



## Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

### BCWMC Capital Improvement Program Prioritization Committee

Tuesday July 31, 2018

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Council Conference Room, Golden Valley City Hall

Committee Members: Commissioners Welch, Prom, Harwell, Carlson; Alternate Commissioners Monk, McDonald Black; TAC Members Asche and Eckman

#### AGENDA:

1. Review/Approve Notes from 6/7/18 Committee Meeting – attached
2. Review Highlights from 6/7/18 Presentation by Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (full presentation found here):  
[http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/application/files/4415/2940/9433/MCWD\\_Presentation.pdf](http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/application/files/4415/2940/9433/MCWD_Presentation.pdf).
3. Review BCWMC Maps
  - Commission staff will present various watershed maps to be used in discussions. Maps can be found here:  
[http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/application/files/6415/3252/9220/BCWMC\\_CIP\\_Prioritization\\_Maps\\_07242018\\_small\\_file.pdf](http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/application/files/6415/3252/9220/BCWMC_CIP_Prioritization_Maps_07242018_small_file.pdf)
    - i. Figure 1 – BCWMC Trunk System
    - ii. Figure 2 – Watersheds Tributary to Priority Waterbodies
    - iii. Figure 3 – Watersheds Tributary to Waters with TMDLs (Nutrients, Chloride, and Bacteria)
    - iv. Figure 3A – Watersheds Tributary to Waters with Nutrient TMDLs
    - v. Figure 3B – Watersheds Tributary to Waters with Bacteria TMDLs
    - vi. Figure 3C – Watersheds Tributary to Waters with Chloride TMDLs
    - vii. Figure 4 – BCWMC Floodplain
    - viii. Figure 5 – Total Phosphorus Loading by Subwatershed (P8 Model Results)
    - ix. Figure 6 – Total Phosphorus Loading (P8) and Redevelopment Areas (Golden Valley) and Land Use Study Areas (Plymouth)
    - x. Figure 7 – Total Phosphorus Loading (P8) and Land Use Changes (Golden Valley) and Land Use Study Areas (Plymouth)
    - xi. Figure 8 – Chloride Loading and High Density Land Uses
    - xii. Figure 9 – BCWMC CIP Locations

4. Briefly Review 2013 Issues Prioritization Results – attached

- In thinking how projects or subwatersheds might be prioritized through this committee’s work, we can look at how issues were ranked in 2013 as part of the development of the 2015 Watershed Plan. In June 2013, the Commission held a workshop with Commissioners, TAC, and some partners to prioritize issues identified through a gaps analysis and public input process. The ranked results are attached.

5. Discuss Prioritization Approaches – see example prioritization matrix attached

- The committee should discuss the merits and challenges with various methods of prioritization including these options:
  - i. Focus on certain areas: Should the Commission concentrate its CIP projects in certain areas of the watershed known to be pollution “hot spots” or known to have significant flooding? OR
  - ii. Prioritization matrix: Should the Commission use a scoring system or matrix that assigns points for certain aspects of potential CIP projects? See attached matrix mock up for discussion.

6. Set next meeting and adjourn

Possible future agenda items: How should the Commission engage with private landowners? Review grant programs implemented by other watersheds (Shingle Creek WMC, Mississippi WMO). Does the fiscal policy regarding levy amount need adjustment? Should CIP maintenance be considered for CIP funding?



## Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

### BCWMC Capital Improvement Program Prioritization Committee

#### Meeting Notes

Thursday June 7, 2018

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Lower Conference Room, Golden Valley City Hall

Committee Members and other present: Commissioner Welch, TAC Members Asche and Eckman; Commission Engineers Chandler and Williams; Administrator Jester; Becky Christopher, Minnehaha Creek WD

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approve Notes from 4/24/18 Committee Meeting
3. Subwatershed Targeting and Prioritizing Projects & Engaging Private Businesses in Minnehaha Creek Watershed

Becky Christopher with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (District) gave a presentation on how the District previously implemented CIP projects, how it began engaging businesses about stormwater and creek management, and how it continues to develop a more cooperative, yet targeted approach to CIP implementation. (Presentation and notes available at:

<http://bassettcreekwmo.org/document/meeting-materials-minu>)

Becky noted that in the past, the District constructed CIP projects in a “scattershot” method across the watershed, working to improve water quality in impaired lakes without considering landuse planning or other circumstances in the local communities. She noted that often good opportunities were missed, many projects stalled before implementation, and there was no accumulating measurable result.

