

BROWN'S CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

455 HAYWARD AVE N
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MINUTES

**Brown's Creek Watershed District
Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting
Monday, February 12, 2024 at 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Held Virtually**

CAC Members Attending:

Jyneen Thatcher
George Vania
Anne Maule Miller
Aimee Eberle
Hallie Chasensky

Others Attending:

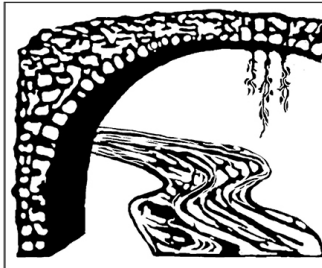
Cameron Blake, BCWD Assistant
Celia Wirth, BCWD Board Liaison
Anne Wilkinson, EOR

- 1) Called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM
- 2) Approved Agenda
- 3) Approved Minutes from December 11th, 2023
- 4) Education Topic: Long Lake Chloride Impairment (Anne Wilkinson)
Anne Wilkinson presented on the current status of chloride pollution in Long Lake and the overall impacts of chloride pollution on freshwater resources. She confirmed that desalinization techniques are not yet economically feasible. The group discussed chloride reduction strategies including winter design for salt use, use of chloride alternatives, and salt applicator training. Due to the shape of Long Lake there may be a wildlife refuge effect in the shallow lobes, with chloride concentrating in the deepest portion of the lake.
- 5) 2024 Event Planning
 - Open Yard Series finalize presenters/locations/dates

Month	Date/Time	Event	CAC Member
April	4/20 8am	Long Lake West Trail Birding	George/Anne
		Long Lake boxes/posts	

MANAGERS:

KLAYTON ECKLES, PRESIDENT • CHUCK LEROUX, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT • GERALD JOHNSON, TREASURER • CELIA WIRTH, VICE PRESIDENT • DEBRA SAHULKA, SECRETARY



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May	5/15 6:30pm	Brown's Creek Tributary Restoration Project Tour	Jyneen
June	TBD	Open Yard Tour: Native Plants!	Anne/Master Gardener
July	TBD	Open Yard Tour: Low Mow Lawn!	Jyneen/Klay Eckles
August	8/21 6:30pm	Brown's Creek Restoration Project	Hallie
September 21th	10am-1pm	Community Event	Everyone
October	10/5 10am-12pm	Long Lake and Chlorides	Aimee/Celia

The group decided on the events listed in the table above. Jyneen noted she would not be available for the community event date this year, but Hallie will likely be able to step in for the native plants table with Wild Ones. George offered a tour of the Brown's Creek Conservation Area if either of the open yard tour locations fell through.

The group discussed the placement of the informational boxes for the Long Lake walking trail and what content should be included. The group is still interested in having migratory and local bird information, with buckthorn in the fall. Anne asked about creating a plant handout and Jyneen and George could work with her on this. Jyneen said Wild Ones has a photo library they can use for the plant guide.

The group discussed placing a similar box at the Brown's Creek Conservation Area/110th St. George said he would create a specific birding list for this location. Celia suggested adding this information to the BCWD website and attaching a QR code to the box.

Anne requested an upcoming training on buffer enforcement on Long Lake in regards to the roles of the city vs. the BCWD.

George would like to do some HOA stormwater outreach and Cameron explained there was an effort underway to produce materials specific to HOAs for these topics.

6) CAC Project Update

- Newsletter- theme, articles/topics

The group was fine with the usual mailing period for the newsletter being in April after approval from the CAC and board. Topics the CAC requested were: featuring BCWD staff, current weather and climate observations, the upcoming Brown's Creek restoration project, and the management plan update process.

7) CAC Position Update

- CAC Member Activities

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Celia shared her and George had a good stakeholder interview with Valley Outreach in which they identified Valley Outreach as a potential placer to disseminate information. They have a contract for their winter salting and were interested in what training was available.

- Habitat Restoration

George and Jyneen will begin biological surveying biweekly at 7 and 8am on Wednesday mornings starting on April 3rd. Cameron will resend the instructions on how to access the google spreadsheet with the biological survey data. Celia offered to assist in restructuring the data to be more useful. Aimee provided an update on the WI-Master Naturalist coursework. Cameron will post information on how to sign up on the district Facebook page. Aimee asked about how beaver dams are handled in the district and Cameron will send her the latest district survey information that is available. George noted there was a dam in William O'Brien State Park.

- BCWD Board Activities

The board has continued to discuss the management plan update process and marketplace stormwater reuse feasibility study.

8) BCWD Project/Program Update

- Brown's Creek Restoration project

The project was approved to go out for bid with a contractor being selected at the March board meeting.

- Annual Report: April meeting

The 2023 annual report will be brought to the CAC at the April meeting for review.

- Watershed Management Plan Update

The process is still being outlined and dates will be provided to the CAC for the upcoming workshops.

9) Upcoming meeting educational topics

- Buckthorn removal at Sunfish Lake Park/Sally Manzara Nature center
- Oak Glen Reuse update
- Brown's Creek Conservation Area/110th St Property restoration update
- Millbrook restoration update
- FAQ regarding development and the role of municipalities and HOAs

10) Adjourned Meeting at 8:00PM

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