



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Minutes of Regular Meeting April 21, 2016 Plymouth City Hall, 8:30 a.m.

Commissioners and Staff Present:

Crystal	Commissioner Guy Mueller, Vice Chair	Plymouth	Commissioner Ginny Black
Golden Valley	Commissioner Stacy Hoschka, Secretary/Treasurer	Robbinsdale	Alternate Commissioner Michael Scanlan
Medicine Lake	Commissioner Clint Carlson	St. Louis Park	Commissioner Jim de Lambert, Chair
Minneapolis	Alternate Commissioner Lisa Goddard	Administrator	Laura Jester
Minnetonka	Commissioner Michael Fruen	Attorney	Troy Gilchrist, Kennedy & Graven
New Hope	Alternate Commissioner Pat Crough	Engineer	Karen Chandler, Barr Engineering

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Members/ Other Attendees Present:

Derek Asche, TAC, City of Plymouth	Liz Stout, TAC, City of Minneapolis
Erick Francis, TAC, City of St. Louis Park	Chris Long, TAC, City of New Hope
Jeff Oliver, TAC, City of Golden Valley	Michael Welch, Commissioner, City of Minneapolis
Richard McCoy, TAC, City of Robbinsdale	Jacob Millner, Alternate Commissioner, City of Minnetonka
Tom Dietrich, TAC, City of Minnetonka	Gary Holter, Alternate Commissioner, City of Medicine Lake
Chuck Schmidt, resident, City of New Hope	Jeff Weiss and Meg Rattei, Barr Engineering
Jeff Wallis, At Glenwood LLC	

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

On Thursday, April 21, 2016, at 8:37 a.m. in the Medicine Lake Room at Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Boulevard, Chair de Lambert called to order the meeting of the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) and asked for roll call to be taken. [No cities were absent from roll call].

2. CITIZEN FORUM ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Chuck Schmidt, a resident in the City of New Hope reported that he was pleased with many of the projects happening in the watershed, particularly the stream restoration projects. He suggested that riparian vegetation be managed on a regular basis rather than waiting until trees are very large and falling into the creek, making it more difficult to manage. He also noted (as he's done at a previous Commission meeting in the summer of 2015), that the pond at Winnetka Village Apartments in the City of Crystal and through which the North Branch of Bassett Creek flows, is accumulating sediment and the pond outlet appears to be plugged. He noted the large gully coming into the pond from the adjacent railroad tracks and wondered if this was the primary source of sediment to the

pond. Administrator Jester noted that she and TAC member Mark Ray (City of Crystal) had investigated the pond and gully last summer after Mr. Schmidt's comments at a Commission meeting. She noted that Mr. Ray was planning to inform the railroad authority about the gully and to further investigate the pond's function. Commissioner Mueller and Administrator Jester reported that they would follow up with the City of Crystal.

3. AGENDA

Chair de Lambert suggested a re-ordering of agenda items to accommodate guest speakers. He suggested moving 5B in front of 5A.

MOTION: Commissioner Black moved to approve the agenda as amended. Alternate Commissioner Goddard seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 9-0.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Black moved to approve the consent agenda. Alternate Commissioner Goddard seconded the motion. Upon a vote, the motion carried 9-0.

[The following items were approved as part of the consent agenda: the March 17, 2016, Commission Meeting Minutes, the April 2016 Financial Report, the payment of invoices, approval of Reimbursement Request from City of Golden Valley for Twin Lake Alum Treatment, approval of Reimbursement Request from City of Golden Valley for Schaper Pond Diversion Project.