Becky reported that a large project implemented in cooperation with Methodist Hospital was the catalyst for multiple projects that now extend throughout the “Minnehaha Creek Greenway Corridor.” She noted that the District worked to understand the hospital’s issues and goals when it was seeking a permit for expansion. She noted the District saw an opportunity to improve the creek and meet the hospital’s goals at the same time.

Becky then presented information on several more projects in the corridor where the District engaged and cooperated with private businesses and cities to address biological and water quality impairments through stormwater treatment; flood storage; parks, trails and open space; and even community vitality and safety. She noted this work sometimes included land acquisition. She reported that momentum built along the corridor through the development of relationships and true dialogues among the District, cities, and private entities.

Eric Eckman noted that city staff, particularly in the community development and planning departments, usually have knowledge of areas ripe for redevelopment. He noted he is engaged with the redevelopment team when projects are being proposed. Derek Asche noted that although he personally isn't at the table, that other city staff are regularly in discussions with entities proposing redevelopment projects. Derek indicated there is definitely more room for partnerships among the BCWMC, private entities and the cities and that the MCWD model is better suited for taking advantage of opportunities as they arise.

There was discussion about how regional stormwater management is more effective than hundreds of small BMPs across the landscape. Engineer Chandler noted that the pollutant hot spot map could be layered with the redevelopment potential map to see where opportunities for larger projects exist.

Becky continued by reviewing the District's 2014 Guiding Policy that resulted from the successful partnerships and projects in the Corridor: "In pursuit of a balanced ecology." She discussed how the District focuses on one area (or subwatershed) for several years in order to build relationships and understand future landuse, transportation, and economic development plans. She noted that various subwatersheds are in different phases including and early stage (1): inventory and whole system and resources understanding; middle stage (2): planning, building relationships, bringing partners together and finding common goals; and late stage (3): designing and building phase.

Becky reported that certain subwatersheds are chosen due to significant impairments and/or opportunities due to development pressure. She also noted the District has a separate implementation program aimed at responding to capture additional opportunities outside of priority subwatersheds. She pointed to specific policies in the District's watershed plan and their CIP to gain even more understanding on the District's new approach to implementation.

4. BCWMC CIP Project Gatekeeper and Hot Spot Maps

This item was not discussed for lack of time.

5. 2013 Issues Prioritization Results

This item was not discussed for lack of time.

6. Set next meeting and adjourn – No meeting date was set. It was noted that the MCWD's approach and Becky's presentation should be summarized at the next meeting for absent committee members and that Becky's presentation should be shown at a future Commission meeting for a wider audience.

Future agenda items:

- Review maps of CIP Project gatekeeper criteria and hot spot maps
- Review 2013 issues prioritization results
- Review of grant programs implemented by other watersheds (Shingle Creek WMC, Mississippi WMO)

**Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission Workshop**  
 Results of Prioritization Exercise with Commissioners, Alternates, TAC and Technical Partners (TRPD,  
 BWSR, Met Council) ~ June 24, 2013

<b>Rank (Tally of points)</b>	<b>Broader Topics to be Ranked</b>	<b>Examples of specific issues identified through small group meetings, online survey, Gaps Analysis (GA), and self-assessment</b>
<b>#5 (25)</b>	<b>Degraded Streams and Shorelines</b>	Non-natural shorelines
		Lack of buffers
		Sediment build-up
		Streambank erosion
		Address roles, responsibilities, funding for removing sediment deltas GA9
		Reassess factors for prioritization of stream restoration projects GA10
		Encourage or set standards for natural shoreline restoration methods GA11
		Consider watershed-wide buffer policy for wetlands, lakes, creek GA12
<b>#8 (13)</b>	<b>Lack of Biodiversity</b>	Too many weeds
		Aquatic invasive species – need to define BCWMC role in issue GA11
		Terrestrial invasive species
		Too many geese
		Lack of wildlife diversity
		Loss of thousands of ash trees in watershed
		Define policies aimed at protection of rare and endangered species GA11
		Identify opportunities to maximize cooperative resource protection with agencies GA20
<b>#9 (5)</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>	Light rail impacts to Bassett Creek, wetlands and natural areas
		Abundance of cattails in ponds resulting in flooding problems
		Consider watershed-wide buffer policy for wetlands, lakes, creek GA12
		Evaluate BCWMC role in wetland issues GA12
<b>#6 (21)</b>	<b>Lack of Education &amp; Information;  Need for Behavior Change  (Actions by Individuals)</b>	Lack of education and knowledge among residents about condition of water and how to improve water quality
		Need better sources of information
		Disconnection of public from natural resources
		Lack of volunteer opportunities
		Too much trash
		Too many motorboats, water skiing, jet skiing
		Too much pet waste
		Too much lawn irrigation using lake water
		Mowing to edge of water, not leaving buffer
		Expectations that problems can be solved quickly with silver bullet
		Implement city staff training programs GA15
		Develop ways to demonstrate BCWMC success (evaluation metrics) GA15
		Develop new ways (using technology) to interact with public GA15
		Take advantage of education opportunities associated w/ projects GA16
		Assess and redefine roles and partnerships in educational efforts GA16
Identify topics not adequately addressed in current education program GA16		

