



# Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

## Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday December 6, 2023

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Wirth Lake Room, Brookview

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ELECTION OF CHAIR
3. COMMUNICATIONS & UPDATES
4. BUSINESS

### A. Review Budget Committee Recommendation and Discuss Subwatershed Analyses

At their meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup>, the Budget Committee drafted and recommends the following policy regarding use of investment income. The Budget Committee plans to bring this draft policy to the Commission at the December meeting and requested TAC input.

*Draft Investment Income Policy: 100% of the income from BCWMC long-term investments (e.g., 4M and 4MP funds) will be categorized as “unrestricted” funds and will be posted to a Special Projects Fund within the BCWMC Operating Budget (similar to the Flood Control Long Term Maintenance Fund or Channel Maintenance Fund). Use of the Special Projects Fund will require approval by the Commission prior to the expenditure. Use of the Special Projects Fund will be prioritized toward studies or planning to help target capital improvement projects or BCWMC programs (e.g., subwatershed analyses). In limited and extenuating circumstances, the Special Projects Fund may be used for other purposes (e.g., closing budget gaps in regular BCWMC programs) but only with thorough evaluation, a recommendation from the Budget Committee, and approval by a majority of members at a Commission meeting.*

Further, because the policy recommends the completion of subwatershed analyses (SWAs), staff would like to gather initial TAC input regarding SWAs in the BCWMC. SWAs could be performed in high priority areas such the subwatersheds of Lost Lake or Northwood Lake, or along a specific area of the Main Stem of Bassett Creek. SWAs could be expanded beyond typical pollution hot spot and project identification to more comprehensively identify:

- Pollution hot spots – including nutrients and chlorides
- Key locations for water quality improvement projects
- Flood risk potential
- Key locations for water storage or flood reduction projects
- Wetland restoration opportunities
- Redevelopment potential or timing (to leverage “above and beyond” opportunities during redevelopment)
- Underserved/marginalized communities
- Partnership opportunities with organizations, neighborhoods, businesses, etc.

### B. Considerations for Future Dredging Projects

This item was tabled at the October TAC meeting so then TAC Chair Ray could inquire with other agencies. Although he did submit the research idea to LRRB for consideration in the next cycle of voting, staff would like to finalize this list of considerations and report back to the Commission.

Below are the Commission Engineer's recommendations for future dredging projects which include recommendations included in the September TAC agenda along with some additional thoughts gathered since that meeting:

- Final design, construction drawings and quantities should be based on recent (within one year) bathymetric surveys to establish existing (pre-dredge) sediment depths; depending on schedule, the bathymetric survey could be performed again, immediately before construction/dredging.
- Do not perform surveys or accept contractor surveys performed in dewatered frozen conditions, due to ice and frost heave. Increase level of effort of survey required (licensed surveyor, grid size, tolerances) in the specs both to deter contractors and assure quality if they want to dispute bid quantities.
- Use sonar or extra wide foot on the survey rod because normal foot will sink in soft sediment.
- During sediment exploration as part of feasibility study or design, designer could obtain several samples to determine in-situ unit weight of sediment and include that information in the bid documents.
- Consider requiring interim surveys by a licensed surveyor for progress payments, when feasible.
- Assuming adequate surveys have been performed, measurement and payment based on plan quantity Cubic Yards (CY) is the preferred method for dredging projects to avoid paying for hauling and disposal of water/ice.
- Consider requiring as-built/record surveys at project completion, and add specifications that allow for reduction of plan quantity if contractor is outside of allowable tolerances.
- When feasible, remove water from basin so dredging is performed in the dry.

The TAC could consider officially recommending these actions to the Commission for future dredging projects and/or using them for city dredging projects.

#### **C. Holistic Management of Chloride in Parkers Lake Subwatershed**

At their meeting in November, the Commission reviewed and discussed the report on the [Study of Chloride Extraction/Dilution From Parkers Lake](#). The Commission directed staff to develop a scope for a holistic approach to managing chloride in the lake. Staff is seeking TAC's input on this item and could consider the following:

- What data gaps do we have?
- Along with winter lake monitoring recommended by the Commission Engineer, should additional hot spot monitoring be conducted at points upstream of the lake to better understand sources?
- Should we utilize [Izaak Walton League's Salt Watch](#) monitoring kits or something similar?
- How can we assess whether or not the MnDOT property is contributing high chloride loads?
- Can enhanced street sweeping be utilized in the subwatershed?
- Can Plymouth or BCWMC require winter maintenance plans for certain sizes or types of properties?
- Should properties in this subwatershed have special requirements regarding salt application or clean up of salt off dry pavement?
- Is there a role for outside contractors to conduct property outreach?

#### **D. Discuss Next Round of H&H Updates**

Reminder that for the 2023 XP SWMM update budget line, Commission Engineers were to request, compile, and review information provided by member cities and flag projects that are large enough/significant enough to incorporate into the XP-SWMM and P8 model updates. Commission Engineers are also seeking initial input on updating/converting the XP SWMM model to PC SWMM – starting in 2025 and going into 2026.

## **5. ADJOURN**