

Excerpt from Watershed Management Plan

5.2.1.1 Capital Improvement Program and Project Implementation

Table 5-3 lists the capital improvement projects the BCWMC plans to implement over the next 10 years. Many of the capital projects listed in Table 5-3 are water quality improvement projects. The current 10-year CIP is an estimate, and includes projects that may not be completed in the next 10 years.

In addition to Table 5-3, the BCWMC maintains a “working version” of its CIP that covers a 5-year period. As part of the annual BCWMC budgeting process, the BCWMC reviews its working CIP to consider whether new projects should be added to the CIP or whether project implementation dates and funding sources should be changed, as necessitated by changing priorities, funding availability, partnering opportunities, or other factors. New projects suggested by the BCWMC or member cities are sent to the TAC for consideration. The TAC develops a draft working CIP which is reviewed and revised by the BCWMC. Following another round of TAC review, the BCWMC approves the working CIP. In evaluating projects for inclusion in the working CIP, the BCWMC and TAC will consider the criteria identified in policy 110 (see Section 4.2.10). The BCWMC focuses its resources on projects that primarily address water quality and water quantity (i.e., flooding) issues; additional benefits are considered when identifying and prioritizing projects.

Once a project has been added to the BCWMC’s working CIP, the BCWMC goes through a process outlined for capital improvement projects as outlined in the JPA. This process begins with the preparation of a feasibility study, estimating costs (including costs eligible for reimbursement by the BCWMC), and

issuing a report on the proposed project. Project-related costs incurred by member cities and eligible for reimbursements are listed in Table 5-1 (see policy 122, see Section 4.2.10).

Table 5-1 Project Costs Eligible for BCWMC Reimbursement

| Project costs eligible for reimbursement from BCWMC: | Other project costs that will be considered for whole or partial reimbursement on a project by project basis*: |
|--|--|
| Feasibility study costs | Easement acquisition |
| Pre-project planning, monitoring (e.g., fish surveys, feasibility study review/follow-up) | Property acquisition |
| Plan amendment costs | Utility relocation |
| Grant application & administration costs | City improvements associated with the project but not directly tied to the goals of the BCWMC (e.g. trails, pedestrian bridges, signage) |
| Permitting costs and fees | Contaminated soils/groundwater remediation |
| Engineering and design costs (plans & specs) | City staff time and expenses (if not requested prior to levy certification) |
| Construction costs | Wetland mitigation or replacement |
| Project bidding & advertising fees | Art/aesthetic improvements directly associated with the project |
| Construction administration & observation costs | |
| Warranty period monitoring costs – e.g., wetland monitoring, vegetation monitoring, post-construction inspection | |
| City staff time and expenses (if requested prior to levy certification) | |
| Other BCWMC administration and engineering time, including tracking CIP project budget, engineering plan review and reviewing reimbursement requests | |
| Transfer to BCWMC administrative fund for CIP administrative expenses, as designated by the Commission | |

*The BCWMC will consider the cost effectiveness of the project including the cost per pound of pollutant removal relative to guidance to be established by the BCWMC (for water quality projects), along with partnerships, grant opportunities, and other factors in determining reimbursement of other project costs.

Following receipt of the feasibility report, the BCWMC must hold a public hearing on the proposed project, giving at least 45 days' notice to the clerk of each member city. After the hearing, the BCWMC may order the project by a two-thirds vote of its members. If the BCWMC decides to proceed with a project included in its CIP (Table 5-3) following the feasibility study process and public hearing, the BCWMC will certify a levy to Hennepin County for the cost of the project as determined during the feasibility study process, and apply for grant funds, if applicable. The BCWMC begins project implementation through an agreement with the member city where the project is located.

For projects not currently included in its BWSR-approved CIP (Table 5-3), the BCWMC must initiate a plan amendment to add the project to its CIP (Table 5-3) prior to certifying a levy to Hennepin County. The amendment process is described in Section 5.5 and requires a public hearing. Inclusion of a project in the BCWMC CIP Table 5-3 allows the BCWMC to certify a levy to Hennepin County for the project, as well as apply for various grant funds. Following adoption of the plan amendment, the BCWMC will proceed with certifying a levy to Hennepin County, and project implementation as described above.

The BCWMC may implement the projects listed in Table 5-3 at a different time than shown in the table (e.g., year 2020 rather than 2018) as circumstances dictate. For example, the availability of grants and partnerships could result in either acceleration or delay of projects. The BCWMC will consider such shifts in the time schedule to also be consistent with the Plan and not require a plan amendment.