

Project Name	Brown's Creek Watershed District (BCWD) Watershed Management Plan Update	Date	06-10-2024
Meeting Location	Stillwater Public Library		
Regarding	Watershed management planning process; issues and goals overview; Education and Outreach issue category discussion		
Attendee(s) + Info.	CAC – Anne Maule-Miller, George Vania, Jyneen Thatcher, Yihong Gao Board Liaison - Celia Wirth District Staff – Karen Kill, Cameron Blake, Camilla Correll (EOR), Alexander Furneaux (EOR) Public - Quinn Judge		
Recorded By	Alexander Furneaux, EOR		

Meeting Overview

EOR staff attended the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to provide an introductory presentation on the BCWD Watershed Management Plan (WMP) update. Camilla explained the purpose of the WMP, described the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the planning process, what is new to this fifth-generation plan, and the plan development schedule as well as touchpoints for engagement with the CAC and other stakeholders. The remainder of the meeting was used to begin the discussion of the issue category “Education and Outreach”, one (1) of five (5) issues identified by EOR and BCWD staff for discussion during CAC meetings over the WMP update lifespan.

CAC members were invited and encouraged to attend the Project Initiation meeting on July 9th, 2024 (in the afternoon/early evening). More details to come.

Discussion

- Concern regarding the inclusion of measuring PFAS. This was viewed as a city problem and beyond the scope of the watershed district. Acknowledged that the State is the lead through the County groundwater plan and therefore may acknowledge the presence of the issue but not assign responsibility to the watershed district to address it beyond monitoring (potentially) to identify presence in District resources (i.e., VBWD’s involvement in monitoring for PFAS in Lake McDonald).
- Interest in ideas to measure and track goals going forward, noted that it is challenging to view accomplishments. Some discussed a dashboard or dots on a map recording points of improvement.
 - Washington County Parks has an annual report of accomplishments. CAC members suggested that some metrics the BCWD could report include: Millbrook stormwater flows into Brown’s Creek, Buckthorn removal, bird inventory at 110th Street.
 - Anne Maule-Miller volunteered to help with this initiative.
- Concern about vagueness of “Ecological Health” issue.
- Curious to know if the District is aware of the “pain points” faced by municipalities and/or the development community. It would be good to share these so the CAC can review the concerns against the Sub-Issue Area statement for *Municipality and Developer/Contractor Education and Outreach* as well as the goals and the actions.
- Should businesses be added as an audience or Sub-Issue Area.
- Important to value and maintain the momentum of CAC interests so that documentation does not fall off over time if the expertise of certain individuals is no longer available. Possible

strategies discussed included expanding the CAC to create opportunities for more people to get involved on initiatives, and demonstrating the value of CAC activities to the BCWD Board so that if the CAC is unable to meet a need this can be filled by staff.

- CAC has excellent technical expertise at events, but struggles to communicate this with watershed district residents to get people involved/interested (aware that some event attendees come from outside the watershed). They are struggling to tell the story of the watershed improvements so that it captures peoples' attention.
 - There is a mailing list, but no method of capturing information at events currently.
 - Public member noted that it is challenging tracking down the BCWD and was unaware of many events (e.g. Croixwood Blvd rain garden).
 - Consider business outreach and sponsorship-style projects like "Adopt-a-Highway" to boost involvement.
 - Consider outreach to similar interest groups (i.e., Trout Unlimited, Pheasants Forever) so the District can leverage their networks by having them share the BCWD's accomplishments when highlighting a resource like Brown's Creek in their communications.

Actions

The following actions stem from this discussion:

- BCWD following up with Washington County Parks regarding their annual report of accomplishments.
- CAC members to provide Cameron with additional information on the "Education and Outreach" worksheet.
- EOR will continue to lead the "Recreation" and "Education, Outreach, and Stewardship" conversation at the next CAC meeting.
 - EOR will provide information on these issues in advance (i.e., a month) of the next CAC meeting.