Maggie Karschnia,
BWSR*

LOCATION:

Lake Itasca

PRESENTER:

*Michael Hayman
and Kailey Cermak,
Minnehaha Creek
WD*

3:30-3:50 pm

□ Defining a Watershed's Role on Local Water Management Issues

A watershed organization's role and scope in managing surface water quantity is often misunderstood. Because you have "water" in your organizational name, stakeholders often understand that role extends to ALL surface water issues, when an organization's budget and authorities demand a "regional" prioritization to their mission. In short, it can be hard to say "no" to local landowners who seek relief from their localized, but deeply personal, water management issue. In this presentation, the Rice Creek Watershed District will demonstrate strategies they have used to communicate the sidebars on the district's role in water quantity management and provide secondary but useful assistance on these issues.

□ Balancing Recreational Boating and Lake Health: Empirical Insights for Sustainable Boat Operation

Escalating boat sizes, engine horsepower, and modern wake-enhancing technologies are driving growing concerns over freshwater ecosystem health. In particular, wake boats and the sport of wake surfing have introduced a distinct mode of vessel operation designed to produce large, surfable waves - a practice that has sparked intense environmental and regulatory debate. This presentation synthesizes five years of field-based research evaluating different types of recreational powerboats, their typical modes of operation, and the hydrodynamics they generate. By analyzing and comparing surface wave height, energy, and power, alongside subsurface waves and turbulence, this work provides the empirical foundation needed to establish science-based operational guidance - including setback distance and water depth - to minimize impacts to the shoreline and lakebed.

LOCATION:

Lake Margaret

PRESENTER:

*Nick Tomczik, Rice
Creek WD and Chris
Otterness, Houston
Engineering, Inc.*

LOCATION:

Lake Itasca

PRESENTER:

*Andy Riesgraf,
UM St. Anthony
Falls Laboratory*



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission MEMO

Date: October 15, 2026
From: Laura Jester, Administrator
To: BCWMC Commissioners
RE: **Administrator's Report**

Aside from this month's agenda items, the Commission Engineers, city staff, committee members, and I continue to work on the following Commission projects and issues.

CIP Projects (more resources at <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects.>)

2020 Bryn Mawr Meadows Water Quality Improvement Project (BC-5), Minneapolis: (No update since July) A feasibility study by the Commission Engineer was developed in 2018 and approved in January 2019. The study included wetland delineations, soil borings, public open houses held in conjunction with MPRB's Bryn Mawr Meadows Park improvement project, and input from MPRB's staff and design consultants. Project construction year was revised from 2020 and 2022 to better coincide with the MPRB's planning and implementation of significant improvements and redevelopment Bryn Mawr Meadows Park where the project will be located. A public hearing for this project was held September 19, 2019. The project was officially ordered at that meeting. In January 2020 this project was awarded a \$400,000 Clean Water Fund grant from BWSR; a grant work plan was completed and the grant with BWSR was fully executed in early May 2020. The project and the grant award was the subject of an article in the Southwest Journal in February: <https://www.southwestjournal.com/voices/green-digest/2020/02/state-awards-grant-to-bryn-mawr-runoff-project/>. In September 2020, Minneapolis and MPRB staff met to review the implementation agreement and maintenance roles. BCWMC developed options for contracting and implementation which were presented at the November meeting. At that meeting staff was directed to develop a memorandum of understanding or agreement among BCWMC, MPRB, and city of Minneapolis to recognize and assign roles and responsibilities for implementation more formally. The draft agreement was developed over several months and multiple conversations among the parties. At the May 2021 meeting the Commission approved to waive potential conflict of the Commission legalcounsel and reviewed a proposal for project design by the Commission Engineer. The updated design proposal and the design agreement among all three parties were approved at the June 2021 meeting. Four public open houses were held in the park in 2021 to gather input on park concepts. Project partners met regularly throughout design to discuss schedules, planning and design components, and next steps. Concept designs were approved by the MRPB Board in late 2021. Staff met with MnDOT regarding clean out of Penn Pond and continue discussions. 50% design plans were approved by the Commission at the January 2022 meeting; 90% design plans were approved at the March 2022 meeting along with an agreement with MPRB and Minneapolis for construction. The agreement was approved by all three bodies. Commission Engineers finalized designs and assisted with bidding documents. Bids were returned in early August. At the meeting in August, the Commission approved moving forward with project construction (through MPRB), and approved a construction budget (higher than previously budgeted) and an amended engineering services budget. MPRB awarded the construction contract. In late November the contractor began the initial earthwork and started on portions of the stormwater pond excavations. By late December the 1st phase of construction was complete with the ponds formed and constructed. The contractor began driving piles in late January and began installing underground piping in early February. At the March meeting, the Commission approved an increase to the engineering services budget and learned the construction budget is currently tracking well under budget. The change order resulting from the City of Minneapolis' request to replace a city sewer pipe resulted in extra design/engineering costs that were approved by the Administrator so work could continue without delays. The MPRB will reimburse the Commission for those extra costs and will, in-turn, be paid by the city. In early May construction was focused in the Morgan / Laurel intersection. The right-of-way storm sewer work is complete including the rerouting of some of the existing storm infrastructure and installation of the stormwater diversion structures. Construction of the ponds is complete and stormwater from the neighborhood to the west is now being routed through new storm sewers to the ponds. Vegetation is currently being established around the ponds. At the October 2023 meeting the Commission approved an amendment to the agreement

