

# BROWN'S CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

455 HAYWARD AVE N  
OAKDALE, MN  
55128

651.330.8220 X26 [PHONE]  
651.330.7747 [ FAX ]  
WWW.BCWD.ORG

## AGENDA

**Brown's Creek Watershed District  
Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting  
Monday, June 13, 2022 at 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
HELD REMOTELY DUE TO COVID -19 PANDEMIC**

**Attend ONLINE VIA ZOOM by clicking this link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89420473057?pwd=YVdaM3AwbUhXa2ZVU251ZzEwM05oQT09>

**OR**

**Attend by CONFERENCE CALL by dialing +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
Meeting ID 894 2047 3057- Meeting Passcode 329321**

- 1) Call the meeting to order at 6:30 PM
- 2) Approve Agenda
- 3) Approve minutes from April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- 4) 2022 Open Yard Event Schedule

Month	Date/Time	Rain Date	Event	Location	CAC Member
April	April 9 <sup>th</sup> 9am	April 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Birding	Long Lake trail, parking end of 62 <sup>nd</sup>	George/Anne
Starting in spring			Long Lake walking trail boxes posts		Anne
May	May 18 <sup>th</sup>		Wildflower Walk	BC Trail	Jyneen
June	June 15 <sup>th</sup>		Habitat Restoration	BC Park (IESF, diversion drainage, Millbrook)	Jyneen/Yihong
July	July 20 <sup>th</sup>		Post-buckthorn removal weeding/planting workshop	Long Lake trail, parking end of 62 <sup>nd</sup>	Jyneen/Yihong

**Managers:**

Klayton Eckles, President • Chuck LeRoux, Secretary • Gerald Johnson, Treasurer • Celia Wirth, Vice President  
• Rob McKim, Manager •

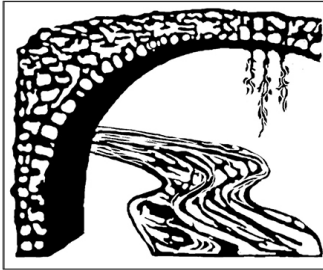


August	August 13th	TBD	Stormwater Tour	TBD, Settlers Glen?	George
September	September 10th	N/A	Community Event		All CAC
September	September 24th	N/A	Buckthorn	62 <sup>nd</sup> St	Anne
October	October 1st	N/A	Buckthorn	62 <sup>nd</sup> St	Anne

- 5) CAC Project Update
  - i) New Homeowner Packet
- 6) BCWD Website (Celia Wirth)
- 7) Community Event Planning
- 8) CAC Position Updates
  - Graphic Design and Promotion
  - Education and Community Engagement
  - Habitat Restoration
  - BCWD Board Activities
- 9) Education Topic: BCWD Management Plan and the MPCA's impaired water's list (Karen Kill)
- 10) CAC Meeting format for August CAC meeting:
  - Cameron Blake will pursue hybrid meeting options at the Stillwater Library
- 11) Adjourn Meeting

**Managers:**

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**Brown's Creek Watershed District  
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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

- 
- 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 14<sup>th</sup>, 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.

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Starting in spring			Long Lake walking trail boxes posts		Anne
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August	August 13 <sup>th</sup>		Stormwater Tour	TBD, Settlers Glen?	George
September	September 10 <sup>th</sup>	N/A	Community Event		All CAC

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October	October 1st	N/A	Buckthorn	62 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> week May-September	Sustainable Stillwater MN	What’s that plant? BC Trail	Jyneen
April 22nd	Sustainable Stillwater MN	SSMN Birthday Party	
June 4 <sup>th</sup> 9am-1pm	Wild Ones	Landscape Revival (Oakdale)	
June 4 <sup>th</sup>	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

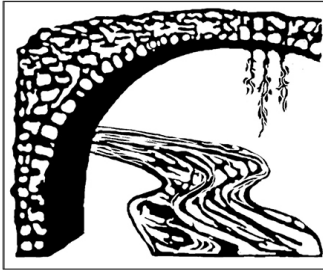
The CAC reviews website comments submitted by Jyneen and Celia. Cameron will follow up with Karen on using this feedback to explore BCWD website options. There will need to be a board decision on funding in the budget for updating the BCWD website. 2023 budget discussions start in July 2022.

