



# Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Regular Meeting  
Thursday, July 18, 2024  
8:30 a.m.

Council Conference Room  
Golden Valley City Hall @ 7800 Golden Valley Rd.  
(No online option this month.)

## MEETING AGENDA

### 1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

**2. PUBLIC FORUM ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS** – *Members of the public may address the Commission about any item not contained on the regular agenda. A maximum of 15 minutes is allowed for the Forum. If the full 15 minutes are not needed for the Forum, the Commission will continue with the agenda. The Commission will take no official action on items discussed at the Forum, except for referral to staff or a Commissions Committee for a recommendation to be brought back to the Commission for discussion/action.*

### 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

### 4. CONSENT AGENDA (10 minutes)

- A. Approval of Minutes – June 20, 2024 Commission Meeting
- B. Acceptance of July Financial Report
- C. Approval of Payment of Invoices
  - i. Keystone Waters, LLC – June 2024 Administration
  - ii. Keystone Waters, LLC – June 2024 Administrative Expenses
  - iii. Barr Engineering – June 2024 Engineering Services
  - iv. Triple D Espresso – Meeting Catering
  - v. City of Plymouth – June Accounting Services
  - vi. Kennedy and Graven – Legal Services
  - vii. Stantec – Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program (WOMP) Services
  - viii. HDR, Inc. – Website Services
  - ix. LSC Resource Inc. – Checking Account Checks
- D. Appoint Ryan Vadnais as BCWMC Deputy Treasurer
- E. Set Public Hearing for September 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting
- F. Approval of Hwy 55 Lift Station Relocation Project, Golden Valley
- G. Approval to Provide Comments on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the METRO Blue Line Extension Project
- H. Accept 2023 Financial Audit

### 5. BUSINESS

- A. Review Revised Joint Powers Agreement (15 min)
- B. Consider Approval of Feasibility Study Scope for Crane Lake Chloride Reduction Demonstration Project (CL-4) (20 min)
- C. Receive Report on 2023 Water Quality Monitoring Results (40 min)
  - i. Sweeney Lake
  - ii. Twin Lake
  - iii. Plymouth Creek
- D. Consider Submitting Clean Water Fund Grant Application (5 min)

- E. Consider Approving Policy on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (15 min)
- F. Consider Submitting Resolutions for Minnesota Watersheds 2025 Platform (5 min)
- G. Receive Update from Plan Steering Committee (5 min)

**6. COMMUNICATIONS (15 minutes)**

- A. Administrator's Report
  - i. Update on Watershed Based Implementation Funding Convene Meeting #2
  - ii. Update on Twin Lake Riparian Restoration
  - iii. Golden Valley Historical Society Event Sept 14<sup>th</sup>
- B. Engineer
  - i. Update on Schaper and Sweeney Carp Surveys
- C. Legal Counsel
- D. Chair
- E. Commissioners
  - i. Report on Minnesota Watersheds Summer Tour
- F. TAC Members
- G. Committees
  - i. Report on Education Committee Meeting June 26<sup>th</sup>
  - ii. Report on Budget Committee Meeting July 17<sup>th</sup>

**7. INFORMATION ONLY (Information online only)**

- A. Administrative Calendar
- B. CIP Project Updates [www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects](http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects)
- C. Grant Tracking Summary and Spreadsheet
- D. WCA Notice, Golden Valley

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**Upcoming Meetings & Events**

- Metro Watersheds Quarterly Meeting: Tuesday, July 16, 7:00 p.m., online
- BCWMC Budget Committee Meeting: Wednesday, July 17, 1:00 p.m., Sweeney Lake Room, Brookview
- BCWMC Regular Meeting: Thursday, July 18, 8:30 a.m., Golden Valley City Hall
- Annual Salt Symposium: August 6 – 7, virtual; [www.bolton-menk.com/salt-symposium/](http://www.bolton-menk.com/salt-symposium/)



# Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

## AGENDA MEMO

Date: July 10, 2024

To: BCWMC Commissioners

From: Laura Jester, Administrator

RE: Background Information for 7/18/24 BCWMC Meeting

1. **CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL**
2. **PUBLIC FORUM ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – ACTION ITEM with attachment**
4. **CONSENT AGENDA**
  - A. Approval of Minutes – June 20, 2024 Commission Meeting- **ACTION ITEM with attachment**
  - B. Acceptance of July Financial Report - **ACTION ITEM with attachment**
  - C. Approval of Payment of Invoices - **ACTION ITEM with attachments (online) – I reviewed the following invoices and recommend payment.**
    - i. Keystone Waters, LLC – June 2024 Administration
    - ii. Keystone Waters, LLC – June 2024 Administrative Expenses
    - iii. Barr Engineering – June 2024 Engineering Services
    - iv. Triple D Espresso – Meeting Catering
    - v. City of Plymouth – June Accounting Services
    - vi. Kennedy and Graven – Legal Services
    - vii. Stantec – Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program (WOMP) Services
    - viii. HDR, Inc. – Website Services
    - ix. LSC Resource Inc. – Checking Account Checks
  - D. Appoint Ryan Vadnais as BCWMC Deputy Treasurer – **ACTION ITEM no attachment –** *The Commission’s Deputy Treasurer, Chad Guse, with the City of Plymouth recently resigned from the city for a job closer to home. Ryan Vadnais, Assistant Finance Director for the City of Plymouth, is recommended as the Commission’s new Deputy Treasurer. Staff recommends that the Commission appoint Mr. Vadnais as the BCWMC Deputy Treasurer.*
  - E. Set Public Hearing for September 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting – **ACTION ITEM no attachment –** *Before setting the final 2024 levy and officially ordering the CIP projects, the Commission should hold a public hearing on its 2024 CIP projects at its September meeting. Staff recommends setting the hearing date so that the 45-day notice to member cities can be provided.*
  - F. Approval of Hwy 55 Lift Station Relocation Project, Golden Valley – **ACTION ITEM with attachment –** *The proposed project is on the south side of Schaper pond, adjacent to the Sweeney Lake Branch of Bassett Creek in Golden Valley. The project includes removal of an existing lift station that is located in the BCWMC 100-year floodplain and construction of a new lift station that is approximately 30 feet outside of the BCWMC 100-year floodplain, resulting in 0.52 acres of grading and an increase of 0.04 acres of impervious surface. Staff recommends conditional approval as outlined in the attached memo.*
  - G. Approval to Provide Comments on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the METRO Blue Line Extension Project – **ACTION ITEM no attachment –** *The METRO Blue Line Extension*

*project runs through a portion of the Bassett Creek watershed. Recently, the Met Council requested review and comment on a Supplemental Draft EIS for this project. The Commission Engineer reviewed and recommends submitting the attached comments.*

- H. Accept 2023 Financial Audit – ACTION ITEM with attachment (full document online) - *The 2023 financial audit (February 1, 2023 – January 31, 2024) is complete and will be submitted to the State. The audit was reviewed by me and the City of Plymouth Finance Director. Although the audit was a challenge to complete for various reasons, there were no findings or instances that require corrective actions. Staff recommends acceptance of the audit and directing me to work with Plymouth finance staff and the Budget Committee to address BCWMC accounting complexities to help streamline future audits.*

## 5. BUSINESS

- A. Review Revised Joint Powers Agreement (15 min) – ACTION ITEM with attachment – *At the June meeting the Commission directed Attorney Anderson to make non-substantive updates to the JPA document as recommended by member cities. The attached memo outlines staff recommendations on next steps and the attached JPA shows changes tracked from the June version.*
- B. Consider Approval of Feasibility Study Scope for Crane Lake Chloride Reduction Demonstration Project (CL-4) (20 min) – ACTION ITEM with attachment – *The Commission’s 2026 CIP list includes the Crane Lake Chloride Reduction Demonstration Project at Ridgedale Mall (CL-4). A feasibility study for this project is needed to understand the source and magnitude of chloride pollution reaching Crane Lake and develop options for pollution reduction. The attached scope and budget for the feasibility study was developed by the Commission Engineer with input from Minnetonka staff and me. Staff recommends approval of the scope and direction for the Commission Engineer to begin the study.*
- C. Receive Report on 2023 Water Quality Monitoring Results (40 min) – INFORMATION ITEM with attachments – *The Commission has had a robust water monitoring programs reaching back to the 1970’s. In 2023, Sweeney Lake and Twin Lake were monitored for water quality, aquatic plants, zooplankton and phytoplankton. Additionally, 2023 was the second of two years of monitoring on Plymouth Creek. Please review the attached reports which include staff recommendations. Commission Senior Biologist Meg Rattei will present results at this meeting and answer questions.*
  - i. Sweeney Lake
  - ii. Twin Lake
  - iii. Plymouth Creek
- D. Consider Submitting Clean Water Fund Grant Application (5 min) – ACTION ITEM with attachment (full document online) – *Each year the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) seeks grant applications for projects that protect and improve water quality throughout the state. This competitive grant program has been a significant source of funding for Commission projects over the last several years. Although the Commission did not receive a grant for the Main Stem Restoration Project last year, we believe the Plymouth Creek Restoration Project may score higher because of the plan to re-meander a section of the stream and the proximity to a public school and trail system. Grant applications take about 5 hours of my time to prepare. I recommend applying for a grant of approximately \$400,000 for the Plymouth Creek Restoration Project.*
- E. Consider Approving Policy on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (15 min) – ACTION ITEM with attachment – *At the meeting in April 2023, the Commission briefly discussed development of a policy related to DEIA. Recently the Plan Steering Committee recommended that the Commission take*



up the discussion once again so that appropriate goals and policies can be developed in the watershed plan. Please see the attached memo with a draft policy for consideration.

- F. Consider Submitting Resolutions for Minnesota Watersheds 2025 Platform (5 min) – DISCUSSION ITEM with attachment (full document online) – *The Commission could consider drafting and submitting policy recommendations to the MN Watersheds (MW) organization (formerly MAWD) for consideration in MW’s resolutions process. After review by the MW Resolutions Committee, resolutions would be evaluated by the MW membership and voted on at the annual meeting in December. Approved resolutions would become part of MW’s 2024 legislative platform. Resolutions and background information are due September 1<sup>st</sup>. Staff does not have any recommended resolutions at this time.*
  
- G. Receive Update from Plan Steering Committee (5 min) – INFORMATION ITEM with attachment – *The Plan Steering Committee continues its work developing issue statements and goals. Please see the progress tracker attached and mark your calendar for the August 15<sup>th</sup> Plan Development Workshop.*

## 6. COMMUNICATIONS (15 minutes)

- A. Administrator’s Report
  - i. Update on Watershed Based Implementation Funding Convene Meeting #2
  - ii. Update on Twin Lake Riparian Restoration
  - iii. Golden Valley Historical Society Event Sept 14<sup>th</sup>
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## Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

**DRAFT Minutes of Regular Meeting**  
**Thursday, June 20, 2024**  
**8:30 a.m.**  
**Golden Valley City Hall, 7800 Golden Valley Road**

**1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL**

On Thursday June 20, 2024 at 8:35 a.m. in the absence of Chair Cesnik, Vice Chair Welch called the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (Commission) to order.

**Commissioners, city staff, and others present**

City	Commissioner	Alternate Commissioner	Technical Advisory Committee Members (City Staff)
Crystal	Joan Hauer	Terri Schultz	Jesse Struve
Golden Valley	Paula Pentel	Roxanne Gould	Eric Eckman
Medicine Lake	Clint Carlson	Shaun Kennedy (voting member)	<i>Absent</i>
Minneapolis	Michael Welch	Jodi Polzin	<i>Absent</i>
Minnetonka	Maryna Chowhan (online; no participation)	Stacy Harwell (voting member)	Leslie Yetka (online)
New Hope	Jere Gwin-Lenth	Jen Leonardson	Nick Macklem
Plymouth	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Absent</i>	Ben Scharenbroich
Robbinsdale	Wayne Sicora	Bob Stamos	Richard McCoy, Jenna Wolf
St. Louis Park	RJ Twiford	David Johnston	Erick Francis
<b>Administrator</b>	Laura Jester, Keystone Waters, LLC		
<b>Engineers</b>	Karen Chandler, Stephanie Johnson – Barr Engineering Co.		
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<i>Vacant Position</i>		
<b>Legal Counsel</b>	Dave Anderson, Kennedy & Graven		
<b>Guests/Public</b>	None		

Jesse Struve introduced himself as the new city engineer and public works director for the City of Crystal.

**2. PUBLIC FORUM ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

No public comments.

### 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Administrator Jester requested the addition of an agenda item approving a check from the Wells Fargo checking account to the new U.S. Bank checking account – to be added as Item 5F. In addition, Vice Chair Welch requested that Item 5D be taken out of order to accommodate Alternate Commissioner Kennedy’s schedule.

MOTION: Commissioner Gwin-Lenth moved to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Hauer seconded the motion. Upon a vote the motion carried 8-0. The City of Plymouth was absent from the vote.

### 4. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Gwin-Lenth moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Alternate Commissioner Kennedy seconded the motion. Upon a vote the motion carried 8-0. The City of Plymouth was absent from the vote.

The following items were approved as part of the consent agenda.

- Approval of the May 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes
- Acceptance of June Financial Report
- Approval of Payment of Invoices
  - Keystone Waters, LLC – May 2024 Administration
  - Keystone Waters, LLC – May 2024 Administrative Expenses
  - Barr Engineering – May 2024 Engineering Services
  - Triple D Espresso – Meeting Catering
  - City of Plymouth – May Accounting Services
  - Kennedy and Graven – Legal Services
  - Redpath and Company – 2023 Financial Audit Assistance
  - League of MN Cities Insurance Trust P&C – Insurance Renewal
  - Metro Conservation Districts – Metro Children’s Water Festival
  - MMKR – 2023 Audit
  - Stantec – Watershed Outlet Monitoring Program (WOMP) Services
- Approval to Reimburse Commissioners and Alternates for Salt Symposium Registration
- Approval of BNSF Bridge Replacement Project, Minneapolis
- Approval Golden Valley Zane Ave & Lindsay Street Improvement Project, Golden Valley

### 5. BUSINESS

#### D. Receive Update from Plan Steering Committee

Plan Steering Committee Chair Kennedy reported that the committee continues to make progress on developing issue statements and goals for the plan. He noted the work is currently about a month behind the schedule presented at last month’s meeting. He reminded commissioners about the plan development workshop that will be held in conjunction with the August Commission meeting, noting that the Plan is “owned” and will be implemented by the Commission so whole-Commission input is needed.

#### A. Review Comments from Member Cities on Proposed Joint Powers Agreement (JPA)

Vice Chair Welch indicated that today’s discussion is about policy-related matters for the JPA. Administrator Jester gave a brief overview of the process for soliciting input from member cities noting that the proposed JPA document was sent to cities on April 17<sup>th</sup> with comments due June 10<sup>th</sup>. She noted that city technical staff as well as city legal departments and leadership should have reviewed the JPA and provided comments. Seven of the nine member cities provided feedback. There was no formal response from Golden Valley and Medicine Lake.

Commission Attorney Anderson noted that comments from cities were fairly minor except for three cities expressing significant concern on the proposed ability for the Commission to compensate commissioners. He noted the term of the JPA was another potential point of contention to discuss today. There was some discussion about a request from the City of Plymouth to revise JPA language requiring city approval of a Commission project (such as a CIP project) proposed to be constructed in that city before the Commission officially orders the project. It was noted that the Commission has never, to date, intended to construct a project that did not have city support.

Examples of projects that could be implemented by others include projects in partnership with a park district or a private developer. Attorney Anderson noted that cities have extensive involvement with developments in their cities, retain land use authority, and that cooperation among all stakeholders is expected and intended with Commission projects. Vice Chair Welch indicated that the watershed plan should outline how support from the city where the project is to be completed is critical to CIP implementation.

Vice Chair Welch asked if the cities of Golden Valley or Medicine Lake had comments on the JPA. Golden Valley TAC Member Eckman indicated that legal and equity staff had reviewed the JPA. The legal department was still working through questions, but he didn't anticipate comments. Equity staff was pleased to hear about recent equity work but agreed nothing specific was needed in the JPA. At this time, Golden Valley had no comments. Alternate Commissioner Kennedy noted that the City of Medicine Lake had no comments at this time (and later indicated the city is not opposed to commissioner compensation). No negative feedback is expected from Medicine Lake.

There was discussion about the new provision that would allow the Commission to compensate the commissioners. It was noted that all nine member cities need to sign the JPA, that city staff and leadership should hear from their commissioners on this issue, that commissioners serve on the board because of their concern for the environment and not for financial gain, that the Commission has statutory authority and is different from city commissions, and that not offering compensation to cover costs such as time off from work, travel expenses, or childcare could be a barrier to a more diverse group of commissioners. It was noted that if the JPA were to allow commissioner compensation, it doesn't mean that it would actually be enacted and included in the budget; it would simply allow for that as an option and enable further discussion. Commissioner Pentel noted that a policy would be needed to implement and guide a compensation process. Alternate Commissioner Polzin noted that it would be a shame to leave the ability out of the JPA. Commissioner Gwin-Lenth agreed that commissioner time is valuable and there is a distinction between this commission and city commissions. Commissioner Sicora worried that this issue might be a deal breaker with some cities and noted the JPA could be amended in the future if compensation was desired. Minneapolis TAC member Stout indicated that the city supports compensation for commissioners. She noted that there's a certain segment of the population who can "afford" to take the time to be a commissioner, reducing diversity on the board. Commissioner Twiford agreed the ability to compensate commissioners should be in the JPA and noted that election judges can opt to volunteer or be compensated. No action was taken to remove the commissioner compensation language in the proposed JPA.

There was discussion about the term of the JPA which is currently set for 12 years. Vice Chair Welch indicated he would not support a 12-year term noting that an assessment of the organizational structure and funding mechanism would be completed in the first year or two after the new plan is adopted. He noted that there may be less incentive to significantly shift the organization's structure before the 12-year term expires. He noted that a 5-year term would keep pressure on the organization to assess the structure and make a shift if needed. Commissioner Hauer agreed a term shorter than 10 years is suitable to not align with the 10-year plan schedule. Commissioner Sicora noted that there is a lot of conversation about potential provisions in the new plan, but the plan is not complete. He doesn't like the idea of using the JPA as leverage. He noted the JPA could be amended after the organizational assessment is complete. He noted that optics are important, and that city leadership hasn't been involved in the conversations about increasing staff capacity and/or changing structure.

[Alternate Commission Kennedy leaves; Commissioner Carlson becomes voting member for Medicine Lake.]

Commission Attorney Anderson indicated there is no "best practice" for the term length for JPAs. TAC member Eckman reminded the group about the robust discussion on the term at the April meeting, landing on 12 years and that no cities commented on that term length. Vice Chair Welch noted it was not a unanimous decision in April and reiterated his position. He noted he wouldn't support an assessment of the organization structure if the JPA term is 12 years.

There was no action taken to change the proposed term from 12 years. Attorney Anderson said he would update the JPA with the non-substantive changes suggested by some cities and bring back a final draft at the July meeting. Vice Chair Welch asked that the Commission Attorney review the next steps pending approval or disapproval of the JPA at the July meeting.

[Alternate Commissioner Harwell leaves the meeting.]

**B. Consider Approval of Proposed 2025 Operating Budget & Budget Cmte Recommendations**

Administrator Jester provided an overview of the operating budget and how it differs from the CIP budget/levy process. She noted that at this meeting, a proposed budget should be approved and sent to cities by July 1<sup>st</sup> for their input by August 1<sup>st</sup>. She also reported that she recently received the 2023 audit with a significantly different fund balance than the auditors previously calculated and which was used in development of the budget recommended by the Budget Committee. Therefore, the draft budget included in meeting materials is no longer valid. She noted various challenges that make budgeting, auditing, and accounting difficult including frequent turnover of accountants, staffing shortages in audit firms, and the way the Commission manages some of its accounts.

Budget Committee Chair Sicora noted that the Commission will need to adjust some of its accounts and accounting to ensure this type of scenario is avoided in the future.

Administrator Jester walked through four options for adjusting the proposed 2025 budget given the new information including cutting the budget for some activities and raising city assessments. Vice Chair Welch recommended that the budget line for increasing staff capacity be kept in the budget with at least \$10,000. There was some discussion on the level of increase over 2024 city assessments that could or should be in the proposed budget. Commissioner Hauer also noted that the proposed budget sent to cities should include valid reasons for increases to city assessments. Commissioners were reminded that the “notes” section of the budget includes a description of each budget line and explanation for the increase or decrease.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Carlson moved to send a proposed budget to member cities that reflects Administrator Jester’s “option 3” (combination of budget cuts and city assessment increase) with \$10,000 in the budget line for additional staff capacity and less than 10% increase in city assessments over 2024 levels, with input from the Budget Committee Chair. Vice Chair Welch seconded the motion.

There was more discussion on the need for rationale on city assessment increases. TAC members in the room were asked for their input. Golden Valley TAC member Eckman reported that the BCWMC assessment is one line item in a larger city budget and doesn’t get flagged as an issue unless there is a significant increase. He noted that clear messages on assessments is critical. Budget Chair Sicora reiterated that the Budget Committee will work on restructuring some BCWMC funds so that there are fewer issues with the audit.

VOTE: Upon a vote the motion passed 7- 0 with the cities of Minnetonka and Plymouth absent from the vote.

**C. Consider Approval of 2025 Maximum Levy Request**

Administrator Jester gave an overview noting that a maximum levy request for 2025 must be set at this meeting and submitted to the County by June 21st. She noted the final levy will be set later in the year and can be lower than the maximum amount set at this meeting but cannot be higher. She recommended a maximum 2025 levy of \$2,303,500 which accounts for the recently approved budget for the Plymouth Creek Restoration Project and parts of other CIP projects presented in a table with meeting materials.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Carlson moved to approve setting a maximum 2025 levy of \$2,303,500. Commissioner Pentel seconded the motion. Upon a vote the motion passed 7- 0 with the cities of Minnetonka and Plymouth absent from the vote.

**E. Consider Moving September Commission Meeting/Public Hearing to Evening**

Administrator Jester noted that at the February meeting there was a suggestion to consider holding meetings that incorporate a public hearing in the evening to allow easier participation by residents. She reported the September 19th meeting will include a public hearing to officially order the Plymouth Creek Restoration Project. There was discussion about the pros, cons, and challenges with moving the meeting to the evening (or another date). Plymouth TAC member Scharenbroich noted that the City of Plymouth held an open house and will hold another public open house on the stream restoration project (and has yet to hear opposition). It was noted that the Commission should do a better job advertising the public input process and various ways that comments can be submitted. There was consensus to leave the September meeting at its regular time.

**F. Consider Approval of Payment from Wells Fargo to U.S. Bank**

Administrator Jester reported that the Commission is moving its checking account from Wells Fargo to U.S. Bank at the recommendation of the City of Plymouth (as the Commission’s new accountant) and the easiest way to do that is by check.

**MOTION: Vice Chair Welch approved a payment of \$500,000 to U.S. Bank for the purposes of transferring BCWMC funds. Commissioner Pentel seconded the motion. Upon a vote the motion passed 7 – 0 with the cities of Minnetonka and Plymouth absent from the vote.**

**6. COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. Administrator’s Report**

- i. Update on Sweeney Lake Eurasian Watermilfoil – post treatment survey happening soon. In addition, a survey of ponds upstream of Sweeney Lake found no Eurasian watermilfoil present.
- ii. West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA) Educator Position Opening – Administrator Jester will send position opening to commissioners.
- iii. Watershed Based Implementation Funding Convene Meeting #2 – July 8<sup>th</sup> – Anyone is welcome to attend. Commissioners Hauer and Sicora and Chair Cesnik are specifically invited due to their interest in the process and discussion.

Administrator Jester also mentioned the various news items related to Bassett Creek lately including the Star Tribune, MPR, and CCX (new Golden Valley city engineer gave interview on DeCola Ponds B&C project working well even with all the precipitation).

**B. Engineer**

- i. Update on SWLRT Construction Project – Commission Engineers were recently contacted by SWLRT consultants regarding the potential need for an extension of their BCWMC approval, but no new reviews or extension are needed; construction (in the watershed) should be completed in 2025.

**C. Legal Counsel – No report**

**D. Chair – Vice Chair Welch noted changes to the Wetland Conservation Act and rules that may concern the Commission.**

**E. Commissioners**

- i. Report on Ĥaňá Wakpádaŋ Event with MWMO – Those in attendance enjoyed the event and found the discussions enlightening. Alternate Commissioner Gould noted that there was discussion about changing the creek name and noted that she is in favor of gradual education and eventually changing the name to Haha Wakpadan and is opposed to an abrupt name change. She noted the Lower Phalen Creek project as an example of a good project with broad stakeholder engagement and support. Other commissioners provided their insights on the event.
- ii. Report on Bryn Mawr Meadows Park Tour – Event was cancelled due to weather.
- iii. Report on St. Louis Park Ecotacular Event – Commissioner Twiford attended but event had low attendance due to weather.

**F. TAC Members**

- i. Street Sweeping Prioritization Scope – TAC Chair Scharenbroich noted that the TAC received a presentation on street sweeping assessments and prioritization projects in other watersheds and requested a scope from the Commission Engineer.
- ii. Need August 7<sup>th</sup> Liaison – Commissioner Hauer was appointed as the liaison.

**G. Committees**

- i. Education Committee Meeting June 26<sup>th</sup>

**7. INFORMATION ONLY (Information online only)**

- a. Administrative Calendar
- b. CIP Project Updates [www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects](http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects)
- c. Grant Tracking Summary and Spreadsheet
- d. [Sun Post Article on Lake Delisting in WMWA Area](#)
- e. [Lakeline Article on 20 Years of Delisting Lakes](#)
- f. WCA Notice, Minnetonka
- g. WCA Notice, Golden Valley

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

DRAFT

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission						
Statement of Financial Position as of 06/30/2024						
Unaudited			400		100	
			Capital Improvement Projects		General Fund	TOTAL
<b>ASSETS</b>						
<b>Current Assets</b>						
<b>Checking/Savings</b>						
	·	101 · Wells Fargo Checking	-333,360.47		569,428.94	236,068.47
	·	102 · 4MP Fund Investment	3,501,986.62		334,458.22	3,836,444.84
	·	103 · 4M Fund Investment	3,533,650.36		485,439.22	4,019,089.58
	·	104 · US Bank Checking	0.00		0.00	0.00
		<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>6,702,276.51</b>		<b>1,389,326.38</b>	<b>8,091,602.89</b>
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>						
	·	112 · Due from Other Governments	125,000.00		0.00	125,000.00
	·	113 · Delinquent Taxes Receivable	22,306.08		0.00	22,306.08
		<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<b>147,306.08</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>147,306.08</b>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>						
	·	114 · Prepays	0.00		3,294.00	3,294.00
		<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>0.00</b>		<b>3,294.00</b>	<b>3,294.00</b>
		<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>6,849,582.59</b>		<b>1,392,620.38</b>	<b>8,242,202.97</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>			<b>6,849,582.59</b>		<b>1,392,620.38</b>	<b>8,242,202.97</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>						
<b>Liabilities</b>						
<b>Current Liabilities</b>						
<b>Accounts Payable</b>						
	·	211 · Accounts Payable	5,319.50		65,736.95	71,056.45
		<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<b>5,319.50</b>		<b>65,736.95</b>	<b>71,056.45</b>
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>						
	·	212 · Unearned Revenue	150,000.00		0.00	150,000.00
	·	251 · Unavailable Rev - property tax	22,306.08		0.00	22,306.08
		<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>172,306.08</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>172,306.08</b>
		<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>177,625.58</b>		<b>65,736.95</b>	<b>243,362.53</b>
		<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>177,625.58</b>		<b>65,736.95</b>	<b>243,362.53</b>
<b>Equity</b>						
	·	311 · Nonspendable prepaids	0.00		3,294.00	3,294.00
	·	312 · Restricted for improvements	4,562,582.00		0.00	4,562,582.00
	·	314 · Res for following year budget	0.00		149,700.00	149,700.00
	·	315 · Unassigned Funds	0.00		256,519.07	256,519.07
	·	32000 · Retained Earnings	2,191,053.30		467,695.43	2,658,748.73
		<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-81,678.29</b>		<b>449,674.93</b>	<b>367,996.64</b>
		<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>6,671,957.01</b>		<b>1,326,883.43</b>	<b>7,998,840.44</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>			<b>6,849,582.59</b>		<b>1,392,620.38</b>	<b>8,242,202.97</b>
<b>UNBALANCED CLASSES</b>			<b>0.00</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>



<b>Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission</b>					
<b>Actual vs Budget Year to Date Comparison - General Fund</b>					
<b>6/30/2024</b>					
<b>Unaudited</b>					
		<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Budget Balance</b>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>					
<b>Income</b>					
	411 · Assessments to Cities	622,500.00	0.00	343,488.00	279,012.00
	412 · Project Review Fees	77,000.00	0.00	23,726.13	53,273.87
	413 · WOMP Reimbursement	5,000.00	0.00	4,500.00	500.00
	414 · State of MN Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	415 · Investment earnings	0.00	0.00	155,968.34	-155,968.34
	416 · TRPD Reimbursement	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
	417 · Transfer from LT & CIP	227,840.00	0.00	0.00	227,840.00
	418 · Property Taxes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	419 · Insurance Dividend	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>937,340.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>527,682.47</b>	<b>409,657.53</b>
<b>Expense</b>					
<b>1000 · Engineering</b>					
	1010 · Technical Services	145,000.00	13,403.00	71,498.00	73,502.00
	1020 · Development/Project Reviews	90,000.00	3,782.50	23,443.50	66,556.50
	1030 · Non-fee and Preliminary Reviews	30,000.00	7,768.00	21,916.00	8,084.00
	1040 · Commission and TAC Meetings	15,000.00	1,584.50	7,496.00	7,504.00
	1050 · Surveys and Studies	15,000.00	0.00	0.00	15,000.00
	1060 · Water Quality / Monitoring	186,900.00	15,806.24	64,194.76	122,705.24
	1070 · Water Quantity	9,000.00	643.50	3,853.50	5,146.50
	1080 · Annual Flood Control Inspection	85,000.00	368.00	2,998.50	82,001.50
	1090 · Municipal Plan Review	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
	1100 · Watershed Monitoring Program	26,500.00	4,065.46	13,521.65	12,978.35
	1110 · Annual XP-SWMM Model Updates	3,000.00	0.00	148.00	2,852.00
	1120 · TMDL Implementation Reporting	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	1130 · APM/AIS Work	40,000.00	356.50	13,270.15	26,729.85
	1140 · Erosion Control Inspections	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	1000 · Engineering - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total 1000 · Engineering</b>	<b>647,400.00</b>	<b>47,777.70</b>	<b>222,340.06</b>	<b>425,059.94</b>
<b>2000 · Plan Development</b>					
	2010 · Next Gen Plan Development	47,650.00	4,570.25	35,998.75	11,651.25
	2000 · Plan Development - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total 2000 · Plan Development</b>	<b>47,650.00</b>	<b>4,570.25</b>	<b>35,998.75</b>	<b>11,651.25</b>
<b>3000 · Administration</b>					
	3010 · Administrator	78,750.00	5,437.50	28,893.75	49,856.25
	3020 · MAWD Dues	7,500.00	0.00	0.00	7,500.00
	3030 · Legal	26,520.00	1,815.38	13,530.08	12,989.92
	3040 · Financial Management	17,000.00	1,334.00	6,670.00	10,330.00
	3050 · Audit, Insurance & Bond	18,700.00	0.00	16,533.00	2,167.00
	3060 · Meeting Catering	2,400.00	197.53	1,144.40	1,255.60
	3070 · Administrative Services	2,570.00	678.12	1,966.30	603.70
	3000 · Administration - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total 3000 · Administration</b>	<b>153,440.00</b>	<b>9,462.53</b>	<b>68,737.53</b>	<b>84,702.47</b>
<b>4000 · Education</b>					
	4010 · Publications / Annual Report	1,200.00	0.00	1,008.50	191.50
	4020 · Website	1,600.00	693.97	693.97	906.03
	4030 · Watershed Education Partnership	18,350.00	0.00	14,850.00	3,500.00
	4040 · Education and Public Outreach	28,000.00	200.00	2,655.23	25,344.77
	4050 · Public Communications	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
	4000 · Education - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total 4000 · Education</b>	<b>50,150.00</b>	<b>893.97</b>	<b>19,207.70</b>	<b>30,942.30</b>
<b>5000 · Maintenance</b>					
	5010 · Channel Maintenance Fund	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	25,000.00
	5020 · Flood Control Project Long-Term	35,000.00	0.00	0.00	35,000.00
	5000 · Maintenance - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total 5000 · Maintenance</b>	<b>60,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>60,000.00</b>
	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>1,044,040.00</b>	<b>65,736.95</b>	<b>346,284.04</b>	<b>612,355.96</b>

<b>Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission</b>						
<b>Actual vs Budget Year to Date Comparison - Construction in Progress</b>						
<b>6/30/2024</b>						
<b>Unaudited</b>						
		<b>Project Budget</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Inception to Date Expense</b>	<b>Remaining Budget</b>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>						
<b>Expense</b>						
·	1000 · Engineering	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
·	2024CR-M · CIP-BS Main Stem Restore	1,941,000.00	0.00	1,771.00	87,266.39	1,853,733.61
·	2026CR-P · Plymouth Creek Restor Dunk 3	0.00	350.00	65,807.71	108,261.58	-108,261.58
·	BC-12 · CIP-CostShare Pur High Eff St S	150,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	150,000.00
·	BC-14 · CIP-Sochacki Pk Wter Quality Im	600,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	600,000.00
·	BC-238 · CIP-DeCola Ponds B&C	1,600,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,507,985.31	92,014.69
·	BC-2381 · CIP-DeCola Ponds/Wildwood Pk	1,300,000.00	0.00	0.00	77,749.39	1,222,250.61
·	BC-5 · CIP-Bryn Mawr Meadows	1,835,000.00	1,882.50	5,572.58	752,044.56	1,082,955.44
·	BC-7 · CIP-Main Stem Lagoon Dredging	2,759,000.00	0.00	197.50	1,589,533.34	1,169,466.66
·	BCP-2 · CIP- Basset Cr Pk & Winnetka	1,123,351.00	0.00	0.00	1,075,698.32	47,652.68
·	ML-12 · CIP-Medley Park Stormwater	1,500,000.00	0.00	0.00	98,218.61	1,401,781.39
·	ML-20 · CIP-Mount Olive Stream Restore	178,100.00	0.00	0.00	178,100.00	0.00
·	ML-21 · CIP-Jevne Park Stormwater Mgmt	500,000.00	0.00	0.00	56,390.75	443,609.25
·	ML-22 · CIP-Ponderosa Wood Strm Restora	352,000.00	624.00	624.00	44,413.81	307,586.19
·	NL-2 · CIP-Four Seasons Mall	990,000.00	0.00	0.00	204,215.06	785,784.94
·	PL-7 · CIP-Parkers Lake Stream Restore	485,000.00	0.00	3,313.50	237,566.62	247,433.38
·	SL-3 · CIP-Schaper Pond	612,000.00	2,463.00	4,392.00	492,533.96	119,466.04
·	SL-8 · CIP-Sweeney Lake WQ Improvemen	568,080.00	0.00	0.00	568,064.13	15.87
·	TW-2 · CIP-Twin Lake Alum Treatment	163,000.00	0.00	0.00	91,037.82	71,962.18
<b>Total Expense</b>		<b>16,656,531.00</b>	<b>5,319.50</b>	<b>81,678.29</b>	<b>7,169,079.65</b>	<b>9,487,451.35</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>		<b>-16,656,531.00</b>	<b>-5,319.50</b>	<b>-81,678.29</b>	<b>-7,169,079.65</b>	<b>-9,487,451.35</b>





## Memorandum

**To:** Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC)  
**From:** Barr Engineering Co. (Barr) (Jim Herbert, PE; Gabby Campagnola)  
**Subject:** Item 4F: Highway 55 Lift Station Relocation – Golden Valley, MN  
BCWMC July 18, 2024 Meeting Agenda  
**Date:** July 11, 2024  
**Project:** 23270051 1020 2410

### 4F Highway 55 Lift Station Relocation – Golden Valley, MN BCWMC 2024-10

#### Summary:

**Proposed Work:** Relocation of existing sanitary lift station

**Project Proposer:** City of Golden Valley

**Project Schedule:** Fall 2024, starting September

**Basis for Review at Commission Meeting:** Work in the floodplain

**Impervious Surface Area:** Increase approximately 1,530 square feet

**Recommendation for Commission Action:** Conditional approval

#### General Project Information

The proposed project is on the south side of Schaper pond, adjacent to the Sweeney Lake Branch of Bassett Creek and Olson Memorial Highway Frontage Road in the City of Golden Valley. The proposed project includes removal of an existing lift station that is located in the BCWMC 100-year floodplain and construction of a new lift station that is approximately 30 feet outside of the BCWMC 100-year floodplain, resulting in 0.52 acres of grading (disturbance). Overall, the project results in an increase of 0.04 acres of impervious surfaces, from 0.06 acres (existing) to 0.1 acres (proposed).

#### Floodplain

The proposed project includes work in the BCWMC (Schaper Pond) 100-year floodplain. The BCWMC 1% annual-chance (100-year) floodplain elevation of Schaper Pond is 836.6 feet NAVD88. The January 2023 BCWMC Requirements for Improvements and Development Proposals (Requirements) document states that projects within the floodplain must maintain no net loss in floodplain storage and no increase in flood level at any point along the trunk system (managed to at least a precision of 0.00 feet). The proposed project will include removal of the existing lift station from the 100-year floodplain and grading disturbed land, resulting in no fill in the floodplain.

#### Wetlands

There are no wetland impacts as part of the project.

## **Rate Control**

The proposed project does not create one or more acres of new and/or fully reconstructed impervious surfaces; therefore, BCWMC rate control review is not required.

## **Water Quality**

The proposed project does not create one or more acres of new and/or fully reconstructed impervious surfaces; therefore, BCWMC water quality review is not required.

## **Erosion and Sediment Control**

The proposed project results in more than 10,000 square feet of land disturbance; therefore, the proposed project must meet the BCWMC erosion and sediment control requirements. Proposed temporary erosion and sediment control features include rock construction entrances, silt fence, and storm drain inlet protection. Permanent erosion and sediment control features include stabilization with seeding.



## **Recommendation for Commission Action**

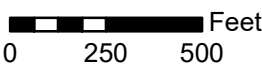
Conditional approval based on the following comments:

1. Sheet C1 and C2: the following note must be included: "Require that soils tracked from the site be removed from all paved surfaces within 24 hours of discovery throughout the duration of construction."
2. Sheet C1: the last sentence of note 16 must be revised to: "Stabilize all disturbed areas no longer than 7 days after construction activity has temporarily or permanently ceased."
3. Sheet C2: the following sentence must be added to note 16: "Stabilize all disturbed areas no longer than 7 days after construction activity has temporarily or permanently ceased."





