



Approved Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Brown's Creek Watershed District Board of Managers, Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 5:00 PM

*Based on Brown's Creek Watershed District President Craig Leiser's determination pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 13D.021, subdivision 1, that it was not prudent to meet in person because of health concerns raised by the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held electronically, via webcast.*

**ROLL CALL**

<b>Managers Present:</b>	<b>Others Present:</b>
Klayton Eckles, President	Karen Kill, Administrator
Celia Wirth, Vice President	Cameron Blake, BCWD staff
Gerald Johnson, Treasurer	Camilla Correll, EOR, BCWD engineer
Charles LeRoux, Secretary	Michael Welch, BCWD Legal Counsel
	Angie Hong, EMWREP
	George Vania, BCWD Citizen Advisory Committee
	Fran Miron, Washington County Commissioner
	Gary Kriesel, Washington County Commissioner
	Anne Maule-Miller, BCWD Citizen Advisory Committee
	Aaron DeRusha, Washington Conservation District
	Barbara Heitkamp, Washington Conservation District
	Ryan Fleming, EOR, BCWD Engineer
	Paul Fritton, EOR, BCWD Engineer

1) **Call Special Meeting to Order @ 5:00PM**  
President Eckles called the Special Meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

2) **Approve Special Meeting Agenda**  
**Manager LeRoux moved, seconded by Manager Wirth, to approve the Special Meeting agenda as presented.**

	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b><u>Manager Eckles</u></b>	<b>X</b>			
<b><u>Manager Johnson</u></b>	<b>X</b>			
<b><u>Manager LeRoux</u></b>	<b>X</b>			
<b><u>Manager Wirth</u></b>	<b>X</b>			
<b><u>Motion carried 4/0.</u></b>				

- 3) **Resolution 21-02 Commemorating the Contributions of Craig Leiser**  
**Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager LeRoux, to approve Resolution 21-02 as presented.**

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nav</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Absent</u>
<u>Manager Eckles</u>	<u>X</u>			
<u>Manager Johnson</u>	<u>X</u>			
<u>Manager LeRoux</u>	<u>X</u>			
<u>Manager Wirth</u>	<u>X</u>			
<b><u>Motion carried 4/0.</u></b>				

- 4) **2017-2026 Watershed Management Plan**

The purpose of this workshops was to check-in with the BCWD Board of Managers to make sure they support the 2017-2027 Watershed Management Plan. Since the District is halfway through implementation of the Plan and over half of the Board is new, it was important to revisit the Plan's content and what has been accomplished in the last five years. The goal was to make sure the Board is comfortable moving forward with the implementation of remaining activities and identify any policy or programmatic changes that may need to be addressed through a Plan amendment. By engaging the BCWD's Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) in this workshop, the Board and the CAC were given the opportunity to explore opportunities to create a more formal role for the CAC in implementation of the Plan.

#### **Introductions and Values**

During the introductions, meeting participants were asked to identify how long they had served on the Board and/or the CAC and they were asked to tell the group what they appreciate most about the watershed. The following word cloud reflects what people appreciated most about the Brown's Creek Watershed:



**Review 2017-2026 Watershed Management Plan: Accomplishments and remaining activities**

Karen Kill, District Administrator and Camilla Correll, District Engineer reviewed the contents of the 2017-2026 Watershed Management Plan and shared what has been accomplished to date as well as what remains to be accomplished.

**Discuss whether or not the Board is still interested in accomplishing these projects**

Following the presentation on the 2017-2026 Watershed Management Plan, meeting participants were asked to participate in small group discussion using break-out rooms. During these discussions, meeting participants were asked to explore what they are most interested in doing for remainder of the Plan (2022-2026). This discussion was conducted using Jam Boards where participants were asked to respond to the following questions:

1. What are you most proud of as a Board or CAC member?
2. What do you think we should continue working on? Are there new things we need to think about that aren't in the Plan?
3. What needs to be addressed first and what can wait until later?

