



**BROWN'S
CREEK
WATERSHED
DISTRICT**

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Minutes

**Brown's Creek Watershed District
Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting
Monday, December 12, 2022 at 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Stillwater Library Conference Room and Hybrid Zoom Option**

CAC Members Attending:

Jyneen Thatcher
George Vania
Yihong Gao
Anne Maule Miller (attended virtually)

Others Attending:

Cameron Blake, BCWD Assistant
Kevin Biehn, EOR

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- 1) Called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM
 - 2) Approved Agenda with addition of an HOA/Watershed Communications Update as Item 8
 - 3) Approved Minutes from October 10th, 2022
 - 4) Education Topic: Brown's Creek Restoration and Stream Dynamics (Kevin Biehn, EOR). Kevin Biehn summarized an upcoming BCWD project involving restoration of a section of Brown's Creek at Brown's Creek Park. He presented the current approach taken when restoring the physical condition and habitat of streams. He summarized some historic restoration projects on Brown's Creek: the 2011 Fish Passage, the 2012 Oak Glen golf course buffer, and the 2021 Rock Check and tributary restoration project. The CAC discussed cycles in stream systems such as flooding and erosions. Mr. Biehn explained that the portion of Brown's Creek that flows through the Brown's Creek Conservation Area (BCCA/110th St) is technically north of the "cold water fishery" portion of the creek but that the vegetative restoration the district is conducting there could assist with its channel condition in the long run.
 - 5) 2022 Open Yard Events- Survey Results
Survey participants reported the planned events were good events but suffered in attendance. Overall the CAC would like to strategize on promotion for the open yard series. The CAC discussed overall takeaways from the open yard event series. Events in Stillwater seemed to be more successful.
 - 6) 2022 Community Event- Survey Results

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• Rob McKim, Manager •



Survey participants thought the event location was very positive as was the groups/booths that participate in the event. The group would also like to improve attendance by strategizing on promotion so the word reaches a larger audience and not rely on traffic from the trail. Another suggestion was to brainstorm how traffic could be directed to the “back side” of the event.

Current promotion includes: the BCWD website, the BCWD Facebook page, the BCWD newsletter, physical signage leading up to events, event promotion on Discover Stillwater through SPLASH, and occasionally direct mailings. BCWD Events are also promoted through BCWD’s partnership with the East Metro Water Resources Education Program. Sometimes CAC members will share events on NextDoor although the BCWD does not have a NextDoor account. The CAC asked if the BCWD could distribute event information to other organizations email distribution lists. Cameron asked the BCWD attorney and he advised this would be a privacy concern, however the CAC could send event information and ask those organizations to distribute them to their email lists.

The CAC asked if events could be promoted in Angie Hongs weekly column, or Lee Miller’s photo op on the back of the Stillwater Gazette. Celia asked if the BCWD could use press releases to promote events. The CAC considered the idea of the BCWD having a NextDoor account and would like to re-visit in February after more information is learned.

7) BCCA/110th St. Restoration Update

A final buckthorn foliar treatment was completed for the year. The 2022 Restoration Grant and Maintenance report and the manager of the restoration grant, Todd Rexine of Great River Greening will present at the February CAC meeting.

8) HOA/Watershed Communications Update

The BCWD and the East Metro Water Resource Education Program (EMWREP) are going to put on a workshop this summer for Stillwater HOA Organizations and Property Management Companies. This workshop will focus on education of stormwater features, what activities are restricted in them, and what responsibilities HOAs have for maintenance of them. A meeting occurred with the City of Stillwater who explained they inspect and clean out catch basins on a two-year cycle. Their current plan is to clean out ponds as needed and assess HOA’s for this work.

9) 2022 Event Planning

- Open Yard Series

George would like an event centered around BCWD recent buckthorn removal and restoration projects in the Brown’s Creek Tributaries (Millbrook, etc.). The group considered partnering with Linda Radimecky from the MNDNR on a class about fly fishing. This is based on information the public submitted from the collected community event Bingo cards in which a section asked for them to share topics of interest.

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- Community Event

The date this year will be September 16th and the CAC would like to consistently schedule the event on the 3rd Saturday of September.

- Schools and other organizations events – Booth in a Box

The CAC would like to reach out to organizations for their 2023 event schedule to identify any opportunities for collaboration or to attend as a representative of the BCWD.

10) CAC Position Updates

- Graphic Design and Promotion
- Education and Community Engagement
- Habitat Restoration
 - i) The BCCA report will be presented at the February meeting along with Todd Rexine from Great River Greening with an update on the restoration grant.
- BCWD Board Activities
 - i) The BCWD participated in the annual Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts conference in Alexandria. There is increased conversation about limited liability legislation that would allow for reduced salting/chloride application. The BCWD website is migrating to a new platform at the end of January and the CAC will be asked for input as the new website is pulled together.

11) The meeting was adjourned at 7:55PM.

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