2011 Annual Report & 2012 Annual Plan

Priorities for 2012

Brown's Creek

BCWD has identified several capital improvement projects along the Brown's Creek corridor to improve the water quality and habitat of Brown's Creek. The development of the Brown's Creek State Trail provides a unique opportunity to partner with the DNR Trails on project that would otherwise not be possible. Three projects will be a main focus for Brown's Creek in 2012: Bluff & Ravine Stabilization, Stormwater Management, and Stream Rehabilitation.

Brown's Creek entrenched along the rail line – one of the most degraded segments. State Trail development gives BCWD an opportunity to improve stability and habitat in this and other segments of Brown's Creek.

McKusick Lake/Diversion Drainage Iron Enhanced Sand Filter

The BCWD has received a FY 2012 Clean Water Fund grant to install an iron enhanced sand filter that will remove 118 pounds of phosphorous per year from the waters coming through the diversion structure to McKusick Lake and the St. Croix.

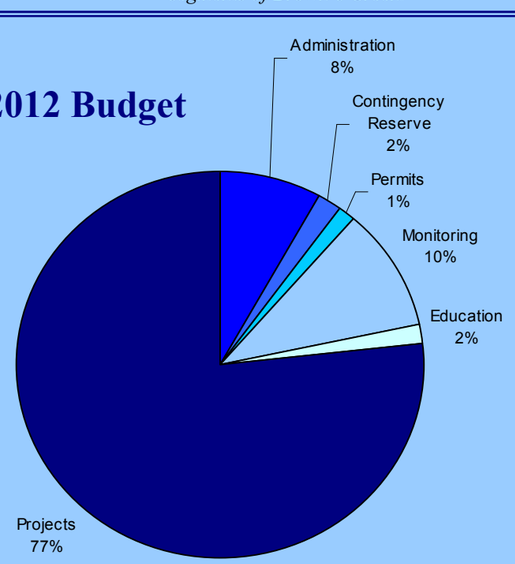
Iron Enhanced Sand Filter at Settler's 5th Addition in Stillwater – removes 118 lbs P/yr from McKusick Lake & St. Croix River

Best Management Practices

BCWD will continue working with residents and the communities to install best management practices like raingardens, native plantings, and shoreline restorations.

Best Management Practices can reduce erosion and improve water quality to nearby lakes & streams.

2012 Budget



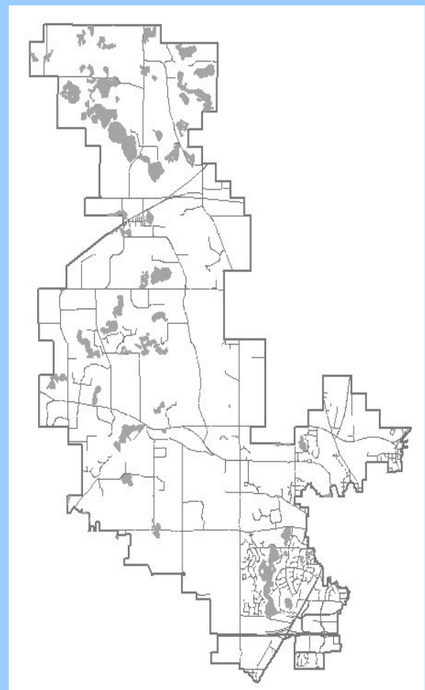
Total Budget = $1,533,000

Revenue:

Grants 10% = $162,000
Carry Over 40% = $624,950
Levy 50% = $746,050

Brown's Creek Watershed District:

Working with the Community to Preserve and Improve the Quality of the District's Water and Natural Resources



The Brown's Creek Watershed District (BCWD) is the governmental unit with primary responsibility for protecting the water resources of the Brown's Creek Watershed. The District was established in 1997 under the Minnesota Watershed District Act.

The District covers approximately 30 square miles within Washington County that drain into Brown's Creek, which then enters the St. Croix River. The watershed includes Brown's Creek—a DNR designated trout stream, and several small tributaries. The watershed includes twelve major lakes and numerous wetlands. The District includes portions of the Cities of Oak Park Heights, Grant, Hugo, Lake Elmo, and Stillwater along with portions of May and Stillwater Townships.

Historic Stone Arch Bridge over Brown's Creek – 2011 Stabilization Project Permitted through BCWD partnership

The upper portion of the District is largely rural with farms, large-lot development and undeveled grassland, cropland and forestland dominant. The lower portion of the District includes rapidly developing urban areas within the Cities of Stillwater and Oak Park Heights.

BCWD Board of Managers

The BCWD's five Board of Managers are appointed by the Washington Country Commissioners and can be contacted through the BCWD office.