<b>#9 (5)</b>	<b>Recreation Needs</b>	Lack of public access
		Unmaintained public access sites
		No obstructions for kayaking/canoeing
		Too many weeds can be dangerous for swimming and boating
		Need to balance recreation with habitat
<b>#3 (35)</b>	<b>Water Quality</b>	Chemical pollutants in water
		Too much algae; too much phosphorus
		Low water clarity
		Fish consumption advisories
		Need to establish quantifiable water quality standards (Level I standards) <b>GA3</b>
		Expand/revisit list of approved BMPs <b>GA4</b>
		Consider infiltration requirements <b>GA4</b>
		Find ways to take advantage of redevelopment <b>GA5</b>
		Clarify roles in TMDLs <b>GA5</b>
		Address maintenance responsibilities for WQ management facilities <b>GA6</b>
		Revisit water quality monitoring programs and partnerships <b>GA6</b>
		Address impaired waters with CIP projects and other programs – <b>Self Assessment (some projects not implemented)</b>
<b>#1 (42)</b>	<b>Effects of Stormwater Runoff and Development</b>	Runoff from yards, streets, highways
		Lack of infiltration or diversion in lawns
		Salt use
		Runoff without filtration or treatment, more treatment needed
		Concentrated areas of impervious surfaces
		Chemicals and pollutants in runoff
		Runoff from older commercial/industrial areas
		Construction site erosion
		Effects of developments on waterbodies, wetlands, and water quality
		Leaks and spills from railroads
		Aging infrastructure
		Effects of dredging
		Stormwater ponds filling in, not enough storage to be effective
		Revise Plan language to require compliance with NPDES <b>GA9</b>
		Consider revising erosion and sediment control triggers <b>GA9</b>
		Evaluate existing project review triggers <b>GA20</b>
Review purpose and responsibilities for erosion control inspections <b>GA10</b>		
<b>#2 (37)</b>	<b>Water Quantity, Water Levels, Flooding (including Medicine Lake)</b>	Fluctuating water levels
		Flooding
		Need more land acquisition for flood easements
		Low water levels on Medicine Lake
		Need to study effects of Medicine Lake’s possible water level manipulation on floodplain, water quality, water temperatures, overall lake health
		Address possible rate control requirements <b>GA8</b>
		Consider flood control objectives in all projects <b>GA8</b>
Consider policies to handle conflicts betw FEMA & BCWMC flood levels <b>GA8</b>		
<b>#8 (13)</b>	<b>Flood Control Project <b>GA18</b></b>	Flood control project inspection/maintenance – streamline inspections, clarify responsibilities <b>GA18</b>
		Flood control project replacement – consider finances for maintenance and replacement <b>GA18</b>

<b>#7 (18)</b>	<b>Governance, Management &amp; Funding</b>	Lack of funding
		Requires commitment of all 9 member cities in watershed
		Projects don't benefit enough of the population
		Lack of commitment and leadership from politicians to seek more funding to improve natural resources
		Better prioritization of projects
		Lack of city-implemented projects
		Need more tax incentive for better projects
		Need to balance management of recreational lakes vs. scenic ponds
		Pond management before lake management
		Cities make sacrifices for industry
		Need incentives or grants for homeowners to install raingardens and restore shorelines
		Develop process to evaluate cities for compliance and implementation of local water management plans <b>GA19</b>
		Determine if BCWMC is best entity to resolve inter-governmental issues <b>GA19</b>
		Refine procedures for choosing and implementing CIP projects <b>GA20</b>
<b>#4 (32)</b>	<b>Groundwater</b>	Groundwater quality and quantity in wells in Medicine Lake
		Lack of structure and collaboration among agencies with groundwater management responsibilities
		Need better data on impacts of groundwater usage on surface water
		Lead levels in drinking water
		Too much groundwater consumption
		Assess and define a BCWMC role in groundwater management <b>GA13</b>
		Incorporate MIDS site considerations and tools for GW protection <b>GA13</b>
		Evaluate/incorporate Dept. of Health guidance for GW protection <b>GA14</b>

