



**BROWN'S
CREEK
WATERSHED
DISTRICT**

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Minutes

**Brown's Creek Watershed District
Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting
Monday, April 11, 2022 at 6:30-8:00 p.m.
HELD REMOTELY DUE TO COVID -19 PANDEMIC**

CAC Members Attending:

Jyneen Thatcher
Anne Maule Miller
George Vania

Others Attending:

Cameron Blake, BCWD Assistant
Celia Wirth, BCWD Board Liaison
Karen Kill, BCWD Administrator

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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 February 14th, 2022. The minutes were approved as final.
 - 4) Karen Kill presented the educational topic for the evening; the status of the One Watershed One Plan/Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership of which the BCWD is a member. The group has been coming up with prioritization processes to determine funding allocation. There has been some focused discussion around internal loading project approvals and what kind of prior external loading reduction is expected to be done before funding is awarded by the group. Additionally one of the first goals for this timeframe has been completed which was the hiring of an agronomist and additional educator to provide support for the LSCWD. One of the challenges the group has encountered is the rigidity of the Board of Water and Soil Resources in the 1W1P plan amendment process. Another point of discussions has been the organizational structure of the partnership. There are pros and cons to the current Joint Powers Collaboration (JPC) structure as opposed to the potential of becoming a Joint Powers Entity (JPE). For organizations like the BCWD, the 1W1P did not replace our 10 year management plan. But for organizations without those types of plans, the 1W1P was required to be adopted by them as their plan. This larger watershed approach especially benefits the northern part of the watershed who have lacked funding and capacity to implement shovel ready projects which benefit the entire watershed with large loading reductions and comparably better cost:loading reduction ratios.

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5) BCWD Project/Program Update

- Annual Report – final comments
The Annual report was approved by the CAC for distribution.

6) 2022 Open Yard Event Schedule

The CAC finalized the 2022 events schedule. George requested stormwater information for the new neighborhood for his August stormwater tour event. Cameron and Karen had discussed and proposed Settler’s Glen. The HOA will be contacted ahead of time to let them know about the tour and to inform them about parking logistics. A promotional postcard will be mailed prior to the event.

Anne suggested a 9-12pm time for the buckthorn removal events.

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		Stormwater Tour	TBD, Settlers Glen?	George
September	September 10 th	N/A	Community Event		All CAC

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September	September 24th	N/A	Buckthorn	62 nd St	Anne
October	October 1st	N/A	Buckthorn	62 nd St	Anne

7) 2022 Tabling Opportunities

Jyneen offered to help SSMN with the “What’s That Plant” programming. Cameron will send this event schedule out to the CAC to ask for volunteers at the unclaimed events.

Date	Organization	Event	CAC Member
1 st week May-September	Sustainable Stillwater MN	What’s that plant? BC Trail	Jyneen
April 22nd	Sustainable Stillwater MN	SSMN Birthday Party	
June 4 th 9am-1pm	Wild Ones	Landscape Revival (Oakdale)	
June 4 th	Sally Manzara Interpretive Center	Family Nature Day	Anne

Pollinator Friendly Alliance: no events in BCWD this year

Trout in the Classroom: one release date TBD

8) CAC Project Update

- Newsletter

Cameron will send out the newsletter draft for comment this week as the first draft was not available by the meeting.

- Ready for print
 - i) New Homeowner packet
 - ii) CAC Recruitment flyer

The CAC approved these resources for print and requested the new homeowner packet be distributed widely to all riparian landowners initially. After that, the packet can be sent to properties that have turned over based on county parcel data.

- BCWD Website: other WD website comments

The CAC reviews website comments submitted by Jyneen and Celia. Cameron will follow up with Karen on using this feedback to explore BCWD website options. There will need to be a board decision on funding in the budget for updating the BCWD website. 2023 budget discussions start in July 2022.

9) CAC Position Updates

- Graphic Design and Promotion

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There are many materials the CAC created which will be printed and ready for distribution this year. Anne asked what kind of support the CAC received for the Open Yard Events. Cameron explained that these events are posted on the BCWD Facebook page and website, and are cross-promoted through the EMWREP partnership. In addition, the CAC will often share promotional images through NextDoor or locally distribute physical materials. The group discussed using our affiliate membership with Community Thread to promote more than just our CAC membership position. The group discussed whether it would be worth getting out event in the Stillwater Patch and what may be involved in that. Cameron asked for any other suggestions for promotion to follow up on.

- Education and Community Engagement

The BCWD CAC will table at some partnering organizations this year with the new BCWD “Booth-in-a-box”.

- Habitat Restoration

George will share his likely birding schedule with the CAC, but it is usually early in the morning, prior to Jyneen’s plant surveying. Jyneen shared her likely biological monitoring schedule as Wednesdays at 9AM unless weather prohibits this. Jyneen has observed skunk cabbage leaves growing at 110th St. She has also observed loons flying overhead.

- BCWD Board Activities

The board has been discussing the BCWD’s approach to single family permitting as well as continuing to discuss approaches to flooding and climate change.

10) CAC Meeting format for June CAC meeting:

The group discussed reserving the room at the Stillwater Library with hybrid meeting capacity and determining closer to the June meeting whether the CAC would like to meet in person or remaining on Zoom.

Cameron will ask the CAC mid-May whether they feel like they will know their preference based on the latest public safety/COVID data.

11) Adjourn Meeting

Before adjourning the CAC discussed the September Community event. Some suggestions:

- Ask the Carpenter Nature Center if they would participate with their raptors since the Warner Nature center closing. The raptor center could also be scheduled for a show within a specific timeframe that could be shared with the event promotion. This would have a fee associated with it
- Cameron will reserve the UMN extension turf trailer
- Anne will check in with the Bee Club about a bee hive demonstration
- George suggested inviting the Sally Manzara Interpretive Nature Center

Anne asked if a resource could be made for the Long Lake Trail boxes with local native and weedy plant species ID. Cameron will follow up with the WCD office.

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