



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, June 10, 2024 at 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Margaret Rivers A Room, Stillwater Library**

CAC Members Attending:

Jyneen Thatcher
George Vania
Anne Maule Miller
Yihong Gao

Others Attending:

Cameron Blake, BCWD Assistant
Celia Wirth, BCWD Board Liaison
Karen Kill, BCWD Administrator
Camilla Correll, EOR
Alexander Furneaux, EOR
Quinn Judge, Resident
Allison Mcginnis, Sustainable Stillwater MN

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- 1) Called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM
Quinn Judge, a resident who lives on Sinnets Pond (formerly Jackson Wildlife Management Area) in the district, was here to sit in on the meeting. He introduced himself and explained he found it difficult to find information on the watershed district but was interested in finding out more about what the BCWD does.
 - 2) Approved Agenda
 - 3) Approved Minutes from April 8th, 2024
 - 4) Management Plan Update Workshop (EOR)
Camilla presented on the watershed management plan update and planned process, and how the CAC will participate. The group discussed some of the topics raised and shared feedback:
 - PFAS was discussed, with staff noting it is not in the last management plan at all, and the CAC stating they felt this issue was not something the district should have a role in unless there was an instance of it showing up in surface water monitoring in the district
 - Anne requested a color coded dashboard that reflects progress towards management plan goals be created and displayed on the district website

MANAGERS:

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



- Anne also requested CIP project goals be tracked and displayed in a easy to understand way. George also requested this of stormwater features in the Millbrook neighborhood and the Conservation Area biological survey data. The CAC noted they wanted to make sure this data collection not create unnecessary work but be something that naturally comes out of the project tracking process
- George requested to include habitat protection as an issue topic, and stated he felt this was easier to understand rather than the ecological health issue topic
- Jyneen expressed her concern about the habitat protection and enhancement work falling to CAC members who are currently holding all that institutional knowledge. She felt this needed to be prioritized by the district in order to not lose this work and knowledge when CAC personnel changes
- The group expressed a need for assistance in CAC event success, noting an overall lack of turnout. They wondered if the issue was the event topic selection or promotion and a need for an advertisement budget. They also noted sometimes event participation was not from residents in the district. Overall there is a need to improve awareness of the BCWD and the work the district is conducting in the watershed
- Anne asked if there was a list of “pain points” in relational and partnership efforts
- Quinn suggested the district explore business and sponsorship outreach to help with CIP projects or other efforts. Karen noted the enhanced stakeholder outreach process the board and CAC assisted with from this spring, and the new partnership opportunities that arose. George stated that Trout Unlimited recently promoted Brown’s Creek and the restoration efforts but did not mention the BCWD.

The watershed management plan activity will be the first hour of upcoming CAC meetings with materials provided to the CAC ahead of time.

5) 2024 Community Event Planning with Sustainable Stillwater MN

Allison McGinnis was present to discuss the community event. Sustainable Stillwater requested 2 additional tables and for their placement to be connected to the other Bird Festival tables. The theme for the Migratory Bird Day this year is “Protect Insects, Protect Birds”, which can connect with some of the tables such as the BCWD macroinvertebrate table, as well as any discussion about habitat preservation and restoration. Allison will be ordering temporary tattoos and this could also be something the BCWD craft tables has this year- insect or honeybee temporary tattoos. Anne found a demo hive for this year so another BCWD table will be honeybees. George will be coordinating the pickup of the bird skins again this year. Yihong will be at the craft table, and Hallie will take Jyneen’s place at the Wild Ones, native plant table.

Two new organizations at the event this year will be Wild Rivers Conservancy and Trout Unlimited.

6) 2024 Event Schedule

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The upcoming low mow lawn and native plant event will be changed from July 24th to July 17th. There is still a need to find a meeting space for the October 5th Chloride Open Yard event. Celia mentioned there may be a space at the First United Methodist Church and will look into that option.

The group expressed some concern about whether the district's identity is being lost in the joint community event, participation in the EMWREP program, and overall struggle with awareness of the BCWD. This is something the group would like to address in the next management planning.

7) BCWD Project/Program Update

A fish survey was completed ahead of the Brown's Creek Restoration Project. The data will be shared with the CAC when it becomes available. The CAC also requested the IESF and Rock Crib performance reports be shared with them.

8) Adjourned Meeting at 7:50pm

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