The general and construction account balances reported in the April 2016 Financial Report are as follows:

Checking Account Balance	\$749,829.82
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TOTAL GENERAL FUND BALANCE	\$749,829.82
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TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENTS ON-HAND (4/12/16)	\$3,205,536.27
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CIP Projects Levied – Budget Remaining	(\$4,311,381.68)
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Closed Projects Remaining Balance	(\$1,106,845.41)
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2012-2014 Anticipated Tax Levy Revenue	\$6,668.33
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2015 Anticipated Tax Levy Revenue	\$1,499.07
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Anticipated Closed Project Balance	(\$1,098,678.01)
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5. BUSINESS

A. (Previously 5B) **Review Draft Feasibility Study for Main Stem Erosion Repair Project (2017CR-M)**

Engineer Chandler introduced Engineer Jeff Weiss (Barr Engineering). Mr. Weiss presented (via PowerPoint) an overview of the results of the feasibility study for the Main Stem Erosion Repair Project. The presentation included maps showing the location of the three different reaches in the project area (Fruen Mill area, from Cedar Lake Rd to Irving Ave, and Irving Ave. to tunnel entrances); description of the erosion problems at various sites and the unique aspects of the project area (including industrial landowners very close to the creek, historical walls, the Fruen Mill, and walking paths that are sometimes submerged). Mr. Weiss reviewed the various types of stabilization techniques recommended and indicated natural techniques (rather than hard armoring) would be used when possible including root wads, rock vanes, vegetated reinforced soil slopes, and native plantings. He noted the issue of contaminated soils and hence a desire to minimize soil disturbance.

There was discussion about grants available for costs associated with disposal of contaminated soil and the steps and timeline for applying for the grant. Commissioner Black suggested investigating the ability to use the soils as “alternative daily cover” at a landfill, which would reduce disposal fees. There was further discussion about how to reduce disposal fees.

Administrator Jester suggested the removal of the recommended vegetation management for site 15, the channel leading to the old tunnel. The noted vegetation management should be considered a city maintenance activity rather than part of the CIP project as it does not address erosion nor water quality. Ms. Stout, TAC member from the City of Minneapolis, agreed that this was a city function and should not be included in the cost estimate for the project.

Mr. Jeff Wallis with At Glenwood LLC briefly reviewed the redevelopment plans for the Fruen Mill area and the brewery next door. He reported that a flood wall along the brewery would be constructed this fall and that plans should be ready for Commission review soon. He noted that the Fruen Mill area is undergoing an environmental review and may be demolished in 2017 for a housing development. He noted that there is no current vision for structures along the creek at the mill.

MOTION: Alternate Commissioner Goddard moved approval of the Main Stem Feasibility Study with Administrator Jester’s amendment to remove the vegetation management activities in site 15. Commissioner Black seconded the motion.

Before the vote there was further discussion about the Fruen Mill area, the opportunity for coordination with redevelopment in the area, and the need to coordinate with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board regarding the foot path.

Upon a vote the motion carried 9-0.

[Alternate Commissioner Millner and Commissioner Welch depart the meeting.]

B. (Previously 5A) **Receive Presentation from Commission Engineer**

- i. 2015 Westwood Lake Water Quality Monitoring Results
- ii. 2015 Biotic Index Study Results from Bassett Creek, Plymouth Creek, and Sweeney and North Branches of Bassett Creek
- iii. Plans for 2016 Water Quality Monitoring

Engineer Chandler introduced Meg Rattei with Barr Engineering to present results of the 2015 BCWMC monitoring program, noting that Ms. Rattei had been performing this work for the Commission since 1974. Ms. Rattei first reviewed the results of the biotic index monitoring, noting that this type of monitoring is a

cost effective way to understand water quality. She reported on results from six different locations – three on Bassett Creek, and one each on Plymouth Creek, Sweeney Branch, and North Branch Bassett Creek. She noted results on three different indices which each measure slightly different conditions, including the new State M-IBI. She noted the M-IBI results are used to determine if a stream is meeting State standards for biological integrity. She reported only the station on the Sweeney Branch of Bassett Creek met the State standard and noted that habitat conditions play a large role in M-IBI scores. She also reported that chloride levels appear to be on the rise at the various sites, citing conductivity measurements and a review of historical data. Ms. Rattei’s recommendations included continuing biotic index monitoring per the Commission’s monitoring plan, monitoring for chloride, and continuing to implement restoration projects that improve habitat. Administrator Jester noted that the next time the Commission conducts biotic index monitoring on creeks, it will include intensive water quality and quantity monitoring, including chlorides.