-  Project Location
-  Major Subwatershed



BCWMC 2024-10  
HIGHWAY 55  
LIFT STATION  
RELOCATION  
Golden Valley, MN

**LOCATION MAP**







## Memorandum

**To:** Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC)  
**From:** Barr Engineering Co. (Barr) (Karen Chandler, PE; Jim Herbert, PE)  
**Subject:** Item 4G: Provide Comments on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the METRO Blue Line Extension Project – Minneapolis and Robbinsdale, MN  
BCWMC July 18, 2024 Meeting Agenda  
**Date:** July 11, 2024  
**Project:** 23270051 1030 003

### **4G Provide Comments on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the METRO Blue Line Extension Project – Minneapolis and Robbinsdale, MN**

#### **Recommendations**

- Consider approving the comments on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) presented in this memorandum and direct either the BCWMC Chair, Administrator, or Engineer to submit the comments online.

#### **Background**

The METRO Blue Line Extension project is a light rail train project running northwest from downtown Minneapolis (Target Field Station) to Brooklyn Park. The BCWMC previously reviewed the project when it was proposed to run through Theodore Wirth Park, near Bassett Creek. There were multiple floodplain and wetland impacts as part of those previous BCWMC reviews. However, due to issues with the rail line, the Metropolitan Council realigned the METRO Blue Line Extension project. With the realignment, the project will no longer run through Theodore Wirth Park. In the BCWMC, the project will now run north (paralleling the east side of I-94), then west along 21<sup>st</sup> Ave N. and then northwest along County Road 81/Bottineau Blvd. This realignment avoids impacts to the Bassett Creek floodplain and wetlands in the watershed.

As a result of the realignment, the Metropolitan Council and the Federal Transit Administration prepared a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the METRO Blue Line Extension project. The Engineer received an email from the Metropolitan Council on June 14, 2024, announcing the release of the SDEIS and the opportunity to comment on the SDEIS. The SDEIS is available on the project website at [BlueLineExt.org](http://BlueLineExt.org).

Separate from the SDEIS, the Metropolitan Council designers requested that the Engineer review the 30% design drawings for the realigned project. In response to that request, the Engineer performed a preliminary review of the drawings and provided separate comments to the Metropolitan Council regarding the drawings.



**To:** Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC)  
**From:** Barr Engineering Co. (Barr) (Karen Chandler, PE; Jim Herbert, PE)  
**Subject:** 4G: Provide Comments on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the METRO Blue Line Extension Project – Minneapolis and Robbinsdale, MN  
**Date:** July 11, 2024  
**Page:** 2

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## Comments on the SDEIS

Based on the Engineer's review of the SDEIS and the Engineer's separate review of the 30% design drawings for the project, we developed the following suggested comments on the (SDEIS) for the METRO Blue Line Extension project:

- With the realignment of the METRO Blue Line Extension project, the project alignment no longer follows Bassett Creek in Theodore Wirth Park and there are no longer any floodplain impacts and it appears there are no longer any wetland impacts within the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) jurisdiction.
- For clarity, all references to "Bassett Creek" and "Bassett Creek Tunnel" should be changed to "Bassett Creek Old Tunnel" as only the Bassett Creek Old Tunnel crosses the project alignment. Examples of where this change should be made are in Section 5.3.2.2 Waterways and Public Waters (including Table 5-6) and Section 2.3.3 in Appendix A-5 Water Resources – Technical – Report (including Table 2-2); there may be other locations in the SDEIS where this change should be made.
- The Minneapolis Page 6 drawing in Appendix A-E Conceptual Engineering Drawings should show and label the location of the Old Bassett Creek Tunnel.
- Separate from the SDEIS, the BCWMC Engineer also performed a preliminary review of the 30% design drawings. Layout 2 of 23 of the design drawings shows a blue shaded line that should be labeled as the "Old Bassett Creek Tunnel."
- Through the BCWMC Engineer's preliminary review of the 30% design drawings, we heard that there are plans to modify the Bassett Creek Old Tunnel as part of the METRO Blue Line Extension project. The BCWMC is less concerned regarding the Bassett Creek Old Tunnel because the City of Minneapolis and MWMO manage the Bassett Creek Old Tunnel infrastructure. However, the BCWMC has some interest because the Old Bassett Creek Tunnel serves as an overflow for Bassett Creek during high flows. In 2000, the BCWMC, MWMO, and the City of Minneapolis entered into a joint and cooperative agreement that defines the responsibilities of the parties with respect to the New Bassett Creek Tunnel and the Old Bassett Creek Tunnel. The agreement requires accommodation of a 50 cfs overflow from Bassett Creek to the Bassett Creek Old Tunnel during the 100-year flood.

## Recommendation for Commission Action

1. Consider approving the above suggested comments on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS).
2. Direct either the BCWMC Chair, Administrator, or Engineer to submit the comments online. The online submittal form is shown on the attached page.

June 20, 2024

To the Board of Commissioners and Management  
Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

The following is a summary of our audit work, key conclusions, and other information that we consider important or that is required to be communicated to the Board of Commissioners, administration, or those charged with governance of the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (the Commission).

**OUR RESPONSIBILITY UNDER AUDITING STANDARDS GENERALLY ACCEPTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Commission as of and for the year ended January 31, 2024. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and *Government Auditing Standards*, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information to you verbally and in our audit engagement letter. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

**PLANNED SCOPE AND TIMING OF THE AUDIT**

We performed the audit according to the planned scope and timing previously discussed and coordinated in order to obtain sufficient audit evidence and complete an effective audit.

**AUDIT OPINIONS AND FINDINGS**

Based on our audit of the Commission's financial statements for the year ended January 31, 2024:

- We have issued unmodified opinions on the Commission's financial statements. The Commission has elected not to present management's discussion and analysis, which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America have determined necessary to supplement, although not required to be a part of, the basic financial statements. Our opinion on the Commission's basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.
- We reported no deficiencies in the Commission's internal control over financial reporting that we considered to be material weaknesses.
- The results of our testing disclosed no instances of noncompliance required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.
- We reported no findings based on our testing of the Commission's compliance with Minnesota laws and regulations.

## **FOLLOW-UP ON PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

As a part of our audit of the Commission's financial statements for the year ended January 31, 2024, we performed procedures to follow-up on any findings and recommendations that resulted from our prior year audit. We reported the following finding that was corrected by the Commission in the current year:

- 2023-001 – Minnesota legal compliance; inadequate collateralization of deposits.

The Commission obtained adequate pledged collateral from its depository to cover deposits exceeding the limits of federal depository insurance during the year ended January 31, 2024.

## **SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Commission are described in Note 1 of the notes to basic financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted, and the application of existing policies was not changed during the year.

We noted no transactions entered into by the Commission during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

## **ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND MANAGEMENT JUDGMENTS**

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected.

We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop these accounting estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

## **DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN PERFORMING THE AUDIT**

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

## **CORRECTED AND UNCORRECTED MISSTATEMENTS**

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to each opinion unit's financial statements taken as a whole.

## **MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIONS**

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated June 20, 2024.

#### **DISAGREEMENTS WITH MANAGEMENT**

For purposes of this report, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

#### **MANAGEMENT CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS**

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Commission's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no consultations with other accountants.

#### **OTHER AUDIT FINDINGS OR ISSUES**

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards with management each year prior to retention as the Commission's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

#### **OTHER MATTERS**

We were not engaged to report on the introductory section, which accompanies the financial statements, but is not required supplementary information. Such information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

#### **CLOSING**

We would be pleased to further discuss any of the information contained in this report or any other concerns that you would like us to address. We would also like to express our thanks for the courtesy and assistance extended to us during the course of our audit.

The purpose of this report is solely to provide those charged with governance of the Commission, management, and those with responsibility for oversight of the financial reporting process required communications related to our audit process. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

*Malloy, Montague, Karnowski, Radosevich & Co., P.A.*

**BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

**Financial Statements and  
Supplemental Information**

**Year Ended  
January 31, 2024**

BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

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BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Statement of Net Position  
as of January 31, 2024  
(With Partial Comparative Information as of January 31, 2023)

	Governmental Activities	
	2024	2023
Assets		
Cash and temporary investments	\$ 7,564,827	\$ 7,718,251
Accounts receivable	–	1,368
Delinquent taxes receivable	22,306	17,776
Due from other governments	325,000	41,218
Prepays	3,294	2,706
	<u>\$ 7,915,427</u>	<u>\$ 7,781,319</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 112,277	\$ 468,397
Unearned revenue	150,000	914,501
Total liabilities	<u>262,277</u>	<u>1,382,898</u>
Net position		
Restricted for watershed improvements	6,775,941	5,860,750
Unrestricted	877,209	537,671
Total net position	<u>7,653,150</u>	<u>6,398,421</u>
Total liabilities and net position	<u>\$ 7,915,427</u>	<u>\$ 7,781,319</u>

BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Statement of Activities  
Year Ended January 31, 2024  
(With Partial Comparative Information for the Year Ended January 31, 2023)

	Governmental Activities	
	2024	2023
Expenses		
Watershed management		
Administration	\$ 722,717	\$ 745,643
Improvement projects	1,880,708	1,592,345
Total expenses	2,603,425	2,337,988
Program revenues		
Watershed management		
Charges for services – member assessments	617,430	565,998
Charges for services – permit fees	79,171	89,217
Operating grants and contributions	6,993	51,465
Capital grants and contributions	640,104	151,692
Total program revenues	1,343,698	858,372
Net program revenue (expense)	(1,259,727)	(1,479,616)
General revenues		
Property taxes	2,174,836	1,691,529
Investment earnings	339,620	111,202
Total general revenues	2,514,456	1,802,731
Change in net position	1,254,729	323,115
Net position		
Beginning of year	6,398,421	6,075,306
End of year	\$ 7,653,150	\$ 6,398,421



BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Balance Sheet  
Governmental Funds  
as of January 31, 2024  
(With Partial Comparative Information as of January 31, 2023)

	General Fund	Improvement Capital Projects Fund	Total Governmental Funds	
			2024	2023
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash and temporary investments	\$ 978,348	\$ 6,586,479	\$ 7,564,827	\$ 7,718,251
Accounts receivable	–	–	–	1,368
Delinquent taxes receivable	–	22,306	22,306	17,776
Due from other governments	–	325,000	325,000	41,218
Prepays	3,294	–	3,294	2,706
	<u>978,348</u>	<u>6,586,479</u>	<u>7,564,827</u>	<u>7,718,251</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 981,642</u>	<u>\$ 6,933,785</u>	<u>\$ 7,915,427</u>	<u>\$ 7,781,319</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Accounts payable	\$ 104,433	\$ 7,844	\$ 112,277	\$ 468,397
Unearned revenue	–	150,000	150,000	914,501
Total liabilities	<u>104,433</u>	<u>157,844</u>	<u>262,277</u>	<u>1,382,898</u>
<b>Deferred inflows of resources</b>				
Unavailable revenue – property taxes	–	22,306	22,306	17,776
<b>Fund balances</b>				
Nonspendable for prepaids	3,294	–	3,294	2,706
Restricted for watershed improvements	–	6,753,635	6,753,635	5,842,974
Assigned for subsequent year budget	149,700	–	149,700	20,000
Unassigned	724,215	–	724,215	514,965
Total fund balances	<u>877,209</u>	<u>6,753,635</u>	<u>7,630,844</u>	<u>6,380,645</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balances	<u>\$ 981,642</u>	<u>\$ 6,933,785</u>	<u>\$ 7,915,427</u>	<u>\$ 7,781,319</u>

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Net Position are different because:

Fund balances – governmental funds	\$ 7,630,844	\$ 6,380,645
Certain revenues (including delinquent taxes) are included in net position, but are excluded from fund balances until they are available to liquidate liabilities of the current period.	<u>22,306</u>	<u>17,776</u>
Net position of governmental activities	<u>\$ 7,653,150</u>	<u>\$ 6,398,421</u>

BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Statement of Revenue, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances  
Governmental Funds  
Year Ended January 31, 2024  
(With Partial Comparative Information for the Year Ended January 31, 2023)

	General Fund	Improvement Capital Projects Fund	Total Governmental Funds	
			2024	2023
<b>Revenue</b>				
Member contributions	\$ 617,430	\$ —	\$ 617,430	\$ 565,998
Permit fees	79,171	—	79,171	89,217
Property taxes	—	2,170,306	2,170,306	1,685,150
Intergovernmental	5,734	580,104	585,838	203,157
Investment earnings	339,620	—	339,620	111,202
Refunds and reimbursements	1,259	60,000	61,259	—
Total revenue	1,043,214	2,810,410	3,853,624	2,654,724
<b>Expenditures</b>				
<b>Current</b>				
Engineering and monitoring	550,301	—	550,301	546,810
Legal	22,296	—	22,296	20,205
Professional services	20,217	—	20,217	18,491
Administrative services	83,109	—	83,109	91,998
Public relations and outreach	3,289	—	3,289	1,878
Financial management	15,240	—	15,240	14,260
Education	28,265	—	28,265	52,001
<b>Capital outlay</b>				
Improvement projects	25,099	1,855,609	1,880,708	1,592,345
Total expenditures	747,816	1,855,609	2,603,425	2,337,988
Excess of revenue over expenditures	295,398	954,801	1,250,199	316,736
<b>Other financing sources (uses)</b>				
Transfers in	44,140	—	44,140	143,440
Transfers (out)	—	(44,140)	(44,140)	(143,440)
Total other financing sources (uses)	44,140	(44,140)	—	—
Net change in fund balances	339,538	910,661	1,250,199	316,736
<b>Fund balances</b>				
Beginning of year	537,671	5,842,974	6,380,645	6,063,909
End of year	\$ 877,209	\$ 6,753,635	\$ 7,630,844	\$ 6,380,645

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities are different because:

Net change in fund balances – governmental funds	\$ 1,250,199	\$ 316,736
Certain revenues (including delinquent taxes) are included in net position, but are excluded from fund balances until they are available to liquidate liabilities of the current period.	4,530	6,379
Change in net position of governmental activities	\$ 1,254,729	\$ 323,115

BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Statement of Revenue, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances  
Budget and Actual  
General Fund  
Year Ended January 31, 2024

	Original and Final Budget	Actual	Over (Under) Budget
Revenue			
Member contributions	\$ 617,430	\$ 617,430	\$ -
Permit fees	80,000	79,171	(829)
Intergovernmental	10,000	5,734	(4,266)
Investment earnings	-	339,620	339,620
Refunds and reimbursements	-	1,259	1,259
Total revenue	707,430	1,043,214	335,784
Expenditures			
Current			
Engineering and monitoring	539,250	550,301	11,051
Legal	17,000	22,296	5,296
Professional services	18,700	20,217	1,517
Administrative services	95,890	83,109	(12,781)
Public relations and outreach	3,700	3,289	(411)
Financial management	14,540	15,240	700
Education	46,350	28,265	(18,085)
Capital outlay			
Improvement projects	-	25,099	25,099
Total expenditures	735,430	747,816	12,386
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	(28,000)	295,398	323,398
Other financing sources			
Transfers in	44,000	44,140	140
Net change in fund balances	\$ 16,000	339,538	\$ 323,538
Fund balances			
Beginning of year		537,671	
End of year		\$ 877,209	



PRINCIPALS

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Paul A. Radosevich, CPA  
William J. Lauer, CPA  
James H. Eichten, CPA  
Aaron J. Nielsen, CPA  
Victoria L. Holinka, CPA/CMA  
Jaclyn M. Huegel, CPA  
Kalen T. Karnowski, CPA

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL  
OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS  
BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

To the Board of Commissioners and Management  
Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (the Commission) as of and for the year ended January 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Commission's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated June 20, 2024.

**REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Commission's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Commission's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified.

(continued)

## **REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Commission's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

### **PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Commission's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

*Malloy, Montague, Karnowski, Radosevich & Co., P.A.*

Minneapolis, Minnesota  
June 20, 2024



PRINCIPALS

Thomas A. Karnowski, CPA  
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
ON MINNESOTA LEGAL COMPLIANCE

To the Board of Commissioners and Management  
Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (the Commission) as of and for the year ended January 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Commission's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated June 20, 2024.

**MINNESOTA LEGAL COMPLIANCE**

In connection with our audit, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that the Commission failed to comply with the provisions of the depositories of public funds and public investments, conflicts of interest, claims and disbursements, and miscellaneous provisions sections of the *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Cities*, promulgated by the State Auditor pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § 6.65, insofar as they relate to accounting matters. However, our audit was not directed primarily toward obtaining knowledge of such noncompliance. Accordingly, had we performed additional procedures, other matters may have come to our attention regarding the Commission's noncompliance with the above referenced provisions, insofar as they relate to accounting matters.

**PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

*Malloy, Montague, Karnowski, Radosevich & Co., P.A.*

Minneapolis, Minnesota  
June 20, 2024





## Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

### MEMO

To: BCWMC Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners  
From: Administrator Jester  
Date: July 11, 2024

#### **RE: Revised Joint Powers Agreement (JPA)**

At the June 20<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting [comments from member cities](#) on the JPA were reviewed and discussed. The larger policy questions of commissioner compensation and term of the JPA were discussed but no action was taken by the Commission to change the recommended language related to those items. (Therefore the 12-year term and the ability for the Commission to compensate commissioners remain in the JPA).

Commission Attorney Anderson has since made a few non-substantive updates to the document per some of the comments from member cities. Those changes do not alter the substance of the draft JPA and are shown in the redlined version attached here.

Staff recommends that the Commission direct staff to send this latest version of the JPA to member cities with a short cover letter. The cover letter will include a proposed timeline for approval of the JPA and a request for each city to discuss the draft again and, if there are any terms that a city is unwilling to approve, to provide a formal letter to the Commission detailing such terms(s) no later than August 31, 2024. Cities will be asked not to proceed with considering final approval of the JPA until after that August 31, 2024 deadline.



**JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT  
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE  
BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

THIS JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT (“**Agreement**”) is made and entered into by and among the cities of Crystal, Golden Valley, Medicine Lake, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, New Hope, Plymouth, Robbinsdale, and St. Louis Park, all Minnesota municipal corporations. The member cities may hereafter be referred to individually as a “**Member**” or collectively as the “**Members.**”

**RECITALS**

- A. In 1968, the Members, all of which have lands which drain surface water into Bassett Creek, and all of which have power to construct, reconstruct, extend and maintain storm water management facilities, elected to exercise their authority to adopt a joint powers agreement to establish the Bassett Creek Flood Control Commission to cooperatively manage and plan for the management of surface water within the Bassett Creek watershed (“**Watershed**”).
- B. In 1982, the Minnesota legislature passed the Metropolitan Area Surface Water Management Act requiring local government units in the metropolitan area to plan for and manage surface water through watershed management (Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.201 to 103B.255) (“**Act**”).
- C. Under the Act, one of the options available to local government units to satisfy the requirements of the Act is to enter into a joint powers agreement pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 471.59 to establish a watershed management organization to jointly plan for and manage surface water within a watershed.
- D. In compliance with the Act, the original Bassett Creek Flood Control Commission amended its joint powers agreement and became the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (“**Commission**”). Over time, the joint powers agreement has been updated and amended, and the terms and conditions of the current joint powers agreement expire on January 1, 2025.
- E. The Members previously established the board of commissioners of the Commission (“**Board**”) and desire for said Board to be reaffirmed as the entity charged with the authority and responsibility to manage the Commission.
- F. The Board has previously acted to adopt a watershed management plan (“**Watershed Management Plan**”) for the watershed and has regularly updated and carried out said Watershed Management Plan in accordance with the Act.
- G. The Members desire to enter into this Agreement to reaffirm the Commission and the Board in furtherance of its efforts to continue working cooperatively to prepare and administer a surface water management plan to manage surface water within the Watershed, in accordance with the Act and Minnesota Rules, chapter 8410, and to carry out all additional functions and responsibilities described herein.

## AGREEMENT

In consideration of the mutual promises and agreements contained herein, the Members mutually agree as follows:

### SECTION I ESTABLISHMENT, GENERAL PURPOSE, AND DEFINITIONS

1.1 Reaffirming the Establishment. The Members hereby reaffirm and continue the establishment of the “Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission” pursuant to their authority under the Act and Minnesota Statutes, section 471.59. The Commission will continue to operate as a duly formed joint powers watershed management organization in accordance with said laws, applicable rules, and this Agreement.

1.2 General Purpose. The general purpose of this Agreement is to continue the Commission and the Board, which the Members previously established, to jointly and cooperatively adopt, administer, and update, as necessary, the Watershed Management Plan, and to carry out the following express purposes:

- (a) serve as the watershed management organization for the Watershed and carry out all of the duties and responsibilities outlined in the Act;
- (b) investigate, study, plan and control the construction of facilities to drain or pond storm waters to alleviate damage by flood waters;
- (c) protect, preserve, and use natural surface water and groundwater storage and retention systems;
- (d) minimize public capital expenditures needed to correct flooding and water quality problems;
- (e) identify and plan for means to effectively protect and improve surface water and groundwater quality;
- (f) establish more uniform local policies and official controls for surface water and groundwater management;
- (g) prevent erosion of soil into surface water systems;
- (h) promote groundwater recharge;
- (i) improve the creek channel for drainage;
- (j) assist in planning for land use;

- (k) protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and water recreational facilities;
- (l) repair, improve, relocate, modify, consolidate or abandon, in whole or in part, drainage systems within the Watershed;
- (m) secure the other benefits associated with the proper management of surface water and groundwater;
- (n) assist in water conservation and the abatement of surface water and groundwater contamination and water pollution;
- (o) assist the Members in the preservation and use of natural water storage and retention systems;
- (p) promote and encourage cooperation among member cities in coordinating local surface water and groundwater plans and to be aware of their neighbors' problems and to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare; and
- (q) continue the work of the Bassett Creek Water Management Commission and to carry out the plans, policies and programs developed by the Commission over time. All existing policies will remain in effect and may be amended by the Commission, as it determines may be necessary to achieve its purposes and objectives.

The plan and programs will operate within the boundaries of the Watershed as identified in the official map filed with the Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources, as it may be amended from time to time. The boundaries of the Watershed are subject to change utilizing the procedures set out in the Act, which may be necessary to better reflect the hydrological boundaries of the Watershed.

1.3 **Definitions.** For the purposes of this Agreement, and in addition to any other terms expressly defined elsewhere throughout, the following terms have the meanings given them below.

- (a) *Board.* The board of commissioners of the Commission, consisting of one Commissioner or one Alternate Commissioner from each Member, and which is the governing body of the Commission.
- (b) *Commission.* The organization created by this Agreement, the full name of which is the "Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission," a duly formed joint powers watershed management organization under Minnesota law.
- (c) *Member.* A Minnesota municipal corporation which enters into this Agreement, each of which are expressly listed in section 2.1.
- (d) *Voting Commissioner.* A Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner present during a Board meeting with voting rights. Pursuant to section 3.2(b) below, an Alternate

Commissioner only has voting rights in the event of absence or disability of their respective Commissioner. Each Voting Commissioner has one (1) vote on the Board.

- (e) *Watershed*. The area contained within a line drawn around the extremities of all terrain whose surface drainage is tributary to Bassett Creek and within the mapped areas delineated on the map filed with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (“**BWSR**”) pursuant to the Act.

## **SECTION II MEMBERSHIP**

2.1 Members. The following nine municipal corporations and parties to this Agreement, each of which is either partially or entirely located within the Watershed, are Members of the Commission: Crystal, Golden Valley, Medicine Lake, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, New Hope, Plymouth, Robbinsdale, and St. Louis Park.

2.2 Change in Boundaries. No change in governmental boundaries, structure, or organizational status will affect the eligibility of any Member listed above to be represented on the Commission, so long as such local government unit continues to exist as a separate political subdivision.

## **SECTION III BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

3.1 Establishment. The Members hereby reaffirm the establishment and continued operation of the Board in accordance with the Act. The Board will carry out the purposes and have the powers as provided herein.

3.2 Board Appointments. The Commission is governed by the Board, which consists of representatives appointed by the nine Members in accordance with this section. More specifically, each Member to this Agreement must appoint one Commissioner and one Alternate Commissioner to the Board. Each Member’s governing body will determine the eligibility and qualifications of its representatives on the Board.

- (a) Commissioner. Each Member is responsible for appointing one person to serve as its primary representative (“**Commissioner**”) on the Board. Each Member is responsible for publishing a notice of a vacancy, whether resulting from expiration of its Commissioner position or otherwise, as required in Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.227, subdivision 2.
- (b) Alternate Commissioner. Each Member may also appoint one alternate representative (“**Alternate Commissioner**”) to the Board in the same manner required to appoint a Commissioner. A Member’s Alternate Commissioner may only vote on a matter before the Commission in the event of either absence or disability of the appointing Member’s Commissioner (in either event, the Alternate Commissioner is considered a Voting Commissioner). If the absent or disabled Commissioner is also an officer of the Board, the Alternate Commissioner will not be entitled to serve as such officer. If necessary,

- the Board may select a current Commissioner to temporarily undertake the duties of the absent officer.
- (c) Term. All Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners will serve until their successors are selected and otherwise qualify, unless they resign or are removed earlier as provided herein. All Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners will serve three-year terms, and said terms will be staggered with expiration dates for those presently appointed remaining as follows:
- (1) The terms of the existing representatives appointed by the cities of Minneapolis, Minnetonka, and New Hope will expire on February 1, 2025.
  - (2) The terms of the existing representatives appointed by the cities of Plymouth, Robbinsdale, and St. Louis Park will expire on February 1, 2026.
  - (3) The terms of the existing representatives appointed by the cities of Crystal, Golden Valley, and Medicine Lake will expire on February 1, 2027.
- (d) Notices. A Member will provide the Commission written notice of its appointments, including the resolution making the appointments or a copy of the minutes for the meeting at which the appointments were made. The Commission will notify BWSR of appointments and vacancies within 30 days after receiving notice from the Member. Members must fill all vacancies within 90 days after the vacancy occurs.
- (e) Vacancies. A Member will notify the Commission in writing within 10 days of the occurrence of a vacancy in its Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner positions. The Commission will notify BWSR of the vacancy within 30 days of receiving the notice of a vacancy as required by Minn. Stat. § 103B.227, subd. 1. The Member will publish notice of any vacancy, whether by expiration of term or for any other reason, in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 103B.227, subd. 2, as it may be amended. The notices must state that those interested in being appointed to serve on the Commission may submit their names to the Member for consideration. The notice must be published at least 15 days before the Member's governing body acts to fill the vacancy. The governing body must make the appointment within 90 days from the occurrence of the vacancy. The Member will promptly notify the Commission of the appointment in writing. The appointed person will serve the unexpired term of the position.
- (f) Removal. The governing body of any Member may remove its respective Commissioner for just cause as provided in Minn. Stat. § 103B.227, subd. 3 and in accordance with Minn. R., part 8410.0040. If a Commissioner is an elected official, said governing body may remove the Commissioner if the Commissioner is not reelected. The governing body of any Member may remove its Alternate Commissioner with or without cause. The Member will notify the Board of any such removal in writing within 10 days of acting to remove the Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner, as the case may be. The Commission will notify BWSR of the vacancy

within 30 days of receiving such notice. The Member must act to fill the vacancy created by the removal within 90 days, as provided in this Agreement.

- (g) Suspension of Authority. The authority of a Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner to vote will be suspended if the appointing Member is more than 60 days delinquent in making any payments due to the Commission as provided by this Agreement. The voting authority will be reinstated once the Member pays all past due amounts.

3.3 Compensation and Expenses. The Board may set compensation rates and pay per-diem compensation to Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners. In addition, Commission funds may be used to reimburse Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners for expenses incurred in performing Commission business if authorized by the Board. Nothing in this section 3.3 prevents a Member from providing compensation for its Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner for serving on the Board, if such compensation is authorized by such Member's governmental unit and by law.

3.4 Board Officers; Duties. At its first regular meeting on or after February 1 of each year, the Board will elect from its Commissioners a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. All such officers will hold office for a term of one (1) year and until their successors have been qualified and duly elected by the Board. An officer may serve only while a member of the Board. A vacancy in an officer position will be filled from the Commissioner membership by Board selection for the remainder of the unexpired term of such office. The officers will have the duties provided in the Commission bylaws.

3.5 Quorum. A majority of Voting Commissioners from the nine Member cities, i.e. representation of five Members, constitutes a quorum. Less than a quorum may adjourn a scheduled meeting. A simple majority of the quorum is required for the Board to act unless a higher number of votes is required by this Agreement or by law. If more than one Member has either a Board vacancy (both Commission and Alternate Commissioner) or its voting rights suspended, as provided herein, the number of Voting Commissioners required for a quorum will be reduced until the vacancy is filled or suspension lifted, as the case may be.

3.6 Meetings. The Board will conduct meetings in accordance with the Minnesota Open Meeting Law (Minn. Stat., chap. 13D) and this section.

- (a) Regular Meetings. The Board will develop a schedule of its regular meetings. The Board will post the schedule on the Commission's website and provide a copy to each Member. The Secretary will maintain a copy of the schedule of regular meetings. The Chair and Vice Chair may cancel a meeting due to a lack of business items. The Secretary will make a good faith effort to notify Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners of a meeting cancellation.
- (b) Special Meetings. The Board may hold such special meetings as it may determine are necessary to conduct the business of the Commission. A special meeting may be called by the Chair or by any two Commissioners. In addition to the notice requirements



- provided in the Minnesota Open Meeting Law, the Secretary will provide notice of special meetings to the Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners.
- (c) Annual Organizational Meeting. The first regular meeting on or after February 1 of each year will constitute the annual organizational meeting of the Commission.
  - (d) Rules of Procedure. The Board will conduct its meetings generally in accordance with the procedures set out in the most current version of Robert's Rules of Order without requiring strict conformance to its requirements. The Board may modify such rules as it determines is appropriate to facilitate the conducting of its business or adopt a different set of rules for its meetings. The Board may amend its rules from time to time as it determines is appropriate upon a majority vote of all Voting Commissioners. The Board may also waive one or more specific rules as it determines are necessary to facilitate the conducting of its business, except that statutory requirements may not be waived and voting authority provided hereunder may not be abrogated.

#### **SECTION IV POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD**

4.1 Powers. The Board is authorized to exercise the powers in this section to carry out the purposes of the Commission.

- (a) Powers Granted.
  - (1) It may contract with or employ such persons or entities as it deems necessary to accomplish its duties and powers. Any employee may be on a full-time, part-time, or consulting basis, as the Board determines.
  - (2) It may contract for facilities, materials, supplies, and services to carry on its activities.
  - (3) It may acquire necessary personal property to carry out its powers and its duties.
  - (4) It will prepare, adopt, and implement a watershed management plan and capital improvement program that fulfills the requirements of Minn. Stat. § 103B.231 and all other applicable laws and rules. In preparing said plan, the Board may consult with the engineering and planning staff of each Member and the Metropolitan Council and other public and private bodies to obtain and consider projections of land use, population growth, and other factors which are relevant to the protection and improvement of waters in the Watershed and mitigation of flood risk.
  - (5) It will make necessary surveys or utilize other reliable surveys and data and develop projects to accomplish the purposes for which it is organized.

- (6) It may cooperate or contract with the State of Minnesota, or any subdivision thereof, any federal agency, or ~~and~~[any](#) public or private organization to accomplish the purposes for which it is organized.
- (7) It may order any Member or Members to construct, clean, repair, alter, abandon, consolidate, reclaim or change the course or terminus of any ditch, drain, storm sewer, or water course, natural or artificial, within the Watershed.
- (8) It may order any Member or Members to acquire, operate, construct, or maintain dams, dikes, reservoirs and appurtenant works or other improvements necessary to implement the overall plan.
- (9) It will regulate, conserve, and control the use and management of storm and surface water and groundwater within the Watershed.
- (10) It may contract for or purchase such insurance as the Board deems necessary for the protection of the Commission.
- (11) It may establish and maintain devices acquiring and recording hydrological and water quality data within the Watershed.
- (12) It may enter upon lands to make surveys and investigations to accomplish the purposes of the Commission. The Commission shall be liable for actual damages resulting therefrom but every person who claims damages shall serve the chair or secretary of the Board with a notice of claim as required by Minn. Stat. § 466.05.
- (13) It will provide any Member with technical data or any other information of which the Commission has knowledge which will assist the governmental unit in preparing land use classifications or local water management plans within the Watershed.
- (14) It may provide legal and technical assistance in connection with litigation or other proceedings between one or more of its Members and any other political subdivision, commission, board or agency relating to the planning or construction of facilities to drain or pond storm waters or relating to water quality within the Watershed. The use of Commission funds for litigation will be only upon a favorable vote of a majority of Voting Commissioners.
- (15) It may accumulate reserve funds for the purposes herein mentioned and may invest funds of the Commission not currently needed for its operations, in the manner and subject to the laws of Minnesota applicable to statutory cities.
- (16) It may collect monies, subject to the provisions of this Agreement, from its Members, Hennepin County, and from any other source approved by a majority of its Board.



- (17) It may make contracts, incur expenses and make expenditures necessary and incidental to the effectuation of these purposes and powers and may disburse therefor in the manner hereinafter provided.
  - (18) It will cause to be made an annual audit of the books and accounts of the Commission by a certified public accountant or the State Auditor, and will transmit a copy of the annual audit to BWSR and, on request, a Member. Its books, reports, and records will be available for and open to inspection by the Members at all reasonable times.
  - (19) It will make and file a report to its Members at least once annually containing, at minimum, the following information: (i) the approved budget; (ii) a reporting of revenues; (iii) a reporting of expenditures; (iv) a financial audit report that includes a balance sheet, a classifications of revenues and expenditures, an analysis of changes in the final balances, and any additional statements considered necessary for full financial disclosure; (v) the status of all Commission projects and work within the Watershed; and (vi) the business transacted by the Commission and other matters which affect the interests of the Commission.
  - (20) It may recommend changes in this Agreement to the Members.
  - (21) It may exercise all other powers necessary and incidental to the implementation of the purposes and powers set forth herein and as outlined and authorized by Minn. Stat. §§ 103B.201 through 103B.251.
  - (22) It will cooperate with the State of Minnesota, the Commissioner of Natural Resources and the Director of the Division of Waters, Soils and Minerals of the Department of Natural Resources in complying with the requirements of Minn. Stat., chap. 103G.
  - (23) It will establish a procedure for establishing citizen or technical advisory committees and to provide other means for public participation.
- (b) Powers Reserved. The Board does not have any of the powers identified in this subsection (b). Expressly identifying specific powers reserved is not intended to expand, by negative implication, the powers granted above to the Board.
- (1) Eminent Domain. The Commission does not have the power of eminent domain. Any easements or other interests in land necessary for any Board-ordered project will be acquired as provided below.
  - (2) Real Property. The Commission may not own any interest in real property. All such interests, if necessary for any Board-ordered project, will be held in the name of a Member wherein said lands are located or another public or private entity, as the case may be.

- (3) Bonding. The Commission does not have the power to issue certificates, warrants or bonds.
  - (4) Special Assessments. The Commission does not have the power to levy a special assessment upon any privately or publicly owned land. All such assessments, if deemed necessary as part of a Board-ordered project, will be levied by the Member wherein said lands are located and in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, chapter 429. The Commission does, however, have the power to require any Member to contribute the costs allocated or assessed according to other provisions of this Agreement.
- (c) Members. For the avoidance of doubt, each Member reserves the right to conduct separate or concurrent studies on any matter under study by the Commission.

4.2 Collection or Diversion of Waters. Each Member agrees that it will not directly or indirectly allow the collection or diversion of any additional surface water to the Mississippi River or its tributaries without adherence to all Commission rules and requirements.

#### 4.3 Projects.

- (a) The Board may undertake projects, including those provided in its capital improvement program, in accordance with the Watershed Management Plan. Prior to ordering any project or otherwise holding a public hearing as may be required under section 103B.251, the Commission will secure from its engineers or some other competent person a report advising as to whether the proposed improvement is feasible, whether it will best be made as proposed or in connection with some other improvement, the estimated cost of the improvement, and the proposed allocation of costs, including whether one or more Members will incur any such costs. A resolution setting forth the order for any capital improvement project requires a favorable vote by two-thirds of Voting Commissioners. When ordering any project, the Commission resolution will further include an allocation of costs for the project and a designation of which Member(s) or entity will contract for and fund the project. Such resolution may also designate the engineers to prepare plans and specifications.

Any Member aggrieved by the determination of the Board as to the allocation of the costs of a project has 30 days after the Commission resolution ordering the same to appeal said determination. Said appeal must be in writing and directed to the Board asking for arbitration. The determination of the Member's appeal will be referred to a Board of Arbitration. The Board of Arbitration will consist of three persons; one to be appointed by the Commission's Board, one to be appointed by the appealing Member, and the third to be appointed by the two persons so selected. In the event the two persons so selected do not appoint the third person within 15 days after their appointment, then the Chief Judge of the District Court of Hennepin County will have jurisdiction to appoint, upon application of either or both of the two earlier selected, the third person to the Board of Arbitration. The third person selected must not be a resident of any Member city and if appointed by the Chief Judge said person must be a

registered professional engineer. The arbitrators' expenses and fees, together with the other expenses, not including counsel fees, incurred in the conduct of the arbitration will be divided equally between the Commission and the appealing Member. Arbitration will be conducted in accordance with the Uniform Arbitration Act, Chapter 572B of Minnesota Statutes.

- (b) Projects Implemented by Members and Others. For any project that will be constructed by one or more Members on behalf of the Commission and reimbursed in whole or part by the Commission, to the extent authorized by the Commission, the Member(s) responsible for implementing the project and the Commission will enter into a cooperative agreement providing for all Commission-required terms and conditions related to the project and any such reimbursement. The Commission may also implement a project with a non-Member public or private entity in the same manner, if construction by such entities is deemed appropriate by the Commission.
- (c) Commission Projects. The Board may also undertake and contract for projects in the Commission's name, in accordance with the Watershed Management Plan and all applicable laws and regulations related to public procurement. Approval of Commission contracts for a capital improvement requires a favorable vote by two-thirds of Voting Commissioners.
- (d) County Funding. If the Commission proposes to certify all or any part of the cost of a capital improvement project for payment by Hennepin ~~County's~~County via its levy or bonding authority, as set forth in Minn. Stat. § 103B.251, all proceedings will be carried out in accordance with the provisions set forth in said section 103B.251, as amended.
- (e) Contracts for Improvements. All contracts which are to be let as a result of the Commission's ordering of a project must comply with the requirements of laws applicable to contracts let by the respective party making such contract. The Commission does not have the authority to contract in its own name for any work for which a special assessment will be levied against any private or public property under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 429 or any city charter, and such contracts must be awarded by action of the governing body of a Member and must be in the name of said Member. This subsection does not preclude the Commission from proceeding under Minnesota Statutes, Section 103B.251 or from otherwise proceeding under subsection 4.3(c) for projects that will not be specially assessed under chapter 429.

All improvement contracts will be duly supervised by the party awarding said contract, provided, however, that the Commission is authorized to observe and review the work in progress and the Members agree to cooperate with the Commission staff in accomplishing the purposes of this Commission. Representatives of the Commission also have the right to enter upon the place or places where any improvement work is in progress for the purpose of making reasonable tests and inspections. Commission staff will report, advise and recommend to the Board on the progress of said work.