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 110<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Managers:

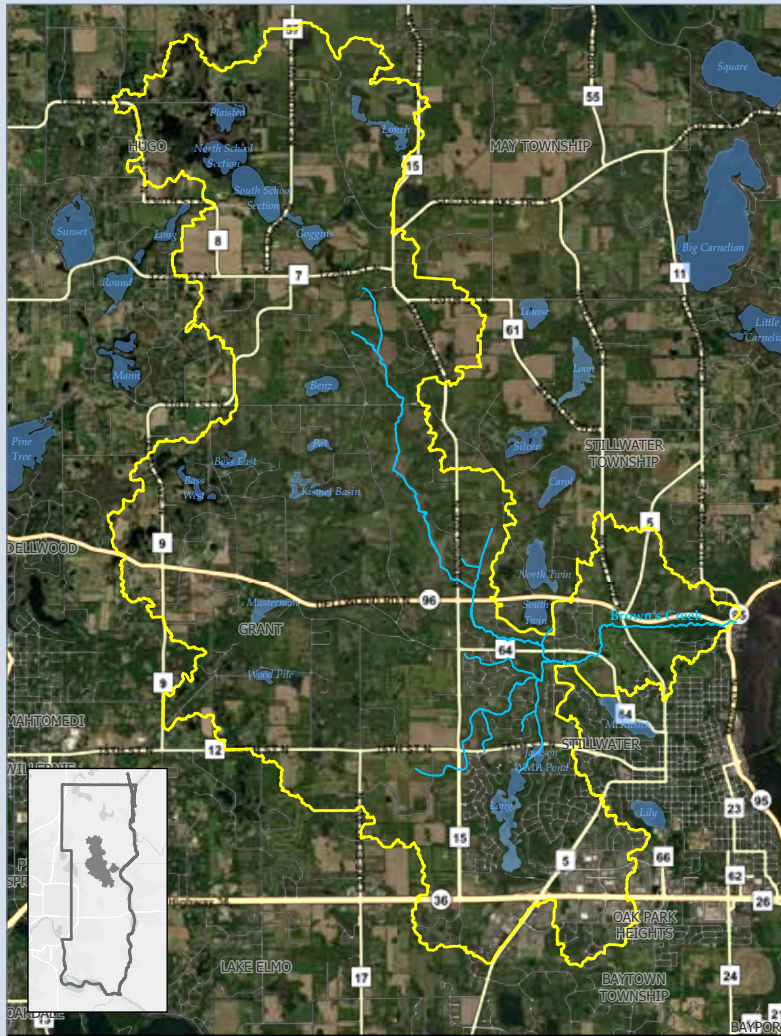
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**BROWN'S CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT:  
A GUIDE TO LIVING BY THE WATER**



**BROWN'S CREEK  
WATERSHED DISTRICT**



## YOUR LOCAL WATERSHED DISTRICT

The Brown's Creek Watershed District (BCWD) is a local government organization governed by an appointed, five-member Board of Managers. The Board of Managers meets monthly and encourages members of the public to attend. Like other watershed districts, its geographic boundaries are not determined by municipal boundaries, but instead by hydrologic boundaries. The BCWD's mission is to protect and improve water resources through adaptive management, education, and community engagement.

## DISTRICT WATER BODIES

The BCWD is home to a few small shallow lakes and several large open water wetlands and ponds that are locally regarded as lakes. "Lakes" is defined by BCWD as Bass East, Bass West, Benz, Goggins, Kismet, Long, Lynch, Masterman, North and South School Section, Pat, Plaisted, and Woodpile. The BCWD is also home to Brown's Creek, a designated trout stream. All of the District's water resources provide water quality benefits, habitat for wildlife, and aesthetic qualities.