Alternate Commissioner Goddard asked about the proximity of past BCWMC stream restoration projects to biotic index monitoring locations, wondering if Commission projects have had any effect on habitat. Staff indicated they would bring that information back to a future meeting. Administrator Jester also noted that some of the recommended stabilization techniques proposed for the 2017 Main Stem Project should improve in-stream habitat, particularly by reducing embeddedness.

Ms. Rattei then presented results of the 2015 monitoring on Westwood Lake in St. Louis Park and reported that the lake has excellent water quality with total phosphorus levels, chlorophyll a levels, and Secchi disc measurements all meeting State standards. She noted the lake’s healthy native plant community and that a new plant, bearded stonewort, was discovered in the lake (and it’s the first recorded occurrence in Minnesota). Ms. Rattei reviewed recommendations including continuing regular monitoring and adding chloride monitoring.

There was some discussion about how the lake’s water quality has improved over time, likely due to storm water management in the watershed and that conductivity is likely low because runoff from Highway 169 goes through storm water ponds and a wetland before reaching the lake.

Ms. Rattei briefly reviewed plans for 2016 monitoring including routine monitoring in Medicine Lake (with assistance from Three Rivers Park District), Crane Lake, and Northwood Lake.

Administrator Jester noted that the complete monitoring reports would be posted online and distributed copies of two different types of reports to Commissioners including one “fact sheet” type reported developed by the Commission Engineer with Westwood Lake results, and a longer report on several waterbodies developed by Barr Engineering for the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District. Administrator Jester asked for input on the format of future monitoring reports, noting that the lengthy and highly technical reports currently generated are expensive to develop and may not be necessary. There was some discussion including comments from Commissioners that a “refined” report would be nice but the fact sheet report may need more interpretive information, and that bulleted information is easier to digest. There was agreement that a refined, less expensive report is preferred.

C. Consider Recommendations from BCWMC Education Committee for 2016 Education & Outreach Work Plan and Budget

Administrator Jester reviewed the Education Committee’s recommendations for spending and programming in 2016 including financial support of multiple partnering organizations including the West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA), Hennepin County (River Watch), Met Council (CAMP), Metro Watershed Partners, Children’s Water Festival, and Metro Blooms. She noted the recommended financial support of \$4,000 for the Harrison Neighborhood Project being conducted by Metro Blooms, and the use of up to \$1,000 for reimbursement to Commissioners to attend trainings and conferences. She reported that \$7,000 remains “unassigned” and that the Education Committee will continue to explore options including display upgrades,

development of a presentation library, and educational signage.

MOTION: Commissioner Black moved to approve the recommendations of the Education Committee as presented. Alternate Commissioner Scanlan seconded the motion. Upon a vote the motion carried 9-0.

D. Discuss Watershed Tour Dates and Stops

Administrator Jester asked if there were particular dates or times that would work for a watershed tour. After some discussion she was directed to distribute a Doodle Poll to determine the best date. Commissioners expressed interest in touring the Fruen Mill site, a public works facility to learn about road salt applications, the 2015 Main Stem project in Golden Valley, Northwood Lake Project site, and the Plymouth Creek Restoration site. Alternate Commissioner Crough recommended inviting local reporters on the tour.

E. Review Draft 2015 Annual Report

Administrator Jester noted the BCWMC 2015 Annual Report is due to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) at the end of April. She asked if there were suggestions for revisions (and noted she could take suggestions for a few more days). She was directed to inquire about the need to include mailing and email addresses of Commissioners in the report and to leave them out if allowed. There was consensus that the report was appropriate as presented and should be submitted to the BWSR.

[Alternate Commissioner Goddard and Commissioner Hoschka depart.]

