



## Memorandum

**To:** Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission  
**From:** Barr Engineering Co.—Len Kremer  
**Re:** February 8, 2008 Wirth Lake TMDL Meeting  
**Date:** February 8, 2008  
**Project:** 23/27-051 2008 506

### In Attendance:

Brooke Asleason	MPCA
Lois Eberhart Mie Welch	City of Minneapolis
Linda Loomis Jeannine Clancy Al Lundstrom	City of Golden Valley
Sara Applekowski Deb Pilanger	Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board
Len Kremer Greg Wilson	Barr Engineering Co.
Invited but unable to attend: Beth Neuendorf	Mn/DOT

As requested by the MPCA, a meeting of the Wirth Lake TMDL stakeholders was held at the City of Golden Valley to discuss the scope of the nutrient TMDL for Wirth Lake. It was noted that Hennepin County was also an MS4 in the watershed and should be asked to comment on any draft TMDL work scope and be invited to future stakeholder meetings.

The status of the Bassett Creek Water Management Commission's project to improve the quality of Wirth Lake was discussed. One of the project features, a treatment pond west of the lake, was completed in 2006 by the Minneapolis Park Board. The other project features have not been completed because the project has been suspended. The project was suspended because there are unresolved issues relating to the funding of construction and maintenance

of one of the three features proposed for implementation. That feature is a treatment pond that is located at the northwest corner of the lake that primarily treats runoff from Highway 55. Attempts were made to get Mn/DOT to participate in either the construction funding or in the maintenance of that pond but they were unsuccessful because Mn/DOT indicated that they did not have a source of funds for projects of this type and that they could not do maintenance outside their right of way.

The Bassett Creek Technical Advisory Committee recommended that the water quality project be suspended and that a TMDL be completed for Wirth Lake. Completing the TMDL will likely result in a recommended load reduction for MS4s in the Wirth Lake watershed and with completion of the project it will be eligible for Minnesota Clean Water Legacy funds.

The historic water quality of the lake was reviewed and it was noted that there has been a significant improvement in the water quality of the lake since the mid-1990s. The reasons for the improved water quality that were noted include historic removal of rough fish, stocking of the lake by the MDNR with game fish, winter aeration of the lake to prevent winter fish kills, the Minneapolis Park Board project that blocked overflows from Bassett Creek to the lake, shoreline revegetation projects by the Minneapolis Park Board, and the water quality pond that was part of the Commission's Project. However the water quality is not good enough to remove it from the impaired waters list.

The work needed to complete the TMDL includes a summary and evaluation of historic water quality, a revision and update of the watershed water quality model to predict loads and BMP performance for each of the four MS4s, a stakeholder involvement process that would include selection of a load allocation process, a review of improvement options, and drafting the TMDL report and TMDL implementation plan. The Minneapolis Park Board staff expressed an interest in coordinating the public participation process and indicated that they thought that two meetings would be adequate to explain the TMDL process to the public. It is likely that two or three meetings between the MS4s may be necessary to agree to the load allocation process, the proposed load reduction, and to identify recommended BMPs.

The MPCA indicated that they would like to have the recommended scope of work available sometime early in March so that the funds that are needed can be committed to the project. The MPCA indicated that the Commission could contract with the MPCA to complete the TMDL project or let the MPCA contract for and manage the project.

The draft TMDL scope can be completed in a week and, if comments from the MS4s can be received from the MS4s in 10 days, the draft work scope could be completed in 3 weeks. We estimate that the scope of work can be completed and submitted for review by the MS4s and the Minneapolis Park Board and transmitted to the MPCA before March 15, 2008 if we are authorized to proceed at the February meeting.