The Brown's Creek Watershed District is part of the larger St. Croix River Watershed. Drainage from the District's outlet enters Brown's Creek and drains to the St. Croix River.

More information on the District's waterbodies can be found at the link below.

[tinyurl.com/BCWDwater](https://tinyurl.com/BCWDwater)



## Aquatic Invasive Species



*Curlyleaf pondweed found in South School Section*

One of the threats facing local waterbodies is aquatic invasive species (AIS). These are plants, animals, and microbes that are native to another region and are introduced to Minnesota waters, usually by human activity. Aquatic invasive species generally lack predators in their new environment and are able to reproduce at an uncontrolled rate. Unfortunately, AIS are found in some of the District's lakes and wetlands and in the St. Croix River. Known AIS populations include Eurasian Watermilfoil in Long Lake and the St. Croix River, and Curly-leaf Pondweed in South School Section Lake, Goggins Lake and Brown's Creek.

### COMMON AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES



**Curlyleaf  
Pondweed**



**Flowering  
Rush**



**Eurasian  
Watermilfoil**



**Purple  
Loosestrife**



**Zebra  
Mussels**

## Terrestrial Invasive Species

Invasive species is also a threat faced by our upland habitats. Like aquatic invasive species, terrestrial invasive species have been introduced to Minnesota and reproduce without predation or competition. There are tree, vine, shrub, and other plant species that overwhelm native species and reduce the quality of habitat and food sources for birds, animals, and insects. If you suspect you have invasive species on your property sign up for a site visit at [www.mnwcd.org](http://www.mnwcd.org); a professional will help identify and advise on management of invasive species.

### COMMON TERRESTRIAL INVASIVE SPECIES



**Buckthorn**



**Black  
Locust**



**Oriental  
Bittersweet**



**Grecian  
Foxglove**



**Wild  
Parsnip**

# Planting for Clean Water

The types of plants you choose for your property can directly affect local lakes and rivers, even if you don't have a waterfront property. Using deep-rooted native plants in a shoreline buffer or raingarden can help stabilize the soil and reduce pollution to water resources. If you want to beautify your property and protect clean water at the same time - do projects in your own yard! The BCWD can help you decide which practice is right for your property, understand the permit requirements involved in installation, and learn about grant opportunities to help fund your projects.

## GETTING STARTED

Getting started on your own project is simple! The BCWD partners with the Washington Conservation District to provide technical assistance for the initial design and installation of raingardens, native plantings, and shoreline restoration projects. Contact us today to schedule a FREE site visit with a conservation professional. Sign up at [www.mnwcd.org](http://www.mnwcd.org).



## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The BCWD offers financial assistance in the form of plant grants and cost-share grants for residential, commercial, and community projects. Plant grants are used to reimburse the cost of native plants for small-scale projects. Cost-share grants, intended for larger-scale projects are also available. For more information on these opportunities, please contact the BCWD.

## ADD NATIVE PLANTS TO YOUR PROPERTY: GET TO KNOW A FEW COMMONLY AVAILABLE



**Cone Flower**  
*Echinacea purpureum*



**Butterfly Milkweed**  
*Asclepias tuberosa*



**Little Bluestem**  
*Schizachyrium scoparium*



**Prairie Smoke**  
*Geum triflorum*

# Raingardens & Shoreline Restorations



## SHORELINE BUFFERS

A shoreline buffer with densely planted deep-rooted native plants, shrubs and trees is ideal and can provide many benefits. Shoreline buffers help stabilize shorelines, reduce pollution to the lake, discourage geese from congregating, provide habitat for wildlife, and help stop algae from growing. Trees and native plants have long, deep roots that hold soil together and help prevent lakeshore erosion. A dense buffer of these plants can filter water running off your property and clean it before it enters the water body.

## RAINGARDENS

A raingarden is simply a bowl-shaped garden that is built where it will capture rain and snowmelt (stormwater runoff) before it reaches a storm sewer, nearby stream, lake, or river. You can plant a raingarden at home to catch runoff from your rooftop, driveway, or street. The runoff soaks into the garden within two days and is cleaned by the plants and soil.



