MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

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June 9, 2022

Laura Jester
Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission
16145 Hillcrest Ln
Eden Prairie, MN 55346

RE: Response to Request for Priority Concerns for the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission Local Water Plan 2025-2035

Dear Laura Jester,

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) appreciates the opportunity to provide input at the outset of the Local Water Plan Process in the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (WMC) located within the Mississippi River – Twin Cities Watershed. The MPCA has developed technical information, reports, total maximum daily load (TMDL) studies, tools, and potential strategies for the protection and restoration of waterbodies that may be useful for inclusion in a local water plan.

We recommend:

- Incorporating and implementing strategies and goals from completed TMDL's and implementation plans
- Determine quantitative accounting of efforts and reductions you hope/intend to accomplish over the 10-year plan cycle relative to water quality targets
- Identify geographic priority areas and implementation to match those prioritized waters

Priority issues

The MPCA has identified several strategic goals including:

- Assist local partners to accelerate targeted reductions for identified priority impaired waters
- Assist to develop strategies to protect priority waters that are meeting water quality goals
- Reduce chloride to surface and ground water
- Incorporate environmental justice into planning
- Increase community and environmental resilience to climate change

Links to reports and pertinent information can be found at:

- Mississippi River – Twin Cities Watershed TMDL page with TMDL's and Implementation reports
  - There is a section for Bassett Creek WMC as well as basin-wide projects
  - Mississippi River - Twin Cities Watershed: TMDL projects | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (state.mn.us)
- Point Source Phosphorus Mapping Tool: Provides summaries of annual phosphorus loads and flow volumes discharged from National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)/State Disposal System (SDS) permitted facilities since 2005
  - https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/phosphorus-loads-and-flow-volumes
- Minnesota Nutrient Reduction Strategy
  - https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/nutrient-reduction-strategy#nutrient-strategy-718f1971

- Minnesota Stormwater Manual
    - https://stormwater.pca.state.mn.us/index.php?title=Main_Page
- Mississippi River-Twin Cities Watershed monitoring reports
    - Mississippi River - Twin Cities | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (state.mn.us)
- MPCA funding options
    - Financial assistance for water projects | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (state.mn.us)

Background information:

Table 1 through 4 summarize the status of waters within the Bassett Creek WMO subwatershed boundary:

- 17 impairments are identified in the 2022 EPA approved 303(d) impaired waters list
    - 14 have approved TMDL plans
- 4 new impairments are being proposed in the 2024 submittal to the EPA
- 1 lake has been de-listed
- 2 lakes are meeting or close to meeting standards

Chloride Reduction

The major sources of chloride around the state include application of chloride-based salts for winter maintenance activities, residential and commercial water softening, and agricultural inputs.

Chloride reduction at the source is key to protecting water quality, as there are currently no know economically feasible remediation strategies to remove chloride once it enters the environment.

- The MPCA maintains resources (technical, educational, and financial) that may be of use to local partners in designing ways to reduce chloride
    - https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/statewide-chloride-resources.

Environmental Justice

The MPCA has resources to assist in identifying areas with environmental justice concerns:

- Understanding environmental justice in Minnesota (arcgis.com)
- MPCA and environmental justice | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (state.mn.us)

Climate Change

Planning should incorporate changing weather patterns to help our communities be prepared for extreme weather events

- https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/climate-resilient-communities
- Climate-vulnerable populations and strategies to reduce risk | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (state.mn.us)

Table 1. Impaired Lakes and Streams in Bassett Creek WMO boundaries

Water body name	*Water body type*	*Year added to List*	*AUID*	*Affected designated use*	*Pollutant or stressor*	*EPA category*	*Year TMDL plan approved*
Sweeney	Lake	2014	27-0035-01	Aquatic Life	Chloride	4A	2016
Sweeney	Lake	2004	27-0035-01	Aquatic Recreation	Nutrients	4A	2011
Wirth	Lake	1998	27-0037-00	Aquatic Consumption	Mercury in fish tissue	4A	2008
Wirth	Lake	2016	27-0037-00	Aquatic Life	Chloride	4A	2016
Medicine	Lake	1998	27-0104-00	Aquatic Consumption	Mercury in fish tissue	4A	2008
Medicine	Lake	2004	27-0104-00	Aquatic Recreation	Nutrients	4A	2011
Parkers	Lake	1998	27-0107-00	Aquatic Consumption	Mercury in fish tissue	5	
Parkers	Lake	2014	27-0107-00	Aquatic Life	Chloride	4A	2016
Northwood	Lake	2004	27-0627-00	Aquatic Recreation	Nutrients	5	
Spring	Lake	2014	27-0654-00	Aquatic Life	Chloride	4A	2016
Unnamed creek	Stream	2014	07010206-526	Aquatic Life	Chloride	4A	2016
Unnamed creek	Stream	2014	07010206-526	Aquatic Recreation	Escherichia coli (E. coli)	4A	2014
Unnamed creek	Stream	2014	07010206-552	Aquatic Recreation	Escherichia coli (E. coli)	4A	2014
Bassett Creek	Stream	2022	07010206-811	Aquatic Life	Benthic macroinvertebrates bioassessments	5	
Bassett Creek	Stream	2010	07010206-811	Aquatic Life	Chloride	4A	2016
Bassett Creek	Stream	2004	07010206-811	Aquatic Life	Fish bioassessments	5	
Bassett Creek	Stream	2008	07010206-811	Aquatic Recreation	Fecal coliform	4A	2014

Table 2. New Impairments proposed for 2024

WATERBODY NAME	WATERBODY TYPE	AUID	NEW IMPAIRMENTS
Unnamed creek	Stream	07010206-526	Benthic macroinvertebrates bioassessments
Unnamed creek	Stream	07010206-734	Escherichia coli (E. coli)
Lost	Lake	27-0103-00	Nutrients
Medicine	Lake	27-0104-00	Fish bioassessments

Table 3 Delisted waters

Water body name	Water body type	Year added to List	Delist year	AUID	Pollutant or stressor
Wirth	Lake	2002	2014	27-0037-00	Nutrients

Table 4 Meeting or close to meeting standards

Water body name	Water body type	AUID
Sweeney	Lake	27-0035-01
Hidden	Lake	27-0693-00

We look forward to partnering with the Bassett Creek WMO in the continued development of your local water plan. The MPCA is aware of the many efforts underway in the Mississippi River-Twin Cities Watershed. We hope to continue to work in cooperation with local governments in the watershed. If we may be of further assistance, please contact me, Amy Timm, at 651-757-2632.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide our comments toward the development of your local water plan.

Sincerely,

Amy Timm

This document has been electronically signed.

Amy Timm
Environmental Specialist
Watershed Division

AT:jdf