- (f) Land Acquisition. Because the Commission does not have the power to acquire real property, the Members agree that any and all easements or interests in land which are necessary for any project will be negotiated or condemned in accordance with all applicable laws by the Member wherein said lands are located, and each Member agrees to acquire the necessary easements or interests in such land upon order of the Commission to accomplish the purposes of this Agreement. All reasonable costs of said acquisition will be considered as a cost of the respective improvement. If a Member determines it is in the best interests of that Member to acquire additional lands in conjunction with the acquisition of lands for the Commission-ordered improvement, for some other purpose, the costs of said acquisition will not be included in the improvement costs of the ordered project and the Commission will not reimburse such costs. The Board in determining the allocation of the improvement costs may take into consideration the land use for which said additional lands are being acquired and may credit the acquiring Member for said land acquisition to the extent that it benefits the other Members of this Agreement. Any credits may be applied to the cost allocation of the improvement project under construction or the Board, if feasible and necessary, may defer said credits to a future project.

If any Member refuses to negotiate or condemn lands as ordered by the Board, any other Member may negotiate or condemn outside of its corporate limits in accordance with applicable laws. All Members agree that they will not condemn or negotiate for land acquisition to pond or drain storm and surface waters within the corporate boundaries of another Member except upon order of the Board. The Commission has authority to establish land acquisition policies as a part of the overall Watershed Management Plan. The policies must be designed to equalize costs of land throughout the Watershed.

4.4 Emergency Projects. The Commission may perform emergency projects in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 103B.252.

4.5 Local Water Management Plans.

- (a) Development. Each Member agrees to develop and maintain a local water management plan, capital improvement program, and official controls as necessary to bring local water management into conformance with the Watershed Management Plan. The development and implementation of local water management plans will conform with all requirements of the Act, including Minn. Stat. § 103B.235 and Minn. R., part 8410.0160, as amended. In accordance with the Act, the Board will approve or disapprove each local plan or any parts of each plan. Every effort will be made by the Commission and all Members to coordinate local plans with the Watershed's overall plan, including planning for local plans at the same time the Watershed's overall plan is being developed.
- (b) Review. Each Member will submit its proposed local water management plan to the Metropolitan Council and the Board for review as required by Minn. Stat. § 103B.235.

The Board will consider any comments on local water management plans received from the Metropolitan Council and thereafter act on said plans in accordance with the Act.

4.6 Pollution Control and Water Quality. The Commission has the authority and responsibility to protect and improve water quality in the Watershed as this is one of the main purposes set forth in the Act. All Members agree that they will refuse to allow the drainage of sanitary sewage or industrial wastes onto any land or into any watercourse or storm sewer draining into Bassett Creek. The Board may investigate on its own initiative and will investigate upon petition of any Member all complaints relating to pollution of surface water or groundwater draining into or affecting Bassett Creek or its tributaries. Upon a finding that the creek or surface waters or groundwater are being polluted, the Board may order the Member to abate this nuisance and each Member agrees that it will take all reasonable action available to it under the law to alleviate the pollution and to assist in protecting and improving the water quality of surface water and groundwater in the Watershed.

4.7 Boundary Changes. Any changes to the boundaries of the watershed must be undertaken in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 103B.215, as it may be amended.

## SECTION V FINANCES

5.1 Generally.

- (a) Authority. Commission funds may be expended by the Board in accordance with this Agreement and in accordance with the procedures as established by law and in the manner as may be determined by the Board. In no event will there be a disbursement of Commission funds without the signature of at least two Board members, one of whom must be the Treasurer or the Treasurer's Authorized Deputy Treasurer, except to the extent the Commission delegates general or specific authority to the Commission administrator to disburse Commission funds. The Treasurer is required to file with the Secretary of the Board a bond in the sum of at least \$10,000 or such higher amount as determined by the Board. The Commission will pay the premium on said bond.
- (b) Depository. The Board will designate one or more national or state bank or trust companies, as authorized under Minnesota law, to receive deposits of public moneys and to act as depositories for the Commission funds.

5.2 Member Contributions. Each Member agrees to contribute each year to a fund to be used for general administration purposes including, but not limited to: salaries, rent, supplies, development of the Watershed Management Plan, engineering and legal expenses, insurance, and bonds, and to purchase and maintain any personal property deemed necessary by the Commission in furtherance of its purposes and powers as articulated in this Agreement. Said funds may also be used for normal maintenance of any facilities, but any extraordinary maintenance or repair expense will be treated as an improvement cost and processed in accordance with section 5.3 of this Agreement. ~~The annual contribution by each Member will be based fifty percent (50%) on Fifty percent (50%) of the annual budget for this general administration fund shall be allocated among~~



the Members based upon the net tax capacity of all property within each Member's respective boundaries compared to the net tax capacity of all property within the Watershed, and the remaining fifty percent (50%) shall be allocated among the Members based on the ~~basis of the~~ total area ~~of~~within each ~~Member~~Member's jurisdictional boundary that lies within the ~~boundaries~~boundary of the Watershed ~~each year~~compared to the total area ~~in~~of all property within the Watershed. In no event will any assessment hereunder require a contribution to exceed one-half of one percent of the net tax capacity within the Watershed.

### 5.3 Capital Project Funding.

- (a) Project Funding; Commission Contributions. In addition to any amount to be contributed by any Member or other private or public entity, as the case may be and as specified in the Board's resolution ordering the project, the Commission may, by a two-thirds vote of Voting Commissioners, proceed to fund all or any part of the cost of a capital improvement contained in the Watershed Management Plan pursuant to the authority and subject to the provisions set forth in Minn. Stat. § 103B.251.
- (b) Maintenance Levy. The Commission may establish a maintenance fund to be used for normal and routine maintenance of a work of improvement constructed in whole or part with money provided by Hennepin County. As provided in Minn. Stat. § 103B.251, subd. 9, the Board may impose, with the county's consent, an ad valorem levy on all property located within the territory of the Watershed or a subwatershed unit. The levy will be certified, levied, collected, and distributed as provided in sections 103D.915 and 103D.921, as amended, and will be in addition to any other money levied and distributed by the county to the Commission. Mailed notice of any hearing required under the aforementioned statutes will be sent to the clerk of each Member municipality at least 30 days prior to the hearing. The proceeds of said maintenance levy will be deposited in a separate maintenance and repair account to be used only for the purpose for which the levy was made.

### 5.4 Budget; Member Assessments.

- (a) Adoption. On or before July 1 of each year, the Board will adopt a detailed budget for the ensuing year and decide upon the total amount necessary for the general fund. Budget approval requires a favorable vote by a majority of Voting Commissioners. The budget must not in any event require any Member to contribute annually in excess of one-half of one percent of the net tax capacity of all taxable property within the Watershed and within said Member's corporate boundaries.
- (b) Certification to Members. The secretary of the Board will certify the budget on or before July 1 to the clerk of each Member together with a statement of the proportion of the budget to be provided by each Member.
- (c) Member Review. The governing body of each Member agrees to review the budget, and the Board will upon written notice from any Member received prior to August 1, hear objections to the budget, and may, upon notice to all Members and after a hearing,

modify or amend the budget, and then give notice to the Members of any and all modifications or amendments. Modifications or amendments to the original budget require a favorable vote by a majority of Voting Commissioners.

- (d) Member Assessments. Each Member agrees to provide the funds required by the approved budget and contemplated under section 5.2. If no objections are submitted to the Board, each Member agrees to provide the funds approved by the Board after the Board has conducted the process required in this Agreement. The schedule of payments by the Members will be determined by the Board in such a manner as to provide for an orderly collection of the funds needed.
- (e) Supplemental Budget. Upon notice and hearing, the Board by a favorable vote of a majority of Voting Commissioners may adopt a supplemental budget requiring additional payments by the Members within 60 days of its adoption but in no event will the budget require any Member to contribute in excess of one-half of one percent of the net tax capacity of all taxable property within the Watershed or within the Member's corporate boundaries in any one calendar year.

5.5 Cost Allocation for Capital Projects. All capital costs incurred by the Commission will be apportioned to the respective Members on any of the following bases:

- (a) County Levy. If the project is constructed and financed pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103B.251, the Members understand and agree that said costs will be levied on all taxable property in the Watershed as set forth in said statute.
- (b) Negotiated Amount. ~~A negotiated amount to be arrived at by the~~ Members who have lands in the subdistrict that is responsible for the capital improvement may negotiate an amount to be contributed by each Member thereof.
- (c) Tax Capacity and/or Total Area.
  - (1) Fifty percent of all capital costs or the financing thereof will be apportioned to each Member on the basis of the net tax capacity of each Member within the boundaries of the Watershed each year to the total net tax capacity in the Watershed.
  - (2) Fifty percent of all capital costs or the financing thereof will be apportioned to each Member on the basis of the total area of each Member within the boundaries of the Watershed each year to the total area in the Watershed.
  - (3) Capital costs allocated under the 50% area/50% net tax capacity formula set forth above may be varied by a two-thirds vote of Voting Commissioners if:
    - (i) any Member community receives a direct benefit from the capital improvement which benefit can be defined as a lateral as well as a trunk benefit, or

- (ii) the capital improvement provides a direct benefit to one or more Members which benefit is so disproportionate as to require in a sense of fairness a modification in the 50/50 formula.
- (4) Credits to any Member for lands acquired by said Member to pond or store storm and surface water will be allowed against costs set forth in subsections (c)(1), (c)(2) and (c)(3) of this section.

## SECTION VI MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

6.1 Term. This Agreement is effective as of January 1, 2025 and will remain in effect until January 1, 2037 unless terminated earlier as provided herein. The Members may agree to continue this Agreement as the preferred method for addressing their obligation to address surface water issues under law.

6.2 Liability. For the avoidance of doubt, the Commission is considered a single governmental unit for purposes of total liability for damages pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 471.59, subd. 1a(b).

6.3 Termination. This Agreement may be terminated prior to January 1, 2037, by the unanimous consent of the Members. If the Agreement is to be so terminated, a notice of the intent to dissolve the Commission must be sent to BWSR and Hennepin County at least 90 days prior to the date of dissolution.

6.4 Dissolution. In addition to the manner provided in section 6.3 for terminating this Agreement, any Member may petition the Board to dissolve the Agreement. Following such petition, and upon 90 days' notice in writing to the clerk of each Member and to BWSR and Hennepin County, the Board will hold a public hearing and upon a favorable vote by a majority of Voting Commissioners, the Board may by resolution recommend that the Commission be dissolved. Said resolution will then be submitted to each Member and if ratified by three-fourths of the governing bodies of all Members within 60 days, said Board must dissolve the Commission, allowing a reasonable time to complete work in progress and to dispose of personal property owned by the Commission.

6.5 Distribution of Assets. If this Agreement is terminated and not replaced with a new agreement providing for the continued operation of the Commission, or if the Commission is dissolved, all property of the Commission will be sold and the proceeds thereof, together with monies on hand, will be distributed to the Members of the Commission. Such distribution of Commission assets will be made in proportion to the total contribution to the Commission as required by the last annual budget.

[signature pages to follow]







## Memorandum

**To:** Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission  
**From:** Barr Engineering Co. (Greg Wilson, PE, and Karen Chandler, PE)  
**Subject:** Item 5C – Consider Approval of Feasibility Study Scope for Crane Lake Chloride Reduction Demonstration Project (CL-4)  
BCWMC July 18, 2024 Meeting Agenda  
**Date:** July 11, 2024

### 5C. Consider Approval of Feasibility Study Scope for Crane Lake Chloride Reduction Demonstration Project (CL-4)

#### Recommendations:

1. Consider approving the scope of work and \$117,900 budget presented in this memorandum and direct the Engineer to complete feasibility study to demonstrate chloride reduction requirements and recommendations for Crane Lake.

#### Background

Crane Lake is a BCWMC priority 2 shallow lake in the City of Minnetonka, adjacent to the Ridgedale Mall area. It is impaired for chloride (concentrations doubled between 2016 and 2021) and it drains to Medicine Lake. The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission's (BCWMC) 2019-2020 Crane Lake Water Quality Improvement Project, constructed by the City of Minnetonka in conjunction with the reconstruction of Ridgedale Drive from Plymouth Road to I-394, had the goal of improving water quality and addressing pollutant loads to Crane Lake, including chloride. The project included water quality improvements and now all drainage areas within the Ridgedale Drive and Ridgedale Mall area will be treated with a best management practice (BMP) before draining to Crane Lake. Unfortunately, while the project reduces total phosphorus and solids loadings, it was preliminarily unsuccessful in identifying a feasible solution to address the chloride levels in Crane Lake. The City of Minnetonka explored several chloride management options, including working with the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) to dispose of the chloride contaminated effluent in the sanitary sewer system. Despite the extensive review of chloride management options, no solution was identified, and the project schedule required moving forward without the chloride management component.

In 2020 and 2022, the city sampled and monitored chloride concentrations in the Ridgedale Center south and north ponds (RDG-N and RDG-S, shown in the attached image). The monitoring results provided an understanding about seasonal chloride levels and relative source variability from the Ridgedale Center area, as well as potential chloride treatment/improvement options. Chlorides are a growing concern in Crane Lake, as 2021 monitoring indicates that chloride levels are trending up and may pose a risk to

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aquatic life. Medicine Lake downstream is listed as threatened in the Twin Cities Metro Area Chloride TMDL and Management Plan.

As is required for BCWMC CIP Projects, a feasibility study must be completed prior to BCWMC holding a hearing and ordering the project. The feasibility study would examine methods to reduce chloride and restore the water quality of Crane Lake. This project in the City of Minnetonka is intended to further quantify all the chloride sources in the Crane Lake watershed and identify/prioritize opportunities or practices for reducing chloride levels. Results of these investigations would be used to inform the implementation of a demonstration project to advance chloride reduction measures in Crane Lake and other parts of the watershed. This project would also inform options and methods for salt application and materials used, removal of chlorides prior to reaching Crane Lane, and partnerships with Ridgedale Center and other road authorities.

The proposed study will involve watershed and in-lake chloride monitoring, watershed source load assessment and mass balance modeling, estimating the chloride load reduction needed and analyzing multiple alternatives to meet the project goals, identifying permit requirements, meetings, preparing a report to discuss and document study results, and presenting the draft and final study results at Commission meetings.

## **Content and Scope of Study**

The feasibility study will address and include the following work scope.

### **1) Project Planning and Kickoff Meeting**

- a) Compile background information on potential monitoring sites and perform site reconnaissance.
- b) Hold project kick-off meeting with BCWMC and City of Minnetonka staff and prepare meeting notes.
- c) Send project email updates every two weeks to BCWMC and City of Minnetonka staff.

### **2) Chloride Monitoring**

- a) Purchase/program/install equipment and perform chloride sampling of discharges from Ridgedale north pond (RDG-N), Ridgedale south pond (RDG-S), Crane Lake outlet (CL-OUT) and the two MnDOT pond (DOT-NE and DOT-NW) discharges to Crane Lake. A monitoring probe will be installed at each site to collect continuous conductivity and temperature readings that will be translated to chloride concentration estimates. Outflow volumes will be based on water level observations or water balance modeling estimates (where necessary).
- b) Monthly field visits for an eight-month period to collect/coordinate chloride sample analysis, perform routine equipment maintenance, manage data, and complete periodic data quality checks. Remove and store equipment at project conclusion for use on future projects.

### **3) Watershed Source Load Assessment and Modeling**

- a) Prepare and calibrate Crane Lake watershed source load assessment, and in-lake water and chloride mass balance modeling to historical lake and watershed monitoring data (including applicable City of Plymouth chloride monitoring data for Ridgedale Creek). Inform watershed source load assessment with input from Ridgedale, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) and City of Minnetonka on existing deicing methods and salt application rates.
- b) Use the Crane Lake water and chloride mass balance modeling to estimate the chloride load reduction needed to meet the lake chloride goals, including source reduction measures, stormwater pond flushing volumes and/or long-term frequency of pond pumping/drawdown events required to ensure lake water chloride standards are met.

### **4) Develop and Evaluate Management Concepts**

- a) Develop management concepts for the project, considering input from stakeholders. This includes developing separate management concepts for each source area or tributary to Crane Lake. To develop the management concepts, the tributary area will be evaluated to determine all sources/source areas that could potentially be controlled and/or management practices that could be used for chloride reductions (including pond drawdowns, infiltration practices, water reuse, etc.). Each concept will be optimized based on life-cycle cost-benefit and future assurances for project implementation and compliance.
  - i) Analyze the alternatives for addressing identified source areas within each tributary area.
  - ii) Develop potential management concepts for each of the major sources of chloride deicers.
  - iii) Refine concepts based on input from City staff, BCWMC Administrator and other stakeholders (see stakeholder input in task 5b).
- b) Identify permitting requirements for the management concepts, based on available field and desktop data, and the results of the agency communications.
- c) Develop cost estimates for each concept, including a "30-year cost," analysis of life expectancy, and annualized cost per pound of pollutant removal for both source control and/or water quality treatment portions of the project.

### **5) Project Meetings and Feasibility Report**

- a) Prepare for and hold virtual a meeting with BCWMC Administrator and City of Minnetonka staff to discuss preliminary results and potential management concepts to evaluate.
- b) Coordinate with the BCWMC Administrator and City staff to determine the best means to gather stakeholder input including meetings, open houses, mailings, etc. Primary group for outreach and engagement will be Ridgedale Center, Hennepin County (site of Ridgedale library), MNDOT, and

property owners. The budget for this task includes time to prepare for and attend one (1) in-person stakeholder meeting early in the process, after the development of management concepts. This task also includes assisting with the stakeholder involvement process as necessary – preparing handouts, boards, and/or presentations, and recording and compiling comments. We assume that meeting coordination, expenses, and set-up will be largely completed by the BCWMC Administrator, with assistance from the City.

- c) Prepare draft feasibility report, including recommended management actions, and submit the draft report to BCWMC Administrator and Minnetonka staff for review.
- d) Hold virtual a meeting with BCWMC Administrator and Minnetonka staff to discuss the draft report; revise/prepare final draft report based upon review comments.
- e) Present draft feasibility study findings at Commission meeting.
- f) Prepare final report (revise draft report based on comments provided by the Commission) for approval at Commission meeting.
- g) Prepare presentation for Commission meeting; attend Commission meeting to present final report of study findings for Commission approval.

## Cost Estimate

The table below summarizes our cost estimate for the scope of work outlined above. These costs include the cost of additional equipment purchase/installation, sampling by the Commission Engineer and analytical testing by a contract laboratory. Chloride samples and continuous conductivity measurements will be collected for approximately 8 months following Commission approval. The Commission Engineer will contract with a laboratory for the chloride sample analysis.

Tasks	Estimated Total
1) Project Planning and Kickoff Meeting	\$5,700
2) Chloride Monitoring	\$47,700*
3) Watershed Load Assessment and Modeling	\$15,500
4) Develop and Evaluate Management Concepts	\$20,200
5) Project Meetings and Feasibility Report	\$28,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$117,900</b>

\* Includes \$18,000 equipment purchase, Barr’s sampling costs and the contract laboratory’s analysis costs for five sites

## Schedule

We will complete the tasks and milestones outlined in the scope of work on the following schedule.

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<b>Tasks and milestones</b>	<b>Estimated Schedule</b>
Kick-off meeting with BCWMC and City of Minnetonka staff	August 2024
Water quality monitoring	November 2024-June 2025
Watershed source load assessment, lake modeling and analysis	July-September 2025
Meeting with BCWMC and City of Minnetonka staff to discuss preliminary results and potential management concepts to evaluate	October 2025
Develop and evaluate management concepts	November 2025
Stakeholder meeting	December 2025
Submit draft feasibility report for BCWMC Administrator and City of Minnetonka staff review	January 2026
Meeting with BCWMC Administrator and Minnetonka staff to discuss the draft feasibility report	February 2026
Submit draft feasibility report for BCWMC review at Commission meeting	February 2026
Present draft feasibility report for BCWMC approval at Commission meeting	February 2026
Submit final feasibility report for BCWMC review at Commission meeting	March 2026
Present final feasibility report for BCWMC approval at Commission meeting	March 2026



# SWEENEY LAKE 2023 WATER QUALITY MONITORING



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission





# Monitoring water quality in Sweeney Lake

## About Sweeney Lake

BCWMC classification	Priority-1 deep lake
Watershed area	2,397 acres
Lake size	67 acres
Average depth	12 feet
Maximum depth	25 feet
MNDNR ordinary high water level	827.7 feet
Normal water level	827.5 feet
Downstream receiving waterbody	Bassett Creek
Location (city)	Golden Valley
MPCA impairments	Chloride
Aquatic invasive species	Curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil
Public access	Yes (non-motorized boat launch)

The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) has monitored water quality conditions in the watershed's 10 priority lakes since 1972. The purpose of this monitoring is to detect changes or trends in water quality and evaluate the effectiveness of efforts to preserve or improve water quality.

## At a glance: 2023 monitoring results

In 2023, the BCWMC monitored Sweeney Lake for the following:

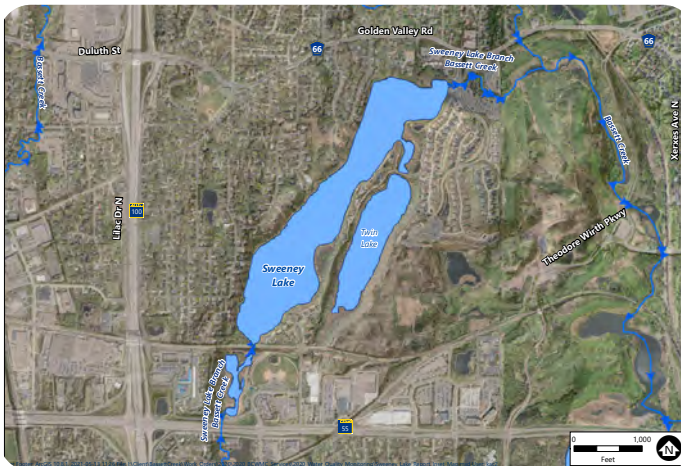
- Water chemistry (nutrients, chlorophyll *a*, chloride)
- Water clarity and dissolved oxygen
- Phytoplankton and zooplankton (microscopic plants and animals)
- Macrophytes (aquatic plants)

The 2023 monitoring results indicate that water quality improvement projects partially funded by a federal grant from the MPCA and completed by the BCWMC and cooperators (City of Golden Valley and the Sweeney Lake Association) improved the lake's water quality and overall ecological health. These projects included the following:

- A Schaper Pond project in 2015 to improve the pond's removal of phosphorus
- Turning off the lake aeration system in 2017
- Removal of carp from Sweeney Lake and Schaper Pond in 2020 to reduce internal phosphorus loading
- Alum treatments of Sweeney Lake during the fall of 2020 and fall of 2022 to reduce internal phosphorus loading
- Implementation of more than 50 watershed best management practices since 1980 by the City of Golden Valley.

Improvements to the lake's water quality and ecological health include the following:

- Decreasing phytoplankton numbers and total phosphorus and chlorophyll *a* concentrations and increasing water clarity
- Increased numbers of plant species and improved quality of the plant community



2023 monitoring results show that Sweeney Lake met the applicable Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and BCWMC water quality standards for total phosphorus, chlorophyll *a*, and Secchi disc depth (a measure of clarity). Sweeney Lake was placed on the MPCA's impaired waters list for nutrients in 2004 but was removed from the list (delisted) in 2024 due to improved water quality.

Trend analyses show improving water quality with statistically significant (95 percent confidence level) decreases in total phosphorus and chlorophyll *a* concentrations and a statistically significant (95 percent confidence level) increase in water clarity (Secchi disc depth) over the last 10 years. The improved water quality is a result of BCWMC water quality improvement projects.

The lake met the MPCA maximum standard for chloride in 2023 but failed to meet the MPCA chronic standard for chloride. Chloride measurements from both the surface and bottom of the North and South Basins have been above the chronic criterion with increasing frequency since 2017, and all measurements were above the chronic criterion during 2023. Average chloride concentrations in the lake have approximately doubled since 2017 in both the North and South Basin. The increasing chloride concentrations since 2017 and increased frequency of measurements exceeding the chronic criterion are a significant concern for the lake.

Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM), an aquatic invasive species (AIS), was first observed at a single location in southwestern Sweeney Lake on August 25, 2023. The EWM was treated with the herbicide ProcettaCOR on August 30. A fall plant survey did not find EWM within the treated area; however, it was found along the north shore of the lake near the boat landing. This EWM was treated with ProcettaCOR in the spring of 2024.

Other AIS species observed in 2023 were curly-leaf pondweed, yellow iris, purple loosestrife, reed canary grass, and narrow-leaved cattail.

The results of an AIS suitability analysis indicate that the water quality of Sweeney Lake meets the suitability requirements for rusty crayfish, faucet snails, zebra mussels, spiny water fleas, and starry stonewort and partially meets the suitability requirements for the Chinese mystery snail.



### Recommendations

- Complete plant surveys to determine whether EWM was eradicated. If not eradicated, assist the City of Golden Valley and/or the Sweeney Lake Association with development of a long-term management plan by providing data, technical assistance, and/or review of the plan.
- Identify management measures to reduce chloride runoff from the lake's watershed.
- Communicate with landowners to request the removal of yellow iris.
- Continue water quality and biological monitoring at a 3-year frequency.

### Definitions

- **Hypereutrophic:** Nutrient-rich lake conditions characterized by frequent and severe algal blooms and low water clarity; excessive algae can significantly reduce lake oxygen levels
- **Eutrophic:** Lake condition characterized by abundant accumulation of nutrients supporting dense growth of algae and other organisms; decay of algae can reduce lake oxygen levels
- **Mesotrophic:** Lake condition characterized by medium levels of nutrients and clear water
- **Oligotrophic:** Lake condition characterized by a low accumulation of dissolved nutrients, high oxygen content, sparse algae growth, and very clear water

# Water chemistry monitoring: 2023

## Total phosphorus levels

While phosphorus is necessary for plant and algae growth, too much phosphorus leads to excessive algae, decreased water clarity, and water impairment. Some common sources of phosphorus are fertilizers, leaves and grass clippings, atmospheric deposition, soil erosion, and plant die-off (such as curly-leaf pondweed). Phosphorus can also be released from lake sediments when oxygen is absent or concentrations are very low.

- **BCWMC/MPCA standard:** 40 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) or less.
- **Range:** Low of 11  $\mu\text{g/L}$  during August in both North and South Basins; high of 15  $\mu\text{g/L}$  in North Basin and 20  $\mu\text{g/L}$  in South Basin during April.
- **Summer average of North and South Basins:** 12  $\mu\text{g/L}$  (met BCWMC/MPCA standard)

## Chlorophyll a levels

Chlorophyll a is a pigment in algae and generally reflects the amount of algae growth in a lake. Lakes which appear clear generally have chlorophyll a levels less than 15 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ).

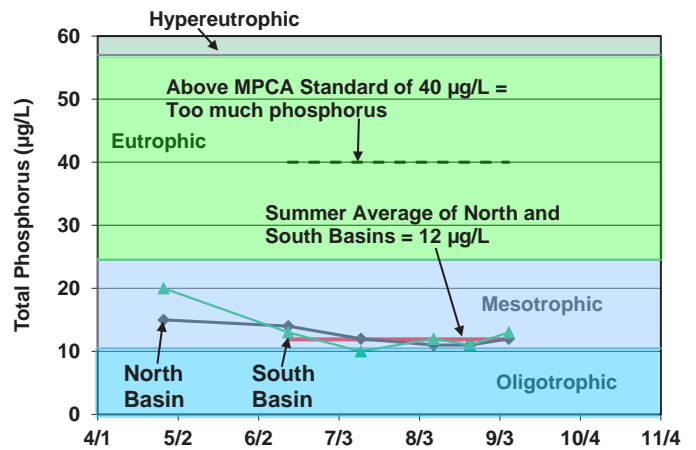
- **BCWMC/MPCA standard:** 14 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) or less
- **Range:** North Basin low of 1.1  $\mu\text{g/L}$  in late June and high of 11.9  $\mu\text{g/L}$  in late August; South Basin low of 2.1  $\mu\text{g/L}$  in July and high of 7.1  $\mu\text{g/L}$  in April
- **Summer average of North and South Basins:** 4.5  $\mu\text{g/L}$  (met BCWMC/MPCA standard)

## Water clarity

Water clarity is often affected by sediment and the amount of algae in a lake. It is usually measured by lowering an 8-inch "Secchi" disc into the lake; the depth at which the disc's alternating black-and-white pattern is no longer visible is considered a measure of the water's transparency (or clarity). The higher the Secchi depth, the better the clarity.

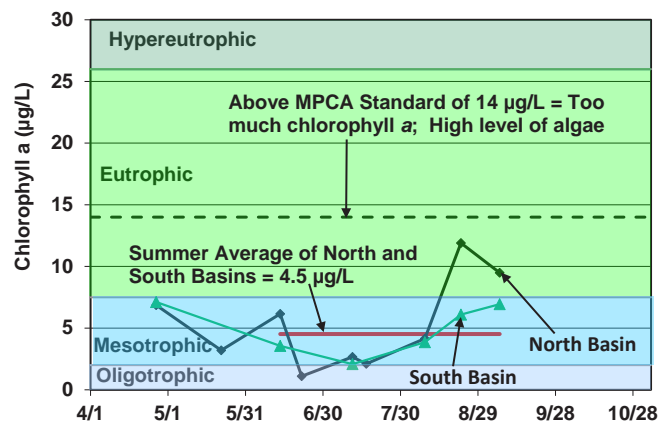
- **BCWMC/MPCA standard:** 1.4 meters or more
- **Range:** Low during April of 1.7 meters in the North Basin and 1.8 meters in the South Basin; high of 4.7 meters at both North and South Basins during late August
- **Summer average of North and South Basins:** 3.3 meters (met BCWMC/MPCA standard)

## Total Phosphorus

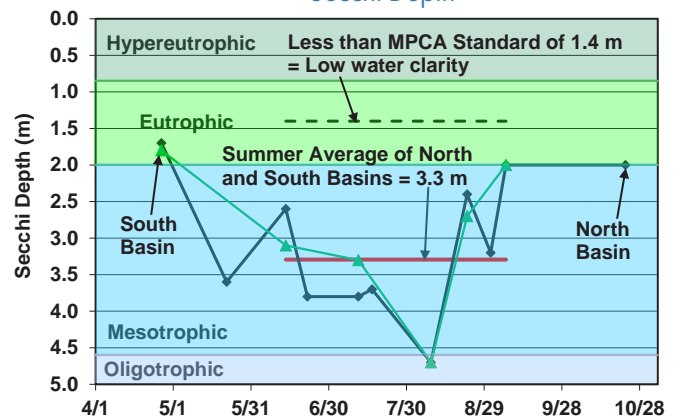


Note: The graphs below include Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP) data collected from the north basin of Sweeney Lake and BCWMC data collected from the north and south basins of the lake.

## Chlorophyll a



## Secchi Depth



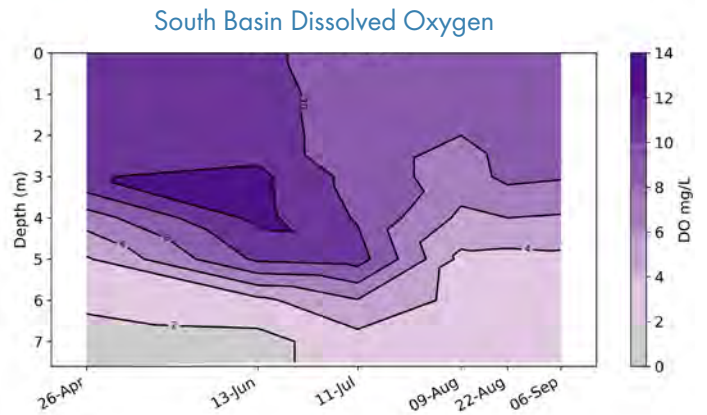
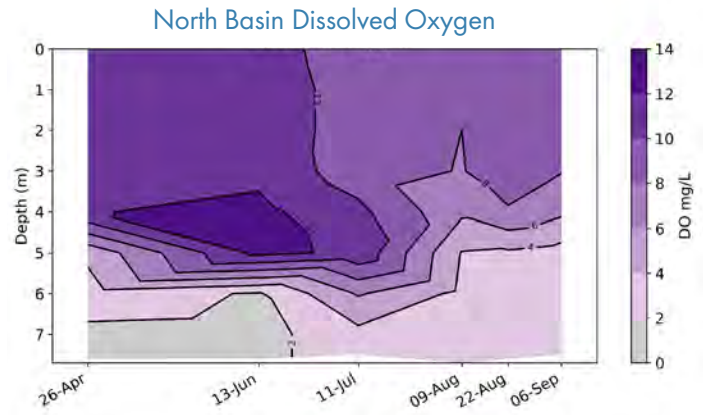


## Phosphorus loading from sediment

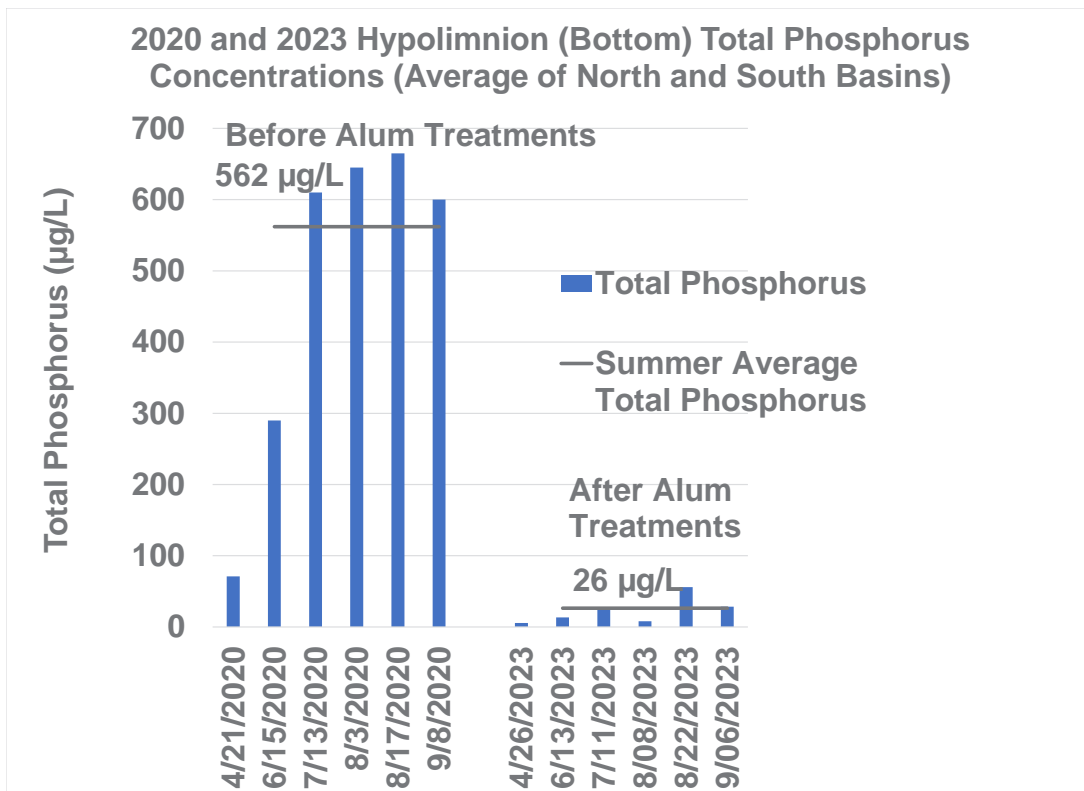
The release of phosphorus stored in lake-bottom sediments when oxygen levels are low is described as internal loading from sediment. The Sweeney Lake total maximum daily load (TMDL) study found internal phosphorus loading from sediment to be a significant source of lake phosphorus—about one-third of the lake’s total annual phosphorus load.

In the fall of 2020 and fall of 2022, BCWMC completed an alum treatment to reduce internal phosphorus loading from sediment. BCWMC also removed 452 carp in 2020. The bottom-feeding fish disturb the phosphorus-rich lake sediment, releasing phosphorus into the water column.

The 2023 data show the success of the projects. Despite low near-bottom total oxygen levels (<2 mg/L) during April through June, near-bottom total phosphorus levels were low. The 2023 summer average bottom total phosphorus concentration was 26 µg/L, much lower than the summer average bottom concentration of 562 µg/L measured in 2020 prior to the alum treatment.



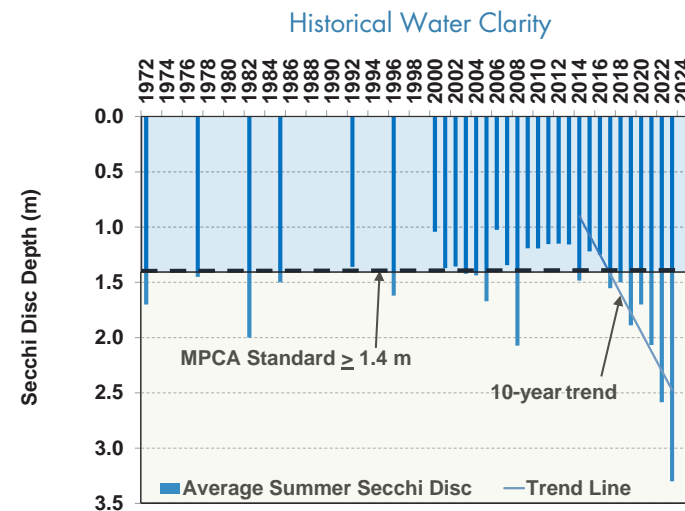
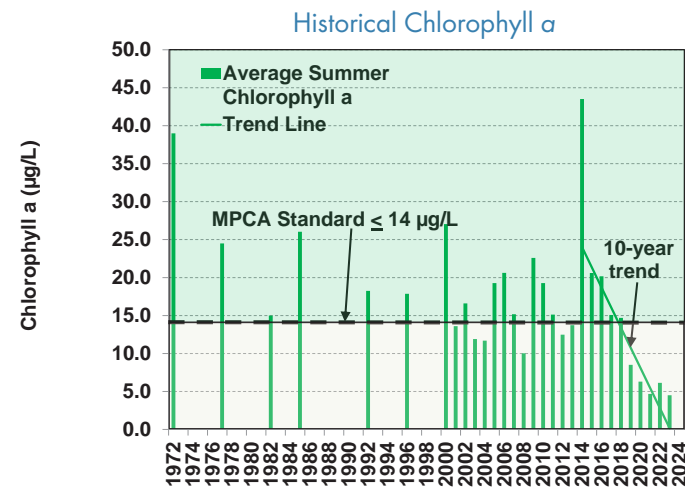
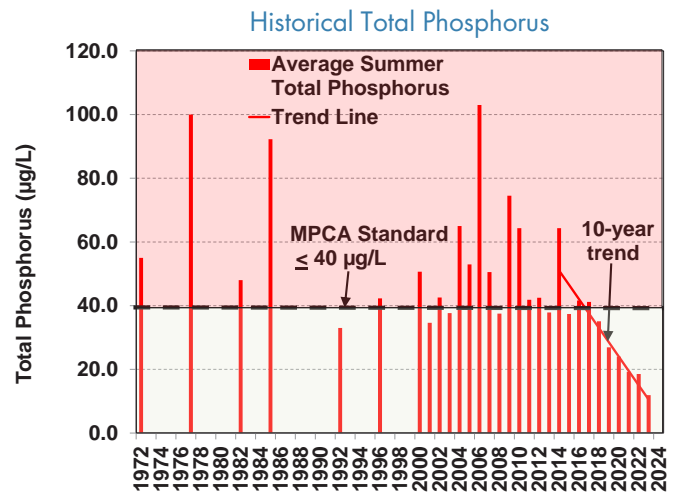
2020 and 2023 Hypolimnion (Near-Bottom) Total Phosphorus Concentrations (Average of North and South Basins)



# Water chemistry monitoring from 1972–2023: historical trends

Water quality in Sweeney Lake has been monitored since 1972. Summer averages (June through September) of total phosphorus, chlorophyll a, and Secchi disc depth from 1972–2023 are shown in the figures at right. During the period of record, 60 percent of total phosphorus, 63 percent of chlorophyll a, and 33 percent of Secchi disc summer averages failed to meet Minnesota State Water Quality Standards for lakes in the North Central Hardwood Forest Ecoregion, as published in Minnesota Rules 7050 (Minn. R. Ch. 7050.0222 Subp 4). All values measured from 2019 through 2023 have met the standards.