# The Basics of Permitting



Several activities associated with the improvement of your home and yard may require a permit from the BCWD and/or local municipality. There may be multiple other agencies from which a permit is required such as the DNR. Wetland impacts require a separate permit through the Wetland Conservation Act. As the landowner, it is your responsibility to determine what permits are needed. Please contact the BCWD to see if a permit is required before doing any of these activities:

- Grading or earthwork
- Adding impervious surface such as driveways, sheds, pools, house additions, etc.
- Removal or mowing of vegetation such as trees, shrubs, or plants from buffer areas

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

**Q: Do I need a permit to put a put in a new patio or driveway?**

A: Depending on the amount of impervious surface you are adding to the property you may need a permit. You may also need a permit if your project is close to a water resource.

**Q: Are there any restrictions to activity I am allowed to do in the stream, lake, or wetland buffer on my property?**

A: There are rules and guidelines to what kind of activity is allowed in buffers. Ask the district for guidance on your buffer in accordance with BCWD Rule 4.0. See link below.

**Q: Can I fill in low areas on my property?**

A: You will need a permit for activities that involve fill in the floodplain area or wetland alterations. You may need a WCA permit for activity involving an identified wetland. You may also need a permit if the activity exposes large areas of soil or alters overland flow and infiltration areas.

**Q: Do I need a permit to riprap my shoreline?**

A: You may need a permit for shoreline alterations. Contact the district to confirm if your project triggers BCWD Rule 5.0.

**For more information on these questions and others, please contact the BCWD, WCD, and/or your local municipality.**

**[tinyurl.com/BCWDpermitting](http://tinyurl.com/BCWDpermitting)**

# How Can I Get Involved?



## START AT HOME

The easiest way to get involved and improve your water resources is to start a project at home. Starting with something smaller, like a rain barrel, is often the easiest way to get started. If you are ready for more, there are many resources to help you install a raingarden or a native planting. Request a free site visit or plan your own with resources for planting projects at [BlueThumb.org](http://BlueThumb.org). The BCWD offers a limited number of stewardship grants each year. Apply here: [tinyurl.com/BCWDgrants](http://tinyurl.com/BCWDgrants)

Another great activity is to adopt a storm drain; find out more about this program at [www.adopt-a-drain.org](http://www.adopt-a-drain.org)

## VOLUNTEER

The District manages a Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP). District residents can volunteer to collect lake water quality samples throughout the summer. The data collected from these samples is used to monitor the water quality of District lakes. The District also has a need for other volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please send us your contact information and we will let you know when opportunities come up. Check our website for upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.

## JOIN A GROUP

As a resident of the Brown's Creek Watershed District, you are eligible to become a member of our Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) which meets bi-monthly to create opportunities for hands on restoration and educating the community. Find our CAC member application and more information here: [tinyurl.com/BCWDCAC](http://tinyurl.com/BCWDCAC)

The District undertakes many activities with the goal of improving the quality of local waterbodies. These include: designing and implementing large-scale capital improvement projects, monitoring water quality of District lakes and streams, partnering with the East Metro Water Resource Education Program (EMWREP) to provide education about best use practices, permitting construction activities to minimize the negative impact on area water resources, and more.

**For a complete description of the District's activities, see the Watershed Management Plan:**  
[tinyurl.com/BCWDwatershedplan](http://tinyurl.com/BCWDwatershedplan)



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455 Hayward Avenue North / Oakdale, MN 55128

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## BCWD BOARD OF MANAGERS

**Klay Eckles**, President

**Celia Wirth**, Vice President

**Jerry Johnson**, Treasurer

**Chuck Leroux**, Secretary

**Rob McKim**, Second Vice President

## BCWD STAFF/CONSULTANTS

**Karen Kill** District Administrator

(p) 651.330.8220 x26 karen.kill@mnwcd.org

**Cameron Blake**, Communication and Project Assistant

(p) 651-320-8220 x34 cblake@mnwcd.org



*Old Stone Arch Bridge across  
Brown's Creek in Stillwater, MN*