with MPRB and Minneapolis in order to facilitate grant closeout. At the December 2023 meeting the Commission approved a partial reimbursement to MPRB for \$400,000. Corrections to a weir that was installed at the wrong elevation were made in spring 2024. A final grant report was submitted to the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources in late January 2024 and the final grant payment was recently received. Project as-built drawings were completed and an operations and maintenance plan is being finalized. August 2025 update: St. Anthony Falls Lab is using the new ponds as part of a study to understand how stormwater pond plant communities affect functioning of stormwater ponds, and how pond design, maintenance and management can be adapted to promote conditions that maximize water quality benefits in urban and road-impacted areas. Project partners recently met to agree on a timeline for completing all documents and agreements between MPRB and Minneapolis. A final project report and reimbursement request are expected at the September or October Commission meeting. Project website:

<http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/bryn-mawr-meadows-water-quality-improvement-project>

Original Project Budget: \$1,835,000.00; Remaining Funds: \$1,079,310.44 (Funds will be used to reimburse MPRB and City of Minneapolis upon receipt of final report and reimbursement request with appropriate documentation.)

2020 Jevne Park Stormwater Improvement Project (ML-21) Medicine Lake (No change since July 2023): At their meeting in July 2018, the Commission approved a proposal from the Commission Engineer to prepare a feasibility study for this project. The study got underway last fall and the city's project team met on multiple occasions with the Administrator and Commission Engineer. The Administrator and Engineer also presented the draft feasibility study to the Medicine Lake City Council on February 4, 2019 and a public open house was held on February 28th. The feasibility study was approved at the April Commission meeting with intent to move forward with option 1. The city's project team is continuing to assess the project and understand its implications on city finances, infrastructure, and future management. The city received proposals from 3 engineering firms for project design and construction. At their meeting on August 5th, the Medicine Lake City Council voted to continue moving forward with the project and negotiating the terms of the agreement with BCWMC. Staff was directed to continue negotiations on the agreement and plan to order the project pending a public hearing at this meeting. Staff continues to correspond with the city's project team and city consultants regarding language in the agreement. The BCWMC held a public hearing on this project on September 19, 2019 and received comments from residents both in favor and opposed to the project. The project was officially ordered on September 19, 2019. On October 4, 2019, the Medicine Lake City Council took action not to move forward with the project. At their meeting in October 2019, the Commission moved to table discussion on the project. The project remains on the 2020 CIP list. In a letter dated January 3, 2022, the city of Medicine Lake requested that the Commission direct its engineer to analyze alternatives to the Jevne Park Project that could result in the same or similar pollutant removals and/or stormwater storage capacity. At the March meeting, the Commission directed the Commission Engineer to prepare a scope and budget for the alternatives analysis which were presented and discussed at the April 2022 meeting. No action was taken at that meeting to move forward with alternatives analysis. In May and June 2023, Commission staff discussed the possibility of incorporating stormwater management features into a redevelopment of Jevne Park currently being considered by the City of Medicine Lake. After review of the preliminary park design plans, the Commission Engineer and I recommended implementation of the original CIP Project to the City. Project webpage: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=467>.