Trend analyses show improved water quality with statistically significant (95 percent confidence level) decreases in total phosphorus and chlorophyll a concentrations and a statistically significant (95 percent confidence level) increase in water clarity (Secchi disc depth) over the last 10 years. The lake’s improved water quality is a result of the Sweeney Lake Association’s efforts to end the lake’s aeration program and water quality improvement efforts by the BCWMC and the City of Golden Valley.

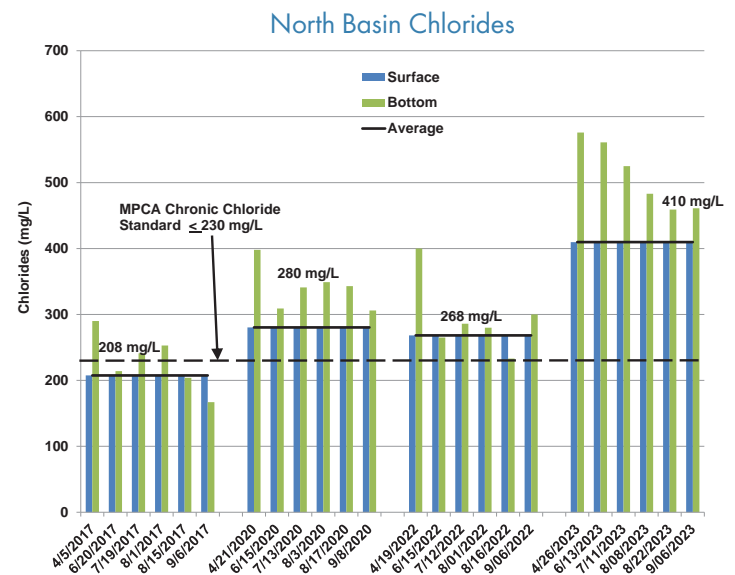
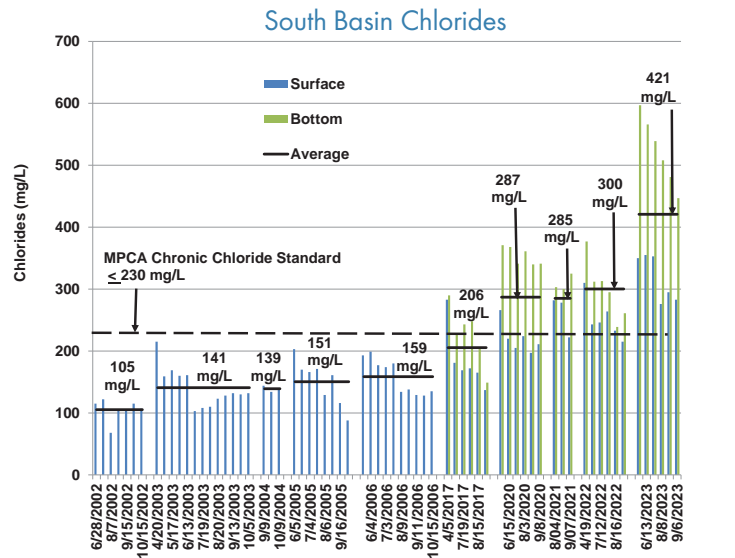


# Chloride levels

Chloride concentrations in lakes and streams have increased since the early 1990s when winter maintenance practices largely switched from using sand and/or sand/salt mixtures to salt for roads and parking lots. When snow and ice melts, the salt goes with it, washing into lakes, streams, wetlands, and groundwater. It only takes one teaspoon of salt to pollute 5 gallons of water such that it can no longer support freshwater life. That pollution is essentially permanent, as there is no easy or affordable way to remove chloride from water.

Because high concentrations of chloride can harm fish and plant life, the MPCA established maximum and chronic chloride standards. The maximum standard is the highest concentration of chloride that aquatic organisms can be exposed to for a brief time with zero to slight mortality. The chronic standard is the highest chloride concentration that aquatic life can be exposed to indefinitely without causing chronic toxicity. Chronic toxicity means a condition that lingers or continues for a long period. A chronic effect can be mortality, reduced growth, reproduction impairment, harmful changes in behavior, and other nonlethal effects. A lake is considered impaired if two or more measurements exceed the chronic criterion (230 mg/L) within a 3-year period or one measurement exceeds the maximum criterion (860 mg/L). Sweeney Lake was placed on the state's 303(d) list of impaired waters in 2014 for chloride.

The figures at right show chloride measurements from the North and South Basins during the period of record. All chloride measurements were below the maximum criterion. Chloride measurements from both the surface and bottom of the North and South Basins have been above the chronic criterion with increasing frequency since 2017, and all measurements were above the chronic criterion during 2023. Average chloride concentrations in the lake have approximately doubled since 2017 in the North Basin (from 208 mg/L in 2017 to 410 mg/L in 2023) and in the South Basin (from 206 mg/L in 2017 to 421 mg/L in 2023). The increasing chloride concentrations since 2017 and increased frequency of measurements exceeding the chronic criterion are a significant concern for the lake.





# Macrophytes

## Lake Plant Eutrophication Index of Biological Integrity (IBI)

Eutrophication (excessive nutrients) may have detrimental effects on a lake, including reductions in the quantity and diversity of aquatic plants. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) developed a Lake Plant Eutrophication Index of Biological Integrity (IBI) to measure the response of a lake plant community to eutrophication. The Lake Plant Eutrophication IBI includes two metrics: (1) the number of species in a lake and (2) the “quality” of the species, as measured by the floristic quality index (FQI). The MNDNR has determined a threshold for each metric. Lakes that score below the thresholds contain degraded plant communities and are likely stressed from anthropogenic (human-caused) eutrophication.

Plant survey data from 1992 to 2023 were assessed to determine plant IBI trends. The figures below show the number of species and the Sweeney Lake FQI scores for that period compared to the MNDNR Plant IBI thresholds.

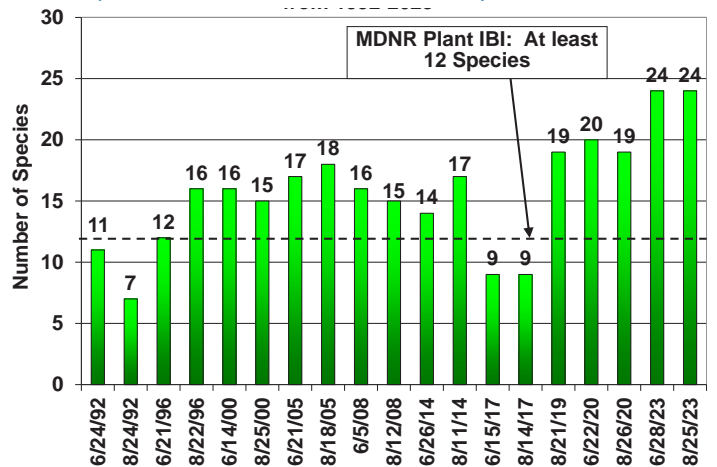
- Number of species:** A deep water lake, such as Sweeney Lake, meets the MNDNR Plant IBI threshold when it has 12 or more species. During the period examined, the number of species in Sweeney Lake ranged from seven to 24, meeting or exceeding the MNDNR Plant IBI threshold during all but June and August of 1992 and 2017. Twenty-four species, the highest number to date, were observed in the lake in 2023.
- FQI values (quality of species):** The MNDNR Plant IBI threshold for deep water lakes, as measured by FQI, is a minimum value of 18.6. During the period examined, FQI values in Sweeney Lake ranged from 15.3 to 27.8, bettering the MNDNR Plant IBI threshold during all but August of 1992 and June and August of 2017. FQI scores during June and August of 2023 were 27.8, the highest score to date.

High quality plants observed in Sweeney Lake in 2023 include southern naiad (*Najas guadalupensis*), Fries' pondweed (*Potamogeton friesii*), muskgrass (*Chara sp.*), small pondweed (*Potamogeton pusillus*), long-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton nodosus*), common bladderwort (*Utricularia vulgaris*), northern watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum sibiricum*), and watermeal (*Wolffia sp.*)

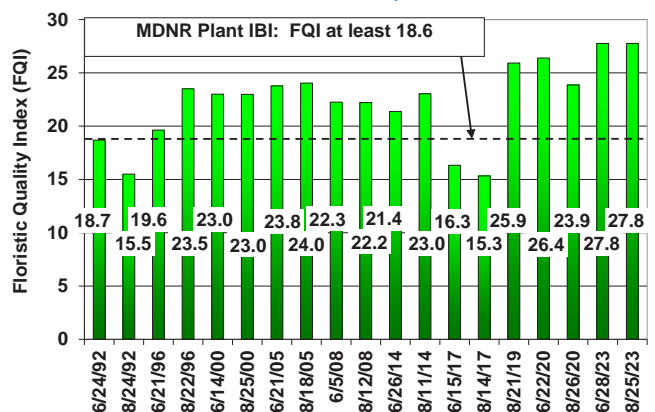


A bed of southern naiad, one of the high-quality plants observed in Sweeney Lake in 2023.

Species Richness of Plant Community from 1992-2023



FQI of Plant Community from 1992-2023



## Aquatic invasive species

In 2023, six invasive species were found in Sweeney Lake.

- **Eurasian watermilfoil:** Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) was first observed at a single location in the southwestern area of Sweeney Lake on August 25, 2023. A 0.8-acre area, shown in the figure on page 10, was treated with the maximum allowable dose of the herbicide ProcellaCOR on August 30. The treatment was successful, and a post-treatment plant survey on October 14 did not find EWM within the treated area. However, the October plant survey did find an area of EWM along the north shore of the lake near the boat landing. This 2.6-acre area of EWM, shown in the figure on page 10, was treated with the maximum allowable dose of the herbicide ProcellaCOR on May 15, 2024.

The BCWMC received a Hennepin County Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention grant to help fund the 2024 treatment, pre- and post-treatment plant surveys of Sweeney Lake, and spring 2024 plant surveys of Twin Lake and four ponds within the Sweeney Lake watershed. EWM was not observed in Twin Lake, Lilac Pond, Chicago Pond, Spring Pond, Toledo/Angelo Pond, or Schaper Pond during the spring plant surveys.

- **Yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*):** Yellow iris was first observed at two locations along the southeast shore of Sweeney Lake in August 2019. It was at a single location along the southwest shore in June and August 2020. In 2023, it was observed at four locations in June (two along the southeast shore, one along the southwest shore, and one in the northwest corner) and one location in August (the southeast corner of the lake). The presence of yellow iris is concerning because it spreads rapidly and competes with native shoreland vegetation. Its root system forms a dense mat that compacts the soil and inhibits seed germination of other plants. The BCWMC or the City of Golden Valley will ask landowners to remove the yellow iris. The landowners could either dig it up or spray it with glyphosate. An MNDNR permit would be required for either method of removal.
- **Curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*):** Curly-leaf pondweed was first observed during the 1992 plant surveys and has consistently been in the lake throughout the monitoring period. In June of 2017, the curly-leaf pondweed extent was estimated at 5.6 acres. In May 2020, an herbicide (diquat) was used within 5.64 acres of Sweeney Lake to control curly-

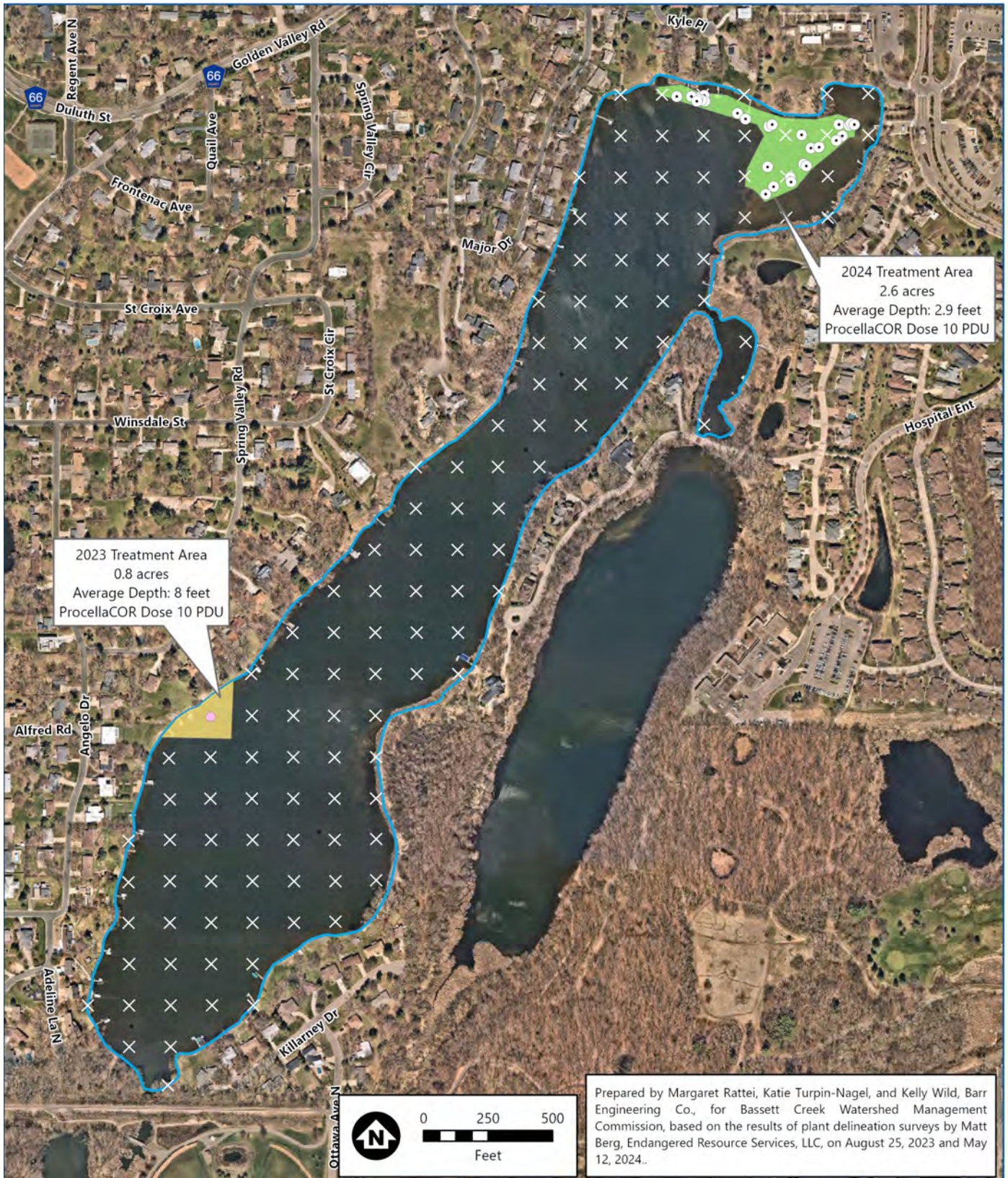
leaf pondweed. The treatment reduced the curly-leaf pondweed from 5.6 acres in June 2017 to 1.0 acres in June 2020. In 2023, curly-leaf pondweed extent was estimated at 1.2 acres.

- **Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*):** Reed canary grass has been observed at different locations in the lake since June 2014, ranging from one to three locations (a single location in June and August 2014, August 2019, and August 2020; two locations in June 2020 and August 2023; and three locations in June 2023).
- **Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*):** Purple loosestrife was first observed during the August 1992 plant survey and has been sporadically observed (1992, 2005, 2008, 2014, 2019, and 2020) in different locations during the monitoring period. It was observed at two locations along the western and northern shorelines in June and August 2023 and at a third location along the southeast shoreline in August.
- **Narrow-leaved cattail (*Typha angustifolia*):** Narrow-leaved cattail has been consistently observed along the northern, northeast, and southeast shorelines since 2014.



Yellow iris





**BARR**

EWM Rake Fullness Rating (August 2023)

- × Not Observed
- Density = 1
- Density = 2
- Density = 3

● 2023 Treatment Area

● EWM Plant Location (May 2024)

● 2024 Treatment Area

**2023 & 2024 SWEENEY LAKE EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL TREATMENT AREAS**  
 Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission  
 Golden Valley, MN

**FIGURE 1**

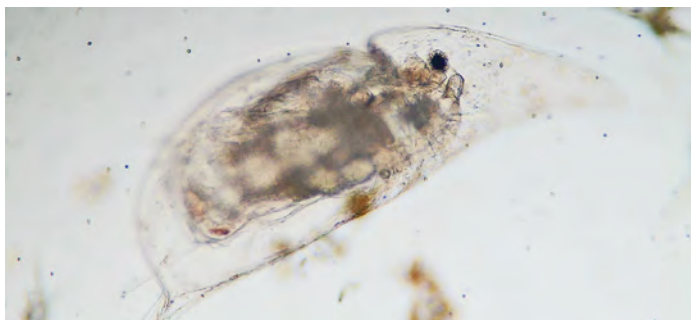
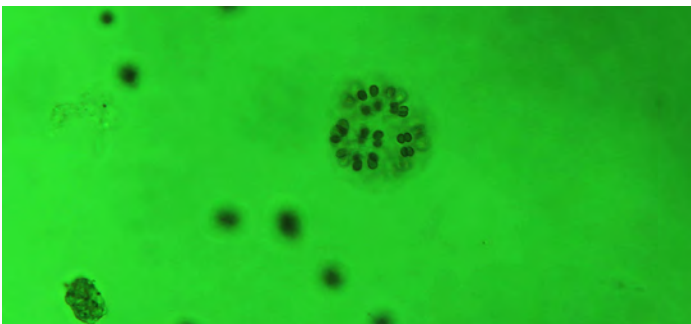
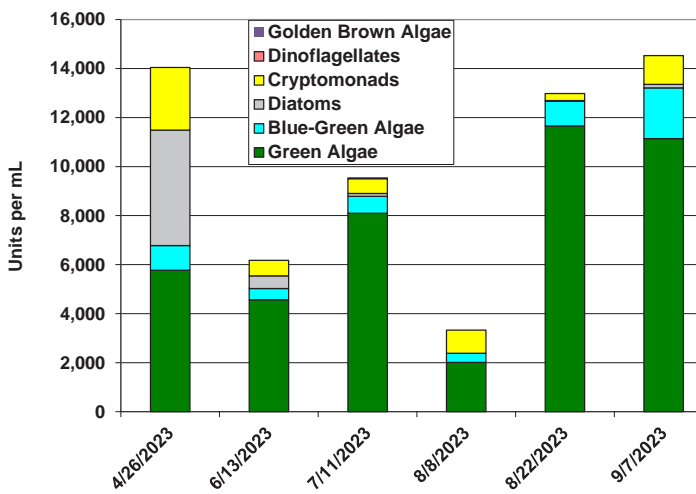


# Phytoplankton

Samples of phytoplankton (microscopic aquatic plants) were collected from Sweeney Lake to evaluate water quality and the quality of food available to zooplankton (microscopic animals). As shown below, the community was co-dominated by green algae and diatoms in April and green algae from June through September. Blue-green numbers were low throughout 2023. Green algae and diatoms are a better quality food source than blue-green algae and contribute towards a healthier zooplankton community.

As shown in the figure on page 11, 2023 phytoplankton numbers were within the range observed since 1982 but, on average, were lower than in 2009 through 2020. The lower phytoplankton numbers are a result of improved water quality from Sweeney Lake improvement projects.

2023 Phytoplankton



Woronichinia, a blue-green algae (top) and Daphnia retrocurva (bottom), zooplankton

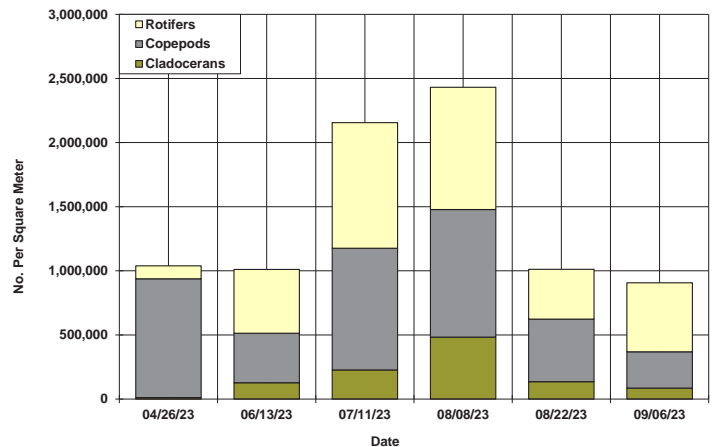
# Zooplankton

Unlike phytoplankton, zooplankton do not produce their own food. As “filter feeders,” they eat millions of small algae; given the right quantities and species, they can filter the volume of an entire lake in a matter of days. They are also valuable food for planktivorous fish and other organisms. Fish generally select the largest zooplankters they see and prefer cladocerans to copepods because they swim slowly and lack the copepods’ ability to escape predation by jerking or jumping out of the way. Rotifers are the least preferred food for fish due to their small size.

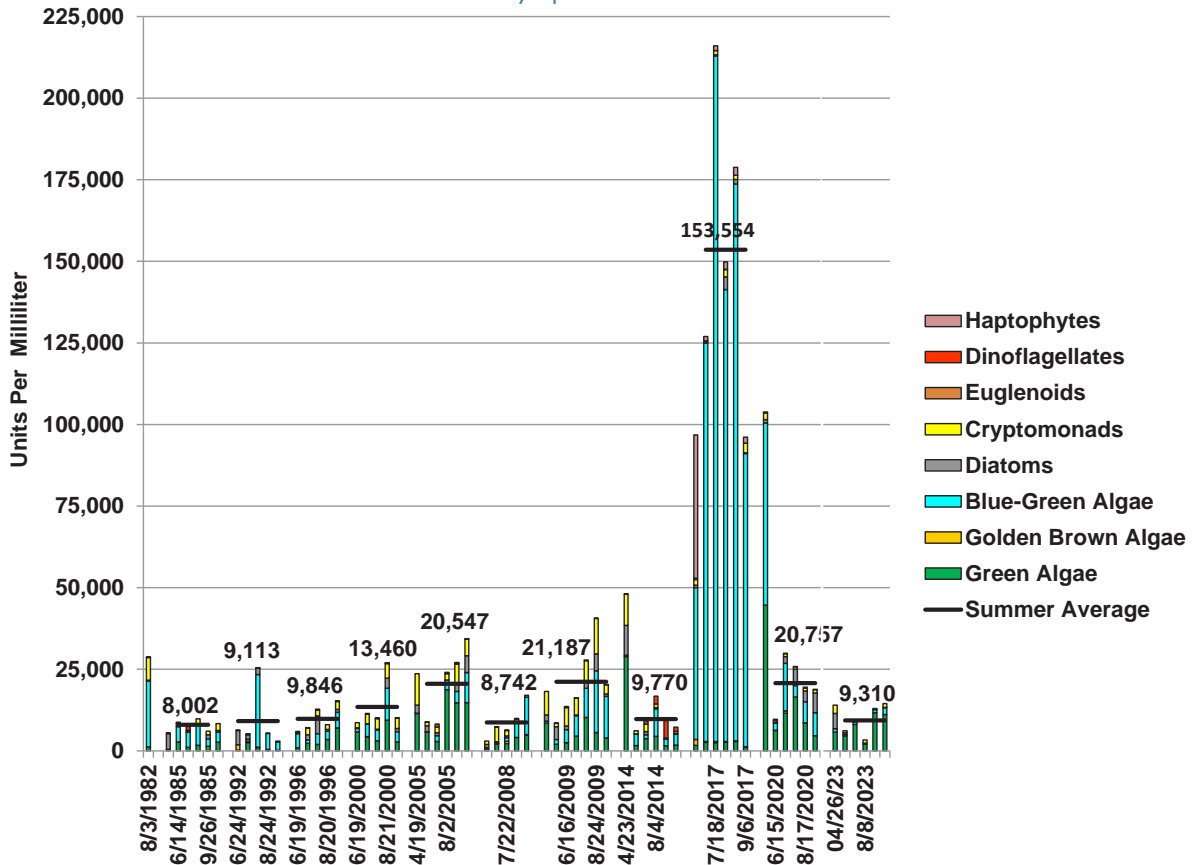
The 2023 community composition reflects the impact of fish predation. Copepods dominated the zooplankton community in April, and the community was generally co-dominated by copepods and rotifers from June through September (see figure below). Cladocerans were present throughout 2023, increasing in number from April through early August and decreasing during August and September.

The 2023 numbers of zooplankton in Sweeney Lake were within the range observed since 1982 (see figure on page 11) but, on average, were lower in 2023 than in 2017 and 2020. The lower numbers are likely a result of fewer phytoplankton, the food source for the zooplankton, and increased fish predation in 2023. The lower phytoplankton numbers are a result of improved water quality from Sweeney Lake improvement projects. Fewer phytoplankton improved water clarity, which helped fish see and capture their prey.

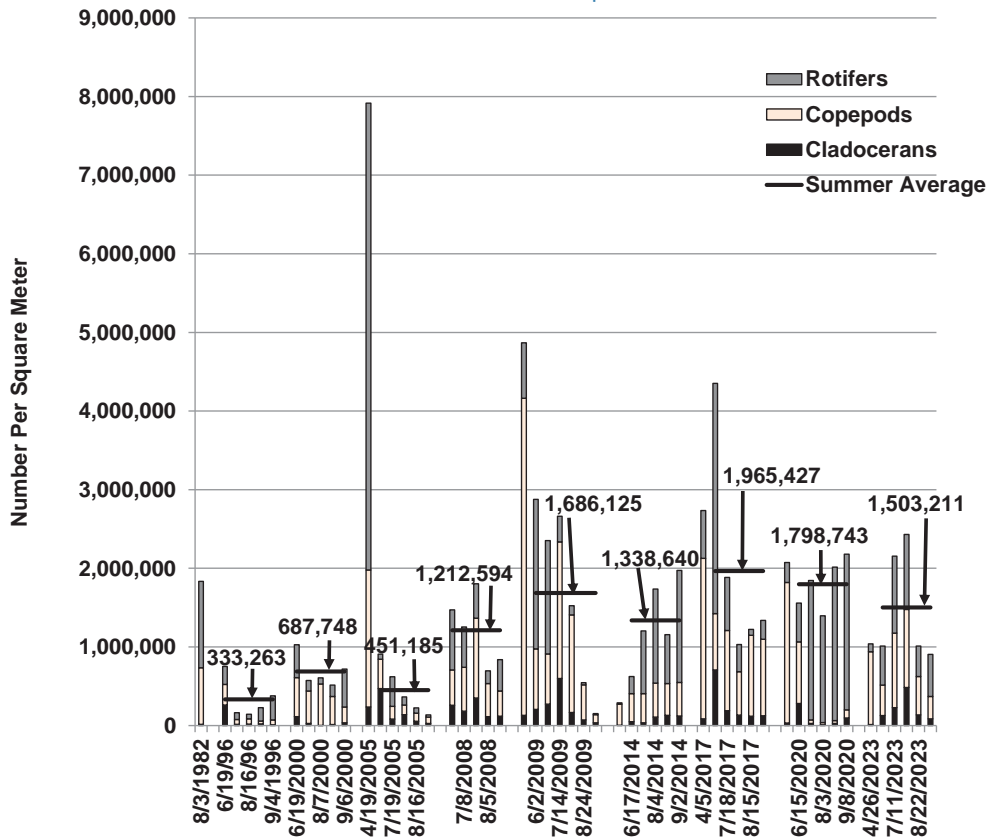
2023 Zooplankton



### Historical Phytoplankton



### Historical Zooplankton



## Suitability of Sweeney Lake for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

A large number of AIS residing in Minnesota have not yet been seen in Sweeney Lake but could be introduced. For example, both zebra mussels and starry stonewort are in nearby Medicine Lake but have not been seen in Sweeney Lake. To determine whether Sweeney Lake water quality would support the introduction of six AIS (starry stonewort, zebra mussels, spiny waterfleas, faucet snails, Chinese mystery snails, and rusty crayfish), a suitability analysis for each species was performed.

The analysis compared water quality data collected during 2023 with the water quality conditions required for each species, specifically evaluating total phosphorus, chlorophyll *a*, Secchi disc depth, trophic state index, water temperature, dissolved oxygen, specific conductance, calcium, magnesium, sodium, alkalinity, hardness, and calcium carbonate. The results indicate that the water quality of Sweeney Lake meets the suitability requirements for rusty crayfish, faucet snails, zebra mussels, spiny waterfleas, and starry stonewort. However, the water quality of Sweeney Lake only partially meets the suitability requirements for the Chinese mystery snail. This species would likely survive but may not thrive in Sweeney Lake.



Starry Stonewort



Zebra Mussels



Spiny Waterflea



Faucet Snail



Chinese Mystery Snail



Rusty Crayfish





Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission  
[bassettcreekwmo.org](http://bassettcreekwmo.org)



Stewardship of water resources to protect and enhance our communities



# TWIN LAKE 2023 WATER QUALITY MONITORING



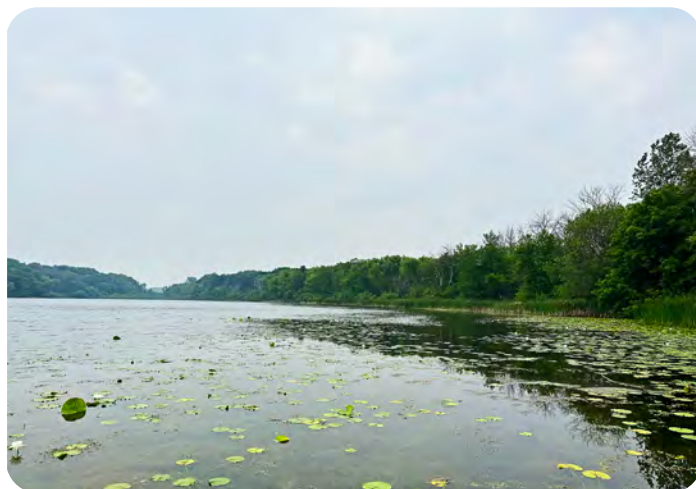
Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission



# Monitoring water quality in Twin Lake

## About Twin Lake

BCWMC classification	Priority-1 deep lake
Watershed area	131 acres
Lake size	21 acres
Average depth	25.7 feet
Maximum depth	56 feet
MNDNR ordinary high water level	827.9 feet
Normal water level	827.2 feet
Downstream receiving waterbody	Sweeney Lake
Location (city)	Golden Valley
MPCA impairments	None
Aquatic invasive species	Curly-leaf pondweed
Public access	Yes, via park land



The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) has monitored water quality conditions in the watershed's 10 priority lakes since 1972. The purpose of this monitoring is to detect changes or trends in water quality and evaluate the effectiveness of efforts to preserve or improve water quality. A summary of 2023 monitoring efforts on Twin Lake is provided below.

## At a glance: 2023 monitoring results

In 2023, the BCWMC monitored Twin Lake for the following:

- Water chemistry (nutrients, chlorophyll *a*, chloride)
- Water clarity and dissolved oxygen
- Phytoplankton and zooplankton (microscopic plants and animals)
- Macrophytes (aquatic plants)

Results of 2023 monitoring show that Twin Lake met the applicable Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and BCWMC water quality standards for Secchi disc (a measure of clarity), total phosphorus, and chlorophyll *a*. The good water quality in 2023 documented the continued effectiveness of the 2015 alum treatment. Trend analyses show no significant change in total phosphorus and chlorophyll *a* concentrations or Secchi disc depth over the last 10 years.

The lake's stable good water quality is in part due to the relatively high ratio of lake surface to drainage area and absence of highly impervious land nearby, limiting the quantity of stormwater runoff and pollutant loading to the lake. The southern half of the lake is located in the Theodore Wirth park preserve and 60 percent of the lake's watershed land use is park, recreational, or preserve.

- In 2023, Twin Lake chloride concentrations met the MPCA maximum and chronic standards.
- 2023 summer average phytoplankton numbers were lower than averages measured from 2008–2020.
- Twin Lake summer-average zooplankton numbers have been consistently higher since the 2015 alum treatment.





- In 2023, both the number of plant species in the lake and Floristic Quality Index (FQI) values, a measure of plant species quality, were better than the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Plant Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) thresholds.
- Aquatic invasive species (AIS) observed in 2023 were curly-leaf pondweed, purple loosestrife, reed canary grass, and narrow-leaved cattail.
- An AIS Suitability Analysis indicates the water quality of Twin Lake meets the suitability requirements for rusty crayfish, faucet snails, zebra mussels, spiny waterfleas, and starry stonewort and partially meets the suitability requirements for the Chinese mystery snail.

More detailed results and recommendations are discussed on the following pages.

## Recommendations

- Continue to provide education and information to residents and lake users to reduce the chance of AIS introduction.
- Continue water quality and biological monitoring at a 3-year frequency.

## Definitions

- **Hypereutrophic:** Nutrient-rich lake conditions characterized by frequent and severe algal blooms and low water clarity; excessive algae can significantly reduce lake oxygen levels
- **Eutrophic:** Lake condition characterized by abundant accumulation of nutrients supporting dense growth of algae and other organisms; decay of algae can reduce lake oxygen levels
- **Mesotrophic:** Lake condition characterized by medium levels of nutrients and clear water
- **Oligotrophic:** Lake condition characterized by a low accumulation of dissolved nutrients, high oxygen content, sparse algae growth, and very clear water

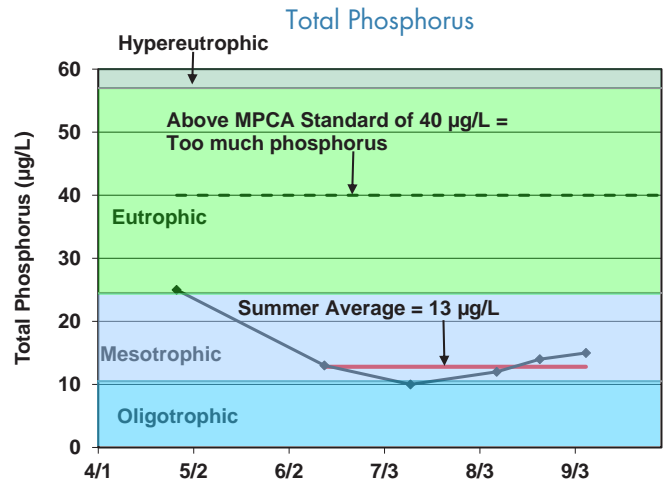


# Water chemistry monitoring: 2023

## Total phosphorus levels

While phosphorus is necessary for plant and algae growth, too much phosphorus leads to excessive algae, decreased water clarity, and water quality impairment. Some common sources of phosphorus are fertilizers, leaves and grass clippings, atmospheric deposition, soil erosion, and plant die-off (such as curly-leaf pondweed). Phosphorus can also be released from lake sediments when oxygen is absent or concentrations are very low.

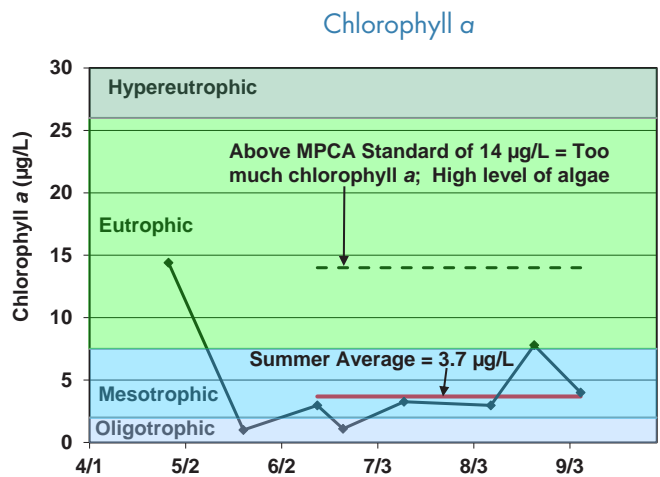
- **BCWMC/MPCA standard:** 40 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) or less
- **Range:** Low of 10  $\mu\text{g/L}$  in July to a high of 25  $\mu\text{g/L}$  in April
- **Summer average:** 13  $\mu\text{g/L}$  (met BCWMC/MPCA standard)



## Chlorophyll a levels

Chlorophyll a is a pigment in algae and generally reflects the amount of algae growth in a lake. Lakes which appear clear generally have chlorophyll a levels less than 15 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ). The graph to the right includes Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP) data collected from Twin Lake.

