



BROWN'S  
CREEK  
WATERSHED  
DISTRICT

455 HAYWARD AVE N  
OAKDALE, MN  
55128

651.330.8220 X26 [PHONE]  
651.330.7747 [FAX]  
WWW.BCWD.ORG

## MINUTES

**Brown's Creek Watershed District  
Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting  
Monday, April 10, 2024 at 6:00-8:00 p.m.  
Held Virtually**

### **CAC Members Attending:**

Jyneen Thatcher  
George Vania  
Anne Maule Miller  
Hallie Chasensky

### **Others Attending:**

Cameron Blake, BCWD Assistant  
Celia Wirth, BCWD Board Liaison  
George Johnson, Sunfish Lake Park volunteers  
Allison Mcginnis, Sustainable Stillwater MN

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1) Called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

2) Approved Agenda

3) Approved Minutes from February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

4) Education Topic: Buckthorn Removal at Sunfish Lake Park (George Johnson)

George Johnson described the background of the nature center at Sunfish Lake Park. He helps manage a volunteer group that removes buckthorn at the park on the second Saturday of every month, which has led to over 2000 hours of volunteer time in the park. They also host buckthorn removal festivals and have organized group volunteer service days with scouting troops, 4H, etc. They also have had luck working with Sentenced to Serve. The nature center has a mailing list of about 1200 people to call on for volunteer opportunities. He described their successful acquisition of state grant funds for buckthorn removal, with grant implementation performed by Stantec, who managed the contractor for them. They encountered challenges with the grant management due to communication difficulties with the city, and the active year round use of the park by constituents. The contractor used feller bunchers for the large scale grant work, and otherwise use saws and herbicide to manage buckthorn.

5) 2024 Community Event Planning with Sustainable Stillwater MN

Allison Mcginnis from Sustainable Stillwater MN was present to discuss the joint bird fest/community event planning for this fall. The bird fest topic is insects this year, which could

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tie into some BCWD water quality and habitat topics such as the macroinvertebrate table. The raptors have been reserved for the show again this year. Sustainable Stillwater would like a second table. Wild Rivers Conservancy, and Trout Unlimited will be two new organizations at the event. Anne will try and locate a demonstration bee hive. George will work with the Tamarack Nature center for bird skins again.

6) 2024 Newsletter

Jyneen requested the text be run through again for proof reading and sentence structure issues. The group proposed name changes for some of the open yard events, and discussed ideas for the chloride pollution event in more detail.

7) 2023 Annual Report

The group thought the report looked visually appealing and will review and pass along edits.

8) 2024 Event Schedule

- Open Yard Series

Month	Date/Time	Event	CAC Member
April	4/20 8am	Long Lake West Trail Birding	George/Anne
		Long Lake boxes/posts	
May	5/15 6:30pm	Brown's Creek Tributary Restoration Project Tour	Jyneen
June	June 26	Open Yard Tour: Tour of Butterfly Cove Gardens	Anne/Master Gardener
July	July 24	Open Yard Tour: Low Mow Lawns and Pollinators	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	Lake Impairment: Salt? What Salt?	Aimee/Celia

Cameron will drop of signs to post along Long Lake Trail ahead of the birding event. Cameron will drop off more copies of the migratory bird flyer for the trail boxes and printed/laminated QR codes that will direct to the BCWD website page that will host these trail resources. Anne is interested in working with someone to create a native plant flyer as well for the Long Lake boxes.

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9) BCWD Project/Program Update

- Brown's Creek Restoration project
- Watershed Management Plan Update

Cameron reminded the group about the BCWD apparel order. The clothing should be ready to distribute at the June CAC meeting. George noted some of the species he has seen recently on Long Lake and Jyneen shared what species she has seen on South School Section. Hallie updated the group that she now works for the nature conservancy.

The CAC will begin to participate in the management plan update process this year at upcoming meetings. The Brown's Creek restoration project is set to begin in June and July with planting next spring.

10) Upcoming meeting educational topics

- City vs. BCWD responsibility of Long Lake buffer
- Oak Glen Reuse update
- Brown's Creek Conservation Area/110<sup>th</sup> St Property restoration update
- Millbrook restoration update
- FAQ regarding development and the role of municipalities and HOAs

11) Adjourned Meeting at 7:50pm

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