Original Project Budget \$500,000; Remaining Funds: \$ 443,609.25 (Funds are held until a viable project is identified or Commission officially closes the project and returns funds to the Closed Project Account.)

2014 Schaper Pond Diversion Project and Carp Management, Golden Valley (SL-3) (No change since June): Repairs to the baffle structure were made in 2017 after anchor weights pulled away from the bottom of the pond and some vandalism occurred in 2016. The city continues to monitor the baffle and check the anchors, as needed. Vegetation around the pond was planted in 2016 and a final inspection of the vegetation was completed last fall. Once final vegetation has been completed, erosion control will be pulled and the contract will be closed. The Commission Engineer began the Schaper Pond Effectiveness Monitoring Project last summer and presented results and recommendations at the May 2018 meeting. Additional effectiveness monitoring is being performed this summer. At the July meeting the Commission Engineer reported that over 200 carp were discovered in the pond during a recent carp survey. At the September meeting the Commission approved the Engineer's recommendation to perform a more in-depth survey of carp including transmitters to learn where and when carp are moving through the system. At the October 2020 meeting, the Commission received a report on the carp surveys and recommendations for carp removal and management. Carp removals were performed through the Sweeney Lake Water Quality Improvement

Project. Results were presented at the February 2021 meeting along with a list of options for long term carp control. Commission took action approving evaluation of the long-term options to be paid from this Schaper Pond Project. Commission and Golden Valley staff met in March 2021 to further discuss pros and cons of various options. At the September 2021 meeting, the Commission approved utilizing an adaptive management approach to carp management in the pond (\$8,000) and directed staff to discuss use of stocking panfish to predate carp eggs. Commission Engineers will survey the carp in 2022. At the April meeting, the Commission approved panfish stocking in Schaper Pond along with a scope and budget for carp removals to be implemented later in 2022 if needed. Commission staff informed lake association and city about summer activities and plans for a fall alum treatment. Approximately 1,000 bluegills were released into Schaper Pond in late May. Carp population assessments by electroshocking in Sweeney Lake and Schaper Pond were completed last summer. A report on the carp assessment was presented in January. Monitoring in Schaper Pond in 2023 and a reassessment of carp populations in 2024 were approved in early 2023. Carp box netting in 2024 is also approved, as needed. A carp survey of Schaper Pond and Sweeney Lake were recently completed which found higher than expected carp numbers in Sweeney Lake. Carp Solutions completed box netting in Sweeney Lake in late September 2024. At the October meeting the Commission Engineer reported that 191 carp were removed bringing the carp density to about 31.3 kg/hectare, less than the 100 kg/hectare threshold for water quality problems. A more detailed report on carp population status and recommendations for further monitoring in Schaper Pond was presented and approved at the January 2025 meeting. Monitoring on the pond got underway last summer. Challenges during the 2025 monitoring season included heavy rains and impacts to a city manhole that house monitoring equipment which had to be removed. An amendment to the effectiveness monitoring budget was approved at the October 2025 meeting. At the February meeting, Commission Engineers presented results of the 2025 monitoring and the Commission approved a cost benefit analysis of long-term carp management with the remaining project funds. Carp surveys in Schaper Pond and Sweeney Lake took place in May. Results will be reported at a future meeting. Project webpage: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?clD=277>.

Original Project Budget: \$612,000; Remaining Funds: \$ 5,215

2014 Twin Lake In-lake Alum Treatment, Golden Valley (TW-2) (No changes since August 2024): At their March 2015 meeting, the Commission approved the project specifications and directed the city to finalize specifications and solicit bids for the project. The contract was awarded to HAB Aquatic Solutions. The alum treatment spanned two days: May 18- 19, 2015 with 15,070 gallons being applied. Water temperatures and water pH stayed within the desired ranges for the treatment. Early transparency data from before and after the treatment indicates a change in Secchi depth from 1.2 meters before the treatment to 4.8 meters.

Water monitoring continues to determine if/when a second alum treatment is necessary. Monitoring results from 2023 were presented at the July 2024 meeting. Results show continued excellent water quality. The CIP funding remains in place for this project as a 2nd treatment may be needed in the future. Project webpage: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?clD=278>.