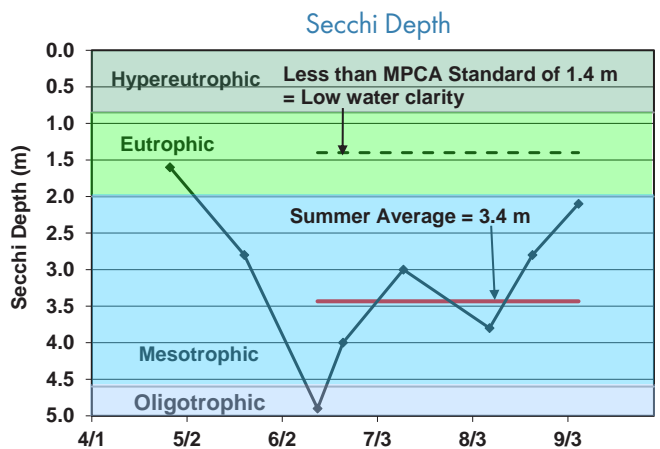
- **BCWMC/MPCA standard:** 14 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) or less
- **Range:** Low of 1.0  $\mu\text{g/L}$  in May to a high of 14.4  $\mu\text{g/L}$  in late April
- **Summer average:** 3.7  $\mu\text{g/L}$  (met BCWMC/MPCA standard)



## Water clarity

Water clarity is often affected by sediment and the amount of algae in a lake. It is usually measured by lowering an 8-inch "Secchi" disc into the lake; the depth at which the disc's alternating black-and-white pattern is no longer visible is considered a measure of the water's transparency (or clarity). The higher the Secchi depth, the better the clarity. The graph to the right includes Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP) data collected from Twin Lake

- **BCWMC/MPCA standard:** 1.4 meters or more
- **Range:** Low of 1.6 meters in April to a high of 4.9 meters in mid-June
- **Summer average:** 3.4 meters (met BCWMC/MPCA standard)

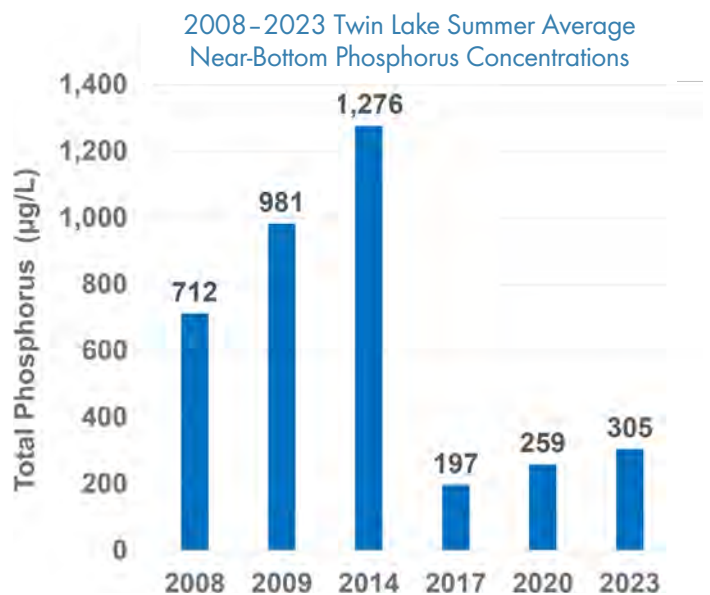
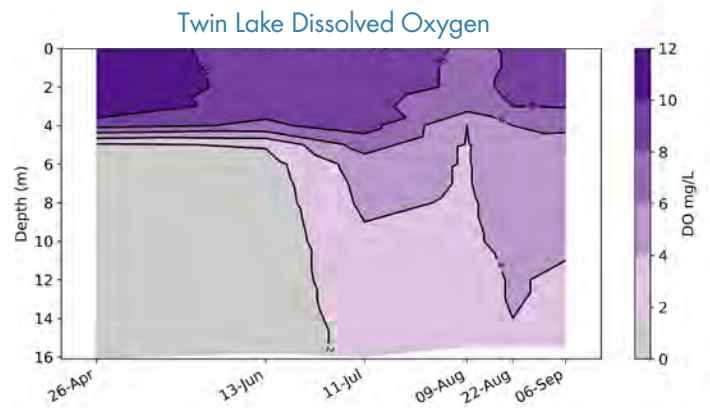




## Phosphorus loading from sediment

When oxygen levels are low, phosphorus stored in sediment is released (internal loading), causing higher total phosphorus concentrations in near-bottom waters. In 2008 and 2009, summer-average surface water concentrations of phosphorus in Twin Lake increased significantly. This increase prompted the BCWMC to conduct a study to evaluate the causes. The study, Twin Lake Phosphorus Internal Loading Investigation, March 2011, identified internal loading from sediment as the primary cause. In response, the BCWMC ordered and funded an alum treatment project on Twin Lake to reduce the internal loading. The City of Golden Valley performed the alum treatment in 2015.

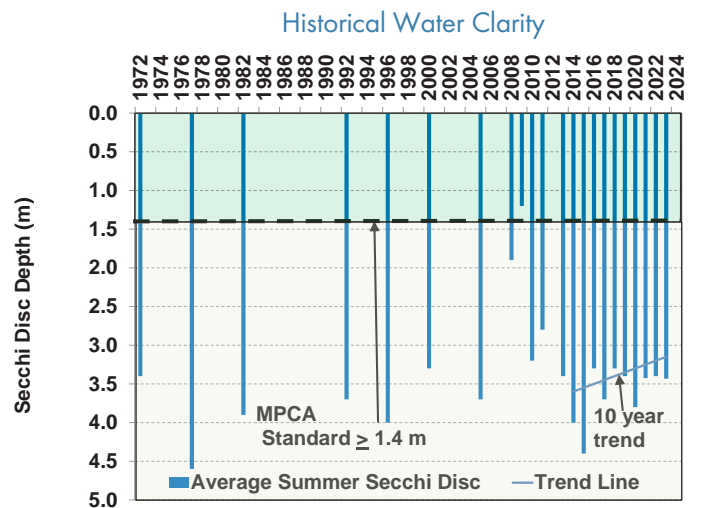
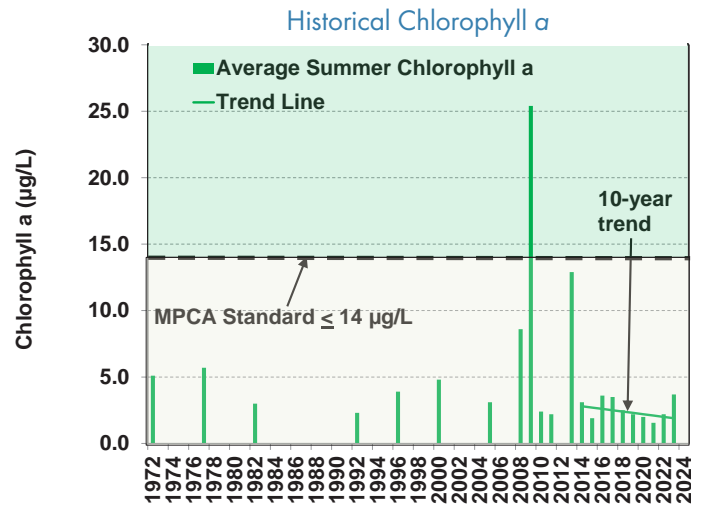
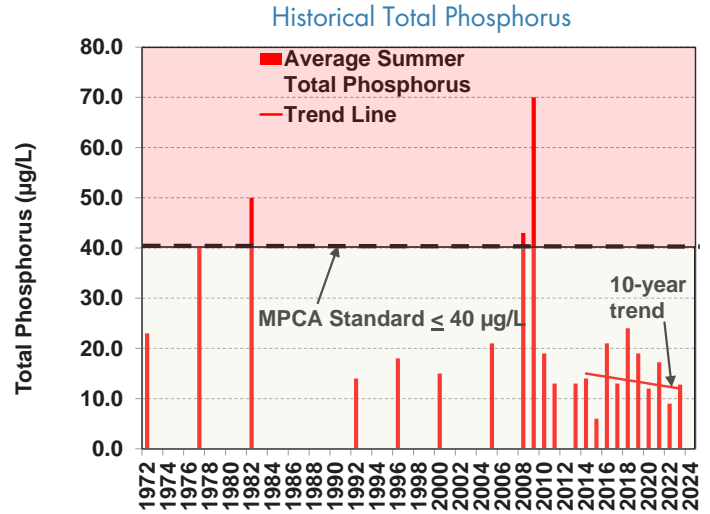
Monitoring since the alum treatment indicates good water quality and reduced phosphorus levels, documenting the continued effectiveness of the treatment. Even though the 2023 near-bottom oxygen levels were low (<2 mg/L) (figure top right) from April through June, the 2023 near-bottom total phosphorus concentrations remained lower than concentrations measured prior to the treatment, documenting the treatment's continued effectiveness (figure bottom right). Average near-bottom total phosphorus concentrations measured during the June through September period ranged from 712 µg/L to 1,276 µg/L prior to the alum treatment (2008 through 2014) and from 197 µg/L to 305 µg/L after the alum treatment (2017 through 2023).



# Water chemistry monitoring from 1972–2023: historical trends

Water quality in Twin Lake has been monitored since 1972. Summer averages (June through September) of total phosphorus, chlorophyll a, and Secchi disc depth from 1972–2023 are shown in the figures at right. During the period of record, 14 percent of total phosphorus, 5 percent of chlorophyll a, and 5 percent of Secchi disc summer averages failed to meet Minnesota State Water Quality Standards for lakes in the North Central Hardwood Forest Ecoregion published in Minnesota Rules 7050 (Minn. R. Ch. 7050.0222 Subp 4). All values measured after the 2015 alum treatment have met the MPCA standard.

Trend analyses indicate that the lake’s water quality has been stable over the past 10 years. Summer-average total phosphorus and chlorophyll a concentrations and Secchi disc depths slightly decreased, but none of the changes are statistically significant (95 percent confidence level). These results document the continued effectiveness of the 2015 alum treatment.





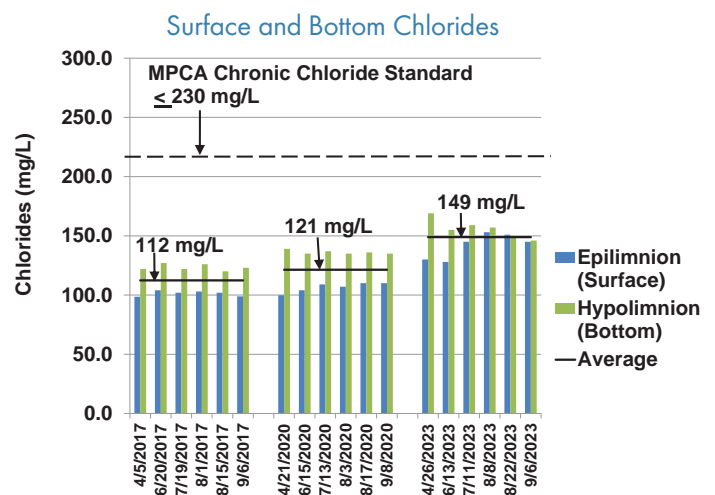


## Chloride levels

Chloride concentrations in area lakes have increased since the early 1990s when many government agencies switched from sand and/or sand/salt mixtures to salt for winter road maintenance. When snow and ice melt, the salt goes with it, washing into lakes, streams, wetlands, and groundwater. It only takes one teaspoon of salt to pollute 5 gallons of water such that it can no longer support freshwater life. That pollution is essentially permanent, as there is no easy or affordable way to remove chloride from water.

Because high concentrations of chloride can harm fish and plant life, the MPCA has established maximum and chronic chloride standards. The maximum standard is the highest concentration of chloride that aquatic organisms can be exposed to for a brief time with zero to slight mortality. The chronic standard is the highest chloride concentration that aquatic life can be exposed to indefinitely without causing chronic toxicity. Chronic toxicity means a stimulus that lingers or continues for an extended period, often one-tenth the life span or more. A chronic effect can be mortality, reduced growth, reproduction impairment, harmful changes in behavior, and other nonlethal effects. A lake is considered impaired if two or more measurements exceed the chronic criterion (230 mg/L or less) within a 3-year period or one measurement exceeds the maximum criterion (860 mg/L).

All measurements during 2017, 2020, and 2023 were well below both the maximum and chronic chloride standards. However, the 2023 average annual chloride concentration (149 mg/L) was higher than the 2020 (121 mg/L) and 2017 (112 mg/L) annual averages.



# Macrophytes

## Lake Plant Eutrophication Index of Biological Integrity (IBI)

Eutrophication (excessive nutrients) may have detrimental effects on a lake, including reductions in the quantity and diversity of aquatic plants. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) developed a Lake Plant Eutrophication Index of Biological Integrity (IBI) to measure the response of a lake plant community to eutrophication. The Lake Plant Eutrophication IBI includes two metrics: (1) the number of species in a lake and (2) the “quality” of the species, as measured by the floristic quality index (FQI). The MNDNR has determined a threshold for each metric. Lakes that score below the thresholds contain degraded plant communities and are likely stressed from anthropogenic (human-caused) eutrophication.

Twin Lake plant survey data from 1992 to 2023 were assessed to determine plant IBI trends. The figures at right show the number of species and FQI scores for that period compared to the MNDNR Plant IBI thresholds.

- **Number of species:** A deep water lake, such as Twin Lake, meets the MNDNR Plant IBI threshold when it has 12 or more species. During the period examined, the number of species in Twin Lake ranged from 11 to 24, meeting or exceeding the MNDNR Plant IBI threshold from 1996 through June 2017 and 2019 through 2023. Twenty-one to 24 species were observed in the lake in August 2014, August 2019, June and August 2020, and June and August 2023, the highest numbers to date.
- **FQI values (quality of species):** The MNDNR Plant IBI threshold for deep water lakes, as measured by FQI, is a minimum value of 18.6. During the period examined, FQI values in Twin Lake ranged from 18.4 to 28.8, bettering the MNDNR Plant IBI threshold during all but August 2017. FQI scores ranged from 25.1 to 28.8 in August 2014, August 2019, June and August 2020, and June and August 2023, the highest scores to date.

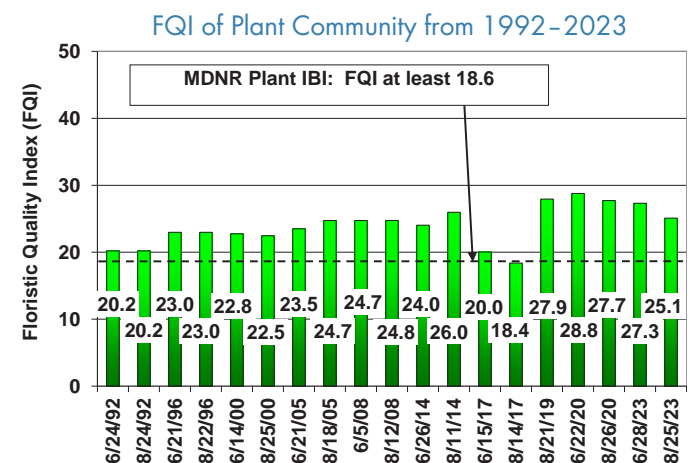
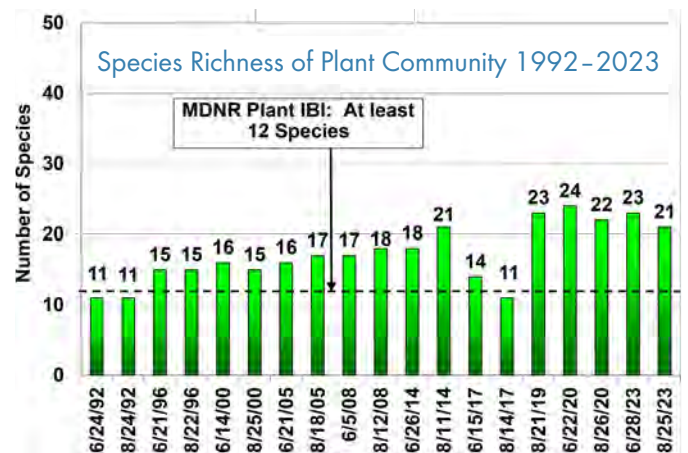
High quality plants observed in Twin Lake in 2023 included southern naiad (*Najas guadalupensis*), Fries’ pondweed (*Potamogeton friesii*), muskgrass (*Chara sp.*), northern watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum sibiricum*), small pondweed (*Potamogeton pusillus*), long-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton nodosus*), common bladderwort (*Utricularia vulgaris*), and horned pondweed (*Zannichellia palustris*).

## Aquatic invasive species

Although four invasive species were found in Twin Lake in 2023, they do not appear to be expanding and don’t appear to have a negative impact on the

native plant community. Invasive species observed in Twin Lake in 2023 include:

- **Curly-leaf pondweed (CLP, *Potamogeton crispus*):** CLP has been sporadically observed at a low density since first appearing in June 2000 along the eastern side of the lake. It has not increased in extent or density over the past 20 years. In 2023, the plant was observed on the western side of the lake in June but was not observed in August.
- **Reed canary grass:** Reed canary grass has been sporadically observed at a single location in Twin Lake since 2014. In 2023, it was at a single location along the northwestern shoreline in June and a single location along the southeastern shoreline in August.
- **Purple loosestrife:** Purple loosestrife was first observed along the southeastern shoreline of Twin Lake in 1992. In 2023, it was at a single location along the western shoreline during June and August.
- **Narrow-leaved cattail:** Narrow-leaved cattail was first observed in June 2014. It was seen again in 2019, 2020, and 2023 at similar locations along all shorelines. In 2023, it was collected on the rake at eight locations and observed at five other locations.



## Phytoplankton

Samples of phytoplankton (microscopic aquatic plants, such as algae) were collected from Twin Lake to evaluate water quality and the quality of food available to zooplankton (microscopic animals). As shown in the figure at right, 2023 phytoplankton numbers declined from April to June and then remained low through September, an indication of good water quality throughout the summer. The community was dominated by blue-green algae in April and September, by green algae from June through July, and co-dominated by green algae and blue-green algae in August. Blue-green algae are a poor quality food because they may be toxic and may not be assimilated if ingested by zooplankton. Blue-green algae can also produce algal toxins, which can be harmful to humans or other animals. Green algae are a better quality food source than blue-green algae and contribute towards a healthier zooplankton community.

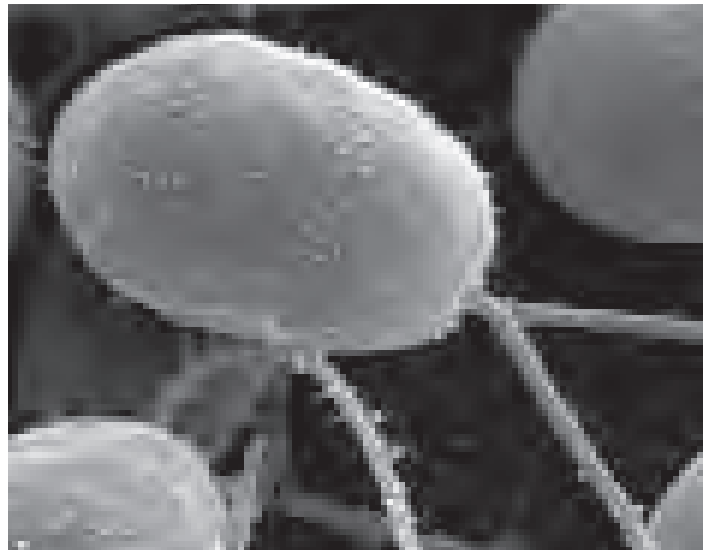
As shown in the figure on page 10, 2023 summer-average phytoplankton numbers were lower than averages measured from 2008 through 2020. The lower phytoplankton numbers in 2023 indicate the lake had good water quality due to water quality improvements from the 2015 alum treatment and reduced nutrient loading from the dry climatic conditions in 2023.

## Zooplankton

Unlike phytoplankton, zooplankton do not produce their own food. As “filter feeders,” they eat millions of small algae; given the right quantities and species, they can filter the volume of an entire lake in a matter of days. They are also valuable food for planktivorous fish and other organisms.

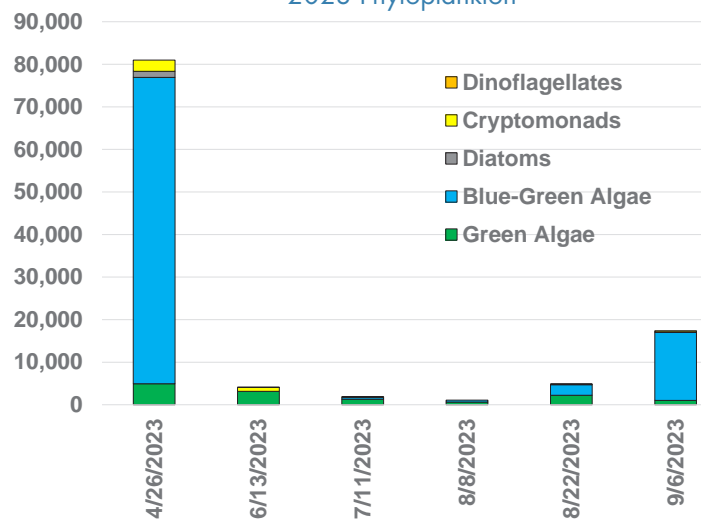
The 2023 community composition indicates the zooplankton community is healthy and has provided food for the lake’s fish. Fish generally select the largest zooplankters they see and prefer cladocerans to copepods because they swim slowly and lack the copepods’ ability to escape predation by jerking or jumping out of the way. Rotifers are the least preferred food for fish because of their small size. In 2023, rotifers and copepods consistently occurred in higher numbers than cladocerans (see figure below, right), an indication fish predation had the greatest impact on cladocerans

1982 through 2023 zooplankton data indicate the zooplankton community has consistently been healthy and diverse, consisting of all three major groups: rotifers, copepods, and cladocerans (see figure on page 10). Twin Lake summer-average zooplankton numbers have been consistently higher since the 2015 alum treatment (see figure on page 10), an indication that the lake’s improved water quality positively impacted the its zooplankton community.

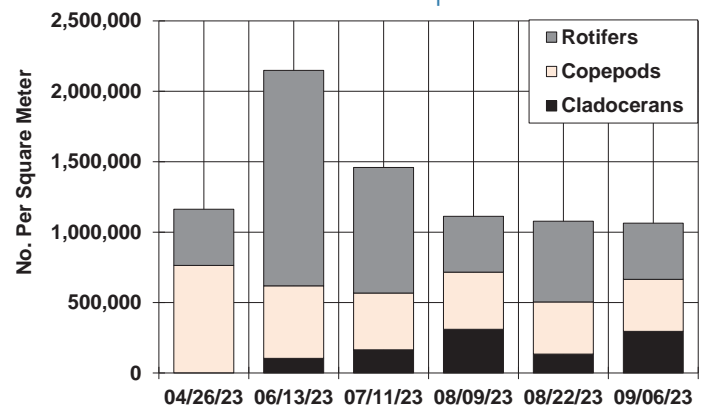


*Chlamydomonas*, a green algae found in Twin Lake in 2023.

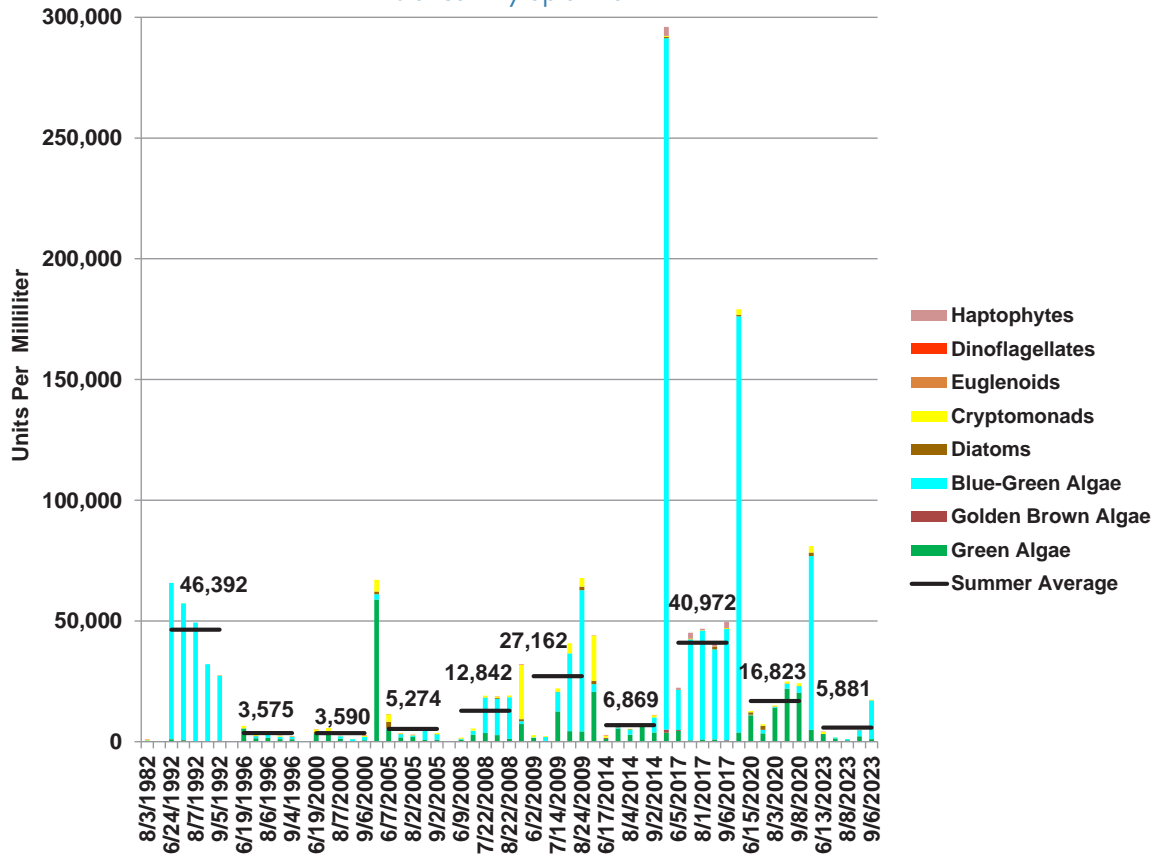
2023 Phytoplankton



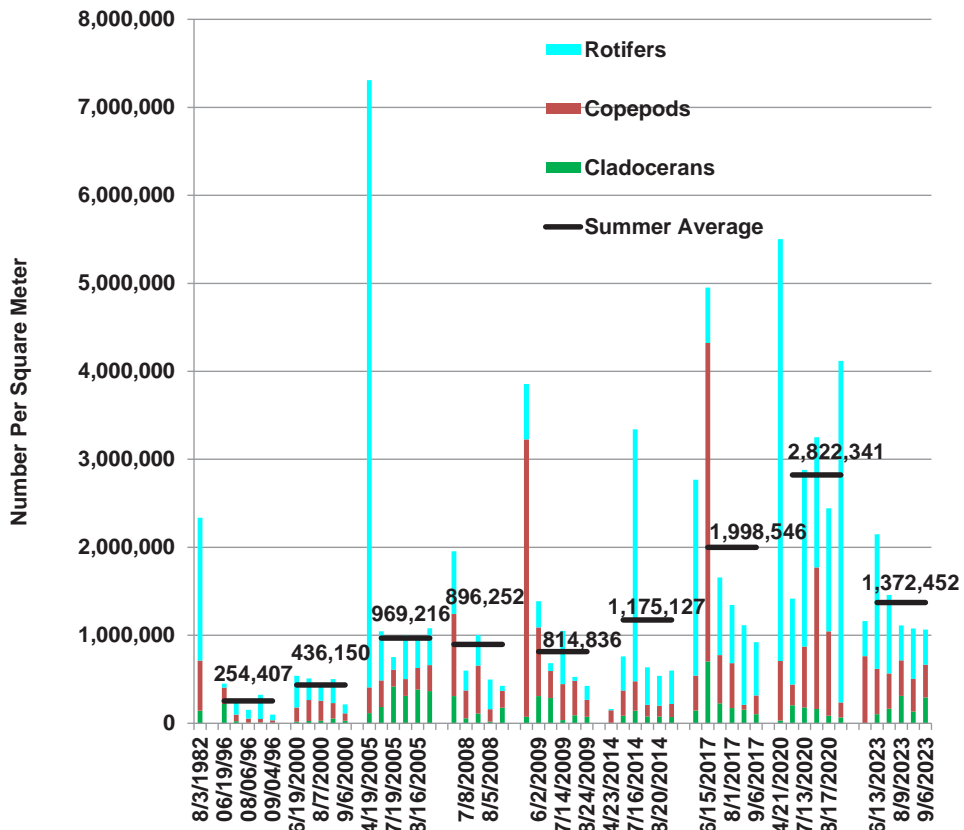
2023 Zooplankton



### Historical Phytoplankton



### Historical Zooplankton





## Suitability of Twin Lake for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

A large number of AIS residing in Minnesota have not yet been observed in Twin Lake but could be introduced. For example, both zebra mussels and starry stonewort are present in nearby Medicine Lake but have not been observed in Twin Lake. A suitability analysis for each species was performed to determine whether Twin Lake water quality would support the introduction of six AIS (starry stonewort, zebra mussels, spiny waterfleas, faucet snails, Chinese mystery snails, and rusty crayfish).

The analysis compared water quality data collected in 2023 with the water quality conditions required for each species, specifically evaluating total phosphorus, chlorophyll a, Secchi disc depth, trophic state index, water temperature, dissolved oxygen, specific conductance, calcium, magnesium, sodium, alkalinity, hardness, and calcium carbonate. The results indicate that the water quality of Twin Lake meets the suitability requirements for rusty crayfish, faucet snails, spiny waterfleas, zebra mussels, and starry stonewort. However, the water quality of Twin Lake only partially meets the suitability requirements for the Chinese mystery snail. Hence, this species would likely survive but may not thrive in Twin Lake.



Starry Stonewort



Zebra Mussels



Spiny Waterflea



Faucet Snail



Chinese Mystery Snail



Rusty Crayfish





Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission  
[bassettcreekwmo.org](http://bassettcreekwmo.org)



Stewardship of water resources to protect and enhance our communities



# PLYMOUTH CREEK 2022–2023 Stream Monitoring and 2022 Biotic Index Evaluation



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission



# Plymouth Creek monitoring

The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) monitored Plymouth Creek for water depth, flow, temperature, specific conductance, dissolved oxygen, and stream water quality during 2022 and 2023. In 2022, the BCWMC monitored the stream's habitat and macroinvertebrates. The macroinvertebrate data were used to complete a biotic index evaluation of the stream. This report presents the results of these monitoring efforts.

## At a glance: 2022 and 2023 monitoring results

Two sites along Plymouth Creek, IP1 and IP2, were monitored in 2022–2023. Both sites are near an industrial building at 12940 Teakwood Lane North in Plymouth. The monitoring of IP2 was part of an ongoing program by the City of Plymouth to evaluate nutrients and chlorides from upstream portions of Plymouth Creek flowing into Medicine Lake. IP1, downstream from IP2, was added to the 2022–2023 monitoring program primarily to evaluate flow and chlorides added to the stream from a subwatershed west of Highway 55.

This report includes the following recent Plymouth Creek monitoring efforts:

- In 2022 and 2023, the City of Plymouth contracted with Three Rivers Park District to collect flow data, continuous temperature and specific conductance data, and water quality samples from Plymouth Creek for analyses by the Three Rivers Park District laboratory.
- In 2022 and 2023, the BCWMC collected quarterly water quality samples from Plymouth Creek for analyses by the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services laboratory.
- In August of 2022 and August of 2023, BCWMC collected continuous dissolved oxygen and temperature data from Plymouth Creek.
- In September of 2022, the BCWMC collected habitat and macroinvertebrate data from Plymouth Creek.

The purpose of the stream monitoring program was to evaluate flow and water quality, detect changes over time, evaluate whether the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) water quality and biological standards were met, and identify stressors to the biological community.

Results of the Plymouth Creek monitoring program show that MPCA standards were met for temperature, pH, chlorophyll *a*,

## About Plymouth Creek

Stream length (miles)	6 miles
Size of drainage area (acres)	4,329
Location of stream origin	Plymouth
Downstream receiving waterbody	Medicine Lake
MPCA impairments	Chloride, <i>Escherichia coli</i>

metals (total cadmium, chromium, copper, nickel, lead, zinc), and dissolved oxygen flux. Total phosphorus did not meet its MPCA standard. However, the MPCA evaluates total phosphorus in combination with chlorophyll *a* and dissolved oxygen flux (the MPCA's river eutrophication standard [RES]) to determine whether the stream is impaired due to eutrophication. The high total phosphorus concentrations in Plymouth Creek did not result in high chlorophyll *a* and dissolved oxygen flux in Plymouth Creek because both met their respective MPCA standards. Therefore, the stream met the MPCA's RES and is not considered impaired.

*Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) bacteria met the MPCA standard for individual values but did not meet the standard for monthly aggregated geometric means. However, the stream could not be assessed for impairment using geometric means because an insufficient number of samples were collected during the 2022 through 2023 monitoring period.

The stream failed to meet MPCA standards for dissolved oxygen, total suspended solids, and chlorides.

Between 1980 and 2022, the BCWMC collected benthic macroinvertebrates (bottom-dwelling organisms) from Plymouth Creek on 11 occasions to evaluate water quality and to detect changes over time. The 2022 monitoring program evaluated habitat and macroinvertebrates.

Changes between 2015 and 2022 habitat evaluations include increases in the depth of fine sediment, the length of bank erosion, and the amount of algae. Dry climatic conditions in 2022 resulted in decreases in flows and water depth.

The MPCA developed and added the Macroinvertebrate Index of Biotic Integrity (M-IBI) to Minnesota's water quality standards to help identify biologically impaired rivers and streams. Macroinvertebrate data collected by BCWMC from 1991 through 2022 and by the MPCA in 2010 and 2020 were evaluated using the M-IBI. All M-IBI scores were compared with the MPCA Macroinvertebrate Class 5 (Southern Streams) standard, a minimum score of 37. None of the M-IBI scores met the MPCA standard. M-IBI scores



from BCWMC data ranged from a low of 13 to a high of 32 and the 2022 score was 14. The MPCA scores ranged from 7.7 in 2020 to 24.9 in 2010. Both MPCA scores were below the MPCA standard, resulting in Plymouth Creek being added to Minnesota’s impaired waters list for aquatic life-benthic macroinvertebrates bioassessments in 2024.

The MPCA completed a Stressor Identification (SID) for Plymouth Creek in 2024 to determine stressors causing biological impairment in the stream. The most common stressor found was altered hydrology and connectivity followed by eutrophication due to excess total phosphorus, inadequate dissolved oxygen, excess chloride, and excess total suspended solids. The 2022–2023 Plymouth Creek data were consistent with MPCA findings, with inadequate dissolved oxygen, excess chloride, excess total suspended solids, and excess total phosphorus. The 2022–2023 Plymouth Creek data also identified inadequate flow as a stressor to the biological community. Dry climatic conditions in 2022 and 2023 resulted in no flow at:

- Plymouth Creek monitoring location Industrial Park 1 (IP1) during 12 percent of the monitored period in 2022 and 13 percent of the monitored period in 2023.

- Plymouth Creek monitoring location Industrial Park 2 (IP2) during 40 percent of the monitored period in 2022 and 33 percent of the monitored period in 2023.

Monitoring locations IP1 and IP2 are shown in Figure 1.

## Recommendations

- Evaluate the causes of excess total suspended solids and total phosphorus in the stream and identify measures to improve water quality.
- Evaluate the stream corridor for erosion and identify and implement management measures to repair the erosion.
- Work with cities, businesses, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, and Hennepin County to improve winter maintenance practices and reduce the chloride load conveyed to Plymouth Creek from streets and parking lots in its watershed.
- Continue monitoring of stream habitat, flow, water quality, and macroinvertebrates to evaluate whether the stream meets MPCA water quality and biological standards and identify changes over time, including changes to the stressors of the macroinvertebrate community.

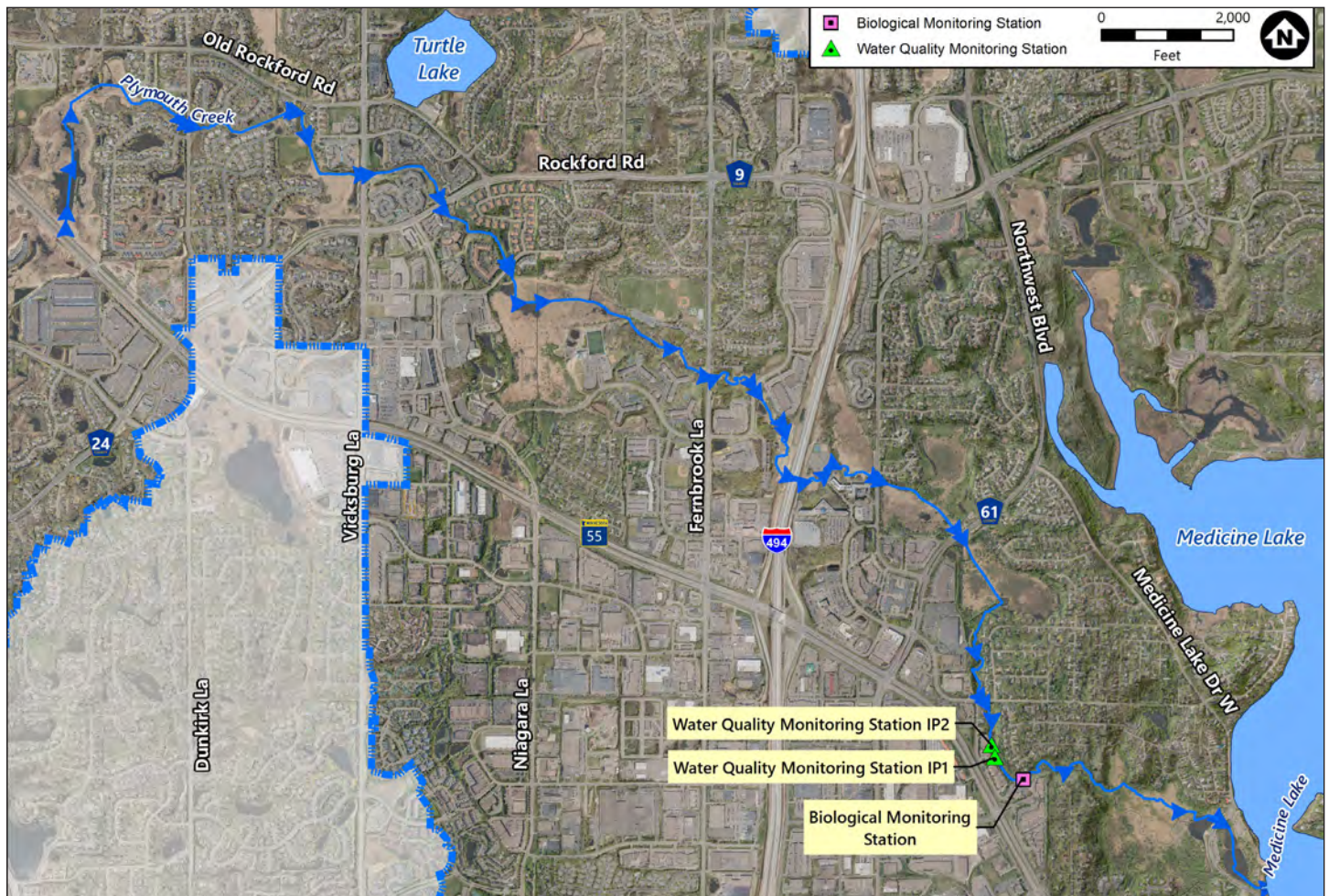


Figure 1 Plymouth Creek water quality and biological monitoring locations



## 2022–2023 stream monitoring program

Plymouth Creek was monitored from 2022 through 2023 at two locations, IP1 and IP2, shown in Figure 1. IP2 is monitored by the City of Plymouth as part of an ongoing monitoring program. IP1 was added primarily to evaluate flow and chlorides coming from a subwatershed west of Highway 55.

