



## Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission

### MEMO

To: BCWMC Commissioners and Alternates  
From: Administrator Jester on Behalf of BCWMC Education Committee  
Date: December 12, 2024

#### **RE: Education Committee Recommendations on Watershed Map, Creek Co-naming, and Updated Letterhead**

##### Watershed Map

The Bassett Creek Watershed map is a key piece of education for watershed residents and partners and is popular at community events. At its meeting in September 2023, the Commission approved a project to update and reprint the map as supplies were dwindling and updates were needed. The Education Committee met on six occasions starting in November 2023 to develop concepts, ideas, content, and graphics related to a new printed watershed map.

While the new map has many of the same pieces of information and labels for waterbodies and places, the base of the map was updated from one based on city boundaries, to instead show the topography of the land. The committee believes the landscape perspective helps viewers look beyond political boundaries to see the watershed as a whole region and contiguous ecology.

You will also notice the incorporation of the Dakota name for the creek (Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ) and a new inset map showing landscapes as they existed in 1850. This helps viewers understand that this land and water has been present and cared for by Dakota people for millennia and was only recently converted into the suburbs we see today.

The back of the map also has many of the same pieces of information as the previous map including how watershed residents can help protect and improve water and some information about the BCWMC itself.

The back of the map also now incorporates information on Indigenous history and culture, some of the origin story of the Dakota people, and additional resources to learn more. The smaller Dakota makeoce wowapi map is derived from a historical map created by Paul Durand and owned by Jim Rock.

Finally, a new BCWMC webpage on Indigenous culture and Ĥaĥá Wakpádaŋ is referenced with a QR code on the back of the map for additional learning. <https://www.bassettcreekwmo.org/haha-wakpadan-indigenous-culture> For now, this page contains the same information as the map in addition to Dakota vocabulary and a nice photo of Jim Rock and Roxanne Gould. The Education Committee intends to expand the information on this page in the coming months or years.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Education Committee recommends directing the Administrator to coordinate printing of the map for use in future education programs.

[For context, find the front of the current map [here](#); and the back of the current [here](#).]

### Creek Co-naming and Updated Letterhead

At their meeting in May, the Commission directed the Education Committee (and/or a sub-committee) to develop recommendations regarding the use of both the Dakota name and English names for the creek or other waterbodies in BCWMC publications, signage, website, etc.

A sub-committee met on one occasion to discuss this item. The Education Committee subsequently reviewed their recommendations and agreed they were appropriate to pass on to the Commission.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Education Committee recommends the following along with the adoption of a new letterhead (see following page).

- a. For simplicity right now use both the Dakota and English names only for the creek and only on the main stem of the creek. (Some lakes or other streams have Dakota names and others either don't have Dakota names or they are unknown.)
- b. Be consistent with format. Place the Dakota name first, then use a slash (rather than a hyphen), and then list the English name: *Ĥǎǎ́ Wakpádaŋ* / Bassett Creek.
- c. Use co-naming wherever possible, particularly on public facing documents and places including signs at road crossings; signs at project sites, in parks, and at Utepils; on the BCWMC website; on the BCWMC letterhead.
- d. Use Dakota artwork (in addition to the name) on signs, on website, and other appropriate places.
- e. Consider where both creek names should be used in the Watershed Management Plan.



*Protecting and improving the ĦáĦá Wakpádaŋ / Bassett Creek watershed, homeland of the Dakota people.*

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