Original Project Budget: \$163,000; Remaining Funds: \$71,962.18

2013 Four Seasons Area Water Quality Project (NL-2) (No change since April): At their meeting in December 2016, the Commission took action to contribute up to \$830,000 of Four Seasons CIP funds for stormwater management at the Agora development on the old Four Seasons Mall location. At their February 2017 meeting the Commission approved an agreement with Rock Hill Management (RHM) and an agreement with the City of Plymouth allowing the developer access to a city-owned parcel to construct a wetland restoration project and to ensure ongoing maintenance of the CIP project components. At the August 2017 meeting, the Commission approved the 90% design plans for the CIP portion of the project. At the April 2018 meeting, Commissioner Prom notified the Commission that RHM recently disbanded its efforts to purchase the property for redevelopment. In 2019, a new potential buyer/developer (Dominium) began preparing plans for redevelopment at the site. City staff, the Commission Engineer and I have met on numerous occasions with the developer and their consulting engineers to discuss stormwater management and opportunities with “above and beyond” pollutant reductions. Concurrently, the Commission attorney has been working to draft an agreement to transfer BCWMC CIP funds for the above and

beyond treatment. At their meeting in December, Dominion shared preliminary project plans and the Commission discussed the redevelopment and potential “above and beyond” stormwater management techniques. At the April 2020 meeting, the Commission conditionally approved the 90% project plans. The agreements with Dominion and the city of Plymouth to construct the project were approved May 2020 and project designers coordinated with Commission Engineers to finalize plans per conditions. In June 2021, the City of Plymouth purchased the property from Walmart. The TAC discussed a potential plan for timing of construction of the stormwater management BMPs by the city in advance of full redevelopment. At the August 2021 meeting, the Commission approved development of an agreement per TAC recommendations. The city recently demolished the mall building and removed much of the parking lot. At the December meeting the Commission approved the 90% design plans and a concept for the city to build the CIP project ahead of development and allow the future developer to take credit for the total phosphorus removal over and above 100 pounds. At the July meeting, the Commission approved an agreement with the city to design, construct, and maintain the CIP project components and allow a future developer to use pollutant removal capacity above 100 pounds of total phosphorus. A fully executed agreement is now filed. The updated 90% project plans were approved at the September 2023 meeting. Changes to those plans were needed to address permitting requirements resulted. Those changes were presented at the November 2024 meeting and were administratively approved by the Commission Engineers. Construction of the wetland restoration is complete (see photo). The Commission approved a reimbursement request at the March 2026 meeting. Project webpage: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cid=282>.

Original Project Budget: \$990,000; Remaining Funds: \$ 235,544.67 (Funds will be used to reimburse City of Plymouth upon receipt of final report and reimbursement request with appropriate documentation.)

2021 Parkers Lake Chloride Reduction Project (PL-7) (No change since July): The feasibility study for this project was approved in May 2020 with Alternative 3 being approved for the drainage improvement work. After a public hearing was held with no public in attendance, the Commission ordered the project on September 17, 2020 and entered an agreement with the city of Plymouth to implement the project in coordination with commission staff. The city collected additional chloride data in winter 2020 in order to better pinpoint the source of high chlorides loads within the subwatershed. Partners involved in the Hennepin County Chloride Initiative (HCCI) are interested in collaborating on this project. A proposal from Plymouth and BCWMC for the “Parkers Lake Chloride Project Facilitation Plan” was approved for \$20,750 in funding by the HCCI at their meeting in March. The project will 1) Compile available land use data and chloride concentrations, 2) Develop consensus on the chloride sources to Parkers Lake and potential projects to address these sources, and 3) Develop a recommendation for a future pilot project to reduce chloride concentrations in Parkers Lake, which may be able to be replicated in other areas of Hennepin County, and 4) help target education and training needs by landuse. A series of technical stakeholder meetings were held to develop recommendations on BMPs. A technical findings report was presented at the July 2022 meeting. At the September 2022 meeting, the Commission approved a scope and budget for a study of the feasibility of in-lake chloride reduction activities which was presented at the November 2022 meeting. The Commission directed staff to develop a scope for a holistic plan for addressing chloride runoff from the most highly contributing subwatershed. Commission and Plymouth staff continue to work on outreach and engagement with properties in the subwatershed, primarily through activities by WMWA’s coordinator position. At the March 2025 meeting the Commission approved a contract with Bolton and Menk for assessment of salt storage and other practices at 4 properties. In November 2025, the Commission approved a reimbursement agreement with Hennepin County in order to utilize grant funding for this project. A final report from Bolton & Menk was reviewed, discussed among partners, and included with Commission meeting materials in May 2026. Also in May, the Commission approved an agreement with Bolton & Menk for a second phase of this project. In July the Commission approved an agreement with MPCA for future Smart Salting trainings. Project website: www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/parkers-lake-drainage-improvement-project