Tables 1 through 3 summarize the results of the Jam Board exercise. A copy of the Jam Board can be found at the end of this meeting summary. As Table 1 illustrates, the BCWD Board of Managers and CAC members are proud of the work and accomplishments of the BCWD. They are proud of the partnerships as well as the innovative approaches to addressing watershed management needs.

**Table 1.** Responses to Question 1: What are you most proud of as a Board or CAC member? (grouped by themes in columns)

Partnerships	Engagement/Visibility /Awareness	Innovation	Monitoring	Funding
Improving partnerships with other entities	Increase in the visibility of BCWD over the years: people understand who the BCWD is and what they do	Trout Stream realignment project	Contributing in a measurable way to improving water quality in the region	Grant funding
Developing networking and partnership relationships to improve water and land	CAC's desire to educate their neighbors on individual conservation practices that benefit the environment	Exploring reuse opportunities; Stormwater Reuse and creative projects in urban portions of BCWD	Strong compliance record over the years	One Water, One Plan: great way to get more benefit to overall environ. for the dollar
Hwy 36/Manning Avenue Project: regulatory and partnership structure	Showing students biological processes in the creek and how organisms are affected by their environment	Projects such as integrating wetland and infiltration treatment for flood relief and thermal protection, pump and treat IESF, SW reuse, imp habitat and runoff treatment	Actively producing the water quality data, the district uses to make decisions	
Facilitating, assisting in the formation of strong partnerships (e.g., Oak Glen Golf Course, City of Stillwater, Washington Co.)	Interacting with citizens on a daily basis and answering their questions	Oak Glen golf course buffer		
Partnership with Washington County on conservation land		CIP projects that benefit the creek		
Managing challenges with climate change within our community				
Giving back to the community and protecting our natural environment				
Balancing environmental protection with community interests and needs				

Table 2 identifies what the Board and participating CAC members think the BCWD should continue working on for the final five years of the Watershed Management Plan. Overall, meeting participants think the District should stick with implementation of the Existing Plan and amend the plan as needed to address issues of emerging concern. This sentiment was expressed in the following statements:

- Stick with the Plan
- Board does well in prioritizing issues/addressing urgent needs.
- Continue to update plan with urgent issues/projects such as Chloride impairment, etc. (Karen/Board has done a good job of this in past).

While most of the activities people think the District should continue working on are in the existing 2017-2026 Watershed Management Plan, some are new and not explicitly included in the Plan. New items, which may require a Plan Amendment are highlighted in blue in Tables 2 and 3. Activities that are new or may require a Plan Amendment prior to implementation include:

- Chloride Management
- Development of a flood-risk-mitigation approach/program
- Identifying opportunities for regional treatment (*may require a plan amendment depending upon the project*)
- Promoting diversity and inclusion (*may require a plan amendment depending upon the level of activity*)
- Re-evaluating how much of the annual budget goes to work in the drainage area to specific resources including Brown's Creek, Long Lake, South School Section Lake, and *all other waterbodies*.

**Table 2. Responses to Question 2:**

What do you think we should continue working on? Are there new things we need to think about that are not in the Plan?

Resource Prioritization	Management Approach	Permitting Program	Operations & Maintenance	Water Quality	Floodplain Mgmt.	Diversity & Inclusion
Continue focus on Brown's Creek and fish reintroduction.	Shading as a BMP, especially considering the weather we've had for June.	Look at simplifying permitting and permitting thresholds to ensure we are balanced in our effort and treatment of properties (e.g., SFR)	Inspections + Maintenance of existing stormwater BMPs and buffers	Chloride mgmt. – especially in Long Lake drainage area	Consider additional freeboard given changing patterns and GW.	Encourage commissioners to consider equity in appointing new managers
70% effort goes to the creek (only 1 of many resources): this concentration of funding and focus may draw attention from other resources/needs.	Continue to look for regional opportunities for stormwater treatment: requires major partnerships.	Large rural farming practices can have major impact on resources and are ungoverned for environmental protection	Following up on operation and maintenance of buffers, BMPs, CIP projects (related to coop agreements and permits)	Contaminants of emerging concern- PFAS, pharmaceuticals, etc.	Develop a legally sound flood-risk-mitigation approach/program.	Maintain diversity on the Board and the CAC.
Are we too "creek centric?"	Baseline Monitoring - feed info into adaptive management	Streamlining permitting for builders w/in developments		Keep monitoring for chlorides elsewhere in the watershed - emerging concern	Continuing to evaluate flooding issues within the watershed that impacts residents.	Focus on diversity by age, race, income, demographics to get different perspectives: consider options for engaging HS student(s).
	Advancing groundwater management/ protection activities	Right-sizing regulatory program, aligning to goals while imposing a burden the managers are comfortable with. Also, simplifying rules.			Review of landlocked areas as BCWD is doing with the Bass Lakes Management Plan.	
	Sharing information with neighboring districts	Guidance documents.			Preparing for more/longer wet cycles (overlaps with climate change which is in the Plan).	

