Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

MEMO

To: BCWMC Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners
From: Administrator Jester on Behalf of Plan Steering Committee
Date: September 9, 2024

RE: Plan Steering Committee Recommendations Following August Workshop

On August 15th the BCWMC held a commission workshop to review and discuss issue statements, desired future conditions, and 10-year goals for several issues proposed for the 2025 Watershed Management Plan. After a brief update on the plan development progress and a few reminders of upcoming topics, attendees broke into four small groups to discuss the Plan Steering Committee's recommendations. Then the full group came back together for a brief report on small group discussions. A complete set of workshop notes is found here which were reviewed by the Plan Steering Committee.

At their meeting on September 4th, the Plan Steering Committee developed the following recommended changes to issues and goals in response to the input received at the workshop.

Groundwater-Surface Water Interactions:

- Slight revision to issue statement: *The ~~uncertainty~~ complexity of groundwater and surface water interactions complicates our ability to protect, restore, and responsibly manage natural resources*
- Slight revision to goal #1: *~~Understand~~ Identify areas of groundwater-surface water interaction ~~characteristics of~~ corresponding to BCWMC priority waterbodies*.
- In the body of the plan, context related to this issue will include a note that identifying areas with groundwater-surface water interaction may expand beyond priority waterbodies in the future.

Degradation of Riparian Areas:

- Significant rewording of issue statement to better reflect intended issue of poor habitat and ecological function rather than erosion issues (which are addressed in a separate issue statement and goals): *Degraded vegetated buffers in riparian areas result in decreased ecological function and habitat and allow excess pollutant loading to water resources, contributing to impairments (water quality and biological) ~~and result in decreased ecological function and habitat~~*.
- Slight revision to goal #1 to indicate the BCWMC is not typically the entity establishing the buffer: *~~Establish and maintain~~ Require establishment and maintenance of native vegetation along streams through BCWMC buffer requirements, wherever triggered.*
- Revision to goal #2 due to questions on exact meaning of original language: *Restore degraded riparian areas adjacent to ~~75% of~~ all applicable BCWMC CIP projects (e.g., creek restoration projects or those adjacent to waters or wetlands) ~~where applicable~~.*

Degradation of Upland Areas:

- Slight revision to goal #1 to remove possible confusion with Greenway Corridor in Minneapolis: *Consider and support preservation or enhancement of upland natural areas and green~~way~~ corridor connections within BCWMC interest and authority*.

Groundwater Quality:

- Slight revision to issue statement to acknowledge that chloride is a groundwater pollutant. Chloride reduction goals stated in a separate issue will help reduce chloride in both surface waters and groundwater and will be referenced in the context within the body of the plan: *Groundwater quality impacts public health as a source of drinking water and may be threatened by infiltration of stormwater and associated pollutants, <u>such as chloride.</u>*

Impact of climate change on hydrology, water levels, and flood risk:

- An implementation activity will be added to map areas of higher risk where additional flood storage is needed.
- Slight revision for goal #3: Implement <u>at least</u> 3 CIP projects that reduce flood risk on structures or infrastructure.
- Combining goals 5 and 6 into one goal because they are so similar.

Bassett Creek Valley flood risk reduction and stormwater management opportunities:

- Goal #1 is revised to include improving creek access within the goal.
- A map of the Bassett Creek Valley will be included with context in the body of the Plan.

Groundwater Quantity:

- Slight revision to goal #2 to clarify "storm" water reuse is the focus of the goal.
- Added a 4th goal: Increase groundwater recharge through required and encouraged stormwater infiltration practices.