Original Project Budget: \$485,000; Remaining Funds: \$ 231,249

2022 Medley Park Stormwater Treatment Facility (ML-12) (No change since June 2025): The feasibility study for this project was approved in June 2021 with public engagement and a project kick-off meeting in the following months. The project was officially ordered by the Commission in September 2021. The city hired Barr Engineering to develop the project designs. The BCWMC received a \$300,000 Clean Water Fund grant from BWSR in December 2021 and the grant agreement approved in March 2022. 50% design plans were approved in February 2022 and 90% plans were approved at the May 2022 meeting. Construction began in November 2022 and winter construction was finished in late January

2023. Activities in spring 2023 included completing grading (topsoil adjustments); paving (concrete, bituminous); light pole and fixture install; benches install; site clean up and prep for restoration contractor. In late May 2023, Peterson Companies completed their construction tasks and the project transitioned to Traverse de Sioux for site restoration and planting. A small area of unexpected disturbance from construction was added to the overall area to be restored with native plants through a minor change order. Site restoration, planting, and seeding was completed in late June 2023. A final grant report was submitted to the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources in late January 2025 and all grant funds were received. The Commission approved reimbursement requests from Golden Valley at their October 2024 and March 2025 meetings. The project was featured in the "Snap Shots" newsletter from the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources. A final reimbursement request and report will be submitted after final vegetation establishment.
www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/medley-park-stormwater-treatment-facility

Original Project Budget: \$1,500,000; Remaining Funds: \$141,862.80 (Funds will be used to reimburse City of Golden Valley upon receipt of final report and reimbursement request with appropriate documentation.)

2022 SEA School-Wildwood Park Flood Reduction Project (BC-2, 3, 8, 10) (No change since December 2023): The feasibility study for this project was approved in June 2021. Study development included meetings with and input from city staff, Robbinsdale Area School representatives, technical stakeholders, and the public. In September 2021, a resolution was approved to officially order the project, submit levy amounts to the county, and enter an agreement with the city to design and construct the project. The city hired Barr Engineering to develop the project designs. 50% Design Plans were approved at the January 2022 meeting. A public open house was held September 2022 and 90% were approved at the October 2022 Commission meeting. Six construction bids were received in late February 2023 with several of them under engineer's estimates. The city contracted with Rachel Contracting and construction got underway in early spring 2023. By late June excavation was completed and the playground area was prepped and ready for concrete work to begin on July 5. The city hired Landbridge Ecological for restoration work in summer 2023. At the end of July 2023, utility crews lowered the watermain and installed the storm sewer diversions into the park from along Duluth Street. The hydrodynamic separator was also set (with a crane). Crews also worked on the iron-enhanced sand filter and the outlet installation, stone work on the steepened slopes, trail prep, bituminous paving, and concrete work (curb and gutter, pads, and ADA ramps). The preconstruction meeting for the restoration work was held with work to begin late August or early September 2023. The city awarded the contract for the DeCola Pond D outlet work to Bituminous Roadways Inc. in August 2023. The SEA School site construction is complete and restoration work is complete. The DeCola Pond D outlet replacement and site restoration is also now complete. Project webpage: www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/sea-school-wildwood-park-flood-reduction-project.

Original Project Budget: \$1,300,000; Remaining Funds: \$1,215,950 (Funds will be used to reimburse City of Golden Valley upon receipt of final report and reimbursement request with appropriate documentation.)

