



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Meeting Notes of the
Watershed Plan Steering Committee
December 6, 2023 @ 8:30 a.m.
Brookview, Golden Valley

Meeting Attendees:

Committee Chair Kennedy; Commissioners Cesnik and Welch; Alternate Commissioners Harwell and Polzin; TAC Members Eckman, and Scharenbroich; Administrator Jester; Commission Engineers Chandler and Williams

1. WELCOME

Committee Chair Kennedy opened the meeting at 8:37 a.m.

2. REVIEW NOVEMBER 1 MEETING NOTES

The November 1, 2023 Plan Steering Committee meeting notes were approved by consensus.

The group also revisited the new mission statement. After a brief discussion, there was consensus to further refine the statement to the following: *Stewardship of water resources to reduce flood risk and improve watershed ecosystem health*. This proposed statement will be presented to the Commission their January meeting.

3. NOTICE OF PLAN TAC MEETING: December 15TH

Commission staff informed the committee that the Plan Technical Advisory Committee would meet on December 15th. Administrator Jester noted the Plan TAC includes member cities, state, regional, and local review agencies, and technical partners like TRPD and MPRB. She reported the committee would review the issues and their priority level along with all issue statements and measurable goals thus far recommended by the PSC. The intent of the meeting is to gather feedback from Plan TAC members on plan development progress and direction to date, get their ideas for addressing issues (what is working or not working in other areas of the Metro or state).

PSC members noted the importance of conveying the fact that the goals and strategies are draft at this point and have not been reviewed by the Commission; the strategies should be "under consideration" and not a promise of actions the Commission necessarily intends to take. Staff was asked to take notes on which agency or city provides specific comments during the meeting and track how the comment was addressed moving forward. Committee Chair Kennedy noted he would attend the Plan TAC meeting.

4. REVIEW ISSUE STATEMENTS AND DRAFT GOALS FOR REMAINING WATERBODY AND WATERSHED QUALITY CATEGORY

Before moving onto the Streambank and Gully erosion issue, there was a discussion about city MS4 permit enforcement, particularly enforcing private BMP maintenance. The PSC asked that city TAC members be polled about the degree to which they are enforcing MS4 permit requirements. Committee member Scharenbroich reported that Plymouth has increased the level of private BMP maintenance compliance from 48% compliance to about 80% but that compliance takes a lot of time and effort. The group contemplated whether there is a role for the BCWMC to assist with ensuring private BMP compliance. It was noted again that enforcement of standards is undervalued and can be an important way to improve water quality. The group will revisit this potential action later in the planning process when they more specifically discuss tools.

Streambank and Gully Erosion

The committee reviewed edits from the November 1st PSC meeting and further refined the desired future condition, the issue statement, and the goal statement. Changes were captured in the latest draft of the goals document.

Lakeshore Erosion

The committee discussed how improving lakeshore buffers is more of an outreach and education program (which would be a new endeavor for the Commission) because it is difficult to quantify water quality improvements due to improved shorelines. It was noted that improving buffers also fosters stewardship and the more lakeshores that are restored makes it more of an acceptable and hopefully desired aesthetic. The committee revised the desired future condition, the goals, and some strategies. Changes were captured in the latest draft of the goals document.

Wetland Health and Restoration

Administrator Jester noted that, similar to lakeshores, the Commission doesn't have an active role in wetland management. She also noted that residents likely interact with wetland areas more frequently than streams and lakes through passive recreation. Committee member Welch noted that Nine Mile Creek Watershed District performed a watershed-wide wetland inventory and assessment and identified wetland restoration opportunities. The committee revised the desired future condition, the goals, and some strategies. Changes were captured in the latest draft of the goals document.

5. REQUEST TO REVIEW LAND & WATER RESOURCE INVENTORY

Commission staff reported that the first draft of the Land and Water Resource Inventory is complete and ready for their review (and that the Barr logo on the document will be changed to the BCWMC logo). Administrator Jester noted that she reviewed the document and her comments/suggested edits were incorporated into the draft now found online. She asked for comments from committee members by February 7th. The committee noted that TAC review and comment is also important.

6. DISCUSS PRESENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO COMMISSION IN JANUARY

Committee Chair Kennedy recommended that only the draft impaired waters and chloride issue statements and goals be presented to the Commission in January. There was a question about whether the goals within the impaired waters issue were prioritized. It was noted that they were not prioritized on paper but that the committee had articulated that delisting Medicine Lake was the highest priority. There was a recommendation that the information for the Commission meeting include documented feedback from the Plan TAC. It was noted that the PSC would see the Plan TAC feedback information at their January meeting.

7. CONFIRM NEXT MEETING DATE: JANUARY 3RD

The group indicated that January 3rd will work for the next PSC and that the agenda should include review of the Plan TAC discussion and input. Committee member Welch also noted that he and Administrator Jester were discussing ways to have a broad discussion about the Commission's capacity and implementation processes with the Commission and/or the PSC.

8. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.