



Three Rivers
Park District
Board of
Commissioners

Marge Beard
District 1

Laura Jester
Administrator
Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission
P.O. Box 270825
Golden Valley, MN 55427

Subject: Three Rivers Park District Watercraft Inspection Program

Dear Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission:

Medicine Lake was one of six lakes that received Hennepin County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention grant funding to supplement Three Rivers Park District's watercraft inspection program the past nine years. Unfortunately, Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) is anticipating a significant reduction in grant funding (approximately \$20,000) to supplement our watercraft inspection program in 2026. Due to the anticipated decrease in funding, TRPD will have to make some difficult decisions on what lakes to reduce watercraft inspection hours within the Park District.

Over the past 5-years, the TRPD watercraft inspection program for Medicine Lake has been able to consistently provide each year approximately 1500 watercraft inspection service hours resulting in 4500 inspections at the Medicine Lake public access in French Regional Park. The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) has contributed \$5000 the past seven years toward the Medicine Lake watercraft inspection program. In 2024 and 2025, your contribution accounted for 17% of the total watercraft inspection hours and provided 285 staffing hours (\$17.50/hour) that was allocated to improving outgoing decontamination watercraft inspections each year.

As you might be aware, Medicine Lake has been considered high risk of spreading AIS to other metro area lakes due to significant recreational use (> 3.0 boats/hour) as well as the lake-wide infestation of curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels, and Starry Stonewort. In 2025, Medicine Lake had a 6.4% contamination/violation rate for boats trying to access Medicine Lake. Currently, watercraft inspections are the primary tool to reduce the spread of AIS to other lakes.

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Superintendent

TRPD would like to continue the AIS prevention program and maintain a similar level of inspection hours for Medicine Lake. We are requesting that BCWMC consider increasing its financial support to \$10,000 to help offset the reduction in grant funding. We sincerely appreciate your past funding support that has been critical for the continued success of our watercraft inspection program. It is partnerships like yours that make our program successful!

Thanks for your consideration!

Sincerely,



Brian Vlach
Senior Manager of Water Resources
Three Rivers Park District
763-694-7846



**COOPERATIVE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROJECT
JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
Three Rivers Park District
AND
Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission**

1. PARTIES

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (hereinafter referred to as “the Commission”) and the Three Rivers Park District (hereinafter referred to as “the Park District”), both being governmental units of the State of Minnesota, and acting through their respective governing bodies, hereby enter into this Joint Powers Agreement (“Agreement”). The Commission and the Park District from time to time may be referred to hereinafter as “the parties.”

2. PURPOSE

The Park District and the Commission recognize that intergovernmental cooperation in preventing degradation of aquatic resources, assessing the quality of Medicine Lake in the Bassett Creek Watershed, preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS), and implementing the Medicine Lake TMDL plan and Medicine Lake Vegetation Management Plan is in the mutual interest of the citizens of Hennepin County and the metropolitan area. The parties enter into this Agreement to facilitate the improvement of Medicine Lake water quality and to assess the quality of the lake as implementation proceeds.

3. AUTHORITY

The parties enter into this Agreement pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 471.59, regarding joint exercise of powers which allows two or more governmental units, by agreement entered into through action of their governing bodies, to jointly or cooperatively exercise any power common to the contracting parties or any similar powers, including those which are the same except for the territorial limits within which they may be exercised. This Agreement provides for the cooperative undertaking of a project and does not involve the creation of a joint board.

4. DUTIES OF THE PARK DISTRICT

In recognition of the staff resources and capabilities of the Park District, the Park District will be responsible for all of the following:

- a. Coordinating the development and implementation of a CLP control strategy for Medicine Lake, as per the approved Medicine Lake TMDL implementation plan and the Medicine Lake Vegetation Management Plan.

- b. Completion of an early season assessment to determine herbicide treatment areas for control of curly-leaf pondweed (“CLP”) in Medicine Lake with GPS coordinates of areas in need of treatment.
- c. Completion of spring and fall littoral zone aquatic plant surveys to monitor native macrophyte response to the CLP control program in Medicine Lake.
- d. Completion of annual water quality monitoring to determine the effectiveness of the CLP control program in reducing phosphorus loading to the lake.
- e. Participation in a project advisory capacity to guide the project implementation and review project results.
- f. Hiring, training, and employing Level I and Level II AIS inspectors to operate the AIS decontamination unit at the French Regional Park boat launch.
- g. Reimbursing the Commission for 17% (which is estimated to be \$2,550) of the cost of the CLP treatment contractor as contemplated in section 5(b) below. Reimbursement shall be made by the Park District following an invoice submitted by the Commission, and if approved shall thereafter be paid by the Park District within 45 days. If grant funds for CLP treatment are secured by either party, such funds will be allocated on a prorated basis to each party such that 83% of the grant funds will be allocated to the Commission and 17% to the Park District.

5. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION

In recognition of the staff resources and capabilities of the Commission, the Commission will be responsible for all of the following:

- a. Coordinating the permitting process with the DNR for performing an herbicide treatment to control CLP in Medicine Lake.
- b. Securing and entering into a contract with a licensed contractor to perform the CLP herbicide treatment and adhering to performance criteria that ensures that all work meets the requirements of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (“DNR”) approved permit for control of CLP in Medicine Lake.
- c. Ensuring compliance with monitoring and evaluation requirements outlined in DNR’s approved permit for controlling CLP.
- d. Coordinating communications with all affected parties regarding the treatment and securing funding from the parties to this Agreement.
- e. Providing an additional \$10,000 to the Park District to augment the AIS inspection program at the French Regional Park boat launch.

6. AMENDMENT

Any amendment to this Agreement must be in writing and approved by the Commission and the Park District. The parties shall have full power to amend this Agreement to add or delete items from the scope of this Agreement upon such terms as are agreed to between the parties.

7. LIABILITY

Each party to this Agreement shall be responsible for maintaining its own insurances and shall be responsible for its own acts and omissions. Neither party is agreeing to be responsible for the acts of the other under this Agreement. This Agreement provides for the undertaking of a cooperative activity and the parties shall be deemed a single governmental unit for the purposes of liability as provided in Minn. Stat. § 471.59, subd. 1(a). Nothing herein shall be interpreted as waiving any exception from or limitation on liability available to either party under Minn. Stat., Chap. 466 or other law.

8. TERMINATION

This Agreement will terminate at the end of the 2026 boat launch inspection season. Notwithstanding, either party may terminate this Agreement for any reason by providing 90 days written notice to the other party. In the event of termination, the Park District will pay pro rata for that portion of the CLP treatment completed in accordance with Sections 4 and 5.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this joint powers agreement to be executed and it shall be effective as of the date of signature of the last party to the Agreement.

**Basset Creek Watershed Management
Commission**

Dated: _____

Chair

Secretary

Three Rivers Park District

Associate Superintendent

Dated: _____

Director of Natural Resources