



# BROWN'S CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

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## MINUTES

**Brown's Creek Watershed District  
Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting  
Monday, October 10, 2022 at 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

### **CAC Members Attending:**

Jyneen Thatcher  
Anne Maule Miller (attended virtually)

### **Others Attending:**

Cameron Blake, BCWD Assistant  
Connie Taillon (attended virtually)

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- 1) Called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM
  - 2) Approved Agenda
  - 3) Approved Minutes from August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

- 4) Education Topic: HOA's and Watershed Districts (Connie Taillon)

Connie Taillon is a former BCWD Board Manager (2004-2017), current Water Resources and Environmental Engineer for the City of White Bear Lake, and current resident of Legends of Stillwater HOA. Connie explained that she was on the Landscape Commission subcommittee of Lakes and Legends in 2003 when the neighborhood was being developed. The BCWD did not have permitting authority at the time this development was occurring so the City of Stillwater had more influence over rules related to water resources. This was also when wet ponds were the primary practice used to treat stormwater (rather than infiltration practices). Stormwater pond buffers were also implemented. The Long Lake buffer was and continues to be under the City of Stillwater's purview. The group discussed buffer restrictions from the city which entail no cutting or mowing in the buffer.

The Landscape Commission was active at the start of the development when most of the neighborhood were actively landscaping their new property. Angie Hong from the EMWREP program attended the HOA's annual meeting to talk about native plants and raingardens and cost share grants that were available.

Connie then discussed the topic of stormwater features and maintenance. She shared her perspective that the city should own and operate stormwater practices as they have the knowledge and means to maintain them as opposed to HOAs. Connie talked to the larger Lakes and Legends HOA board about setting aside money in order to perform maintenance on the ponds when the time came. One issue of the time was poly aromatic hydrocarbons which are

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found in coal based driveway sealants and can accumulate in stormwater pond sediment. There is a threshold at which the level of PAH's in sediment have to be treated as hazardous waste which adds expense and specialization to stormwater pond maintenance.

After the BCWD gained permitting authority, maintenance agreements were set up for stormwater features with the HOA's. We are now reaching the time at which stormwater ponds constructed in these earlier developments are likely to need maintenance. There is currently some confusion over whether the city is willing to assist in stormwater pond cleanouts for these HOA's or not.

The group discussed more generally about how HOA's are run and how this related to watershed activities. Lakes and Legends has an annual meeting in which people are voted into the board. Generally, an ideal time to engage with HOA's are when they are newly developed. This is the best time to talk about landscaping options and the cost:benefit of native plantings and other things that benefit water quality. Jyneen said at one point the city looked at turf to prairie conversions on the east side of Long Lake but she is unsure of the results of those conversations. There are ways to speak about water quality/habitat providing landscaping in a way that can lead to compromises on design.

Home turnover is another time at which the watershed can connect with residents in HOAs. Connie recommended distributing the BCWD New Homeowner Packet to HOAs in the district in addition to new residents.

Jyneen asked if Realtor Training was still occurring and Cameron will ask Karen Kill about this.

#### 5) 2022 Open Yard Events and Community Event- Reflection and Feedback

Due to low attendance, the group decided it would be best if an electronic survey could be sent to the CAC to complete, with results discussed at the December CAC meeting.

#### 6) BCCA/110<sup>th</sup> St. Restoration Update

A round of foliar treatment will be occurring this month. Jyneen noted that the buckthorn re-sprouting was looking better and there was much less mullein on the property after the treatments this summer.

#### 7) CAC Training Opportunities

MAWD is taking place in person this year (Dec 1-3). Unfortunately, sessions will not be recorded or made available to share.

#### 8) CAC Position Updates

Anne offered to assist on a subcommittee related to the BCWD permitting process, specifically for flood reduction projects. She wanted to give feedback to the process she experienced with the flood protection project on her and Lee Miller's property. She felt the city should be involved due to changes to the landscape that were made that influenced flooding. She also noted a

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difference in how the South Washington Watershed District's approaches resident flood protection projects and the BCWD approach.

Anne asked if spring buckthorn removal events could be planned in 2023 and discussed possible locations and collaboration with scout troops. Jyneen explained that buckthorn treatment on private land is not often pursued by government agencies due to an inability to leverage grant funding. Too much cost goes into landowner agreements to be cost effective. She noted there are different treatment methods that could occur in which buckthorn is girdled rather than cutting and piling. This could be a neighborhood outreach or neighborhood meeting topic.

9) Upcoming meeting educational topics

- Update on reuse projects at Oak Glen and Applewood Golf Courses
- Update on chloride treatments

The group asked about a watershed tour in 2023, possibly to these projects.

10) The meeting was adjourned.

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