



## Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

### MEMO

To: BCWMC Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners  
From: Administrator Jester  
Date: March 13, 2024

#### **RE: Funding Sweeney Lake Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) Surveys and Treatment**

Good news! At their meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup>, the Hennepin County Public Works Committee recommended approval of the [Aquatic Invasive Species \(AIS\) Prevention Grant](#) for the Sweeney Lake EWM eradication project. The full Hennepin County Board will make a final decision on the grant funding at their meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

In cooperation with the Sweeney Lake Association and the City of Golden Valley, this project aims to eradicate a new infestation of EWM from Sweeney Lake. There are several activities included in the project including surveying the lake before and after an herbicide treatment, treating the EWM with an herbicide, surveying ponds upstream from the lake to investigate potential sources of the EWM, surveying Twin Lake for EWM, and providing AIS detection training to lake residents. Since the grant application was developed, and due to extremely early ice out on the lake, additional surveys of the EWM areas are planned to ensure the plant is at the optimal height and maturity for a successful treatment.

The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$24,380. Grant funds, if approved, will total \$13,680. The Sweeney Lake Association (SLA) has pledged to cover the cost of the herbicide treatment of up to \$7,500. That leaves a balance of \$3,200 in needed funds.

Assuming the grant funding is approved, staff recommends the following actions by the Commission:

1. Approve the use of up to \$5,000 from the Commission's AIS/APM budget line toward the project. This would cover the remaining project costs of \$3,200 plus additional funding of \$1,800 if conditions or circumstances warrant. The Commission has already spent about \$1,600 this year providing engineering assistance to design the surveys and treatment plan and help develop the grant application and budget. This project, combined with already planned curly-leaf pondweed treatment and funding toward boat launch inspections on Medicine Lake would result in a budget deficit in the AIS/APM budget of about \$4,000. Staff believes these expenditures are warranted given the chance to eradicate EWM from Sweeney Lake.
2. Authorize the chair to execute a grant agreement with Hennepin County upon review and approval by the Commission Attorney, Commission Administrator, and Commission Chair. (Timely execution of the grant agreement is needed as project activities are expected to begin soon but will be not eligible for grant funding before the agreement is executed.)