



Item 5A.
BCWMC
10-19-23

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

October 19, 2023

DRAFT

Irene Fernando, Chair
Hennepin County Board of Commissioners
Government Center A2400
300 South 6th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55487

Dear Chair Fernando,

The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) appreciates the opportunity to be involved with envisioning, studying, and implementing significant improvements to water management in the Bassett Creek Valley. The BCWMC commends you and your staff for recently convening a large group of stakeholders on this topic. We believe that collaborative, science-driven regional planning in the Bassett Creek Valley offers a significant opportunity to improve community health and vitality, build resiliency to climate change and flooding, provide green space and connections to the creek, and improve redevelopment potential.

The BCWMC recommends that Hennepin County exercise its authority under Minn. Stat. 383B.79 to create a Community Works Program in partnership with the City of Minneapolis, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, BCWMC, and others, centered on floodplain and stormwater management in the Bassett Creek Valley. This “Bassett Creek Valley” Community Works Program should convene a broad coalition of stakeholders to fully explore recommendations from the “[Bassett Creek Valley Stormwater and Floodplain Management Study](#)” (2019, Wenck; now known as Stantec) and collaborate towards future implementation.

The BCWMC is willing and able to be an active member of policy and technical committees that would be created for the Community Works Program, and we are excited to help the County get started on this important work.

Please contact BCWMC Administrator, Laura Jester, if you have questions or comments. We look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

Catherine Cesnik
Chair

CC: Commissioner Lunde
Commissioner Greene
Commissioner Conley
Commissioner Goettel

Commissioner Seat
Commissioner Anderson
Administrator Hough