



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Aquatic Plant Management/Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Agenda and Notes from Last Meeting

Tuesday, October 25, 2016 ~ 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Community Room, Lunds & Byerlys
5725 Duluth Street, Golden Valley MN

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Review Objectives of BCWMC Role in APM/AIS from September Meeting (Answering the “WHY?”)**

At the September 27th meeting, the committee discussed and completed the following table to indicate PRIMARY objectives for the BCWMC’s possible future role in APM/AIS. The committee discussed the fact that improving water quality and aquatic habitat, and reducing flooding were the main objectives of the Commission’s work and should be the primary objectives in dealing with APM/AIS - hence the “X” in these categories.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE	Commission Should Be Involved	Commission Should NOT Be Involved
Activities that improve water quality	X	
Activities that improve habitat and the overall ecology of the waterbody	X	
Activities that improve recreation		Partnering only; not primary obj.
Activities that improve aesthetics		X
Activities that improve or protect human health and safety		Partnering only; not primary obj.
Protect function/capacity of Flood Control Project	X (Likely a maintenance activity by cities)	

The committee noted that “recreation” is a broad term that means different things to different people and that improving water quality, in turn improves recreation. There was consensus that effects on recreation would be taken into consideration for any Commission project or program and the Commission could partner with others on recreation-based projects. However, there was consensus that projects which have the primary objective of improved recreation would not be led by the Commission.

It was noted that improved aesthetics may be an outcome of some Commission projects but that they wouldn't be considered an objective of a Commission project and it was noted the Commission doesn't have the statutory authority to focus on aesthetics.

Improving or protecting human health and safety was added as a possible objective due to blue green algae blooms and dense aquatic plants tangling swimmers. Again, there was consensus that the Commission wouldn't lead a project with a primary objective to improve or protect human health and safety, but may partner with others.

Finally, it was noted that dense vegetation may decrease the functionality of flood control structures. Since the Commission is charged with maintaining its Flood Control Project structures, this was added as a possible reason to take the lead on an APM project. (Although it was also noted that vegetation management is typically a city responsibility.)

The committee then reviewed a map and description of the different classifications of waterbodies in the watershed (to help consider the "WHERE"):

- A. Priority 1 Lakes– "MDNR Public Waters" Lakes, greater than 10 acres, with public access or adjacent to public land
- B. Priority 2 Lakes – "MDNR Public Waters" Lakes, greater than 10 acres, without public access or adjacent to public land
- C. Priority 1 Streams – "MDNR Public Waters" Watercourses
- D. MDNR Public Waters, no BCWMC priority
- E. Non-MDNR Public Waters, no BCWMC priority

The committee also reviewed the locations of different AIS already within the watershed and in nearby waterbodies (to help consider the "WHAT"):

Species already known in BCWMC:

- A. Curly-leaf Pondweed in lakes Crane, Lost, Medicine, Northwood, Parkers, Sweeney, Twin, Westwood, Wirth; and Main Stem Bassett Creek at Irving Avenue
- B. Eurasian Watermilfoil in Medicine Lake, Parkers Lake, Wirth Lake
- C. Yellow Iris in Sweeney Lake
- D. Chinese Mystery Snail in several ponds in Golden Valley
- E. Carp in Sweeney Lake, Twin Lake, Medicine Lake and likely several other lakes and streams
- F. Purple loosestrife : ubiquitous
- G. Hybrid cattails: ubiquitous

Species in nearby waterbodies: Zebra mussels, Flowering rush, Starry stonewort

3. **Continue to Discuss Possible Commission Roles per Activity (Answering the "HOW?")**

At the September meeting the committee discussed and began completing the table on the following pages to indicate how the Commission **should** be involved with various activities.

The committee should continue its work to complete the table. A column was added indicating activities that are already performed by others in the watershed. The committee can and should concentrate on where gaps exist and determine if the BCWMC should fill those gaps.

Determining the Commission's Role

	Activity	Current Activity by Others	Commission Role			
			Take Lead	Cooperate w/ Others	Only Provide Funds	No Role
Early Detection	Early detection training (including volunteer recruitment)	MDNR and Hennepin Co. training programs		X – BCWMC could help recruit volunteers for training		
	Early detection monitoring	TRPD does ED monitoring on Medicine Lk. for zebra mussels (could use help in expanding program) MPRB does ED monitoring on Wirth Lake Henn. Co. has grant \$ to expand ED monitoring. BCWMC surveys aq. plants every 3 yrs. TRPD performs aq. plant surveys on Medicine Lk.	X – BCWMC could perform ED monitoring w/ Co. grant funds – including zebra mussel detection and expanded aq. plant surveys	X – BCWMC could cooperate with TRPD and Lake Assoc. to expand ED monitoring		
Rapid Response	Develop rapid response plan of action	Hennepin Co. has grant funding for developing rapid response plan. MPRB has Zebra Mussel Action Plan (Wirth Lk)	X – BCWMC should develop rapid response plan of action			
	Rapidly responding to new infestation	MDNR works with locals to implement rapid response.	X – BCWMC could take lead to hire contractors, provide technical expertise, and lead effort with funding & partners	X – Will take cooperation from others to implement plan of action, if needed		

	Activity	Current Activity by Others	Commission Role			
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Studies	Pathways analysis/vulnerability assessment	Henn Co. analyzed AIS risk from pet stores & nurseries Henn Co. has grant funding for developing pathways analysis				
	Inventory (species, current management activities)	(See early detection monitoring) TRPD, MPRB, BCWMC perform aq. plant surveys				
	Plan development (prevention plan or management plan)	MPRB has Zebra Mussel Action Plan (applies to Wirth Lk)				
Prevention	Boat launch/access management (inspections, washing stations, compost bins, closures)	TRPD performs inspections at Medicine Lk. launches MPRB closed Wirth Lk. launch				
	Education (signage, articles, literature, etc.)	TRPD, lake associations, MPRB – each provide some AIS education				
	Advocating for/assist with policy changes (Legislative, ordinances, rules)	MPRB policy: all contractors, partners, staff must have AIS identification training				

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Management	Monitoring current infestations	TRPD, BCWMC, MPRB through regular aq. plant surveys				
	Spot treatments (herbicide or mechanical or hand pulling)	TRPD, MPRB use spot treatments at access points, fishing piers, and beaches. (Plymouth previously treated CLP in Medicine Lake)				
	Whole lake treatments (including engaging MDNR on current treatment policies)	TRPD = whole lake treatment for CLP, Medicine Lk (2004-2006)				
	Carp harvesting					
	Fish barriers	MPRB (outside BCWMC)				
	Water level management/drawdown	TRPD used lake drawdown for CLP control (outside BCWMC)				
	Biological treatment	Used by multiple entities for purple loosestrife				

4. **Next Steps and Future Meetings**

5. **Adjourn**