Bassett Creek Restoration Project: Regent Ave. to Golden Valley Rd. (2024 CR-M), Golden Valley (See Item 5D):

A feasibility study for this project got underway in fall 2022. A public open house was held March 1st with 30 residents attending. The draft feasibility report was presented at the April meeting. A final feasibility report was presented at the June meeting where the Commission approved the implementation of Alternative 3: to restore all high, medium, and low priority sites. A Clean Water Fund grant application for \$350,000 was recently developed and submitted to BWSR. The Commission held a public hearing on this project at its September meeting and officially ordered the project and set the final levy. An agreement with the city of Golden Valley for design and construction was approved at the November 2024 Commission meeting. The Commission (Commission Engineers) will design the project and provide engineering services. A scope of work for engineering services was approved at the March meeting. A drone survey of the entire stretch was completed in early April. A project kick-off meeting was held with city and commission staff on April 9th. Field and desktop surveys are continuing. Meetings regarding utility easements and communications planning were recently held. A public open house on the project was held on June 5th. At the June meeting the Commission approved a scope and budget for a wetland delineation and architectural survey which are unexpected requirements for a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. That work is getting underway. Additionally, Administrator Jester approved a scope and budget for an archeological survey that was included in the original engineering services scope as a contingency task with approval delegated to the Administrator. Commission Engineers presented the 50% designs at the July meeting. At the August meeting, commissioners reviewed a reprioritization of eroded sites and discussed cost saving and implementation options. Commissioners approved a new project budget to accommodate repair of new and expanded erosion and vegetation restoration on public and private properties along the project corridor. A public open house was held October 30th. Letters

to residents along the project were sent by Golden Valley requesting temporary easements for the project. 90% plans were approved at the November meeting. An amendment to the engineering services budget and overall project budget were approved in January. The city awarded a contract for construction and vegetation restoration to MNL (Minnesota Native Landscapes). Permits are in place and construction is underway in the first reach. At last month's meeting, commissioners discussed a potential change to the planned vegetated buffers due to some residents' desire not to have these plantings. The Commission did authorize any change to the plans. At this meeting, staff will present a recommendation to adjust some budget lines in the engineering scope. Project website: <https://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/bassett-creek-restoration-project-regent-ave-golden-valley-r>

Original Project Budget: \$1,941,000; Amended Project Budget: \$3,534,580; Remaining Funds: \$ 2,832,432

Sochacki Park Water Quality Improvement Project (BC-14): This project was added to the CIP through a minor plan amendment as approved at the March 2023 Commission meeting with CIP funding set at \$600,000. The project involves a suite of projects totaling an estimated \$2.3M aimed improving the water quality in three ponds and Bassett Creek based on a subwatershed analysis by Three Rivers Park District (TRPD). A memorandum of understanding about the implementation process, schedules, and procedural requirements for the project was executed in April 2023 among BCWMC, TRPD, and the cities of Golden Valley and Robbinsdale. A feasibility study funded by TRPD was approved in September 2023. The Commission held a public hearing on this project at the same meeting and officially ordered the project and set the final levy. A cooperative agreement with TRPD and Robbinsdale was approved at the April 2024 meeting. Three Rivers Park District contracted with Barr Engineering to develop project designs. A Phase II Environmental Assessment was completed last year. Soil contamination (including PCBs) was found in some areas to be above MPCA action levels.

The following are recent (2025) updates for the project: MPCA approved the response action plan; TRPD cleared the federal environmental review requirements for the project and were issued a release of funds for the HUD grant; additional test pits were completed for soil pre-characterization, and the extent of contaminants is less than anticipated, especially with regards to PCBs; Hennepin County ERF grant for \$447,000 was awarded for remediation efforts. A technical stakeholder meeting was held in March week with permitting agencies. A public open house and required public hearing on the proposed water level drawdown was held August 10th. 50% project designs were approved in July and 90% plans were approved in September. The pond drawdowns have started and construction of the BMPs is expected this winter. Project webpage: <https://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/sochacki-park-water-quality-improvement-project>.