F. Receive Update on West Metro Water Alliance’s “Pledge to Plant” Campaign

Administrator Jester reported that the West Metro Water Alliance’s latest campaign was aimed at getting residents or business/corporate partners to convert turf or hard surfaces to native plantings. She noted Commissioners may see news items on this campaign and asked that they also help spread the word. Administrator Jester indicated more information (and pledge forms) could be found on the Blue Thumb website.

G. Receive Update on Metro Bloom’s Northside (Harrison) Neighborhood Engagement and Opportunities in Clean Water Initiative

Administrator Jester reported that she had recently submitted another letter of support for this project as Metro Blooms continues to apply for grants. She also noted that since funding is not coming together as quickly as hoped, Metro Blooms recently shifted its focus for this year from working in alleyways, to working within boulevards to install bioswales planted with turf alternatives. She reported that fifty-six ash trees are slated for removal in the Harrison Neighborhood this summer, creating the opportunity for this project. She noted that funding (including \$4,000 from BCWMC as recommended by the Education Committee) and partners have already been secured for this project. She reported that Metro Blooms will hold a community event in conjunction with this work early this summer and they are hoping the original youth-engagement/alleyways project receives funding for implementation in 2017. Administrator Jester noted that, as previously approved, the Commission will soon submit a grant to the Met Council on behalf of Metro Blooms for this project.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Administrator’s Report

i. Reminder of May Meeting Location at Golden Valley City Hall

Administrator Jester noted the May meeting location at Golden Valley City Hall and also a Technical Advisory Committee meeting on May 5th, 1:30 p.m. at Golden Valley City Hall.

B. Chair

Chair de Lambert reminded the group about the Bassett Creek clean up event scheduled for the coming Saturday in Minneapolis.

C. Commissioners

Alternate Commissioner Scanlan expressed thanks to the City of Robbinsdale for its excellent street sweeping program.

Commissioner Black reported that the Urban Waters Forum would be held that Saturday at the MN Landscape Arboretum.

D. TAC Members – no reports

E. Committees

i. Budget Committee

Administrator Jester noted the Budget Committee met on March 31st and had directed staff to distribute a request for proposals for three different water monitoring projects in 2017, which is included with meeting materials. She indicated the committee would meet again on May 4th to finalize their budget recommendations for the May Commission meeting.

ii. Education Committee (see agenda item 5C)

F. Legal Counsel – no reports

G. Engineer

i. Highway 169 Construction Impacts on Bassett Creek Watershed

Engineer Chandler reported that the Commission is beginning to receive information on this project and will review components as needed.

ii. Unauthorized Filling at 1143 South Shore Drive, Medicine Lake

Engineer Chandler reported on an incident of unauthorized wetland and potential floodplain filling in the City of Medicine Lake. She reported that the DNR, the Commission, and City are now involved and the landowner is cooperating with restoration orders.

7. INFORMATION ONLY (Available at <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/document/meeting-materials-minu/meeting-materials/bcwmc-monthly-meeting>)

- A. CIP Project Updates: Now Available Online <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects>
- B. Grant Tracking Summary and Spreadsheet
- C. KSTP and Channel 12 News Coverage of Schaper Pond Project: <http://kstp.com/news/water-quality-test-floating-baffle-golden-valley--bassett-creek-watershed-management-commission/4087611/?cat=1> and <http://twelve.tv/news/newsitem.aspx?newsid=324&newsitemid=30159>
- D. Channel 12 News Coverage of Residential BMPs/North Branch Bassett Creek: <http://www.twelve.tv/news/newsitem.aspx?newsid=1499&newsitemid=30165>
- E. Incident Report: Spill in Bassett Creek
- F. Water Links WMWA Newsletter: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNHENNE/bulletins/13bae23>
- G. WCA Notice of Application, Plymouth
- H. WCA Notice of Application, New Hope

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair de Lambert adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Signature/Title

Date

Signature/Title

Date