

BCWD WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE – FRAMEWORK FOR DISCUSSION

Date	O7/06/2023
To / Contact info	BCWD Board of Managers; Karen Kill, District Administrator
From / Contact info	Camilla Correll, EOR
Regarding	2024-2025 WMP Update

Background

In 2017 the Brown’s Creek Watershed District adopted its fourth Watershed Management Plan. This Plan contained an effective 10-year implementation plan which guided many of the activities implemented by the organization. As Minnesota Statutes 103B.231 Watershed Plans articulates the period covered by a watershed management plan may not be more than 10 years from the date the board approves the plan. In order to complete the next Brown’s Creek Watershed Management Plan, the 2027 Watershed Management Plan, the District needs to begin the plan development process in 2024. The goal is to complete the 2027 Watershed Management Plan by June of 2026 so that the BCWD has the information it needs for 2027 budget discussions.

This memorandum identifies the tasks associated with the development of a DRAFT 2027 Watershed Management Plan. It is being presented at the July 2023 Board Meeting for discussion by the Board of Managers. District Staff needs more direction from the Board on what it would like to accomplish with this next Plan Update.

New Information / Emerging Concerns

Since the adoption of the 2017-2026 Watershed Management Plan, a number of initiatives have been completed by the District as well as other entities which will likely inform the content of the Plan update. These initiatives include:

Existing Initiatives

- Rule Update/Amendment (Application of MIDS District-Wide)
- BCWD’s role in Flood Management
- Manager and staff involvement in the DEI in Watershed Management working group

New Plans

- BCWD Progress-to-Goals/Trend Analysis (2021)
- Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (2020)
- Brown’s Creek Watershed Nine Key Element Bridge Document (2021)
- BCWD District-Wide Pond Management Plan (2023)
- Bass Lake East & West Management Plan (2022)
- Long Lake Flood Risk Analysis – *Community Meetings* (2021)

New Information

- TMDL Listings - Chlorides
- Availability of Climate Change Data
- 2020 Census Data
- LiDAR (topographic) data
- Land cover data

Emerging Concerns

- Social and Environmental Justice
- Chlorides
- Climate Adaptation and Resiliency
- How HOA's are maintaining their stormwater management systems
 - New, small HOA's that don't have the capacity to operate and maintain their BMPs
 - Older HOA's (developments) where the stormwater BMPs may be reaching the end of their life-cycle
 - What role should the WD play in the management of these systems (assumptions protocol)
- BMP Maintenance Program (RWMWD Cost-Share Program – collective clean out program for communities)
- How to identify who is responsible for Maintenance Declaration and ensuring people are submitting their annual reports. Consider adopting a policy stating that the BCWD will routinely (i.e., every 5 years) perform inspections and then follow up with responsible entities for those BMPs that aren't performing as designed/planned.
- Maintenance of BCWD's CIPs. Inventory of maintenance status of everything built as part of the permitting program and the District's CIP? How big is the problem? Focus groups or conversations to identify barriers and potential solutions.
- Flood Management – pick up the plan amendment discussion
- Local Rule Adoption – Now that the District has adopted MIDS within the drainage area to the Diversion Structure, the District may want to revisit the conversation about having the cities of Stillwater and Oak Park Heights implement all or portions of the District's rules.

Framework

The following outline identifies the tasks that the District is required to undertake as part of the watershed management plan update. These tasks are being presented at the July Board meeting to gauge interest in how much effort the Board wants to put into each of these tasks. The goal for the July Board meeting will be to discuss each of these tasks to make sure we are on the same page and that we aren't missing anything that the Board is hoping to include in the next 10-year Plan. EOR will bring a more refined cost estimate to the August Board meeting as part of the 2024 Budget Recommendations.

1. Public Engagement Process
 - a. Develop Public Consultation Plan
 - Incorporate characterization of who lives in the watershed and who is benefiting/not benefiting from the work.
 - Who should participate on the TAC?
 - Who should participate on the CAC?
 - Geographic representation since issues, goals and strategies may be different?
 - Formal public survey to establish a baseline of understanding and measure change in behavior.
 - b. Implement Public Consultation Plan (meetings from last plan update):
 - Initial Planning Meeting with BWSR to review plan goals and requirements
 - Issues Identification Meetings with CAC – 2
 - Issues Identification Meeting with TAC – 1
 - Goals and Policies Meetings with CAC – 2
 - Goals and Policies Meeting with TAC – 1
 - Implementation Plan Meetings with CAC – 2
 - Implementation Plan Meeting with TAC – 1
 - *Consider attending other events in the watershed and meeting people where they are.*

Questions:

- *What are the Board's goals for engagement?*
- *What would successful engagement look like?*
- *Does the Board want to create a project website to share information and solicit feedback?*

2. Inventory and Assessment of Resources

- a. Review and incorporate new information generated in reports, feasibility studies, planning documents developed since 2017.
- b. Add new sections to the 2027 Watershed Management Plan
- c. Update the H/H model to evaluate impacts related to climate change.
 - o Are there portions of the watershed that we need to evaluate in more detail?
- d. Update the wetland function and value assessment which is outdated
- e. Update and clarify the GDNR inventory
- f. Rules audit (i.e., inspecting stormwater management facilities and buffers)
- g. Update existing figures to reflect new information.

Questions:

- *Are there any other initiatives that the BCWD should be considering as part of the plan update process?*

3. Issues Identification

- a. Develop issues for the following geographic areas drawing on information collected via Public Engagement Process and Inventory and Assessment of Resources:
 - o Headwaters Area
 - o Central Area
 - o Long Lake Tributary Area
 - o Lower Ravine Area
 - o Watershed-Wide Issues

Questions:

- *Does the Board like this structure?*

4. Establishment of Goals and Strategies

- a. Develop goals and strategies for the issue statements developed for the following geographic areas:
 - o Headwaters Area
 - o Central Area
 - o Long Lake Tributary Area
 - o Lower Ravine Area
 - o Watershed-Wide Goals and Strategies
 - o Develop procedure(s) to evaluate measurable goals

Questions:

- *Does the Board like this structure?*

5. Development of Implementation Plan

- o Description of existing and new programs
- o Develop 10-year Implementation Plan

Questions:

- *None.*

6. Draft Watershed Management Plan

- a. Executive Summary
- b. Introduction and Plan Requirements
- c. Member Authorities and Responsibilities
- d. Land and Water Resource Inventory
- e. Watershed Issues, Goals and Strategies
- f. BCWD Implementation Plan
- g. BCWD Administration

Questions:

- *Does the Board want to make any of the Watershed Management Plan web-based (i.e., a StoryMap of the Plan)?*

7. Watershed Management Plan Review Process
 - a. Submittal for 60-day review period by all agencies, affected counties, SWCDs, cities and towns
 - b. Response to comments
 - c. Submittal for 90-day review and approval to all scope