Original Project Budget: \$600,000; Remaining Funds: 586,500.00

Plymouth Creek Restoration Project Dunkirk Lane to 38th Ave. North (2026 CR-P): A scope and budget for a feasibility study was approved at the October meeting. A project kick off meeting was held November 3rd and a technical stakeholder meeting was held December 5th. Field investigations and desktop analyses are complete. Site prioritization ranking criteria are being developed and concept designs are being developed. A public open house was held on March 11th. Residents who attended are in favor of the project and had questions about impacts to trees, potential construction activities in specific reaches, and buckthorn removal. The feasibility study was approved at the May meeting with Option 3a being approved for implementation. At the June meeting the Commission approved a maximum levy for 2025 that includes funding for this project which was approved by the Hennepin County Board August 6th. At its September meeting, the Commission held a public hearing on this project and approved a resolution officially ordering the project, setting the 2025 levy, and entering an agreement with the City of Plymouth for design and construction. The city will hold a public open house on this project in spring 2025 after the city contracts with an engineering firm. A Clean Water Fund grant for \$400,000 was awarded by BWSR. The grant agreement and sub-grant agreement were approved at the April meeting. The City of Plymouth hired Moore Engineering for project designs. Commission Engineers sent requested data, surveys, and models to Moore Engineers at the request of the City of Plymouth. A public meeting will be scheduled for later this year. A pre-permitting meeting was held with permitting agencies on September 2nd. Commission Engineer's review and comments on 60% designs for Phase I were approved at the October meeting. A public open house was held on November 3rd. 90% designs were approved at the December meeting. The City of Plymouth awarded a construction contract to JC Hallett Construction; construction of Phase I is largely complete. Design has started for Phase II. A pre-application meeting with permitting agencies to discuss Phase II was held September 10th. 60% designs are expected to be presented at the November meeting. Project webpage: <https://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/plymouth-creek-restoration-dunkirk-lane-38th-ave-n>.

Original Project Budget: \$2,600,000; Remaining Funds: \$2,444,443.92

Double Box Culvert Repair Project (FCP-1): This project was officially ordered in September 2025 after completion of the [feasibility study](#) in June 2025. A stakeholder kick-off meeting was held on February 19th. At the meeting in March 2026, the Commission approved the 60% design plans. 90% plans were approved at the June meeting. Commission Engineers presented project plans to the Minneapolis Capital Project Task Force Committee to ensure proper coordination with other city projects. Final plans and bidding and contracting documents were recently completed. A webpage was developed for the project this summer. A bid opening was held last week. Commission Engineers have been working with the Commission Attorney on contracting documents and access agreements. At the September meeting, the Commission awarded a construction contract to Minger and approved access agreements. Construction is likely to begin in the coming weeks. Project webpage: <https://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/flood-control-project-double-box-culvert-maintenance-and-repair-project>

Original Project Budget: \$1,504,000 Remaining Funds: \$ 1,324,103

Crane Lake Chloride Reduction Demonstration Project, Minnetonka (CL-4): At the meeting in July, the Commission approved a scope and budget for the feasibility study for this project. The Commission Engineer is gathering background information. A project kick off meeting was held in September 2024. In summer 2025, water quality sampling and continuous chloride monitoring at the five pond monitoring sites was completed. Last summer, Commission Engineers compiled and analyzed the field and laboratory monitoring results and developed watershed chloride load assessment modeling, which was calibrated based on the water quality monitoring data. At the meeting last month, Commission Engineers presented the draft feasibility study. The TAC discussed possible options for source control at their meeting on June 3rd, and Commission Engineers and I met with Minnetonka staff on June 9th to gather additional feedback on possible implementation activities. The feasibility study was approved at the June 2026 meeting with direction to implement the recommended three phases. A public hearing was held in September and the project was officially ordered in the same meeting. Project webpage: <https://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/crane-lake-chloride-reduction-demonstration-project>.

Original Project Budget: \$464,200 Remaining Funds: \$348,404

Main Stem Bassett Creek Lagoon Dredging Project (BC-7) (See Item 5A):

The goals of the original Main Stem Lagoon Dredging project (Phase I) were to improve water quality in the creek by removing accumulated sediment from Lagoons D, E, and F to re-establish an aesthetic and function similar to the original open water design from the 1930's. The original project resulted in deepening the lagoons to 4 feet instead of the intended 6 feet. A feasibility scope and budget for a second phase of the project was approved in August 2025 and revisions were approved in March 2026 to evaluate an additional option of wetland restoration on Lagoon G. The Phase II feasibility study was approved at the June meeting with direction to implement Alternate 3 which combines some dredging in Lagoon G with wetland restoration in Lagoon G. A public hearing on Phase II was held in September and the project was officially ordered in the same meeting. At this meeting, the Commission will consider a scope and budget for the design and engineering services for this project.

