Minutes

Brown’s Creek Watershed District
Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting
Monday, August 13, 2018 at 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Location: Stillwater Public Library – 2nd Floor Conference Room

CAC Members Attending:
Jyneen Thatcher
Anne Maule Miller
George Vania

Others Attending:
Karen Kill, BCWD Administrator
Cameron Blake, BCWD Assistant
Mark Nemeth, Trout Stream Habitat Specialist MNDNR

1) Call the meeting to order at 6:00 PM
2) Introductions/Approve Agenda
3) Approve minutes from June 11th, 2018
4) Mark Nemeth (DNR)
   • Presented on citizen volunteer work in the Vermillion Aquatic Management Area. The DNR partnered with Friends of the Mississippi River and Trout Unlimited to achieve the ecological restoration goal of converting the established buckthorn forests back into oak barrens. This involves about 10 events annually of buckthorn removal and native species restoration, mostly through these non-profits but with some additional volunteer interest such as the Girl Scouts and Eagle Scouts. The DNR is also improving trout habitat through the AMA with Barr Engineering designing bank stabilization and channel improvement projects. Trout sampling stations and the IBI scores are additional ways of tracking the success of the restoration efforts.
   • Mark discussed his perspective on the benefits of helping to coordinate these volunteer events. He saw an increased use of the resource leading to increased voice for the resource through public input. He said he saw priorities and values shift as the groups engaged with the resource and were provided with a connection and interest to the site. Challenges and risks included safety/injury and groups backing out.
Mark estimated there was about 20 hours of preparation for the first event and now it’s only a few hours per event.

- Mark discussed the possibility of the DNR partnering on a CPL grant as long as there is access to fishing, which the Brown’s Creek has. The DNR has not yet created a management plan for the Brown’s Creek’s AMA. Mark further discussed the possibility of expanding the Brown’s Creek AMA with an easement return sale for opportunities of mutual benefit.

5) BCWD Community Event September 2018
   • Touched base on table ideas

6) BCWD Newsletter
   • Reviewed draft of newsletter

7) Upcoming Open Yards Event: South Twin and Heifort Pond Walking Tour Sept 8th 10am at BC Park