Monitoring completed by Three Rivers Park District on behalf of the City of Plymouth included the following:

- Water depth, flow, and temperature were measured continuously at IP1 from April 12, 2022, through October 6, 2022, and from April 6, 2023, through October 23, 2023.
- Specific conductance was measured continuously at IP1 from September 22, 2023, through October 31, 2023.
- Water depth, flow, temperature, and specific conductance were measured continuously at IP2 from March 9, 2022, through October 31, 2022, and from April 6, 2023, through October 22, 2023.
- Temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, and specific conductance were instantaneously measured at IP1 on 11 occasions from May through September 2022 and on 12 occasions from May through September 2023.
- Temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, and specific conductance were instantaneously measured at IP2 on 14 occasions from April through September 2022 and on 16 occasions from April through October 2023.
- Water quality samples were collected from IP1 with an automatic sampler on 12 occasions from May through August 2022 and on 12 occasions from June through October 2023 to monitor storm events. Water quality samples were manually collected on four occasions from April through July 2023 to monitor baseflow conditions.
- Water quality samples were collected from IP2 with an automatic sampler on seven occasions from May through August 2022 and 10 occasions from May through October 2023 to monitor storm events. Water samples were collected manually on eight occasions from April through August 2022 and on 10 occasions from April through October 2023 to monitor baseflow conditions.

Monitoring completed by the BCWMC included the following:

- Dissolved oxygen and temperature were continuously measured at IP2 from August 12, 2022, through August 18, 2022, and August 11, 2023, through August 18, 2023.

- Water quality samples were manually collected from IP2 on three occasions in 2022 (June, September, and December) and on three occasions in 2023 (January, May, and September).

## Results of 2022–2023 stream monitoring program

### Water depth and flow

Water depth and flow were measured at 15-minute intervals throughout the monitoring period at IP1 and IP2 (Figure 1). The results from IP1 are shown in Table 1, Figure 2, and Figure 3. The results from IP2 are shown in Table 2, Figure 4, and Figure 5.

Dry climatic conditions during 2022 and 2023 resulted in no flow at:

- IP1 during 12 percent of the monitored period in 2022 and 13 percent of the monitored period in 2023 (Table 1 and Figure 3).
- IP2 during 40 percent of the monitored period in 2022 and 33 percent of the monitored period in 2023 (Table 2 and Figure 5).

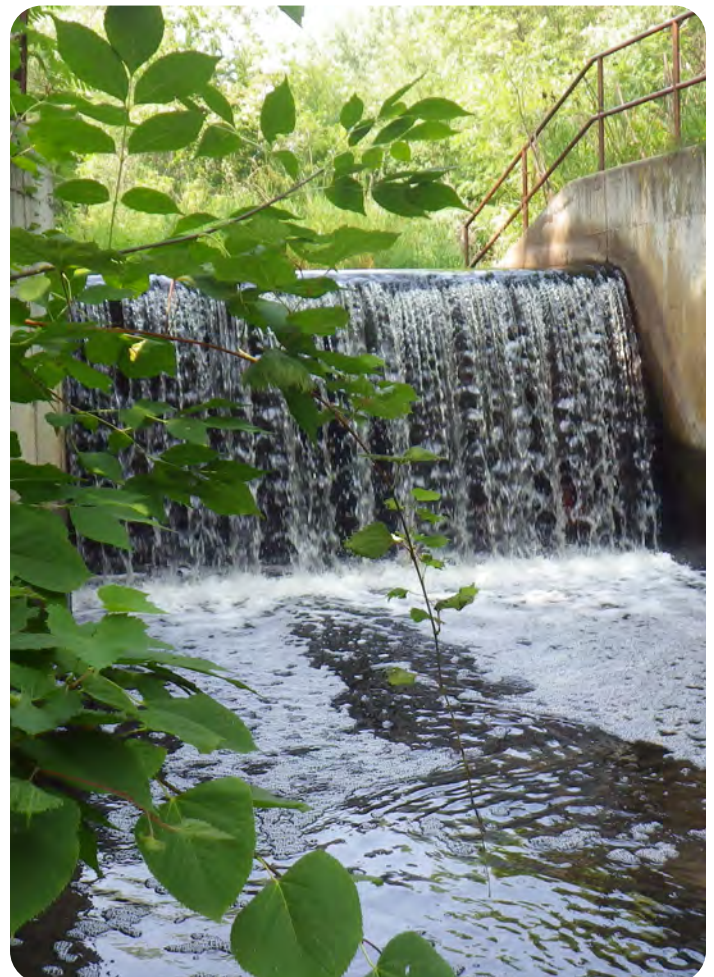


Table 1 2022–2023 water depth and flow at Plymouth Creek Station IP1

Parameter	2022			2023		
	Low	High	Average	Low	High	Average
Average daily water depth (feet)	<b>0.06</b> on 9/18–9/19, 9/21–9/22, and 10/2–10/3	<b>0.27</b> on 4/30	<b>0.12</b>	<b>0.11</b> on 9/14	<b>0.39</b> on 4/20	<b>0.17</b>
Average daily flow (cubic feet per second)	<b>0.00</b> on 4/12, 7/25, 8/4–8/5, 9/4–9/6, 9/11–9/12, 9/18– 9/19, and 9/26–10/6	<b>2.2</b> on 4/30	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.0</b> on 5/29, 7/17– 7/18, 7/31–8/1, 8/5, 8/8, 8/18, 8/20–8/22, 8/27– 8/28, 9/7–9/8, 9/16–9/22, 9/28, 10/2, 10/19, and 10/21–10/22	<b>6.2</b> on 4/20	<b>0.5</b>

Table 2 2022–2023 water depth and flow at Plymouth Creek Station IP2

Parameter	2022			2023		
	Low	High	Average	Low	High	Average
Average daily water depth (feet)	<b>0.00</b> on 6/19–6/20, 7/2– 7/3, 7/10–7/11, 7/17–7/22, 7/25, 7/28–8/5, 9/6, 9/9, 9/11–9/16, and 9/18–10/31	<b>0.80</b> on 5/1	<b>0.12</b>	<b>0.00</b> on 6/5–6/17, 6/20–6/23, 6/30, 7/1–7/3, 7/5–7/13, 7/15–7/19, 7/21– 7/25, 8/29–9/11, 9/13–9/22	<b>1.14</b> on 10/14	<b>0.20</b>
Average daily flow (cubic feet per second)	<b>0.00</b> on 6/18–6/20, 6/27, 6/29, 7/1–7/3, 7/9– 7/11, 7/17–7/22, 7/25, 7/28–8/5, and 9/3–10/31	<b>32.8</b> on 5/1	<b>2.9</b>	<b>0.0</b> on 6/4–6/17, 6/20– 6/23, 6/30–7/3, 7/5–7/13, 7/15– 7/19, 7/21–7/25, 8/1, 8/28–9/11, 9/13–9/15, 9/17– 9/22	<b>55.8</b> on 10/14	<b>7.1</b>

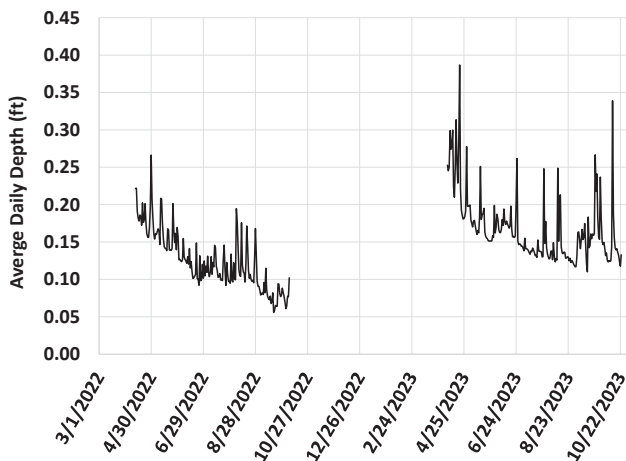


Figure 2 2022–2023 average daily depth at Plymouth Creek Station IP1

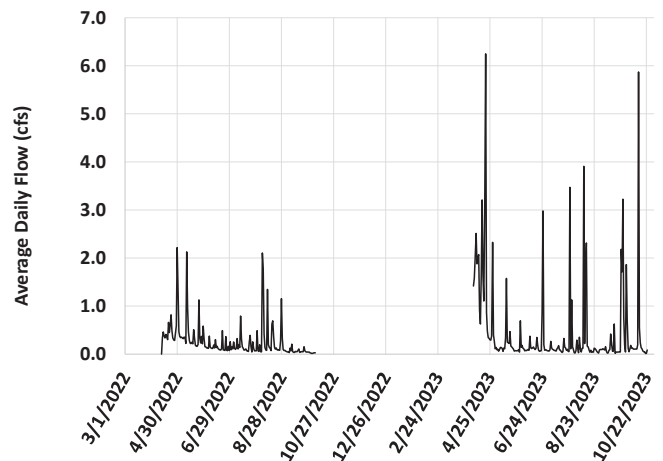


Figure 3 2022–2023 average daily flow at Plymouth Creek Station IP1

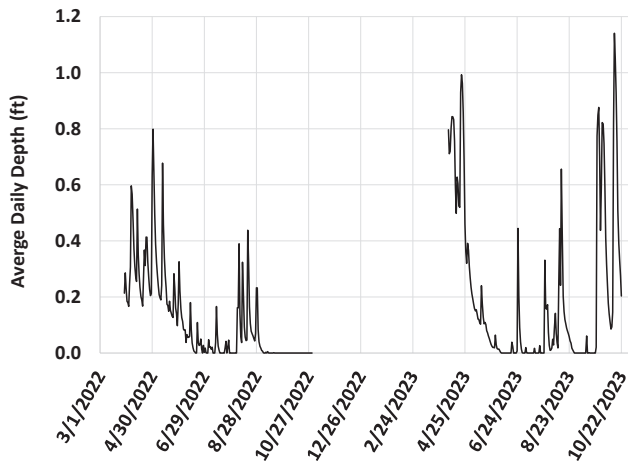


Figure 4 2022–2023 average daily depth at Plymouth Creek Station IP2

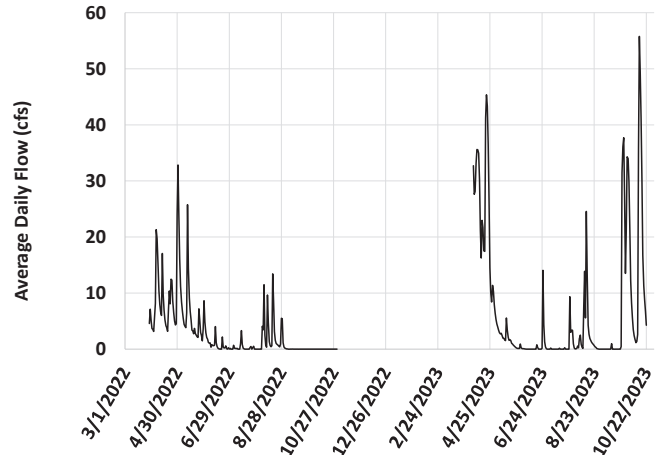


Figure 5 2022–2023 average daily flow at Plymouth Creek Station IP2

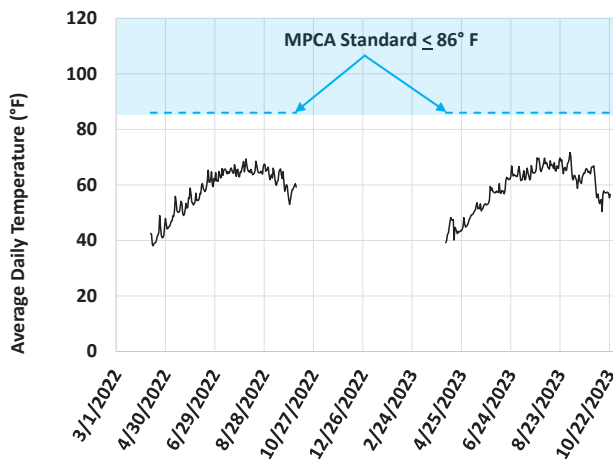


Figure 6 2022–2023 average daily temperature at Plymouth Creek Station IP1

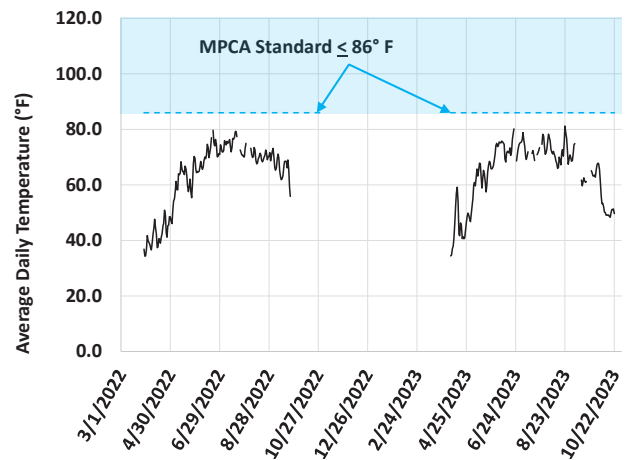


Figure 7 2022–2023 average daily temperature at Plymouth Creek Station IP2

## Temperature

Temperature was measured at 15-minute intervals throughout the monitoring period from IP1 and IP2. During the 2022 monitoring period, the average daily temperature at IP1 ranged from 38 °F to 69 °F; the overall average was 58 °F (Figure 6). During the 2023 monitoring period, the average daily temperature at IP1 ranged from 39 °F to 72 °F; the overall average was 59 °F (Figure 6).

During the 2022 monitoring period, the average daily temperature at IP2 ranged from 34 °F to 80 °F; the overall average was 63 °F (Figure 7). During the 2023 monitoring period, the average daily temperature at IP2 ranged from 34 °F to 81 °F; the overall average was 64 °F (Figure 7).

All measurements from IP1 and IP2 met the MPCA standard of less than or equal to 86 °F. However, the MPCA is not currently using the standard to assess warm-water streams, such as Plymouth Creek, for temperature impairment. Instead, it evaluates mostly cold-water fisheries for temperature-caused impairment because of the sensitivity of cold-water fish to temperature elevations.

## pH

The pH of water measures the degree of its acidic or alkaline reaction. The applicable pH standard for Plymouth Creek is a minimum of 6.5 and a maximum of 9.0. A stream meets the pH standard if it meets the standard at least 90 percent of the days of the monitoring season. A designation of meeting the standard for pH generally requires at least 20 suitable measurements from a data set that gives an unbiased representation of conditions over at least 2 different years.

The pH of Plymouth Creek was measured at IP1 and IP2 during 2022 and 2023. In 2022, the pH at IP1 ranged from 7.5 to 7.8; the overall average was 7.7. During 2023, the pH at IP1 ranged from 7.5 to 8.2, with an overall average of 7.7 (Figure 8). At IP2 the pH ranged from 7.2 to 8.1 in 2022, with an overall average of 7.4. In 2023, the pH of IP2 ranged from 7.2 to 8.1, and the overall average was 7.6 (Figure 9).

The 2022–2023 data included 23 pH measurements from location IP1 and 30 measurements from location IP2—all within the MPCA standard of 6.5 to 9.0. Hence, Plymouth Creek locations IP1 and IP2 met the MPCA pH standard.



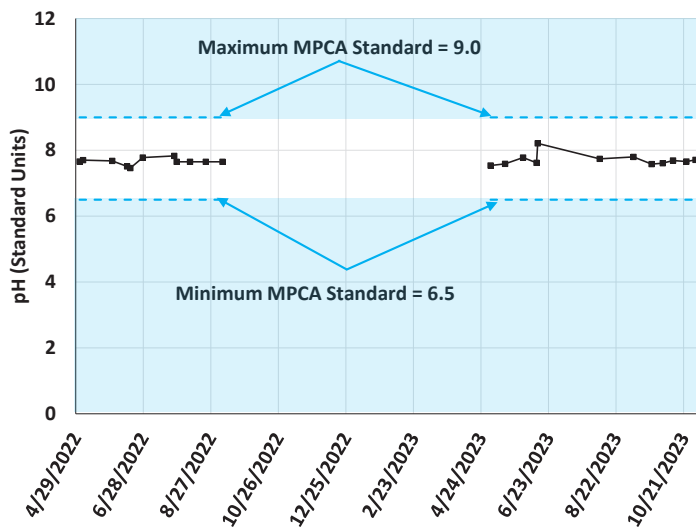


Figure 8 2022–2023 pH at Plymouth Creek station IP1

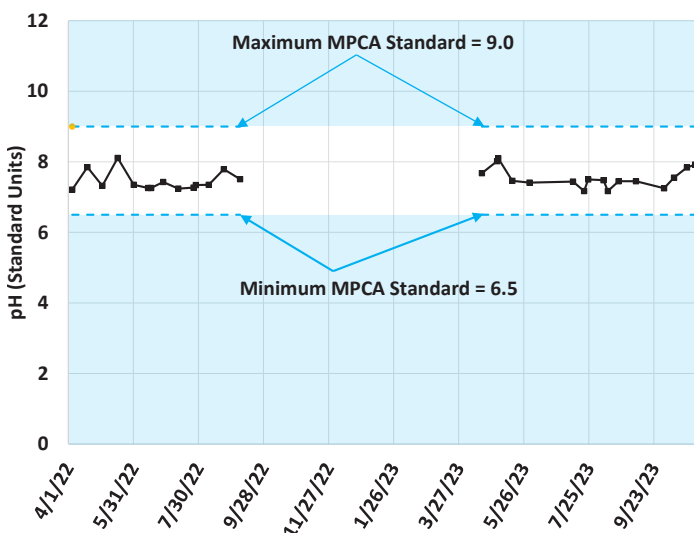


Figure 9 2022–2023 pH at Plymouth Creek station IP2

## Dissolved Oxygen

Dissolved oxygen is required for all aquatic organisms to live. When dissolved oxygen drops below acceptable levels, desirable aquatic organisms, such as fish, can be harmed or killed. The MPCA dissolved oxygen standard for Plymouth Creek is at least 5 mg/L as a daily minimum. The stream meets the dissolved oxygen standard if at least 90 percent of the measurements are at least 5 mg/L and there are at least three such measurements. A designation of meeting the standard generally requires at least 20 measurements over at least 2 different years.

Dissolved oxygen was measured from two Plymouth Creek locations, IP1 and IP2, throughout the monitoring period. The measurements were instantaneous measurements, meaning a single measurement was taken during each sample event. During 2022, dissolved oxygen measurements from IP1 ranged from 7.6 to 11.3 mg/L; the overall average was 8.8 mg/L. During 2023,

dissolved oxygen measurements from IP1 ranged from 5.7 to 11.4 mg/L; the overall average was 8.7 mg/L (Figure 10).

All 23 measurements made at IP1 during 2022–2023 met the MPCA standard of 5 mg/L. Because all measurements met the MPCA standard and at least 20 measurements were made over a 2-year period, Plymouth Creek at IP1 was not impaired for dissolved oxygen.

During 2022, dissolved oxygen measurements from IP2 ranged from 1.5 mg/L to 15.2 mg/L; the overall average was 7.2 mg/L. During 2023, dissolved oxygen measurements ranged from 0.5 to 14.6 mg/L; the overall average was 7.2 mg/L (Figure 11).

Ten of the 30 dissolved oxygen measurements (33 percent) at IP2 during 2022–2023 failed to meet the MPCA standard of 5 mg/L. These measurements generally occurred during periods of low or no flow (Figure 11). Plymouth Creek is not included on the 303(d) list of Minnesota’s impaired waters for dissolved oxygen. However, because fewer than 90 percent of dissolved oxygen measurements from IP2 met the MPCA standard and at least 20 measurements were made over a 2-year period, Plymouth Creek at IP2 would be considered impaired for dissolved oxygen.

Dissolved oxygen concentrations for streams generally follow a diurnal cycle, with concentrations increasing during the day and decreasing overnight. When eutrophication causes undesirable levels of algae or rooted plants in a stream, the stream may respond with oxygen levels below 5 mg/L overnight due to excess removal of oxygen from the stream by plant respiration. Photosynthesis by plants during the day adds oxygen to the stream. This daily fluctuation in dissolved oxygen (lower levels at night and higher levels during the day) is termed DO flux.

Continuous dissolved oxygen was measured in Plymouth Creek at IP2 from August 12–18, 2022, and August 11–18, 2023, using a dissolved oxygen sensor/datalogger that collected dissolved oxygen measurements every 15 minutes during the measurement period. During 2022, measurements ranged from 4.57 to 8.57 mg/L; the overall average was 7.18 mg/L (Table 3). During 2023, dissolved oxygen measurements ranged from 6.44 to 8.44 mg/L; the overall average was 7.45 mg/L (Table 3). Only two of the 569 dissolved oxygen measurements (0.4 percent) in 2022 and none of the 727 dissolved oxygen measurements (0 percent) in 2023 failed to meet the standard of at least 5 mg/L. Because more than 90 percent of continuous dissolved oxygen measurements met the MPCA standard during 2022–2023 and more than 20 measurements were made over a 2-year period, continuous dissolved oxygen met the MPCA standard (Figure 12). However, continuous measurements were limited to a one-week period during each of two years. Because a third of the instantaneous (single) measurements taken throughout the two-year period failed to meet the MPCA standard, the stream would be considered impaired for dissolved oxygen despite the favorable continuous oxygen readings during the two weeks of measurement.

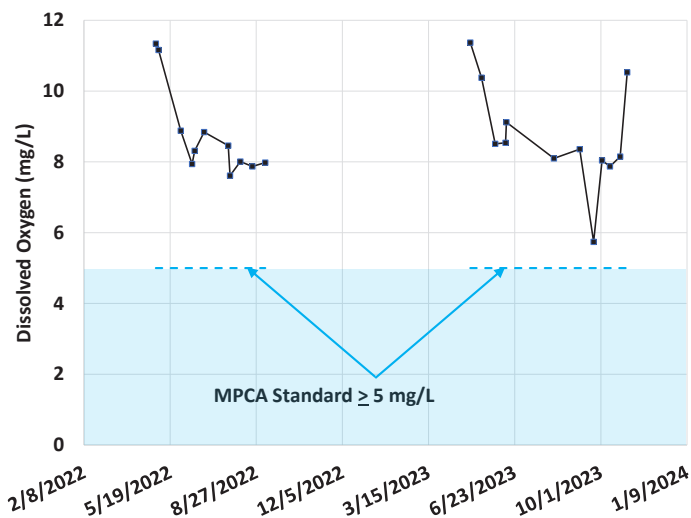


Figure 10 2022–2023 dissolved oxygen at Plymouth Creek Station IP1

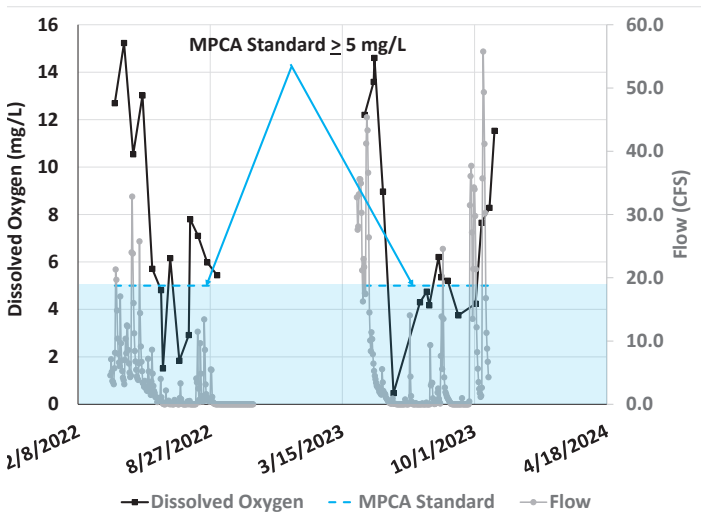


Figure 11 2022–2023 dissolved oxygen and flow at Plymouth Creek Station IP2

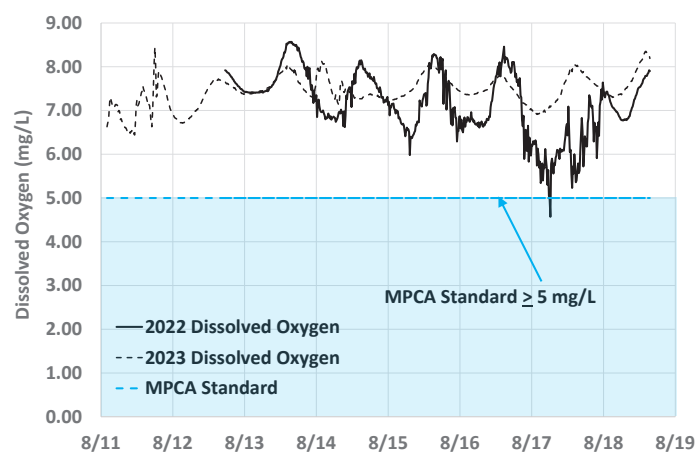


Figure 12 2022–2023 continuous dissolved oxygen at Plymouth Creek Station IP2 from August 12–18, 2022, and August 11–18, 2023

## Total phosphorus, chlorophyll *a*, and dissolved oxygen (DO) flux

While phosphorus is necessary for plant and algae growth, too much phosphorus leads to excessive algae, decreased water clarity, and water quality impairment. Some common sources of phosphorus are fertilizers, leaves and grass clippings from streets, atmospheric deposition, soil erosion, and material from plant die-offs. The quantity of algae in water is measured by chlorophyll *a*, a pigment in algae. The MPCA standard for total phosphorus, chlorophyll *a*, and DO flux is the river eutrophication standard (RES). RES is a two-part standard, requiring an exceedance of the “causative variable” (total phosphorus) and a “response variable” (chlorophyll *a* or DO flux), which indicates the presence of eutrophication (excessive nutrients). Total phosphorus, chlorophyll *a*, and DO flux are considered in combination and not independently.

To determine whether a stream is impaired, total phosphorus and chlorophyll *a* data must be collected in at least two different years during a 10-year period; a minimum of 12 measurements per parameter (from June to September) must be used to determine the seasonal averages. The seasonal averages are then compared with the MPCA standard for each parameter: a maximum of 100 µg/L for total phosphorus and a maximum of 18 µg/L for chlorophyll *a*. For DO flux, a minimum 4-day deployment is required from June through September, with a minimum of two deployments over separate years. The MPCA standard for DO flux is a maximum of 3.5. The stream meets the RES if either the causative variable (total phosphorus) or response variables (chlorophyll *a* and DO flux) meet their respective standards.

Total phosphorus and chlorophyll *a* samples were collected from IP2 from April through August 2022 and April through October 2023. The 2022 through 2023 seasonal average (June through September) for the causative variable, total phosphorus (TP), was 216 µg/L, which failed to meet the MPCA RES standard (Figure 13). The 2022 through 2023 seasonal average for the response variable, chlorophyll *a*, was 7.6 µg/L, which met the MPCA RES standard (Figure 14).

DO flux was determined from continuous dissolved oxygen monitoring of IP2 from August 12–18, 2022, and August 11–18, 2023. DO flux ranged from 0.49 to 3.07 in 2022 which met the MPCA RES standard; the overall average was 1.91 (Figure 15 and Table 3). DO flux ranged from 0.75 to 2.00 in 2023 which met the MPCA RES standard; the overall average was 1.07 (Figure 15 and Table 3).

Although the causative variable, total phosphorus, failed to meet the MPCA standard, the two response variables, chlorophyll *a* and DO flux, both met the MPCA standard. Hence, the stream met the RES and is not considered impaired.

Table 3 2022–2023 Summary of Continuous Dissolved Oxygen (DO) Measurements at Plymouth Creek Station IP2 from August 12–18, 2022, and August 11–18, 2023

Date	Daily Average DO (mg/L)	Daily Maximum DO (mg/L)	Daily Minimum DO (mg/L)	Daily (Diel) DO Flux (mg/L)
8/12/2022	7.39	7.92	7.43	0.49
8/13/2022	7.82	8.57	7.17	1.40
8/14/2022	7.34	8.15	6.62	1.53
8/15/2022	7.17	8.29	5.98	2.31
8/16/2023	7.16	8.46	5.83	2.63
8/17/2022	6.14	7.64	4.57	3.07
8/18/2022	7.23	7.92	6.77	1.15
<b>2022 Average</b>	<b>7.18</b>	<b>8.17</b>	<b>6.27</b>	<b>1.91</b>
8/11/2023	7.04	8.44	6.44	2.00
8/12/2023	7.27	7.73	6.71	1.02
8/13/2023	7.59	8.05	7.30	0.75
8/14/2023	7.46	8.13	7.12	1.01
8/15/2023	7.61	8.04	7.22	0.82
8/16/2023	7.45	7.80	7.02	0.78
8/17/2023	7.47	8.05	6.91	1.14
8/18/2023	7.68	8.35	7.30	1.05
<b>2023 Average</b>	<b>7.45</b>	<b>8.07</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>1.07</b>

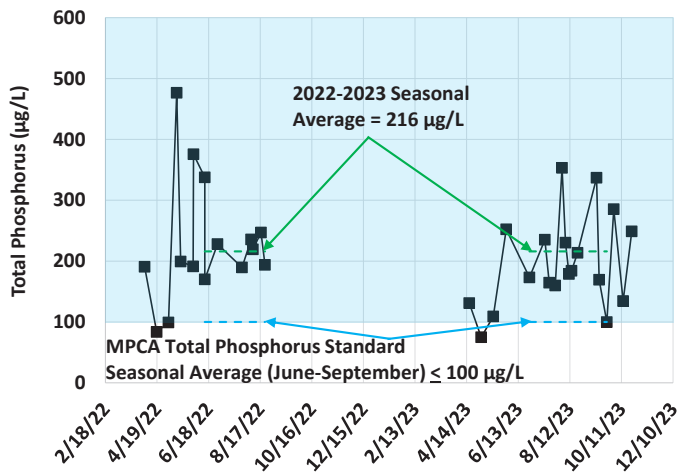


Figure 13 2022–2023 total phosphorus at Plymouth Creek Station IP2

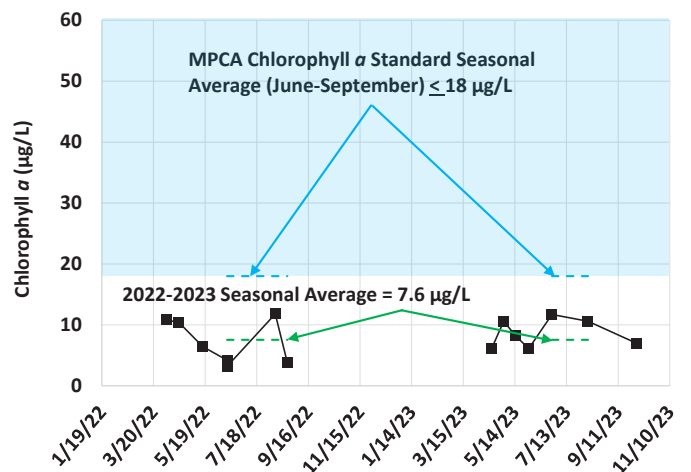


Figure 14 2022–2023 chlorophyll a at Plymouth Creek Station IP2

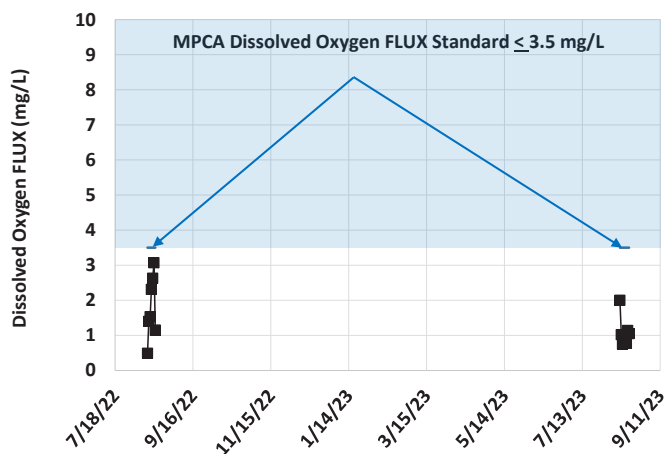


Figure 15 2022–2023 dissolved oxygen FLUX at Plymouth Creek Station IP2

## Chlorides

Chloride concentrations in area streams have increased since the early 1990s when many government agencies switched from sand or sand/salt mixtures to salt for winter road maintenance. When snow and ice melt, the salt goes with it, washing into lakes, streams, wetlands, and groundwater. It only takes 1 teaspoon of road salt to pollute 5 gallons of water such that it can no longer support freshwater life. And that pollution is essentially permanent as there is no easy or affordable way to remove chloride from the water.

Because high chloride concentrations can harm fish and plant life, the MPCA has established maximum and chronic chloride standards. The maximum standard is the highest concentration of chloride that aquatic organisms can be exposed to for a brief time with zero-to-slight mortality. The chronic standard is the highest chloride concentration that aquatic life can be exposed to indefinitely without causing chronic toxicity. Chronic toxicity is defined as a stimulus that lingers or continues for a long period, often one-tenth the life span or more. A chronic effect can be mortality, reduced growth, reproduction impairment, harmful changes in behavior, and other nonlethal effects. A lake is considered impaired if two or more measurements exceed the chronic criterion (230 mg/L) within 3 years or if one measurement exceeds the maximum criterion (860 mg/L).

Chloride was measured from IP1 and IP2 during 2022 and 2023. In 2022, chloride concentrations at IP1 ranged from 14 mg/L to 382 mg/L; the overall average was 163 mg/L. Three of the 12 measurements exceeded the MPCA chronic chloride standard of 230 mg/L. In 2023, chloride concentrations at IP1 ranged from 0 mg/L to 588 mg/L; the overall average was 146 mg/L. Four of the 16 measurements exceeded the MPCA chronic chloride standard of 230 mg/L (Figure 16).

In 2022, chloride concentrations at IP2 ranged from 66 mg/L to 258 mg/L; the overall average was 172 mg/L. Four of the 13 measurements exceeded the MPCA chronic chloride standard of 230 mg/L. In 2023, chloride concentrations in IP2 ranged from 42 mg/L to 444 mg/L; the overall average was 204 mg/L. Three of the 10 measurements exceeded the MPCA chronic chloride standard of 230 mg/L (Figure 17).

Specific-conductance data was analyzed to provide additional information about chloride concentrations. Specific conductance measures how well water can conduct electricity. It indicates what is dissolved in the water and increases with larger numbers of ions, including chloride ions. A linear regression analysis of specific conductance and chloride measurements from IP2 indicated that 78 percent of the specific-conductance value was due to chloride ions in the stream. The outcome of the linear regression analysis was a regression equation, which is a statistical model of the relationship between specific conductance and chloride. The model was used to estimate average daily chloride values from the average daily specific-conductance values. In 2022, the estimated average daily chloride concentrations at IP2 ranged from 37 mg/L to 305 mg/L, with an average of 199 mg/L (Figure 17). The estimated number of days that chloride concentrations exceeded the MPCA standard in 2022 was 41 of the 128 days of specific-conductance measurements (32 percent, Figure 17). In 2023, the estimated average daily chloride concentrations at IP2 ranged from 9 mg/L to 468 mg/L, with an average of 239 mg/L (Figure 17). The estimated number of days that chloride concentrations exceeded the MPCA standard was 69 of the 138 days of specific-conductance measurements (50 percent, Figure 17).

Plymouth Creek has been listed on the 303(d) list of Minnesota’s impaired waters for chloride since 2014. Because chloride concentrations in samples collected from Plymouth Creek locations IP1 and IP2 exceeded the MPCA standard on more than two occasions during the 2022 and 2023 monitoring period, the stream was impaired for chlorides.



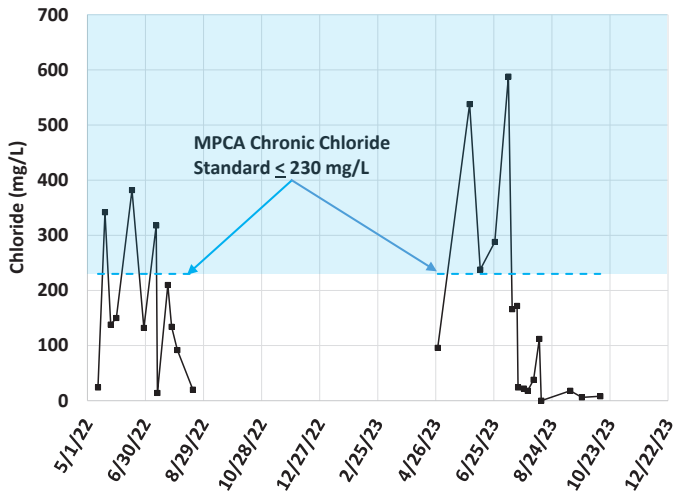


Figure 16 2022–2023 measured chloride concentrations at Plymouth Creek Station IP1

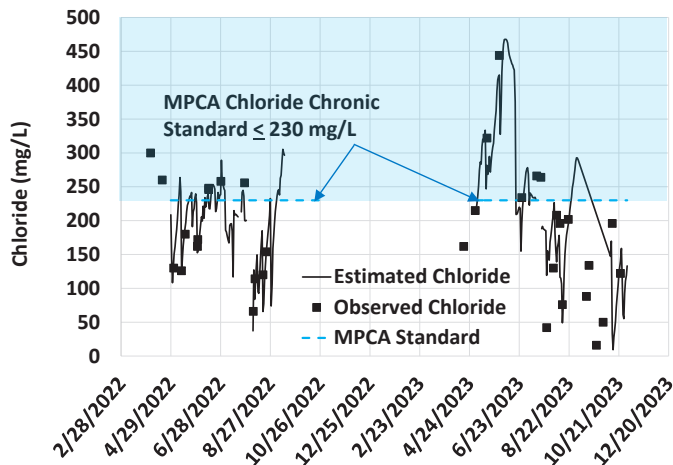


Figure 17 2022–2023 chloride concentrations: measured and estimated from average daily specific-conductance measurements at Plymouth Creek Station IP2

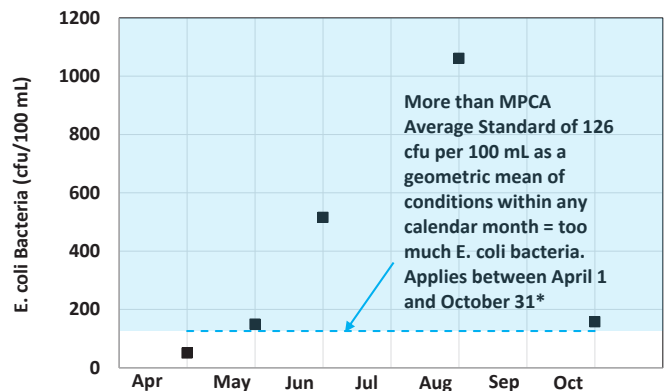
## E. coli Bacteria

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determined that *E. coli* is the preferred indicator of the potential presence of waterborne pathogens. The MPCA standard for *E. coli* protects streams used for two types of recreation: primary body contact (e.g., swimming, where inadvertent ingestion of water is likely) and secondary body contact (e.g., wading, where the likelihood of ingesting water is much smaller). The MPCA uses average and maximum *E. coli* values to determine impairment. *E. coli* standards are applicable only during the warmer months of April through October since swimming or wading in Minnesota streams during the November through March period is not expected.

