



BROWN'S CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

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Minutes

**Brown's Creek Watershed District
Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting
Monday, August 14, 2023 at 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Stillwater Library Conference Room**

CAC Members Attending:

Jyneen Thatcher
George Vania
Yihong Gao (attended virtually)
Aimee Eberle
Ron Johnson
Patty Johnson

Others Attending:

Cameron Blake, BCWD Assistant
Mike Majeski, EOR (virtually)
Allison McGinnis, Sustainable Stillwater, Bird City (virtually)
Celia Wirth, BCWD Board Liaison (virtually)

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- 1) Called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM
 - 2) Approved Agenda
 - 3) Approved Minutes from June 12th, 2023
 - 4) Education Topic: Brown's Creek Restoration Project (Mike Majeski, EOR)
Mike Majeski presented an overview of the potential new restoration project on a stretch of Brown's Creek along Brown's Creek Park. The project would involve tree removal, and earth work to restore the floodplain connection, as well as restoration of the channel shape. Jyneen and Mike discussed the location of a rare species along the corridor within the project scope which would be taken into consideration for final corridor design. Mike confirmed an Army Corps permit was not needed as the project does not involve fill of a wetland. Jyneen noted she observed wet conditions along the project location and Mike explained there were other factors that indicated the disconnection from the floodplain.
 - 5) 2023 Community Event: Joint planning with Allison McGinnis, Sustainable Stillwater
The CAC and Allison discussed final event details including logistics for the raptor show. George said he had connected with Robert Edman who works with Stillwater and their water department and he indicated a lack of concern about disposable wipes. The group decided instead of that educational topic to ask Steve to do a fly fishing table.

Managers:

Klayton Eckles, President • Chuck LeRoux, Secretary • Gerald Johnson, Treasurer • Celia Wirth, Vice President



6) 2023 Event Schedule

- Open Yard Series

The group reviewed the remaining open yard events for the year.

Promotion for the buckthorn events included event posting on Community Thread as well as outreach to the national honors groups in the school district.

The Brown's Creek Conservation Area event will include native seeding as well as some buckthorn follow up removal. The group discussed future restoration work that is planned for the area now that the initial grant wrapped up this summer. The group proposed an educational topic at the December meeting of buckthorn removal- specifically George Johnson who is a volunteer at the nature center at Sunfish Lake park in Lake Elmo. He can share about equipment and techniques for buckthorn removal and follow up that they have been using successfully.

The group also discussed the upcoming joint BCWD Board/CAC tour of historic projects in the northern portion of the watershed district. The tour is scheduled from 5:30-8:00PM on August 30th.

7) CAC Position Updates

- Graphic Design and Promotion
- Education and Community Engagement
- Habitat Restoration

George and Jyneen shared there was little update for the meeting this month. Jyneen saw a new species, Bush Clover, out at Unit 4.

- BCWD Board Activities

The board has been discussing aspects of the permitting program and the 2024 budget as well as the next 10-year management plan for the district.

Aimee shared she has been working through a Master Naturalist Course and a capstone project. One topic of concern is the biocontrol of purple loosestrife, an aquatic invasive species.

8) Adjourned Meeting at 7:50PM

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