Table 3 identifies when the activities included in Tables 1 and 2 should be addressed. Implementation activities have been identified as those which should happen sooner, those which

should happen sooner than later and those which can be addressed later (potentially in the next 10-year planning cycle). As Table 3 illustrates, there are more activities in the *Address Sooner* column than in the *Sooner than Later* or *address Later* columns. In addition, there are some activities that fall in both the *address sooner* and the *address later* columns which required further discussion and input from the Board of Managers. Items highlighted in blue reflect those items which are new and not specifically called out in the 2017-2026 Watershed Management Plan.

**Table 3. Responses to Question 3:**

What needs to be addressed first and what can wait until later? (read down columns)

Implement Sooner	Implement Sooner than Later	Implement Later
Flood Response Program; Flood mitigation help for residents; Flood proofing and preparedness	Do something to help cities take a greater interest in water quality / water management (e.g. streamlining the permitting process)	Community Outreach and Awareness.
Flooding - Consider shallow piezometers where we see rising water that may cause issues to residents/infrastructure.	Brainstorming regional treatment options.	Lake management where no immediate threats can be methodically approached.
Building diversity within the District and local government.	Chlorides: let's see what is emerging (learn and educate ourselves and partners)	Regional SW management can wait until BCWD is ready to regulate small-footprint land-disturbing activity.
Improve partnerships with cities.	Lynch Lake water quality? - legacy loading or current ag impacts?	Beaver Management Policy.
Land conservation opportunities (they are always getting more expensive).	Establish procedure for following up on permit expirations and following up on maintenance obligations - more and more permits coming in!	Groundwater Model - not enough data yet.
Regulatory revisions.	Wetland/GDNR inventories - re-evaluate what we're trying to protect as development pressures close in.	Stillwater Country Club.
Working opportunistically where there are development or redevelopment projects to piggyback with.		Fisheries management plan.
Brown's Creek TSS and thermal reduction projects		
Curly Leaf Pondweed Management		
Stillwater Country Club Reuse.		
E. coli Investigation.		
Goggin's Flood Management.		
CIP Maintenance.		
Permit process improvements to address increasing development pressure.		

1 **Discuss the need to change the course of direction**

2 The general consensus from the Board and CAC was to continue to work the existing plan. At the  
3 end of the workshop, the BCWD Board of Managers requested that District Staff organize what  
4 was shared at the meeting as follows:

- 5 - *Identify which activities are in the existing Plan and which are not in the Plan;*  
6 - *Recommend when these activities need to happen;*  
7 - *Identify which activities staff needs more direction from the Board on addressing;*  
8 - *Identify activities where there are opportunities for grant funding.*  
9

10 **5) Adjournment**

11 **Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager Eckles, to adjourn the Special**  
12 **Meeting at 7:58PM.**

	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b><u>Manager Eckles</u></b>	<b><u>X</u></b>			
<b><u>Manager Johnson</u></b>	<b><u>X</u></b>			
<b><u>Manager LeRoux</u></b>	<b><u>X</u></b>			
<b><u>Manager Schwarze</u></b>	<b><u>X</u></b>			
<b><u>Motion carried 5/0.</u></b>				

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20 Respectfully Submitted by

21 Karen Kill, Administrator, Camilla Correll, EOR, and Charles LeRoux, Recording Secretary