Average *E. coli* is assessed by a standard based on a geometric mean EPA criterion of 126 *E. coli* colony-forming units (cfu) per 100 mL. Data are aggregated by individual month (e.g., all April values, all May values, etc.) for up to 10 years to determine impairment due to high average monthly *E. coli* values. At least 3 months of data must be collected, preferably between June and September, and at least five values must be collected per month for those 3 months (15 samples) to determine impairment due to high average *E. coli*.

If the geometric mean of the aggregated monthly values for one or more months exceeds 126 cfu per 10 mL, the reach is considered impaired. *E. coli* data collected at IP2 from 2022 through 2023 were assessed to determine whether average *E. coli* values met the MPCA impairment standard. The April, May, June, August, and October monthly geometric means from the aggregated 2022 through 2023 values ranged from a low of 50 cfu per 100 mL in April to a high of 1,061 cfu per 100 mL in August (Figure 18). Geometric means during May, June, August, and October failed to meet the MPCA standard of 126 cfu per 100 mL (Figure 18). However, because the geometric means were computed from one or two samples per month, Plymouth Creek would not be considered impaired for *E. coli* bacteria because fewer than five samples per month were collected for at least 3 months. Insufficient information prevented assessment of Plymouth Creek for *E. coli* impairment using geometric means.

The MPCA also considers a water body impaired for aquatic recreation if more than 10% of individual values exceed 1,260 *E. coli* organisms per 100 milliliters (maximum *E. coli* standard). All *E. coli* sample values from Plymouth Creek location IP2 in 2022 and 2023 met this MPCA standard (Figure 19).



\*Data over 10 year period aggregated by individual month and at least 5 values per month for at least 3 months during June-September needed to determine impairment.

Figure 18 2022–2023 monthly geometric means of *E. coli* bacteria at Plymouth Creek Station IP2



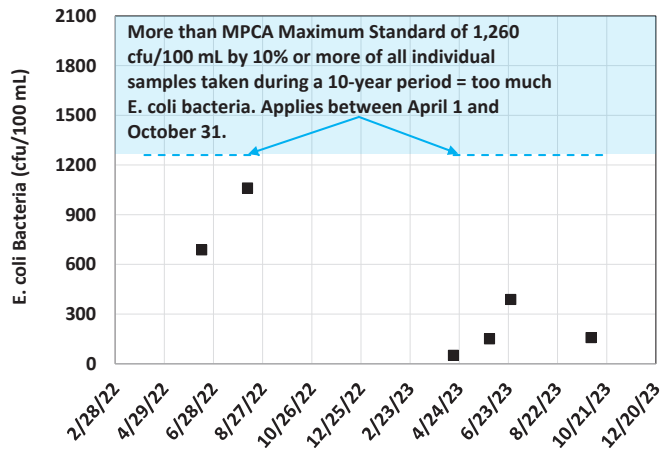


Figure 19 2022–2023 E. coli bacteria at Plymouth Creek Station IP2

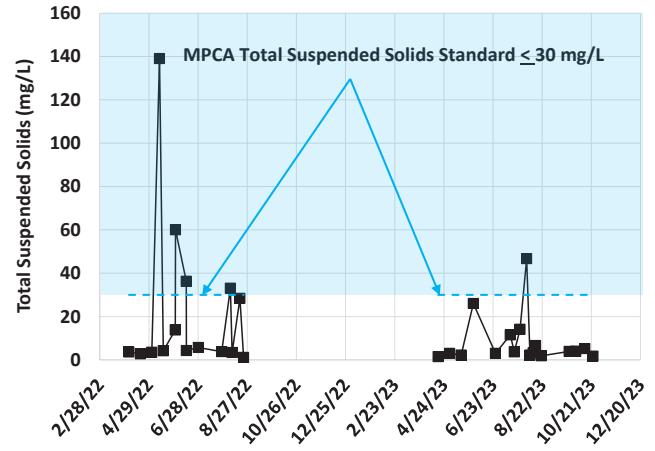


Figure 20 2022–2023 total suspended solids at Plymouth Creek Station IP2

## Total Suspended Solids

Total suspended solids consist of soil particles, algae, and other materials that are suspended in water and cause a lack of clarity. Excessive total suspended solids can harm aquatic life and degrade aesthetic and recreational qualities. A stream is considered to exceed the standard for total suspended solids (30 mg/L) if (1) the standard is exceeded more than 10 percent of the days of the assessment season (April through September) and (2) there are at least three such measurements exceeding the MPCA standard (30 mg/L).

In 2022, total suspended solids concentrations from IP2 ranged from a low of 1.1 mg/L on August 22 to a high of 139 mg/L on May 11 (Figure 20). The average during the April through August assessment period was 22.9 mg/L. Four of the 15 samples collected during this period (27 percent) exceeded the MPCA standard of 30 mg/L (Figure 20).

In 2023, total suspended solids concentrations from IP2 ranged from a low of 1.5 mg/L on April 17 to a high of 46.7 mg/L on August 3 (Figure 20), the average during the April through September assessment season was 9.3 mg/L. One of the 14 samples collected during this period (7 percent) exceeded the MPCA standard of 30 mg/L (Figure 20).

Plymouth Creek is not currently included on the 303(d) list of Minnesota’s impaired waters for total suspended solids. However, because the total suspended solids standard was exceeded in more than 10 percent of the samples collected from IP2 during the 2022 assessment season (April through September), and there were at least three measurements, the stream would be considered impaired for total suspended solids.

## Metals

Metals are naturally occurring elements found throughout the earth’s crust. Their multiple industrial, domestic, agricultural, medical, and technological applications have led to their widespread distribution in the environment. Because heavy-metal-induced toxicity can harm aquatic life, the MPCA has established three standards for Class 2B waters—chronic, maximum, and final acute values (FAVs)—for each metal type. (The MPCA has classified Plymouth Creek as a Class 2B water.) The chronic standard (CS) is the highest toxicant concentration that aquatic organisms can be indefinitely exposed to without harmful effects. The maximum standard (MS) is a concentration that protects aquatic organisms from the potentially lethal effects of a short-term “spike” in toxicant concentrations. The MS is always equal to one-half of the FAV: the concentration that would kill about one-half of the exposed individuals of a very sensitive species. The FAV is most often used as an “end-of-pipe” effluent limit to prevent the discharge of acutely toxic substances into streams. Because increases in water hardness decrease the toxicity of metals, the MPCA metals standards vary with water hardness. To show this variation, metal concentrations in Figures 21–26 are plotted on the y-axis and hardness on the x-axis.

Quarterly samples were collected from IP2 and analyzed for total cadmium, total chromium, copper, nickel, lead, and zinc during the 2022 and 2023 monitoring periods. All samples met the MPCA standards, indicating metals are not causing toxicity to aquatic organisms in the stream.

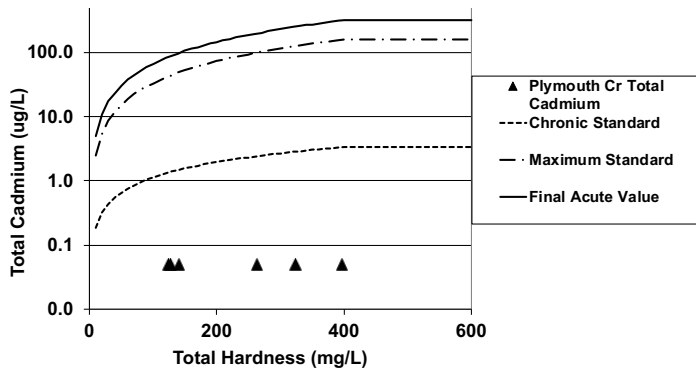


Figure 21 2022-2023 total cadmium at Plymouth Creek Station IP2 compared to MPCA standards

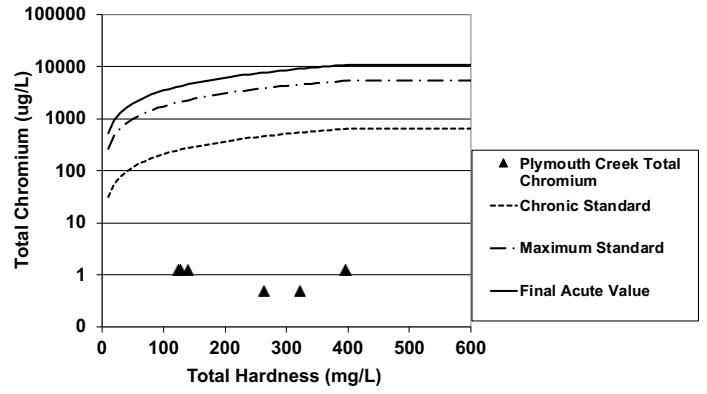


Figure 22 2022-2023 total chromium at Plymouth Creek Station IP2 compared to MPCA standards

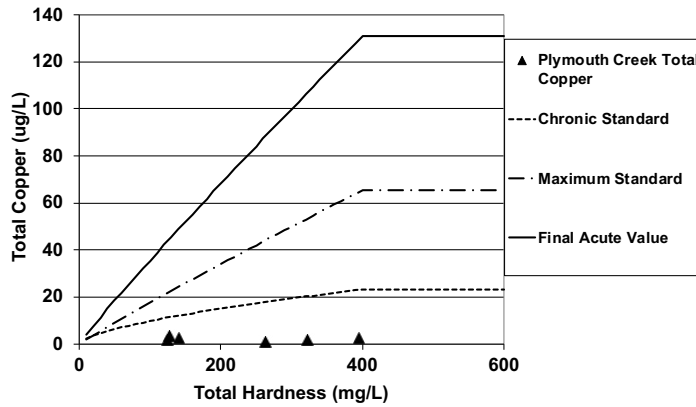


Figure 23 2022-2023 total copper at Plymouth Creek Station IP2 compared to MPCA standards

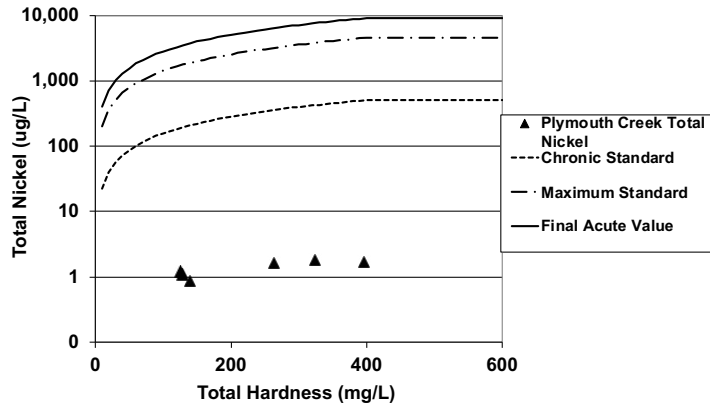


Figure 24 2022-2023 total nickel at Plymouth Creek Station IP2 compared to MPCA standards

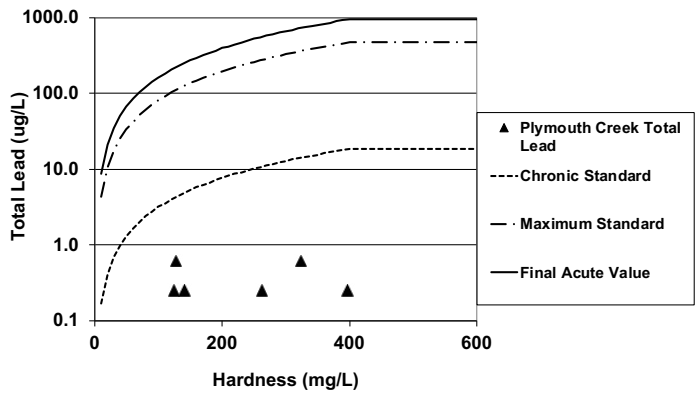


Figure 25 2022-2023 total lead at Plymouth Creek Station IP2 compared to MPCA standards

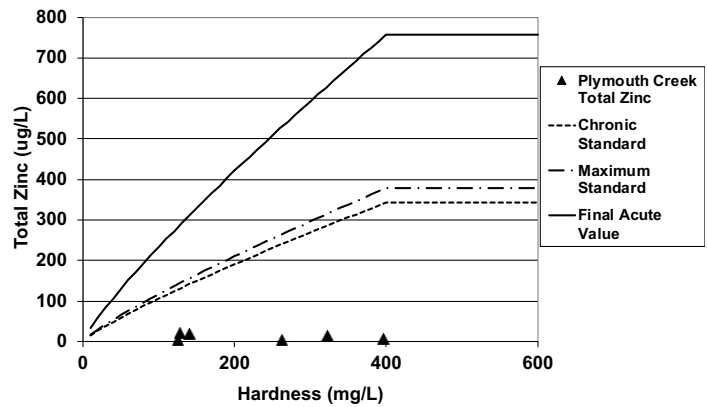


Figure 26 2022-2023 total zinc at Plymouth Creek Station IP2 compared to MPCA standards



## Biotic Index Evaluation of Plymouth Creek

In 2022, the BCWMC monitored Plymouth Creek for benthic macroinvertebrates (bottom-dwelling organisms) and assessed the stream’s habitat (see Figure 1 for sampling locations). This sampling has been done on 11 occasions between 1980 and 2022 to evaluate water quality and detect changes over time. The Macroinvertebrate Index of Biotic Integrity (M-IBI) was used to evaluate the health of the stream’s macroinvertebrate community. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) developed the M-IBI and added it to Minnesota’s water quality standards to help identify biologically impaired rivers and streams.

### Plymouth Creek Habitat

Habitat is a key factor in determining the presence and distribution of macroinvertebrates in streams. Stream macroinvertebrates are influenced by such habitat factors as substrate size and composition, the quantity of fine sediment deposited on the substrate, and the presence of vegetation. The substrate provides places for food and refuge for macroinvertebrates. Aquatic vegetation provides shelter against predation by small fish. Adverse changes in habitat can result in adverse changes to the macroinvertebrate community.

Habitat surveys of Plymouth Creek at Industrial Boulevard were completed in 2015 and 2022 using the MPCA

quantitative habitat survey method. The survey results are summarized in Table 4. Changes between the 2015 and 2022 habitat evaluations include increases in depth of fine sediment, length of bank erosion, and amount of algae. Dry climatic conditions in 2022 resulted in decreases in flows and water depth.

### M-IBI

The MPCA has established biological water quality standards for all Minnesota streams and rivers, including Plymouth Creek. An M-IBI and a fish index of biotic integrity (F-IBI) were added to Minnesota standards and approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency on June 26, 2018.

The M-IBI helps identify biologically impaired rivers and streams by assessing the health of their macroinvertebrate communities. The M-IBI score is the sum of the scores from 10 individual metrics. Each metric assesses an attribute of the macroinvertebrate community; collectively, the metrics assess the community’s overall health. Each M-IBI metric has a scale of 0 to 10; the lowest possible score is 0, and the highest is 10. Increasing scores indicate improving conditions. Because 10 metrics are summed to attain the M-IBI score, and each metric has a maximum score of 10, the maximum possible score is 100. To meet the MPCA macroinvertebrate standard, the sum of the scores from the 10 individual metrics must equal or exceed the impairment threshold—the MPCA Macroinvertebrate

Table 4 2015 and 2022 Habitat Comparison: Plymouth Creek at Industrial Boulevard

Parameter	Plymouth	
	2015	2022
Discharge (flow) (cfs) <sup>1</sup>	0.2	0.1
Average depth of water (cm)	15	11
Average depth of fine sediment (cm)	1.3	1.4
Average embeddedness of coarse sediment (%)	52	52
Percent of transects with left-bank erosion	38	38
Percent of transects with right-bank erosion	8	8
Average length of bank erosion per transect: left bank (m)	0.2	0.5
Average length of bank erosion per transect: right bank (m)	0.0	0.5
Average amount of algae (filamentous or attached) observed on quadrat (%)	12	39
Average number of macrophytes observed on quadrat (%)	0	0
Percent length of transect over at least 10 cm of water with overhanging vegetation	0	0
Percent length of transect over at least 10 cm of water with submerged vegetation	0	0
Percent length of transect over at least 10 cm of water with emergent vegetation	0	0
Percent length of transect over at least 10 cm of water with woody debris	0	0
Percent length of transect over at least 10 cm of water with boulders	8.2	2.1
Percent length of transect over at least 10 cm water depth with undercut banks	0	0

<sup>1</sup>Discharge when macroinvertebrate samples were collected.

Class 5 (Southern Streams) standard of 37 is applicable to Plymouth Creek.

The BCWMC collected macroinvertebrate samples from Plymouth Creek on September 28, 2022, and computed the M-IBI score to determine whether the stream met the M-IBI biological standard. The 2022 M-IBI score of 14 did not meet the M-IBI biological standard (Figure 27).

Macroinvertebrate data collected by BCWMC from 1991 through 2022 and by the MPCA in 2010 and 2020 were evaluated using the M-IBI. All M-IBI scores were compared with the MPCA standard. None of the M-IBI scores met the MPCA standard. BCWMC M-IBI scores ranged from a low of 13 to a high of 32 (Figure 27). The MPCA scores ranged from 7.7 in 2020 to 24.9 in 2010. Both MPCA scores were below the MPCA standard, resulting in Plymouth Creek being added to Minnesota’s impaired waters list for aquatic life-benthic macroinvertebrates bioassessments in 2024. Macroinvertebrate data collected by BCWMC from 1991 through 2022 support the inclusion of Plymouth Creek on Minnesota’s impaired waters list.

The MPCA completed a Stressor Identification (SID) for Plymouth Creek in 2024 to determine stressors causing biological impairment in the stream. The most common stressor found was altered hydrology and connectivity followed by eutrophication due to excess total phosphorus, inadequate dissolved oxygen, excess



chloride, and excess total suspended solids. The 2022–2023 Plymouth Creek data were consistent with MPCA findings, with inadequate dissolved oxygen, excess chloride, excess total suspended solids, and excess total phosphorus. The 2022–2023 Plymouth Creek data also identified inadequate flow as a stressor to the biological community. Dry climatic conditions in 2022 and 2023 resulted in no flow at:

- Plymouth Creek monitoring location Industrial Park 1 (IP1) during 12 percent of the monitored period in 2022 and 13 percent of the monitored period in 2023.
- Plymouth Creek monitoring location Industrial Park 2 (IP2) during 40 percent of the monitored period in 2022 and 33 percent of the monitored period in 2023.

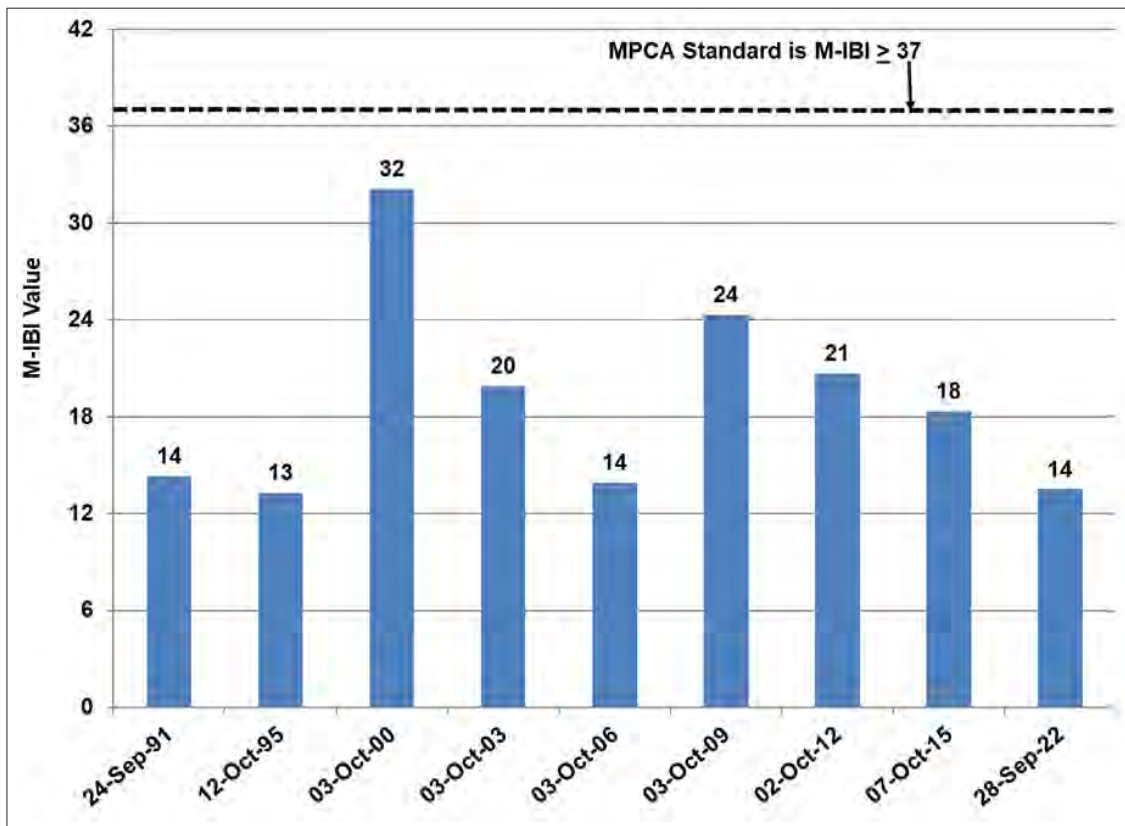


Figure 27 1991–2022 M-IBI Metric Scores from the Plymouth Creek Biological Monitoring Station





Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission  
[bassettcreekwmo.org](http://bassettcreekwmo.org)





**FY 2025 Clean Water Fund  
Competitive Grants  
Request for Proposal (RFP)**





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## WHAT IS NEW FOR FY25

- There will no longer be any policy for this program. All program requirements are contained in this RFP.
- Accelerated implementation grant funding is available.

## PURPOSE

The Clean Water Fund was established in Minnesota Statute 114D.50 to implement part of Article XI, Section 15, of the Minnesota Constitution, with the purpose of protecting, enhancing, and restoring water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams in addition to protecting ground water and drinking water sources from degradation. These funds must supplement traditional sources of funding and may not be used as a substitute to fund activities or programs.

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants Program supports activities that restore, protect, and enhance water quality. This RFP includes the following:

Grants: Projects and Practices, Drinking Water, Accelerated Implementation

Loans: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Clean Water Partnership Loan, Minnesota Department of Agriculture AgBMP Loan

## FUNDING AVAILABLE AND MATCH

Table 1 lists the Clean Water Fund (CWF) programs available to BWSR and other executive branch agencies. Final funding decisions will be dependent on the actual funds available.

All grants require a non-state match equal to at least 10% of the amount of Clean Water Funds requested and/or received, unless specified otherwise by Board action. Activities listed as ineligible under Section 4 (Ineligible Activities) may not be counted towards match, except land acquisition and easement costs which can count toward the required match if directly associated with the project and incurred within the grant period. Match can be provided by a landowner, land occupier, private organization, local government or other non-state source and can be in the form of cash or the cash value of services or materials contributed to the accomplishment of grant objectives.

<b>Agency Fund</b>	<b>Funding Amount</b>	<b>Required Match</b>
BWSR Projects and Practices Grant	Up to \$5,132,000	10%
BWSR Drinking Water subgrant	Up to \$1,283,000	10%
BWSR Accelerated Implementation Grant	Up to \$3,195,943	10%
MDA AgBMP Loans	Up to \$9,445,369	Not Required
MPCA Clean Water Partnership Loans	Up to \$4,000,000	Not Required

<sup>1</sup> Amounts shown are estimates. Actual amounts will be determined prior to the end of the application period.

## TIMELINE

No late submissions or incomplete applications will be considered for funding. The application must be submitted by 4:30 PM. Late responses will not be considered. The grant applicant is responsible for proving timely submittal.

Grant Cycle	Grant Cycle Dates
Application period open	June 28, 2024
Application period close	August 22, 2024
BWSR Board authorizes grant awards	December 19, 2024
BWSR grant agreements sent to recipients	February 2025
Work plan submittal deadline	March 20, 2025
Grant execution deadline	April 17, 2025
Grant agreement end date	December 31, 2027

## GRANT ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

### APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants for competitive grants include:

- a) Local governments (counties, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, and soil and water conservation districts or local government joint power boards) working under a current State approved and locally adopted local water management plan, comprehensive watershed management plan or soil and water conservation district comprehensive plan.
- b) Municipalities are eligible if they: 1) have a water plan that has been approved by a watershed district or a watershed management organization as provided under Minn. Stat. 103B.235; or 2) adopted an approved comprehensive watershed management plan developed under Minn. Stat. 103B.801
- c) Counties in the seven-county metropolitan area are eligible if they have adopted a county groundwater plan under Minn Stat. 103B.255 or county comprehensive plan that has been approved by the Metropolitan Council under Minn. Stat. Chapter 473.
- d) DRINKING WATER GRANT ONLY: Eligible entities include those listed in a) and c) above, as well as, municipalities if they have a state approved Minnesota Department of Health approved source water (drinking water) protection plan such as a wellhead protection plan, wellhead protection action plan or surface water intake protection plan (public water suppliers and rural water systems defined by Minn. Stat. 116A.01 Public Water Systems).

Applicable plans must be current when the Board approves awards to be eligible to receive grant funds. Applicants must also be in compliance with all applicable federal, State, and local laws, policies, ordinances, rules, and regulations.



## ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

The primary purpose of activities funded through this program is to restore, protect, and enhance water quality in lakes, rivers and streams; protect groundwater from degradation; and protect drinking water sources. Eligible activities must be consistent with a watershed management plan, comprehensive watershed management plan, county comprehensive local water management plan, soil and water conservation district comprehensive plan, metropolitan local water plan or metropolitan groundwater plan that has been State approved and locally adopted or an approved total maximum daily load study (TMDL), watershed restoration and protection strategy (WRAPS) document, groundwater restoration and protection strategy (GRAPS) document, surface water intake plan, or wellhead protection plan. Local governments may include programs and projects in their grant application that are derived from an eligible plan of another local government. BWSR may request documentation outlining the cooperation between the local government submitting the grant application and the local government that has adopted the plan.

Eligible activities can consist of structural practices and projects; non-structural practices and measures, project support, grant management and reporting. Technical and engineering assistance necessary to implement these activities are considered essential and are to be included in the total project or practice cost.

### STRUCTURAL ACTIVITIES

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The BWSR website provides a list of the practices available for users to select within eLINK, see <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/elink-guidance-practices>. It is not an inclusive list.

### FEEDLOTS

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Eligible practices are limited to 1) livestock management systems that were constructed before October 23, 2000, and 2) livestock operations registered with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Database or its equivalent, and 3) that are not classified as a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO), 4) and have less than 500 animal units (AUs), in accordance with Minnesota Rule Chapter 7020. BWSR reserves the right to deny, postpone or cancel funding where financial penalties related to livestock waste management violations have been imposed on the operator.

- a. Funded projects must be in compliance with standards in MN Rule Chapter 7020 upon completion.
- b. Eligible practices are limited to best management practices listed by the Minnesota NRCS (<https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/details>) and MPCA permitting requirements.
- c. Eligible practices and project components must meet all applicable local, State, and federal standards and permitting requirements.
- d. Feedlot roof structures are eligible up to \$100,000 per project with state grant funds and not to exceed 100% of construction costs.
- e. Feedlot relocations are eligible up to \$100,000 per project with state grant funds and not to exceed 100% of the construction costs. The existing eligible feedlot must be permanently closed in accordance with local and State requirements. The existing and relocated livestock waste management systems sites are considered one project for grant funding.
- f. **Supplemental questions must be submitted in eLINK via attachment as part of any application that contains feedlot practices including practices to address stockpiles.** Applications that do not have this attachment will be deemed ineligible. Funding will only be provided for those facilities listed on the supplemental questions sheet, which shall be incorporated into the grant work plan.

### SUBSURFACE SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS (SSTS)

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## FY 2025 PROJECTS AND PRACTICES QUESTIONS

**(Answers to each question are limited to 2000 characters.)**

**Note that the following questions need to be answered in eLINK and the character limit in eLINK is NOT the same as Microsoft Word.**

**Project Abstract (5 points):** Succinctly describe what you are trying to achieve and how you intend to achieve those results, including the type and quantity of projects and/or practices included in the application budget and anticipated outcomes.

**Proposed Measurable Outcomes (0 points):** Succinctly describe the proposed measurable outcomes of this grant application.

1. Does your organization have any active CWF competitive grants (0 points)? If so, specify FY and percentage spent. Also, explain your organization's capacity (including available FTEs or contracted resources) to effectively implement additional Clean Water Fund grant dollars.
2. **Water Resource (0 points):** Identify the water resource the application is targeting for water quality protection or restoration.
3. **Prioritization - Relationship to Plan (18 points)**
  - (A) Describe why the water resource was identified in the plan as a priority resource, identify the specific water management plan reference by plan organization (if different from the applicant), plan title, section, and page number.
  - (B) In addition to the plan citation, provide a brief narrative description that explains whether this application fully or partially accomplishes the referenced activity.
  - (C) Provide weblinks to all referenced plans.
4. **Prioritization - Relationship to Plan (2 points)**
  - (A) Describe how the resource of concern aligns with at least one of the statewide priorities referenced in the Nonpoint Priority Funding Plan (also referenced in the "Projects and Practices" section of the RFP).
  - (B) Describe the public benefits resulting from this proposal from both a local and state perspective.
5. **Targeting (15 points):** Describe the methods used to identify, inventory, and target the root cause (most critical pollution source(s) or threat(s)). Describe any related additional targeting efforts that will be completed prior to installing the projects or practices identified in this proposal.
6. **Targeting (10 points):** How does this proposal fit with complementary work that you and your partners are implementing to achieve the goal(s) for the priority water resource(s) of concern? Describe the comprehensive management approach to this water resource(s) with examples such as: other financial assistance or incentive programs, easements, regulatory enforcement, or community engagement activities that are directly or indirectly related to this proposal.
7. **Measurable Outcomes and Project Impact (5 points):**
  - (A) What is the primary pollutant(s) this application specifically addresses?
  - (B) Has a pollutant reduction goal been set (via TMDL or other study) in relation to the pollutant(s) or the water resource that is the subject of this application? If so, please state that goal (as both an annual pollution reduction AND overall percentage reduction, not as an in-stream or in-lake concentration number).
  - (C) If no pollutant reduction goal has been set, describe the water quality trends or risks associated with the water resource or other management goals that have been established.
  - (D) For protection projects, indicate measurable outputs such as acres of protected land, number of potential contaminant sources removed or managed, etc.

8.	<p>Measurable Outcomes and Project Impact (10 points):</p> <p>(A) What portion of the water quality goal will be achieved through this application? Where applicable, identify the annual reduction in pollutant(s) that will be achieved or avoided for the water resource if this project is completed.</p> <p>(B) Describe the effects this application will have on the root cause of the issue it will address (most critical pollution source(s) or threat(s)).</p>
9.	<p>Measurable Outcomes and Project Impact (5 points): If the project will have secondary benefits, specifically describe, (quantify if possible), those benefits. Examples: hydrologic benefits, climate resiliency, enhancement of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife species, groundwater protection, enhancement of pollinator populations, or protection of rare and/or native species.</p>
10.	<p>Cost Effectiveness and Feasibility (15 points):</p> <p>(A) Describe why the proposed project(s) in this application are considered to be the most cost effective and feasible means to attain water quality improvement or protection benefits to achieve or maintain water quality goals. Has any analysis been conducted to help substantiate this determination? Discuss why alternative practices were not selected. Factors to consider include, but are not limited to: BMP effectiveness, timing, site feasibility, practicality, and public acceptance.</p> <p>(B) If your application is proposing to use incentives above and beyond payments for practice costs, please describe rates, duration of payments and the rationale for the incentives' cost effectiveness.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> For in-lake projects such as alum treatments or carp management, please refer to the feasibility study or series of studies that accompanies the grant application to assess alternatives and relative cost effectiveness. Please attach feasibility study to your application in eLINK.</p>
11.	<p>Project Readiness (10 points):</p> <p>(A) What steps have been taken or are expected to ensure that project implementation can begin soon after the grant award?</p> <p>(B) Describe general environmental review and permitting needs required by the project (list if needed).</p> <p>(C) Also, describe any discussions with landowners, status of agreements/contracts, contingency plans, and other elements essential to project implementation.</p> <p>(D) What activities, if any proposed, will accompany your project(s) that will communicate the need, benefits, and long-term impacts to your local community? This should go above and beyond the standard newsletters, signs and press releases.</p>
12.	<p>Budget (5 points): Describe how the budget categories support the activities in your application. Please provide adequate Activity Category detail in your budget table to support your application and show project readiness (see eLINK Activity Categories).</p>
13.	<p><u>Stream Restoration Projects Only:</u> The Legacy Fund Restoration Evaluation Report recommends early coordination and comprehensive planning for stream projects. Describe the expertise of your team (i.e., geomorphology, hydrology, plant and animal ecology, construction site management, and engineering) and early coordination efforts you have been part of to ensure project success.</p>
14.	<p><u>Stream Restoration Projects Only:</u> Describe how your organization will provide financial assurance that operations and maintenance funds are available if needed.</p>
15.	<p>The Constitutional Amendment requires that Amendment funding must not substitute traditional state funding. Briefly describe how this project will provide water quality benefits to the State of Minnesota without substituting existing funding (0 points).</p>



## Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

### MEMO

To: BCWMC Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners  
From: Administrator Jester  
Date: July 10, 2024

#### **RE: Draft Policy on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA)**

At their meeting in April 2023, the Commission briefly discussed the need for a policy on DEIA principals that identifies how and why equity principals are important to accomplishing Commission goals and how they connect with watershed management. The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District's DEIA policy (stated below) was used as an example. Discussion was brief (due to the length of the meeting) but centered on concerns that the NMCWD policy wasn't specific or descriptive enough. No action was taken.

Recently, the Plan Steering Committee (PSC) determined that a policy related to DEIA is needed now so that appropriate goals can be set for some key issues in the watershed management plan. Commissioner Pentel and I worked together to draft the following policy for the Commission's consideration.

*BCWMC Draft Policy: The BCWMC is committed to understanding issues and prioritizing improvements in diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility as they relate to the Commission's work. The BCWMC strives for diverse representation in decision making, robust engagement and communication with historically underrepresented communities, equitable access to information and resources, and use of social vulnerability and related indices in prioritization of its projects and programs.*

*NMCWD Policy (as an example): The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District strives to understand and to prioritize diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility. Within the context of strategic watershed management, the district will work toward addressing current and historical inequities in every facet of its operation.*





## MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 1, 2024  
TO: Minnesota Watersheds Members  
FROM: Linda Vavra and Jamie Beyer, Resolutions Committee Co-Chairs  
RE: **2024 REQUEST FOR MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS RESOLUTIONS**

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It is the time of year for Minnesota Watersheds members to submit their policy recommendations through our resolutions process. This is YOUR organization and policy statements start with YOU! Here are the next steps and timeline:

- July / August** Members write, discuss, and approve resolutions at your WD/WMO meetings. The more detail you can provide, the easier it will be for the committee to make a recommendation.
- September 1** Administrators submit resolutions and background information documents to Jan Voit, Executive Director at [jvoit@mnwatersheds.com](mailto:jvoit@mnwatersheds.com) by **September 1**. If more time is needed, please contact her so the Resolutions Committee is aware that another resolution may be submitted. The latest possible date to submit a resolution is **60 days before** the annual meeting (October 4). We ask that resolutions be submitted according to the described timeframe to ensure distribution to members for discussion by your boards in November.
- NOTE: If all the requested information is not included, the Resolution will NOT be accepted.**
- October** The Resolutions Committee will review the resolutions, gather more information, or ask for further clarification when deemed necessary; work with the submitting watersheds to combine similar resolutions; reject resolutions already active; discuss and make recommendations to the membership on the passage of resolutions.
- October 31** Resolutions (with committee feedback) will be emailed to each organization by **October 31**.
- NOTE: If possible, please hold a regional meeting to discuss the Resolutions BEFORE the annual conference.**
- November** Members should discuss the resolutions at their November meetings and decide who will be voting on their behalf at the annual meeting (2 voting members and 1 alternate are to be designated per watershed organization)
- December 6** Delegates discuss and vote on resolutions at the annual resolutions hearing. Please be prepared to present and defend your resolution.
- December** The Legislative Committee will review existing and new resolutions and make a recommendation to the Minnesota Watersheds Board of Directors for the 2025 legislative priorities.
- December** Minnesota Watersheds Board of Directors will finalize the 2025 legislative platform.
- January 14, 2025** First day of the 1<sup>st</sup> half of 94<sup>th</sup> legislative biennium.

NOTE: Resolutions passed by the membership will remain Minnesota Watersheds policy for five years after which they will sunset. If a member wishes to keep the resolution active, it must be resubmitted and passed again by the membership. Enclosed with this memorandum are the **active resolutions** and **those that will be sunset on 12/31/24**. Also enclosed is the **Legislative Platform** that was adopted in 2023. If you have questions, Please feel free to contact co-chairs at [lvavra@fedtel.net](mailto:lvavra@fedtel.net) or 320-760-1774, [bds wd@runestone.net](mailto:bds wd@runestone.net) or 701-866-2725, or our Executive Director at [jvoit@mnwatersheds.com](mailto:jvoit@mnwatersheds.com) or 507-822-0921.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS IN OUR POLICY DEVELOPMENT!**

# Background Information

## 2024 Minnesota Watersheds Resolution

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Proposing Watershed: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Resolution Title: \_\_\_\_\_

### Background that led to the submission of this resolution:

Describe the problem you wish to solve and provide enough background information to understand the factors that led to the issue. Attach statutory or regulatory documents that may be helpful.

### Ideas for how this issue could be solved:

Describe potential solutions for the problem. Provide references to statutes or rules if applicable.

### Efforts to solve the problem:

Document the efforts you have taken to try to solve the issue. For example: have you spoken to state agency staff, legislators, county commissioners, etc.? If so, what was their response?

### Anticipated support or opposition:

Who would be willing to partner with our watershed or state association on the issue? Who may be opposed to our efforts? (Ex. other local units of government, special interest groups, political parties, etc.)?

### This issue: (check all that apply)

\_\_\_\_\_ Applies only to our district

\_\_\_\_\_ Applies only to 1 or 2 regions

\_\_\_\_\_ Applies to the entire state

\_\_\_\_\_ Requires legislative action

\_\_\_\_\_ Requires state agency advocacy

\_\_\_\_\_ Impacts Minnesota Watersheds bylaws or MOPP

(MOPP = Manual of Policies and Procedures)

# Active Minnesota Watersheds Resolutions

December 1, 2023



## FINANCE

### Capacity

#### 2021-01A: Support SWCD Capacity Fund Sources

Minnesota Watersheds supports SWCD capacity funds to come from county and state general funds.

