



Minutes

**Brown's Creek Watershed District
Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting
Monday, February 14, 2022 at 6:30-8:00 p.m.
HELD REMOTELY DUE TO COVID -19 PANDEMIC**

CAC Members Attending:

Yihong Gao
Jyneen Thatcher
Anne Maule Miller
George Vania

Others Attending:

Cameron Blake, BCWD Assistant
Celia Wirth, BCWD Board Liaison
Angie Hong, East Metro Watershed Resource Education Program

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- 1) Called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM
 - 2) The agenda was approved with no changes.
 - 3) There were no comments received for the minutes from December 13th, 2021. The minutes were approved as final.
 - 4) Angie Hong presented the new BCWD Booth-in-a-Box and the CAC discussed what theme to choose for 2022. Suggested topics included: water quality impairment, chloride pollution, Adopt-a-Drain, climate resiliency, reuse projects, work the BCWD does involving habitat restoration and protection. They discussed including a birding packet along with the native vegetation handouts in the basic booth-in-a-box materials. The CAC suggested instead of one theme for the year that materials relevant to the event they are attending should be added to the basic materials. Cameron Blake discussed this with Karen Kill who explained the goal of choosing a theme for the year was for workflow purposes and so the CAC would talk about the BCWD and the connection to water resources along with the themed topic at other events. There will be handouts and an interactive activity added based on this theme. Cameron chose climate resiliency as the themed topic for 2022 upon approval of the CAC at the April meeting. The group discussed the Neighborhood Night Out as a potential event along with the other events in the schedule being pulled together.
 - 5) 2022 Event Planning

Managers:

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• Rob McKim, Manager •



Month	Date/Time	Rain Date	Event	Location	CAC Member
April	April 9 th 9am	April 23 rd	Birding	Long Lake trail, parking end of 62 nd	George/Anne
Starting in spring			Long Lake walking trail boxes posts		Anne
May	May 18 th		Wildflower Walk	BC Trail	Jyneen
June	June 15 th		Habitat Restoration	BC Park (IESF, diversion drainage, Millbrook)	Jyneen/Yihong
July	July 20 th		Post-buckthorn removal weeding/planting workshop	Long Lake trail, parking end of 62 nd	Jyneen/Yihong
August	August 13 th	TBD	Stormwater Tour	TBD, Settlers Glen?	George
September	September 10 th	N/A	Community Event		All CAC
September	September 24 th	N/A	Buckthorn	62 nd St	Anne
October	October 1 st	N/A	Buckthorn	62 nd St	Anne

The CAC said to continue the Long Lake walking trail BCWD boxes with birding and buckthorn removal event information. They asked to add a QR code that goes to the BCWD website. They discussed a prairie event but selected a post-removal volunteer event and workshop where buckthorn removal has taken place at Long Lake. Grasses could be planted and herbaceous weeds pulled as well as small buckthorn.

6) CAC Project Update

- Newsletter – theme, articles/topics

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Topics included: buckthorn and habitat restoration, chloride and the Long Lake listing, shoreline restoration, the new small grant program the BCWD is starting

i) Preferred release time: the CAC decided to stick with finalizing the newsletter at the April CAC meeting for distribution in late April/early May like usual.

- BCWD Website: other WD website comments
Yihong and Celia both had comments as did Jyneen, These will be sent to Cameron to be compiled and discussed at the April CAC meeting.
- 2022 Event List from other organizations: in progress
- New Homeowner's Packet
The group agreed that the second draft was improved after the first round of comments. There are additional comments that will be sent to Cameron.

7) CAC Position Updates

- Graphic Design and Promotion
Laurie and Sapryna were not present.
- Education and Community Engagement
All CAC members will have updates once tabling efforts have begun.
- Habitat Restoration
Jyneen plans on walking the 110th St. Property in early march. She noted that some southern parts of the metro are already seeing skunk cabbage. She asked about restoration work through the grant for 2022 and Cameron said there is an upcoming meeting she will be invited to. George asked if any work was planned for the buckthorn stumps on site and Cameron explained there was no work planned through the grant but the decomposition progress should be more apparent in coming years. Jyneen said she noticed stumps were showing signs last season and she could kick some of them pretty easily apart.
- BCWD Board Activities
Cameron explained there was an upcoming workshop for flooding policy and a new cost-share program that Karen Kill will discuss later in the agenda. The board has also been discussion about creating a streamlined permit process for single family residences which would require a rule amendment. Celia agreed that these were recent topics of discussion.

7) CAC Meeting format for 2022

The CAC would like to meet remotely in April and continue to monitor the COVID situation to decide when to meet in person again.

Cameron will check with the Stillwater Library to see if there would be any outside meeting spaces available and if it would support the use of a projector or other meeting technology.

8) BCWD Project/Program Update (Karen Kill, 7:30pm)

- a. Education/EMWREP

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Celia asked if the BCWD or EMWREP have ever sought our professional photographs for use in their education and outreach materials. Karen Kill explained that EMWREP has done so in the past.

b. Annual Report

The report will go to the BCWD board for approval on April 13th as it is due to BWSR on April 30th. So the CAC has an opportunity to see the report and give comments at the next meeting as well. Jyneen said she will send comments on the report to Cameron.

c. Floodplain Management Policy –Feb 16th 6:30-8:30pm workshop with BCWD Board

Karen Kill introduced the topic of floodplain management policy and invited the CAC to a workshop with the BCWD board to offer their perspective on what policy the BCWD chooses. There will be an issue statement shared at the start of the workshop. This effort may result in a major plan amendment to the BCWD watershed management plan to address this issue.

d. BMP Cost-share program – feedback on shift to mini-grant for 2022 prior to bringing the idea to the Board

Karen Kill explained the goal was to revamp the current grant/cost share program to emulate a program focused on stewardship and education. The grants will provide reimbursement for native plants. This structure should also provide more equity and inclusion to the cost share project process.

George asked for the most updated list of developments around Heifort Pond. George asked what work had been done with the Stillwater SMART irrigation controller program in 2022. Cameron said funding had not been allocated for this in 2022. Karen Kill explained there was a new grant thought the Met Council for cities and townships that would cover 80% of the controller costs. This will rekindle this conversation and would look like a scaled back version of the BCWD/Stillwater program in 2021. It would not include installation and monitoring. George commented on the progress of the Brown's Creek restoration projects with buckthorn removal around the Diversion Drainage tributary and the Millbrook neighborhood. He asked if private and public property could be clearly marked around Brown's Creek in the Millbrook neighborhood. Karen suggested checking the Washington County parcel maps and noted that the paved trail was public.

9) Meeting was adjourned at 8:10PM

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