Project webpage: <https://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=506>

Original Project Budget Phase I & Phase II: \$4,289,000 Remaining Funds: \$2,586,398

Administrator Activities September 9 – October 14, 2026

Subject	Work Progress
CIP and Technical Projects	• <u>General</u>: Discussed timing/sequencing of projects, feasibility studies, and TAC agenda items with Commission Engineer Johnson • <u>Plymouth Creek Restoration Project</u>: Attended pre-application meeting with permitting agencies on Phase II. Corresponded with city staff and Commission Engineers re: project timing and design reviews. • <u>Main Stem Bassett Creek Restoration Project</u>: Discussed project engineering services budget with Commission Engineers and city staff • <u>Lagoon Dredging Project</u>: Reviewed/commented on scope and budget for Phase II design and engineering services • <u>Medicine Lake Task Force</u>: Corresponded re: survey for residents and lake users and reviewed preliminary results; corresponded with city of Plymouth on task force membership and initial messaging for invitation to participate; sent initial invitation to selected agency staff and other individuals; corresponded with TRPD staff on first meeting timing and agenda • <u>Double Box Culvert Repair Project</u>: Gathered signatures on agreements and resolution; reviewed/commented on project signage • <u>Wirth/Eloise Butler Wetland Hydrology Study</u>: Reviewed scope and budget for study, provided comments; met with Commission Engineer to discuss contingency recommendation • <u>Northwood and Lost Lake TMDL Project</u>: Met with MPCA staff and Commission Engineers re: modeling results for Northwood; discussed project budget with Commission Engineers and reviewed request for budget amendment
Education and Outreach	• Prepared agenda and materials for Education Committee meeting • Gathered and reviewed resumes for WMWA Educator position; corresponded with Hennepin County staff; schedules initial Zoom interviews with 5 applicants • Prepared WMWA agenda and meeting minutes and facilitated October WMWA meeting • Discussed WMWA roles and future governance with partners • Reviewed/commented on WMWA Coordinator position job opening announcement • Coordinated volunteers and delivered/picked up educational materials • Attended/taled at Haha Wapadan Water Blessing Event • Participated in Watershed Partners Chloride Subgroup meeting • Reviewed and discussed with K Egan on future education activities • Discussed BCWMC email options with K Egan • Met with Utepils staff and Adopt-a-Drain contractor on signage and coordination of education activities • Crafted and sent email to commissioners with upcoming events and meetings • Met with Hennepin County staff and Robbinsdale staff re: raingarden project in Robbinsdale using WBIF funding • Discussed request from artist to use photos from BCWMC website for art installation in Hopkins in March • Scheduled Education Committee meeting; refined education workplan for committee review; prepared previous meeting notes and agenda for Education Committee meeting • Scheduled presentation at Covenant Living in Golden Valley
Administration	• Developed agenda; reviewed invoices and submitted expenses spreadsheet to Plymouth; reviewed financial report; finalized meeting minutes; reviewed memos, reports, and documents for Commission meeting; printed and disseminated meeting information to commissioners, staff, and TAC; updated online calendar; drafted meeting follow up email; ordered catering for October Commission meeting • Participated in September pre-meeting call with Commission Engineer and Chair Cesnik • Developed agenda for TAC meeting; attended meeting • Developed agenda for Administrative Services Committee meeting; attended meeting • Sent final levy request and resolution to Hennepin County • Informed accountants of approved CIP project budgets

	• Responded to data request on historic development and conditions surrounding tunnel entrances • Responded to data request for previous watershed management plans • Corresponded with MW lobbyist and Hennepin Co Commissioner Fernando re: request to revise statute language on multi-jurisdictional partnerships • Discussed potential conflict of interest instances with Commission Engineer • Attended Met Council's Integrated Water Planning Workshop • Participated in Chloride Workgroup meeting • Drafted outline for public-private partnership program; created draft title, goals, overview of program for Administrative Services Committee discussion • Developed agenda, wrote previous meeting notes, and attended Administrative Services Committee meeting • Reviewed Commission Engineer correspondence on MPCA's proposed rule changes regarding lakes standards and classifications • Corresponded with Commission Attorney and Met Council staff re: reimbursement agreement for Blue Line LRT reviews
Organizational Assessment Project	• Participated in bi-weekly check-in meetings with SCC • Reviewed refined interview questions • Coordinated with SCC on their presentation to the Administrative Services Committee • Participated in interview by SCC
MN Watersheds	• Assisted with July meeting notes and October agenda for Metro Watersheds meeting • Attended MAWA Executive Committee meeting • Reserved lodging for MW Annual Conference • Assisted with reimbursement request for S Kennedy for Summer Tour