



## Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

### Watershed Plan Development - Progress Tracker June 2024 Update

At their meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup>, the Plan Steering Committee discussed terminology and definitions for eventual strategies and actions and finalized draft issues and goals for the Climate Resilience category (proposed to be renamed “Flooding and Climate Resilience.”) They also began drafting issue statements and goals in the Education and Outreach category. As part of that discussion, they realized a policy related to the Commission’s role in addressing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access should be developed by the Commission in the near term so that appropriate goals can be set for the “engagement of diverse communities” issue. A draft policy is likely to be discussed at the July Commission meeting.

Month and Year	Plan Steering Committee Work
September 2023 thru February 2024	<p>Developed format for presenting and discussing issue statements, desired future conditions, 10-year goals, potential actions/strategies, and tracking notes.</p> <p>Developed mission statement: <i>Stewardship of water resources to reduce flood risk and improve watershed ecosystem health.</i></p> <p>Developed issue statements and measurable goals addressing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impaired waters</li> <li>• Chloride loading</li> <li>• Streambank and gully erosion</li> <li>• Lakeshore erosion</li> <li>• Wetland health and restoration</li> </ul> <p>Received update on plan development budget.</p> <p>Reviewed input from the Plan TAC which met in December 2023.</p> <p>Planned for January 2024 Commission workshop and responded to input received.</p> <p>Discussed implementation capacity of Commission.</p>
March 7, 2024	<p>Reviewed and approved updated waterbody classification table; recommended keeping current list of priority waterbodies.</p> <p>Reviewed plan development calendar and timeline.</p> <p>Revisited discussion on future funding and governance structure, acknowledging complicated matter given JPA status and difficulty writing a 10-year plan considering that the future structure or funding of the organization could change . General</p>

Month and Year	Plan Steering Committee Work
	<p>approach agreed to: 1) get the JPA updated and keep the JPA update simple; 2) engage with cities to gain support for additional staff hours/higher operating budget; 3) build the plan with a tiered approach dependent on staffing and structure; 4) analyze organizational structure early in plan Implementation.</p> <p>There was concern from some that momentum for analyzing organizational structure will wane once new JPA is adopted. PSC members acknowledged that future structure will be further explored within the “organizational effectiveness” category in the coming months and a commission workshop would incorporate this item.</p> <p>Developed issue statements, measurable goals and possible implementation actions for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aquatic Invasive Species</li> <li>• Groundwater – Surface Water Interaction (partial)</li> </ul>
April 3, 2024	<p>Revisited discussion on future funding and governance structure for the Commission. Noted that at March Commission meeting, the topic was introduced but without enough background and written materials. The group considered providing a memo on the governance item to the Commission but ultimately decided to provide a monthly status report to the Commission that includes a summary of PSC discussions and plan development progress. Again, the PSC confirmed the funding and governance topic would be subject of a future Commission workshop.</p> <p>Finalized development of issue statements, measurable goals and possible implementation actions for Waterbody and Watershed Quality category including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groundwater – Surface Water Interaction</li> <li>• Degradation of Riparian Areas</li> <li>• Degradation/Loss of Upland Areas</li> <li>• Groundwater Quality</li> </ul> <p>Discussed format and timing for next Plan TAC meeting.</p> <p>Rescheduled June and July PSC meetings.</p>
May 1, 2024	<p>Developed issue statements, measurable goals and possible implementation actions for a portion of the Flooding and Climate Resiliency category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact of climate change on hydrology, water levels, and flood risk</li> </ul> <p>Reviewed draft mockup of Waterbody and Watershed Quality Issues and Goals section.</p> <p>Discussed timing and topics for next Commission workshop.</p>
June 12, 2024	<p>Finalize issue statements, measurable goals and possible implementation actions for a portion of the Flooding and Climate Resiliency category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact of climate change on hydrology, water levels, and flood risk</li> </ul>

Month and Year	Plan Steering Committee Work
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bassett Creek Valley Stormwater Management</li> <li>• Groundwater Quantity</li> </ul> <p>Began developing issue statements, measurable goals and possible implementation actions for Education and Outreach category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide outreach to and develop relationships with diverse communities (need policy from Commission before finalizing)</li> <li>• Protect recreation opportunities</li> </ul>
July 10, 2024	<p>Review format for portion of draft Plan section(s) addressing strategies, actions, and policies</p> <p>Finalize issue statements, measurable goals and possible implementation actions for Education and Outreach category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide outreach to and develop relationships with diverse communities</li> <li>• Protect recreation opportunities</li> <li>• POTENTIAL NEW ISSUE: Increase resident and stakeholder capacity for stewardship</li> </ul> <p>Develop issue statements, measurable goals and possible implementation actions for Organizational Effectiveness category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizational assessment of capacity and staffing</li> <li>• BCWMC funding mechanisms</li> <li>• Progress assessment</li> <li>• Projects and programs implemented through a DEI lens</li> <li>• Public ditch management</li> <li>• Carbon footprint of BCWMC projects</li> </ul> <p>Begin planning for Commission August 15<sup>th</sup> Commission workshop to discuss 1) Waterbody and Watershed Quality and 2) Flooding and Climate Resiliency issues and goals</p>
August 7, 2024	<p>Finalize issue statements, measurable goals and possible implementation actions for Organizational Effectiveness category.</p> <p>Finalize plans for August 15<sup>th</sup> Commission Workshop</p>
August 7, 2024 September 4, 2024	<p>Review draft outreach and education plan</p> <p>Review draft water monitoring plan</p>
September 4, 2024	<p>Discuss possible revisions to BCWMC development requirements. Possible topics include:</p>

Month and Year	Plan Steering Committee Work
October 2, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirements related to winter maintenance and chloride minimization design practices</li> <li>• Changes to linear project standards</li> <li>• Changes to permitted activities in floodplains</li> <li>• Stream and wetland buffers</li> </ul>
<del>October 2, 2024</del> Nov 6, 2024	Consider strategies, actions, and policies for addressing various goals (building on content developed during goal development). What changes, additions, deletions from 2015 policies are needed?
<del>Nov 6, 2024</del> Dec 4, 2024	Continue discussion on strategies, actions, and policies
<del>December 4, 2024</del> January 2025	Review updated CIP prioritization metrics to reflect this plan’s priority issues.  Review potential CIP projects 2026 – 2035.
January 2025 February 2025	Discuss implementation of plan including CIP implementation and staff capacity.
<del>February 2025</del> March 2025	Catch up month for unfinished work from last few months. Review complete implementation program. Plan for Commission workshop
April 2025	Finalize policies and implementation program Review various plan sections Prepare recommendation on complete plan for Commission
May 2025	Review the complete Plan document
May 20 – July 20, 2025	60-day comment period
August 2025	Review comments and discuss draft responses to comments
September 2025	Review and finalize draft responses to comments  Plan for public hearing (required per MN Rule 8410)  Prepare recommendations to Commission
October 2025	
Nov 1 – Jan 31, 2025	90-day comment period; presentation to BWSR (likely week of Jan 5, 2026); target January 28, 2026 BWSR meeting for approval
February 2026	Final BWSR approval and Commission adoption (5 months past due)

\*Plan TAC = Regular city TAC members plus state and local agencies and other partners