#### 2021-01B: Support Clean Water Funds for Implementation, Not Capacity

Minnesota Watersheds supports Clean Water Funds being used for implementation and not for capacity.

#### 2021-02: Support Capacity Funding for Watershed Districts

Minnesota Watersheds supports capacity base funding resources directed to non-metro watershed district who request this assistance, to implement the activities as outlined in approved watershed district watershed management plans or comprehensive watershed management plans.

### Grant Funding

#### 2021-07: Support Metro Watershed-based Implementation Funding (WBIF) for Approved 103B Plans Only

Minnesota Watersheds supports BWSR distribution of metro WBIF among the 23 watershed management organizations with state-approved comprehensive, multi-year 103B watershed management plans. Those plans implement multijurisdictional priorities at a watershed scale and facilitate funding projects of any eligible local government unit (including soil and water conservation districts, counties, cities, and townships).

## URBAN STORMWATER

### Stormwater Quality Treatment

#### 2022-02 Limited Liability for Certified Commercial Salt Applicators

Minnesota Watersheds supports enactment of state law that provides limited liability protection to commercial salt applicators and property owners using salt applicators who are certified through the established state salt-applicator certification program and follow best management practices.

### Water Reuse

#### 2022-01 Creation of a Stormwater Reuse Task Force

Minnesota Watersheds supports administratively or legislatively including at least one Minnesota Watersheds member on the Minnesota Department of Health's workgroup to move forward, prioritize, and implement the recommendations of the interagency report on reuse of stormwater and rainwater in Minnesota.

## WATER QUANTITY

### Drainage

#### 2022-03: Seek Increased Support and Participation for the Minnesota Drainage Work Group (DWG)

- Minnesota Watersheds communications increase awareness of the DWG (meeting dates and links, topics, minutes, reports) amongst members.

- Minnesota Watersheds training opportunities strongly encourage participation in the DWG by watershed staff and board managers (for watersheds that serve as ditch authorities or work on drainage projects) – for e.g., add agenda space for DWG member updates, host a DWG meeting as part of a regular event.
- In preparation for Minnesota Watersheds member legislative visits, staff add a standing reminder for watershed drainage authorities to inform legislators on the existence, purpose, and outcomes of the DWG, and reinforce the legitimacy of the DWG as a multi-faceted problem-solving body.
- During Minnesota Watersheds staff Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) visits, regularly seek updates on how facilitation of the DWG is leading to improvements for member drainage authorities and convey this information to members.

**2023-03: Support New Legislation Modeled after HF2687 and SF2419 (2018) Regarding DNR Regulatory Authority over Public Drainage Maintenance and Repairs**

Minnesota Watersheds supports the introduction of new legislation modeled after HF2687 and SF2419 and commits its lobbying efforts toward promoting the passage of the bills in subsequent sessions.

**Funding**

**2022-05: Obtain Stable Funding for Flood Damage Reduction and Natural Resources Enhancement Projects**

Minnesota Watersheds supports collaborating with the Red River Watershed Management Board and state agencies to seek funding from the Minnesota Legislature to provide stable sources of funding through existing or potentially new programs that provide flood damage reduction and/or natural resources enhancements. A suggested sustainable level of funding is \$30 million per year for the next 10 years.

**Flood Control**

**2021-05: Support Crop Insurance to Include Crop Losses Within Impoundment Areas**

Minnesota Watersheds supports expansion of Federal Multi-Peril Crop Insurance to include crop losses within impoundment areas.

**2023-04 Seeking Action for Streamlining the DNR Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Program**

Minnesota Watersheds seeks action requiring the DNR to establish transparent scoring, ranking, and funding criteria for the Flood Hazard Mitigation Program (M.S. Chapter 103F) and asking the Minnesota Legislature to fully fund the state’s share of eligible projects that are on the DNR’s list within each two-year bonding cycle. Information regarding scoring, ranking, and funding should be provided annually to project applicants.

**Regulation**

**2020-04 Temporary Water Storage on DNR Wetlands during Major Flood Events**

Minnesota Watersheds supports the temporary storage of water on existing DNR-controlled wetlands in the times of major flood events.

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**WATER QUALITY**

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**Lakes**

**2022-06: Limit Wake Boat Activities**

Minnesota Watersheds supports working with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to utilize the research findings from the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory and seek legislation to achieve one or more of the following:

- Limit lakes and areas of lakes in which wake boats may operate;
- Require new and existing wake boats to be able to completely drain and decontaminate their ballast tanks; and
- Providing funding for additional research on the effects of wake boats on aquatic systems.

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## WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

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### Watershed Duties

#### 2023-05: Support Increased Flexibility in Open Meeting Law

Minnesota Watersheds hereby supports changes to the Open Meeting Law to provide greater flexibility in the use of interactive technology by allowing members to participate remotely in a nonpublic location that is not noticed, without limit on the number of times such remote participation may occur; and allowing public participation from a remote location by interactive technology, or alternatively from the regular meeting location where interactive technology will be made available for each meeting, unless otherwise noticed under Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.021; and that Minnesota Watersheds supports changes to the Open Meeting Law requiring watershed district to prepare and publish procedures for conducting public meetings using interactive technology.

### Watershed Planning

#### 2020-03 Soil Health Goal for Metropolitan Watershed Management Plans

Minnesota Watersheds supports amending Minnesota Rule 8410.0080 to include a goal for soil health in watershed management plans and ten-year plan amendments.

#### 2023-06 Education and Outreach to Encourage Formation of Watershed Districts in Unserved Areas

Minnesota Watersheds, in consultation with its membership, develop a framework for education and outreach intended to encourage petition and advocacy for the formation of watershed districts in areas of the state not presently served by watershed-based public agencies.

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## AGENCY RELATIONS

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### Advocacy

#### 2021-06: Support 60-day Review Required for State Agencies on Policy Changes

Minnesota Watersheds supports requiring state agencies to provide a meaningful, not less than 60-day review and comment period from affected local units of government on new or amended water management policies, programs, or initiatives with a response to those comments required prior to adoption.

### Regulation

#### 2023-01 Require Watershed District Permits for all State Agencies

Minnesota Watersheds supports amending Minnesota Statutes § 103D.345, Subd. 5 to read as follows: **Subd. 5. Applicability of permit requirements to state.** A rule adopted by the managers that requires a permit for an activity applies to all state agencies, including the Department of Transportation.

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## REGULATIONS

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#### 2020-01 Appealing Public Water Designations

Minnesota Watersheds supports legislation that would provide landowners with a more formal process to appeal decisions made by the DNR regarding the designation of public waters including the right to fair representation in a process such as a contested case proceeding which would allow landowners an option to give oral arguments or provide expert witnesses for their case.

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## NATURAL RESOURCES

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No current resolutions in this category.



# Resolutions to Sunset

Effective December 31, 2024

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It should be noted that in July the sunsetting deadline was extended for resolutions expiring in 2017 by two years due to the pandemic and its influence on lobbying efforts. **All 2017 resolutions have a sunset date of 2024.**

## **2017-02 Temporary Lake Quarantine Authorization to Control the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)**

Minnesota Watersheds supports legislation granting to watershed districts, independently or under DNR oversight, the authority, after public hearing and technical findings, to impose a public access quarantine, for a defined period of time in conjunction with determining and instituting an AIS management response to an infestation.

## **2019-01 Streamline the DNR permitting process**

Minnesota Watersheds supports legislation, rules, and/or agency policies to streamline the DNR permitting process by increasing responsiveness, decreasing the amount of time it takes to approve permits, providing a detailed fee schedule prior to application, and conducting water level management practices that result in the DNR reacting more quickly to serious, changing climate conditions.

## **2019-02: Add a Classification for Public Drainage Systems that are Artificial Watercourses**

Minnesota Watersheds supports removal of the default Class 2 categorization for public drainage systems that are artificial watercourses and supports a default Class 7 categorization for public drainage systems that are artificial watercourses.

## **2019-03 Support for Managing Water Flows in the Minnesota River Basin Through Increased Water Storage and Other Strategies and Practices**

Minnesota Watersheds supports efforts to manage the flow of water in the Minnesota River Basin and the Minnesota River Congress in its efforts to increase water storage on the landscape; and Minnesota Watersheds supports the Minnesota River Congress in its efforts to secure state and federal programs targeted specifically to increase surface water storage in the Minnesota River Watershed.

## **2019-04: Clarify County Financing Obligations and/or Authorize Watershed District General Obligation Bonding for Public Drainage Projects**

Minnesota Watersheds supports legislation to achieve one or both of the following:

- a) To clarify that an affected county must finance a watershed district drainage project on project establishment and request of the watershed district; and
- b) To authorize watershed districts to finance drainage project establishment and construction by issuance of bonds payable from assessments and backed by the full faith and credit of the watershed district; and further provide for adequate tax levy authority to assure the watershed district's credit capacity.

## **2019-05 Watershed District Membership on Wetland Technical Evaluation Panels**

Minnesota Watersheds supports legislation to allow technical representatives of watershed districts to be official members of wetland technical evaluation panels (TEPs).

## **2019-06: Oppose Legislation that Forces Spending on Political Boundaries**

Minnesota Watersheds opposes legislation that establishes spending requirements or restricts watershed district spending by political regions or boundaries.

## **2019-07 Chinese Mystery Snail Designation Change and Research Needs**

Minnesota Watersheds supports Chinese Mystery Snail prevention and control research and to change the Chinese Mystery Snail designated status in Minnesota as a regulated species to a prohibited species.





## Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

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

At their meeting on July 10<sup>th</sup>, the Plan Steering Committee drafted issue statements and goals in the Education and Outreach category including a discussion on appropriate terminology to reflect more inclusive and culturally sensitive language. They also began developing issue statements and goals for the Organizational Effectiveness category. Finally, they discussed the format and content for the August Commission Workshop. At their August 7<sup>th</sup> meeting they will continue developing issue statements and goals for Organizational Effectiveness.

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 approach agreed to: 1) get the JPA updated and keep the JPA update simple; 2) engage</p>

Month and Year	Plan Steering Committee Work
	<p>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>Finalized issue statements, measurable goals and possible implementation actions for a portion of the Flooding and Climate Resilience 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 flood risk reduction and stormwater management opportunities</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>• Recreation opportunities</li> </ul>
July 10, 2024	<p>To the extent possible (without a DIEA policy), finalized 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>Developed issue statements, measurable goals and possible implementation actions for some issues in the Organizational Effectiveness category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizational assessment of capacity and staffing</li> <li>• BCWMC funding mechanisms</li> </ul> <p>Begin planning for Commission August 15<sup>th</sup> Commission workshop to discuss the remaining 9 goals of the Waterbody and Watershed Quality category and all 10 goals in the Flooding and Climate Resilience category.</p>
August 7, 2024	<p>Review format for portion of draft Plan section(s) addressing activities</p> <p>Finalize issue statements, measurable goals and possible implementation actions for Organizational Effectiveness category.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>Finalize plans for August 15<sup>th</sup> Commission Workshop</p>
<del>August 7, 2024</del> September 4, 2024	<p>Review draft outreach and education plan</p> <p>Review draft water monitoring plan</p>
September 4, 2024 October 2, 2024	<p>Discuss possible revisions to the BCWMC's Requirements document. Possible topics include:</p> <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> </ul>



Month and Year	Plan Steering Committee Work
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes to permitted activities in floodplains</li> <li>• Stream and wetland buffers</li> </ul>
<del>October 2, 2024</del> Nov 6, 2024	Consider additional activities or associated guidance 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 activities.
<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, including CIP. Plan for Commission workshop
April 2025	Finalize activities and implementation program Review various plan sections Prepare recommendation on complete plan for Commission action at May 15 Commission meeting
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 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 Board 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



## Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission MEMO

Date: July 11, 2024  
From: Laura Jester, Administrator  
To: BCWMC Commissioners  
RE: **Administrator's Report**

Aside from this month's agenda items, the Commission Engineers, city staff, committee members, and I continue to work on the following Commission projects and issues.

**CIP Projects** (more resources at <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects.>)

**2019 Medicine Lake Road and Winnetka Avenue Area Long Term Flood Mitigation Plan Implementation Phase I: DeCola Ponds B & C Improvement Project (BC-2, BC-3 & BC-8) Golden Valley (No change since Nov 2021):** A feasibility study for this project was completed in May 2018 after months of study, development of concepts and input from residents at two public open houses. At the May 2018 meeting, the Commission approved Concept 3 and set a maximum 2019 levy. Also in May 2018, the Minnesota Legislature passed the bonding bill and the MDNR has since committed \$2.3M for the project. The Hennepin County Board approved a maximum 2019 levy request at their meeting in July 2018. A BCWMC public hearing on this project was held on August 16, 2018 with no comments being received. Also at that meeting the Commission officially ordered the project and entered an agreement with the City of Golden Valley to design and construct the project. In September 2018, the City of Golden Valley approved the agreement with the BCWMC. The [Sun Post](#) ran an article on this project October 2018. Another public open house and presentation of 50% designs was held February 6, 2019. An EAW report was completed and available for public review and comment December 17 – January 16, 2019. At their meeting in February 2019, the Commission approved the 50% design plans. Another public open house was held April 10<sup>th</sup> and a public hearing on the water level drawdown was held April 16<sup>th</sup>. 90% Design Plans were approved at the April Commission meeting. It was determined a Phase 1 investigation of the site is not required. The City awarded a contract to Dahn Construction for the first phase of the project, which involves earthwork, utilities, and trail paving and extends through June 2020. Dewatering began late summer 2019. Tree removal was completed in early winter; excavation was ongoing through the winter. As of early June 2020, earth work and infrastructure work by Dahn Construction is nearly complete and trail paving is complete. Vegetative restoration by AES is underway including soil prep and seeding. Plants, shrubs, and trees will begin soon along with placement to goose protection fencing to help ensure successful restoration. The construction phase of this project was completed in June with minor punch list items completed in September. The restoration and planting phase is complete except for minor punch list items and monitoring and establishment of vegetation over three growing seasons. A final grant report for BWSR's Watershed Based Implementation Funding was submitted at the end of January. City staff recently completed a site walk through to document dead or dying trees and shrubs in need of replacement (under warranty). This project (along with Golden Valley's Liberty Crossing Project) recently received the award for "Project of the Year" from the Minnesota Association of Floodplain Managers as part of the overall Project website: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?CID=433> .

**2020 Bryn Mawr Meadows Water Quality Improvement Project (BC-5), Minneapolis:** A feasibility study by the Commission Engineer was developed in 2018 and approved in January 2019. The study included wetland delineations, soil borings, public open houses held in conjunction with MPRB's Bryn Mawr Meadows Park improvement project, and input from MPRB's staff and design consultants. Project construction year was revised from 2020 and 2022 to better coincide with the MPRB's planning and implementation of significant improvements and redevelopment Bryn Mawr Meadows Park where the project will be located. A public hearing for this project was held September 19, 2019. The project was officially ordered at that meeting. In January 2020 this project was awarded a \$400,000 Clean Water Fund grant from BWSR; a grant work plan was completed and the grant with BWSR was fully executed in early May 2020. The project and the grant award was the subject of an article in the Southwest Journal in February: <https://www.southwestjournal.com/voices/green-digest/2020/02/state-awards-grant-to-bryn-mawr-runoff-project/>. In September 2020, Minneapolis and MPRB staff met to review the implementation agreement and maintenance roles.

BCWMC developed options for contracting and implementation which were presented at the November meeting. At that meeting staff was directed to develop a memorandum of understanding or agreement among BCWMC, MPRB, and city of Minneapolis to recognize and assign roles and responsibilities for implementation more formally. The draft agreement was developed over several months and multiple conversations among the parties. At the May 2021 meeting the Commission approved to waive potential conflict of the Commission legal counsel and reviewed a proposal for project design by the Commission Engineer. The updated design proposal and the design agreement among all three parties were approved at the June 2021 meeting. Four public open houses were held in the park in 2021 to gather input on park concepts. Project partners met regularly throughout design to discuss schedules, planning and design components, and next steps. Concept designs were approved by the MRPB Board in late 2021. Staff met with MnDOT regarding clean out of Penn Pond and continue discussions. 50% design plans were approved by the Commission at the January 2022 meeting; 90% design plans were approved at the March 2022 meeting along with an agreement with MPRB and Minneapolis for construction. The agreement was approved by all three bodies. Commission Engineers finalized designs and assisted with bidding documents. Bids were returned in early August. At the meeting in August, the Commission approved moving forward with project construction (through MPRB), and approved a construction budget (higher than previously budgeted) and an amended engineering services budget. MPRB awarded the construction contract. In late November the contractor began the initial earthwork and started on portions of the stormwater pond excavations. By late December the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of construction was complete with the ponds formed and constructed. The contractor began driving piles in late January and began installing underground piping in early February. At the March meeting, the Commission approved an increase to the engineering services budget and learned the construction budget is currently tracking well under budget. The change order resulting from the City of Minneapolis' request to replace a city sewer pipe resulted in extra design/engineering costs that were approved by the Administrator so work could continue without delays. The MPRB will reimburse the Commission for those extra costs and will, in-turn, be paid by the city. In early May construction was focused in the Morgan / Laurel intersection. The right-of-way storm sewer work is complete including the rerouting of some of the existing storm infrastructure and installation of the stormwater diversion structures. Construction of the ponds is complete and stormwater from the neighborhood to the west is now being routed through new storm sewers to the ponds. Vegetation is currently being established around the ponds. At the October meeting the Commission approved an amendment to the agreement with MPRB and Minneapolis in order to facilitate grant closeout. At the December 2022 meeting the Commission approved a partial reimbursement to MPRB for \$400,000. Corrections to a weir that was installed at the wrong elevation have been made. A final grant report was submitted to the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources in late January and the final grant payment was recently received. Project as-built drawings were recently completed and an operations and maintenance plan is being developed. Final reimbursement requests from MPRB and Minneapolis are expected later this year. Project website: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/bryn-mawr-meadows-water-quality-improvement-project>

**2020 Jevne Park Stormwater Improvement Project (ML-21) Medicine Lake (No change since July 2023):** At their meeting in July 2018, the Commission approved a proposal from the Commission Engineer to prepare a feasibility study for this project. The study got underway last fall and the city's project team met on multiple occasions with the Administrator and Commission Engineer. The Administrator and Engineer also presented the draft feasibility study to the Medicine Lake City Council on February 4, 2019 and a public open house was held on February 28<sup>th</sup>. The feasibility study was approved at the April Commission meeting with intent to move forward with option 1. The city's project team is continuing to assess the project and understand its implications on city finances, infrastructure, and future management. The city received proposals from 3 engineering firms for project design and construction. At their meeting on August 5<sup>th</sup>, the Medicine Lake City Council voted to continue moving forward with the project and negotiating the terms of the agreement with BCWMC. Staff was directed to continue negotiations on the agreement and plan to order the project pending a public hearing at this meeting. Staff continues to correspond with the city's project team and city consultants regarding language in the agreement. The BCWMC held a public hearing on this project on September 19, 2019 and received comments from residents both in favor and opposed to the project. The project was officially ordered on September 19, 2019. On October 4, 2019, the Medicine Lake City Council took action not to move forward with the project. At their meeting in October 2019, the Commission moved to table discussion on the project. The project remains on the 2020 CIP list. In a letter dated January 3, 2022, the city of Medicine Lake requested that the Commission direct its engineer to analyze alternatives to the Jevne Park Project that could result in the same or similar pollutant removals and/or stormwater storage capacity. At the March meeting, the Commission directed the Commission Engineer to prepare a scope and budget for the alternatives analysis which were presented and discussed at the April 2022 meeting. No action was taken at that meeting to move forward with alternatives analysis. In May and June 2023, Commission staff discussed the possibility of incorporating stormwater management features into a redevelopment of Jevne Park currently being considered by the City of Medicine

Lake. After review of the preliminary park design plans, the Commission Engineer and I recommended implementation of the original CIP Project to the City. Project webpage: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=467>.

**2014 Schaper Pond Diversion Project and Carp Management, Golden Valley (SL-3):** Repairs to the baffle structure were made in 2017 after anchor weights pulled away from the bottom of the pond and some vandalism occurred in 2016. The city continues to monitor the baffle and check the anchors, as needed. Vegetation around the pond was planted in 2016 and a final inspection of the vegetation was completed last fall. Once final vegetation has been completed, erosion control will be pulled and the contract will be closed. The Commission Engineer began the Schaper Pond Effectiveness Monitoring Project last summer and presented results and recommendations at the May 2018 meeting. Additional effectiveness monitoring is being performed this summer. At the July meeting the Commission Engineer reported that over 200 carp were discovered in the pond during a recent carp survey. At the September meeting the Commission approved the Engineer's recommendation to perform a more in-depth survey of carp including transmitters to learn where and when carp are moving through the system. At the October 2020 meeting, the Commission received a report on the carp surveys and recommendations for carp removal and management. Carp removals were performed through the Sweeney Lake Water Quality Improvement Project. Results were presented at the February 2021 meeting along with a list of options for long term carp control. Commission took action approving evaluation of the long-term options to be paid from this Schaper Pond Project. Commission and Golden Valley staff met in March 2021 to further discuss pros and cons of various options. At the September 2021 meeting, the Commission approved utilizing an adaptive management approach to carp management in the pond (\$8,000) and directed staff to discuss use of stocking panfish to predate carp eggs. Commission Engineers will survey the carp in 2022. At the April meeting, the Commission approved panfish stocking in Schaper Pond along with a scope and budget for carp removals to be implemented later in 2022 if needed. Commission staff informed lake association and city about summer activities and plans for a fall alum treatment. Approximately 1,000 bluegills were released into Schaper Pond in late May. Carp population assessments by electroshocking in Sweeney Lake and Schaper Pond were completed last summer. A report on the carp assessment was presented in January. Monitoring in Schaper Pond in 2023 and a reassessment of carp populations in 2024 were approved in early 2023. Carp box netting in 2024 is also approved, as needed. A carp survey of Schaper Pond and Sweeney Lake were recently completed. The Commission will be updated during engineer communications at this meeting. The Commission Engineer will provide updates as work progresses. Project webpage: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=277>.

**2014 Twin Lake In-lake Alum Treatment, Golden Valley (TW-2): (No change since June 2018)** At their March 2015 meeting, the Commission approved the project specifications and directed the city to finalize specifications and solicit bids for the project. The contract was awarded to HAB Aquatic Solutions. The alum treatment spanned two days: May 18- 19, 2015 with 15,070 gallons being applied. Water temperatures and water pH stayed within the desired ranges for the treatment. Early transparency data from before and after the treatment indicates a change in Secchi depth from 1.2 meters before the treatment to 4.8 meters on May 20th. There were no complaints or comments from residents during or since the treatment.

Water monitoring continues to determine if and when a second alum treatment is necessary. Lake monitoring results from 2017 were presented at the June 2018 meeting. Commissioners agreed with staff recommendations to keep the CIP funding remaining for this project as a 2<sup>nd</sup> treatment may be needed in the future. Project webpage: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=278>.

**2013 Four Seasons Area Water Quality Project (NL-2) (No change since Nov):** At their meeting in December 2016, the Commission took action to contribute up to \$830,000 of Four Seasons CIP funds for stormwater management at the Agora development on the old Four Seasons Mall location. At their February 2017 meeting the Commission approved an agreement with Rock Hill Management (RHM) and an agreement with the City of Plymouth allowing the developer access to a city-owned parcel to construct a wetland restoration project and to ensure ongoing maintenance of the CIP project components. At the August 2017 meeting, the Commission approved the 90% design plans for the CIP portion of the project. At the April 2018 meeting, Commissioner Prom notified the Commission that RHM recently disbanded its efforts to purchase the property for redevelopment. In 2019, a new potential buyer/developer (Dominium) began preparing plans for redevelopment at the site. City staff, the Commission Engineer and I have met on numerous occasions with the developer and their consulting engineers to discuss stormwater management and opportunities with

“above and beyond” pollutant reductions. Concurrently, the Commission attorney has been working to draft an agreement to transfer BCWMC CIP funds for the above and beyond treatment. At their meeting in December, Dominion shared preliminary project plans and the Commission discussed the redevelopment and potential “above and beyond” stormwater management techniques. At the April 2020 meeting, the Commission conditionally approved the 90% project plans. The agreements with Dominion and the city of Plymouth to construct the project were approved May 2020 and project designers coordinated with Commission Engineers to finalize plans per conditions. In June 2021, the City of Plymouth purchased the property from Walmart. The TAC discussed a potential plan for timing of construction of the stormwater management BMPs by the city in advance of full redevelopment. At the August 2021 meeting, the Commission approved development of an agreement per TAC recommendations. The city recently demolished the mall building and removed much of the parking lot. At the December meeting the Commission approved the 90% design plans and a concept for the city to build the CIP project ahead of development and allow the future developer to take credit for the total phosphorus removal over and above 100 pounds. At the July meeting, the Commission approved an agreement with the city to design, construct, and maintain the CIP project components and allow a future developer to use pollutant removal capacity above 100 pounds of total phosphorus. A fully executed agreement is now filed. The updated 90% project plans were approved at the September meeting. Unfortunately, city staff recently indicated that due to permitting inconsistencies with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the project will not be built this winter as planned. The city is now planning to construct the project in the fall and winter of 2024. Project webpage: <http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/index.php?cID=282>.

**2021 Parkers Lake Chloride Reduction Project (PL-7) (No change since March):** The feasibility study for this project was approved in May 2020 with Alternative 3 being approved for the drainage improvement work. After a public hearing was held with no public in attendance, the Commission ordered the project on September 17, 2020 and entered an agreement with the city of Plymouth to implement the project in coordination with commission staff. City staff and I have had an initial conversation about this project. The city plans to collect additional chloride data this winter in order to better pinpoint the source of high chlorides loads within the subwatershed. Partners involved in the Hennepin County Chloride Initiative (HCCI) are interested in collaborating on this project. A proposal from Plymouth and BCWMC for the “Parkers Lake Chloride Project Facilitation Plan” was approved for \$20,750 in funding by the HCCI at their meeting in March. The project will 1) Compile available land use data and chloride concentrations, 2) Develop consensus on the chloride sources to Parkers Lake and potential projects to address these sources, and 3) Develop a recommendation for a future pilot project to reduce chloride concentrations in Parkers Lake, which may be able to be replicated in other areas of Hennepin County, and 4) help target education and training needs by landuse. A series of technical stakeholder meetings were held last fall and winter to develop recommendations on BMPs. A technical findings report was presented at the July 2022 meeting. At the September 2022 meeting, the Commission approved a scope and budget for a study of the feasibility of in-lake chloride reduction activities which was presented at the November meeting. Following direction from the Commission, Commission staff are preparing a scope for a holistic plan for addressing chloride runoff from the most highly contributing subwatershed. Commission Engineers and Administrator recently met with city staff and the WMWA educator to discuss outreach, possibly highly contributing properties, data needs, and possible approaches to reducing chlorides. Project website: [www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/parkers-lake-drainage-improvement-project](http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/parkers-lake-drainage-improvement-project)

**2022 Medley Park Stormwater Treatment Facility (ML-12) (No change since February):** The feasibility study for this project is complete after the Commission Engineer’s scope of work was approved last August. City staff, Commission Engineers and I collaborated on developing materials for public engagement over the fall/early winter. A project kick-off meeting was held in September, an internal public engagement planning meeting was held in October, and a Technical Stakeholder meeting with state agencies was held in November. A [story map of the project](#) was created and a survey to gather input from residents closed in December. Commission Engineers reviewed concepts and cost estimates have been reviewed by city staff and me. Another public engagement session was held in April to showcase and receive feedback on concept designs. The feasibility report was approved at the June meeting with a decision to implement Concept #3. At the July meeting the Commission directed staff to submit a Clean Water Fund grant application, if warranted. A grant application was developed and submitted. Funding decisions are expected in early December. A public hearing on this project was held in September with no members of the public attending. In September, a resolution was approved to officially order the project, submit levy amounts to the county, and enter an agreement with the city to design and construct the project. The city hired Barr Engineering to develop the project designs which are now underway. The BCWMC received a \$300,000 Clean Water Fund grant from BWSR in December 2021 and the grant agreement approved in March 2022. 50% design plans were approved in February 2022 and 90% plans were approved at



the May 2022 meeting. Final plans and bid documents were developed by the city's consultation (Barr Engineering). Construction began in November and winter construction was finished in late January 2023. Activities this spring included completing grading (topsoil adjustments); paving (concrete, bituminous); light pole and fixture install; benches install; site clean up and prep for restoration contractor. In late May, Peterson Companies completed their construction tasks and the project transitioned to Traverse de Sioux for site restoration and planting. A small area of unexpected disturbance from construction was added to the overall area to be restored with native plants through a minor change order. Site restoration, planting, and seeding was completed in late June. An interim grant report was submitted to the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources in late January. [www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/medley-park-stormwater-treatment-facility](http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/medley-park-stormwater-treatment-facility)

**2022 SEA School-Wildwood Park Flood Reduction Project (BC-2, 3, 8, 10) (No change since December):** The feasibility study for this project is complete after the Commission Engineer's scope of work was approved last August. A project kick-off meeting with city staff was held in late November. Meetings with city staff, Robbinsdale Area School representatives, and technical stakeholders were held in December, along with a public input planning meeting. A virtual open house video and comment form were offered to the public including live chat sessions on April 8<sup>th</sup>. The feasibility study report was approved in June with a decision to implement Concept #3. A public hearing on this project was held in September with no members of the public attending. In September, a resolution was approved to officially order the project, submit levy amounts to the county, and enter an agreement with the city to design and construct the project. The city hired Barr Engineering to develop the project designs which are now underway. A virtual public open house was held February 3<sup>rd</sup>. 50% Design Plans were approved at the January meeting. A public open house was held September 29<sup>th</sup>. 90% were approved at the October Commission meeting. Six construction bids were received in late February with several of them under engineer's estimates. The city contracted with Rachel Contracting and construction got underway earlier this spring. By late June excavation was completed and the playground area was prepped and ready for concrete work to begin on July 5. Bids were open for the SEA School/Wildwood Park restoration project on June 20. Three bids were received and two came in right around our estimate. The city is recommending the low bidder (Landbridge Ecological). At the end of July utility crews lowered the watermain and installed the storm sewer diversions into the park from along Duluth Street. The hydrodynamic separator was also set (with a crane). Crews also worked on the iron-enhanced sand filter and the outlet installation, stone work on the steepened slopes, trail prep, bituminous paving, and concrete work (curb and gutter, pads, and ADA ramps). The preconstruction meeting for the restoration work was held with work to begin late August or early September. The city awarded the contract for the DeCola Pond D outlet work to Bituminous Roadways Inc. in August. The SEA School site construction is complete and restoration work is complete for the season. The DeCola Pond D outlet replacement and site restoration is also now complete.

Project webpage: [www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/sea-school-wildwood-park-flood-reduction-project](http://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/sea-school-wildwood-park-flood-reduction-project).

**Bassett Creek Restoration Project: Regent Ave. to Golden Valley Rd. (2024 CR-M), Golden Valley (No change since June):**

A feasibility study for this project got underway in fall 2022. A public open house was held March 1<sup>st</sup> with 30 residents attending. The draft feasibility report was presented at the April meeting. A final feasibility report was presented at the June meeting where the Commission approved the implementation of Alternative 3: to restore all high, medium, and low priority sites. A Clean Water Fund grant application for \$350,000 was recently developed and submitted to BWSR. The Commission held a public hearing on this project at its September meeting and officially ordered the project and set the final levy. An agreement with the City of Golden Valley to implement the project was drafted by the Commission Attorney recently reviewed by city staff. Commission staff and city staff continue to work through development of an implementation agreement. Project website: <https://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/bassett-creek-restoration-project-regent-ave-golden-valley-r>

**Ponderosa Woods Stream Restoration Project, Plymouth (ML-22):** A feasibility study for this project got underway in fall 2022. A public open house was held February 13<sup>th</sup> with 3 residents attending. The draft feasibility report was presented at the May meeting and additional information was presented at the June meeting where the Commission approved implementing Alternative 1.5. The Commission held a public hearing on this project at its September meeting and officially ordered the project, set the final levy, and approved an agreement with the City of Plymouth for project implementation. Plymouth hired Midwest Wetland Improvements to design the project. 60% designs are slated to be presented to the Commission later this summer. A public open house will be planned during the design process and construction is likely to get underway in late fall/early winter. Project website: <https://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/ponderosa-woods-stream-restoration-project>.

**Sochacki Park Water Quality Improvement Project (BC-14):** This project is proposed to be added to the CIP through a minor plan amendment as approved at the March Commission meeting with CIP funding set at \$600,000. The project involves a suite of projects totaling an estimated \$2.3M aimed improving the water quality in three ponds and Bassett Creek based on a subwatershed analysis by Three Rivers Park District (TRPD). A memorandum of understanding about the implementation process, schedules, and procedural requirements for the project was executed in April among BCWMC, TRPD, and the cities of Golden Valley and Robbinsdale. A feasibility study is underway for the project and is being funded by TRPD. The feasibility study kick off meeting was held June 5<sup>th</sup>. Information on the project and an update on the feasibility study was presented at the June meeting. A technical stakeholder meeting was held July 10<sup>th</sup>. A public open house was held July 26<sup>th</sup> and a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was recently completed. The draft feasibility study was presented at the August meeting and the final feasibility study was approved at the September meeting. The Commission held a public hearing on this project at its September meeting and officially ordered the project and set the final levy. Project partners recently met to review a scope and budget for design and discuss construction sequencing, funding availability, and cooperative agreement provisions. TRPD was recently awarded \$1.6M in federal funding for this project and other facility investments in Sochacki Park. Staff provided a project update at the March meeting. A cooperative agreement with TRPD and Robbinsdale was approved at the April meeting. Three Rivers Park District contracted with Barr Engineering to develop project designs. A Phase II Environmental Assessment was recently completed. A project partner meeting is scheduled for early August. Project webpage: <https://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/sochacki-park-water-quality-improvement-project>.

**Plymouth Creek Restoration Project Dunkirk Lane to 38<sup>th</sup> Ave. North (2026 CR-P):** A scope and budget for a feasibility study was approved at the October meeting. A project kick off meeting was held November 3<sup>rd</sup> and a technical stakeholder meeting was held December 5<sup>th</sup>. Field investigations and desktop analyses are complete. Site prioritization ranking criteria are being developed and concept designs are being developed. A public open house was held on March 11th. Residents who attended are in favor of the project and had questions about impacts to trees, potential construction activities in specific reaches, and buckthorn removal. The feasibility study was approved at the May meeting with Option 3a being approved for implementation. At the June meeting the Commission approved a maximum levy for 2025 that includes funding for this project. A public hearing should be held in September before officially ordering the project. Project webpage: <https://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/projects/all-projects/plymouth-creek-restoration-dunkirk-lane-38th-ave-n>.

**Administrator Activities June 13 – July 10, 2024**

Subject	Work Progress
<b>CIP and Technical Projects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Sweeney Lake EWM Eradication Project</u>: Assisted with coordination of AIS Early Detection training for lake residents and corresponded re: carp surveys and EWM post treatment survey</li> <li>• <u>Bryn Mawr Meadows Water Quality Project</u>: Participated in meeting with city and MPRB regarding payment for city pavement work</li> <li>• <u>Sochacki Park Water Quality Improvement Project</u>: Participated in project kick off meeting</li> <li>• <u>Crane Lake Chloride Reduction Demonstration Project</u>: Met with Minnetonka staff and Commission Engineer to discuss scope of initial investigation vs. feasibility study; reviewed/commented on draft feasibility study scope</li> <li>• <u>Plymouth Creek Restoration Project</u>: Updated webpage with feasibility study and budget information</li> <li>• <u>Lagoon Dredging Project</u>: Answered questions from BWSR and revised final grant report</li> <li>• <u>2023 Water Quality Monitoring</u>: Reviewed reports and provided comments and edits</li> <li>• <u>Flooding Concerns</u>: Met with Commission Engineer and MPRB staff re: flooding in Wirth Golf Course; met with Commission Engineer and MPLS homeowner re: flooding in nearby pond</li> </ul>
<b>Education and Outreach</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewed meeting materials and participated in West Metro Water Alliance meeting</li> <li>• Correspondence on follow up and next steps from Haha Wakpdan event in conjunction with MWMO</li> <li>• Assisted with set up for St. Louis Park Ecotacular event</li> <li>• Sent email to commissioners with upcoming meetings and events</li> <li>• Provided interview to League of Women Voters on BCWMC organization, funding, partners, activities, etc.</li> </ul>

<b>Administration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed agenda; reviewed invoices and submitted expenses spreadsheet to Plymouth; reviewed financial report; drafted June meeting minutes; reviewed memos, reports, and documents for Commission meeting; printed and disseminated meeting information to commissioners, staff, and TAC; updated online calendar; drafted meeting follow up email; ordered catering for July Commission meeting</li> <li>• Participated in pre-meeting call with Commission Engineer and Vice Chair Welch</li> <li>• Corresponded with Commission Attorney Anderson re: JPA revisions for July meeting</li> <li>• Communicated with financial auditor and reviewed 2023 audit statements</li> <li>• Communicated with City of Plymouth finance department re: new deputy treasurer and “trained in” new accountant on Commission financials</li> <li>• Developed options for revised 2025 budget; coordinated with Budget Committee chair; sent proposed 2025 budget to member cities for review</li> <li>• Submitted maximum levy request to Hennepin County and reviewed county staff “request for board action” document</li> <li>• Participated in second “convene meeting” to discuss Watershed Based Implementation Funds and sent follow up email to participants</li> <li>• Reviewed request for proposals for Clean Water Fund grant</li> <li>• Participated in meeting with Commission Engineer and Plymouth staff re: review of regional stormwater project</li> <li>• Corresponded with Commission Engineer and Blue Lint LRT consultants re: future review and payments/agreements</li> <li>• Met with Shingle Creek WMO staff re: using WBIF funding for collaborative chloride work</li> <li>• Prepared and submitted invoice to MN Department of Agriculture for pesticide moni</li> </ul>
<b>MN Watersheds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed presentation for MN Watersheds Summer Tour event; attended education session for the event and gave presentation with Commission Engineer Wilson</li> <li>• Attended MN Association of Watershed Administrator’s quarterly meeting in St. Paul</li> <li>• Attended MN Association of Watershed Administrator’s Executive Committee meeting (online)</li> <li>• Assisted with developing agenda for Metro Watersheds quarterly meeting</li> </ul>
<b>2025 Watershed Management Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Met with Commission Engineers for bi-weekly check in meetings</li> <li>• Drafted meeting minutes for June PSC meeting</li> <li>• Updated progress tracker for PSC and Commission meetings</li> <li>• Drafted issues statement, desired future condition and 10-yaer goals for Organizational Effectiveness category</li> <li>• Prepared agenda and materials for July PSC meeting; attended meeting</li> </ul>