



Bassett Creek Watershed Management

Item 4E.
BCWMC 9-15-16
Additional materials available online

September 15, 2016

Daniel Kalmon
Mississippi Watershed Management Organization
2522 Marshall Street NE
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55418-3329

Dear Mr. Kalmon,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the MWMO's minor amendment to the "2011 – 2021 MWMO Watershed Management Plan."

We are pleased that the City of Minneapolis and MWMO are proposing a joint project that includes renovation of the old Bassett Creek tunnel to prevent structural failure of the tunnel, as described in Section 6.1, Capital Improvement Schedule, Old Bassett Creek Tunnel: Water quality and water conservation improvements. It is important to maintain the structural integrity of the old tunnel because it must accommodate a 50 cfs overflow from Bassett Creek during the 100-year flood event (per the 2000 joint and cooperative agreement (JPA) between MWMO, City of Minneapolis and BCWMC).

We request that the MWMO coordinate with the BCWMC on plans for possible placement of a weir in the old tunnel. We are concerned that the addition of a weir in the old tunnel could reduce the capacity of the old tunnel, and result in the tunnel not accommodating the required 50 cfs overflow from Bassett Creek. We are also concerned that it could result in overflows from the old tunnel to Bassett Creek. Such overflows would require formal approval by the BCWMC, per item 6.1.3 in the JPA, which states: *Neither Minneapolis nor the Middle Mississippi River WMO will construct public improvements or projects or authorize private projects which will change the rate of runoff to the New Tunnel for any property affected, in cubic feet per second, for the 10, 50 or 100 year rainfall events without the prior written approval of Bassett Creek WMO.*

The BCWMC is in its second year of updating the watershed-wide XP-SWMM model (Phase 2 model). The work is slated for completion by the end of January 2017. When completed, the model will be available for the City of Minneapolis to use or the MWMO to use (if requested by the City of Minneapolis) to help analyze the potential impacts of a weir in the old tunnel (e.g., will there be overflows to the new tunnel).

Please contact the BCWMC Engineer, Karen Chandler with Barr Engineering Co., if you have questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Jim de Lambert, Chair

CC: Steve Christopher, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources