

## **Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission**

August 12, 2024

Paul Gardner Council Administrator Clean Water Council 520 Lafayette Road North St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Mr. Gardner,

The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) is a joint powers unit of government consisting of all or parts of nine cities in Hennepin County. As a watershed organization that uses Clean Water Funds for implementation, we appreciate the opportunity to provide input as the Clean Water Council (Council) begins to develop their FY26-FY27 recommendations.

The BCWMC works diligently and in close collaboration with its member cities and other partners to improve and protect water quality in lakes and streams, and reduce flood risk to structures, infrastructure, and properties. As the BCWMC's work improves local waters and communities, the impact of its work reaches well beyond its borders as the creek is a tributary to the Mississippi River.

Clean Water Funds, including competitive project and practices grants and Watershed Based Implementation Funding, has helped the BCWMC implement multiple projects over the last several years resulting in significant improvements to water quality. Clean Water Funds have allowed us to leverage local match dollars and expand the scope of these projects for greater impact.

## These projects include:

<u>Wirth Lake Outlet Structure Modification</u>, Golden Valley (resulted in delisting the lake for nutrients) Main Stem Lagoon Dredging Project, Golden Valley

Bryn Mawr Meadows Water Quality Improvement Project, Minneapolis

Medley Park Stormwater Treatment Facility, Golden Valley

Plymouth Creek Restoration Project: Annapolis Lane to Plymouth Creek Park, Plymouth

<u>Bassett Creek Main Stem Restoration Project: Golden Valley Road to Irving Avenue North, Minneapolis</u>

Northwood Lake Water Quality Improvement Project, New Hope

<u>Bassett Creek Main Stem Restoration Project: Golden Valley-Crystal to Regent Avenue, Golden Valley Plymouth Creek Restoration Project: Medicine Lake to 26th Avenue, Plymouth</u>

We are happy to showcase any of these projects through a site tour or by providing additional information, if the Council is interested.

We respectfully request that the Council continue to fully fund the projects and practices competitive grants and Watershed Based Implementation Fund so that local governments like the BCWMC can continue to effectively and impactfully carry out clean water implementation on behalf of the state of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Laura Jester Administrator

CC: Catherine Cesnik, BCWMC Chair Jan Voit, Minnesota Watersheds