



Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

Meeting Notes of the
Watershed Plan Steering Committee
July 10, 2024 @ 8:30 a.m.
Brookview, Golden Valley

Meeting Attendees:

Committee Chair Kennedy; Commissioners Hauer and Welch; Alternate Commissioner Polzin; TAC Members Eckman and Scharenbroich; Administrator Jester; Commission Engineers Chandler, Johnson, and Williams

1. WELCOME

Committee Chair Kennedy opened the meeting at approximately 8:32 a.m.

2. REVIEW MAY 1 MEETING NOTES

Committee member Welch recommended a revision to the June 12, 2024 Plan Steering Committee meeting notes to better describe the need for a policy on diversity, equity, inclusion, and access to connect the issue with specific watershed work. With that revision, there was a consensus on approving the meeting notes.

3. REVIEW PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS TRACKER

Staff briefly reviewed the progress of plan development.

4. REVIEW ISSUE STATEMENTS AND DRAFT GOALS FOR EDUCATION AND OUTREACH CATEGORY

The committee reviewed, discussed, and revised draft issue statements, desired future conditions, and 10-year goals for the remaining issues in this category. There was discussion about the use of particular terms such as "resident", "stakeholder" and "stewardship" as they may inadvertently exclude communities or be offensive to certain communities. Many terms were revised accordingly. Revisions to issues, desired future conditions and goals were made directly in the draft plan document.

There was some discussion about the wisdom that can be gained from Native cultures including about the interconnectedness between humans and the natural environment. It was noted that humans shouldn't consider themselves the dominant species, but one part of the whole ecosystem. Administrator Jester noted that although it may be difficult to craft a specific goal on this idea, the text within the education and outreach section can add this context. Committee member Polzin noted that goals and strategies need to include the need for people to take/acknowledge personal responsibility.

There was a discussion about how cost share programs tend to be a low value activity that are time intensive and how there is a fine line between a cost share project and a small capital improvement project. Committee member Welch noted that there is fiscal accountability even with small construction projects. Engineer Johnson noted that partnering with other groups already providing cost share programs may be a better use of time and resources, that small practices can have multiple benefits, and that cost share (or similar) programs can increase touch points with communities.

There was acknowledgment the Commission needs a clear education and outreach role because there are so many different entities already doing this work and how coordinating and partnering with others creates multiple opportunities for cost effective education programs. Committee member Scharenbroich noted that TAC members could help ensure Commission education activities augment but don't overlap city education programs.

5. REVIEW ISSUE STATEMENTS AND DRAFT GOALS FOR ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS CATEGORY

The committee began reviewing, discussing, and revising draft issue statements, desired future conditions, and 10-year goals for the issues in this category. There was some discussion on how the term of the proposed joint powers agreement impacts the organizational capacity. After discussion, most committee members agreed that

completing a comprehensive assessment of options for organizational structure and funding mechanisms is an important activity for the first year of plan implementation. It was noted that there seems to be strong support among commissioners and TAC members for such an evaluation and that the plan should include a metric to make sure the assessment doesn't get delayed or drawn out.

Revisions to issues, desired future conditions and goals were made directly in the draft plan document for the first two issues in this category.

6. DISCUSS FORMAT FOR AUGUST 15TH COMMISSION WORKSHOP

The group had the following notes for the workshop:

- Introduction materials should remind commissioners that education and outreach is an important tool for nearly every goal and is its own issue category that will be discussed at a future workshop.
- Introduction materials should note that some of the goals are lofty and that an assessment of organizational structure is planned for the first year of implementation.
- Small group break out sessions should be used as in the January workshop, with PSC members leading each group.
- MPRB should be invited to the workshop along with TRPD and BWSR board conservationist.

7. ADJOURN – The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:45 a.m.