Regular Board Meetings held at 6:30PM Second Monday of the Month

Craig Leiser, President
Rick Vanzwol, Vice-President
Gail Pundsack, Vice-President
Gerald Johnson, Secretary
Connie Taillon, Treasurer

(Right to Left) Managers Johnson, Taillon, Leiser, Pundsack, & Vanzwol

Grants Available for Water Quality Improvement Projects Up to $2,500

42 Projects Already Installed Since 2007!

2011 Accomplishments

Brown's Creek

The namesake of Brown's Creek Watershed District and a designated metro trout stream. However, in recent years the stream hasn't been home to as many trout and cold-water insects as we would hope. A study was completed and approved by the EPA in December 2010 to help us determine what is wrong with Brown's Creek. Sediment and high temperatures were found to be significant problems. An implementation plan was approved by the MPCA in February 2011 to get us on the right path to improving it.

BCWD partnered with Oak Glen Golf Course to restore 1,300 linear feet of Brown's Creek as it flows through the golf course and added almost two acres of native buffer along the streambank. With the help of a Clean Water Legacy grant, this project began in 2011 and potentially eliminate the high summer temperatures in this area that are so harmful to trout.

Oak Glen Golf Course – Jan 2012 after 1,300 linear ft restoration completed. Buffer planting will be completed in 2012.

Oversized Box Culvert in Brown's Creek was impeding fish passage until fish baffles were installed.

BCWD installed fish baffles within two large highway culverts to improve stream habitat in October 2011.

Long Lake Shoreline was restored with 31,000 native plants

Fen Management

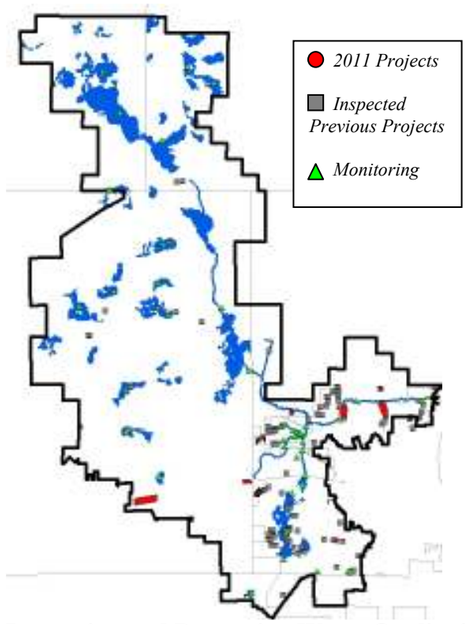
BCWD partnered with the landowner to protect the fen from surface water flows.

Drainage Repair on groundwater dependent fen

Lake Management

With $43,000 BWSR Native Buffer grant and labor from the Clean Water Fund, over half mile of Long Lake shoreline buffer was planted with 31,000 native plants. A plan was completed for Woodpile Lake with the help of lake residents.

2011 Project Locations



Improving and Preserving Water Quality in 2011 with the following activities:

- 22 Permits Initiated
- 19 Homeowner BMP Projects Approved
- 1,300 linear feet of Brown's Creek restored
- 41 Monitoring Locations for lakes & streams

2011 Actual Revenue*: $956,500
2011 Actual Expenses*: $815,650
**(pre-audit)*

2011 Participating Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Members included:

Luanne Folgelson	*Carol Palmquist*
Marvin & Paulette Jones	*Carol Parendo*
Tom Henderson	*Karen & Paul Richtman*
Lee Miller	*Sharon Schwartz*

August 22, 2011 - Joint BCWD Board and CAC Meeting to develop 2012 Budget and workplan and assessed the progress of the 2011 workplan.

Please contact the Administrator if you would like to serve on the CAC!

Monitoring Project Performance

Monitoring

The BCWD monitors the health of the District's lakes and streams. This information allows us to make water resource management decisions based in science. A weather station was added in 2011. The data is available in a detailed annual monitoring summary on the District website at www.bcwd.org.

2011 Lake Water Quality Report Card

Bass Lake East – B-	*Goggin's – C-*	*Lynch North& South – F/D*	*Plaisted –C-*
Bass Lake West –B	*Kismet Basin – C+*	*Masterman – C+*	*South School Section – C*
Benz Lake – D	*Long – C*	*Pat – B-*	*Wood Pile Lake – C+*

Education

East Metro Water Resource Education Program is a 17 member partnership formed in 2006 to educate the public about non-point pollution and engage people in projects that will help to protect and improve water quality in the region through articles, website interact and workshops.

Check www.BlueThumb.org for all the latest news!

Jim Bradshaw – BCWD 2011 Conservationists of the Year

For More Information – Contact the District Administrator:

Karen Kill - 1380 West Frontage Rd, Hwy 36, Stillwater, MN 55082
651.275.1136 x26 or karen.kill@mnwcd.org

Or Visit Us at the Brown's Creek Watershed District Website: www.bcwd.org

District Consultants *(selected in 2009 Biennial Solicitation)*:

Legal Services - Chuck Holtman - Smith Partners, P.L.L.P.
Old Republic Title Building, 400 Second Avenue South, Suite 1200, Minneapolis, MN 55401
612.344.1400 or holtman@smithpartners.com

Engineering Services - Camilla Correll, P.E. - Emmons Olivier Resources, Inc.
651 Hale Avenue, Oakdale, MN 55128
651.770.8448 or ccorell@eorinc.com