



## Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

### MEMO

Date: October 8, 2014  
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

**2012 Main Stem Restoration Project, Golden Valley Rd. to Irving Ave. N., Minneapolis and Golden Valley (mostly in Wirth Park) (2012CR):** Bid documents went out last month and a bid opening was held this morning (October 8<sup>th</sup>). I have not heard results of the bid opening at the time of this writing. According to the Minneapolis Park and Rec Board, all permits are on the way and some construction should begin this late fall and winter. A request to extend the Clean Water Fund grant for this project was recently approved by BWSR.

**2014 Schaper Pond Diversion Project, Golden Valley (SL-3):** At the August meeting, the Commission approved an agreement with the City of Golden Valley to proceed with design and construction of the project. 50% Plans are expected to be completed this fall and construction could begin in early 2015.

**2014 Twin Lake In-lake Alum Treatment, Golden Valley (TW-2):** See agenda item 6D.

**2014 Briarwood/Dawnview Water Quality Improvement Project, Golden Valley (BC-7):** The Commission approved the 90% plans for this project at its September 2014 meeting. The project is slated to be constructed this winter.

**2015 Main Stem Restoration Project 10th Avenue to Duluth Street, Golden Valley (2015CR):** A final public hearing on this project is scheduled for this meeting (see item 5A). The project is slated to be ordered by the Commission at this meeting (see item 6A) and an agreement with the City should be approved at this meeting (see item 6B). City staff and the consultant have been reviewing easements and walking the creek to determine access and the need for temporary construction permits prior to meeting with property owners. Staff has also been looking at the condition of the stream banks and storm sewers following the wet spring and summer to see if anything has changed significantly. The city is meeting with property owners this fall to discuss stabilization options.

**2016 Northwood Lake Improvement Project, New Hope (NL-1):** The Commission approved development of a feasibility study for this project at their May meeting and discussed, at length, the draft feasibility study at its September meeting. A revised draft feasibility study will be brought to the Commission's November meeting.

## Other Projects

**Hennepin County Natural Resources Partnership:** I attended the second meeting of this group on 9/30 where we received a presentation on the County's new plan for managing and preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species. We also discussed future topics that would be useful for the group to discuss. This group plans to meet several times a year. The goal of the partnership is to discuss issues of common interest, provide a venue for presentations on an array of poignant topics, and promote a more comprehensive and collaborative approach to county-wide natural resource management.

**MPRB Ecological System Plan:** A third meeting of this group is scheduled for October 21. Commissioner Welch is slated to attend.

**River Watch:** The Commission financially supports Hennepin County's River Watch program. Three schools currently collect macroinvertebrates on Bassett Creek each spring and fall. Two of these teachers (from Blake and Copper High School) have been monitoring the creek with students for almost 20 years! I had the pleasure of meeting these teachers and their students at the creek this fall. I think it was nice for them to meet a BCWMC representative and receive copies of the watershed map. I plan to visit with one more River Watch teacher next week (10/14).

**TAC Meeting:** The TAC met on 10/2. I prepared and distributed the meeting agenda, attended the meeting and wrote the TAC memo.

**Mississippi River Forum:** I attended the Mississippi River Forum on 9/26 at the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization's (MWMO) offices to learn about their stormwater outfall monitoring program. It was good to touch base with the MWMO, see their offices (I think the Commission should take a tour there sometime!), and learn more about our adjacent watershed.

**Next Generation Watershed Management Plan:** (See agenda item 6E) The Commission Engineer and I continue to draft policies and other sections of the Plan, coordinate Plan Steering Committee meetings, disseminate information, and track the project timeline. The Plan Steering Committee met on 9/22 and meets again on 10/20. A Commission workshop was held this afternoon (10/8). The current Plan development timeline includes the release of the 60-day review draft this November. We are still hoping to meet that timeline.

**NEMO workshops:** The final West Metro NEMO workshop was held on September 25<sup>th</sup> with a bus tour of stormwater projects and practices. Alternate Commissioner Crough was the only BCWMC representative in attendance.

**Develop "New Commissioner" materials:** I continue to work with Amy Herbert to post these items on the Commission website.

**Commission Policies:** As recently directed by the Administrative Services Committee, by the end of the year I will develop policies on records and data retention, public access to documents, and fiscal policies.

**CIP Process Improvement:** There has been no change on this item since my June Administrator's Report. I hope to work with Alternate Commissioner Tobelmann on the use of project management software and with Amy Herbert on creating one webpage per CIP project.