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FINAL Minutes of the special and regular meetings of the Brown's Creek Watershed District

- Board of Managers, Wednesday August 14, 2024
- 4 5 ROLL CALL

Managers Present:	Others Present:
Klay Eckles, President	Karen Kill, BCWD administrator
Celia Wirth, Vice President	Ryan Fleming, EOR, BCWD engineer
Debra Sahulka, Secretary	Michael Welch, Smith Partners, BCWD counsel
Gerald Johnson, Treasurer	Cameron Blake, BCWD staff
	Pat Conrad, EOR, BCWD engineer
Manager Absent:	Beth Carreno*
Chuck LeRoux	Steve Warnick, resident*
	Cariann Carter, resident*

\* regular meeting only

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## 2025 Budget Workshop

President Klay Eckles called the special budget-review meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Karen Kill presented the proposed draft 2025 budget, which includes a 2.3 percent levy increase, an increase of approximately \$26,728 over 2024 and consistent with the watershed management plan proposed 3 percent annual increase. The taxable market value of property in the watershed increased approximately 10.3 percent.

15 Considerations in the 2025 budget include operations and maintenance for long-16 term capital improvement projects, and a proposed increase from 1.5 to 2.0 full-time staff to allow for increased implementation items and education and outreach. The budget also 17 18 includes the next installment of the federal 319 grant passed through the Minnesota 19 Pollution Control Agenda for improvements to Brown's Creek or Long Lake. The budget 20 reflects a feasibility study of a rock crib to reduce thermal loading to Brown's Creek as 21 was identified in a previous study of the watershed. The managers requested the specific 22 capital improvement be left as broadly described as possible to allow for exploration for the best use of grant funds. The managers supported earmarking funds for above-and-23 24 beyond stormwater treatment at the future Lakeview Hospital site. Ms. Kill explained that 25 the E. coli impairment in Brown's Creek is not from human sources, and agricultural 26 interaction with the creek is limited. Managers requested further information on the E. 27 *coli* impairment to inform future activity. The managers discussed new efforts in the 28 budget including homeowner association stormwater maintenance support, which has 29 become a growing issue. The managers made no changes to the draft budget.

Manager Johnson moved, seconded by Manager Wirth, to schedule the budget and levy public hearing for the September 11 regular meeting. Motion carried, vote 4/0.         The budget workshop adjourned at 6:19 p.m.         2)       Call regular meeting to order President Klay Eckles called the regular meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.         3)       Approve Agenda Manager Johnson moved, seconded by Manager Wirth, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried, vote 4/0.         4)       Public Comments Residents Cariaan Carter and Steve Warnick, 11589 110th Street North, Grant, explained they were neighbors to the Brown's Creek Conservation Easement Area and were here to listen to the board meeting and learn more about the watershed district. Staff and managers thanked them for attending and encouraged their ongoing engagement in watershed work.         20       Consent Agenda Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager Johnson, to approve the consent agenda: a) Approve board meeting minutes of the July 10, 2024 regular meeting b) Accept paryment of Geomorphic Restoration pay application #2 d) Autiborize registration, expenses, and per diems for managers and registration and expenses for staff for the Minnesota Watersheds annual meeting December 2024         6)       Treasurer's Report a)         7)       Current Items Payable Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager Johnson, to accept the authorized funds spreadsheet, and authorized funds spreadsheet.         7)       Cournet Items Payable         8)       Ourrent Items Payable         9)       Current Items Payable         9)       Current Items Payable	1		
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1 2 3 4 5 6		Manager JohnsonXManager LeRouxXManager WirthXManager SahulkaXMotion carried 4/0.
7	7)	Planning
8	.)	a) Management Plan Update
9		(1) Regulatory review facilitation proposals
10		Ms. Kill reminded the managers of the effort to seek facilitation to evaluate the
11		regulatory program. Staff recommends Beth Carreno's proposal not to exceed
12		\$9,800 from account 909-0000. The proposal also included a review of the
13		permitting process. Manager Eckles confirmed that the proposed budget would
14		cover the collection of needed data, and Ms. Carreno confirmed that she would
15		connect on how much follow up work may be needed. Manager Eckles noted he
16		remains interested in simplifying the process for single-family residential permits.
17		
18		Mr. Welch explained if the managers chose to move forward with Ms. Carreno's
19		proposal, contract terms for insurance need to be determined, given that she is a
20		sole proprietor. Managers requested staff work out the contract details and bring a
21		draft agreement to the next meeting for authorization.
22		
23		(2) Equity Framework Policy
24		Mr. Welch provided background on the draft policy provided in the meeting
25		packet for the managers' consideration. He noted the importance of tying work on
26		diversity, equity, inclusivity and accessibility to the district's statutory water-
27		resource protection and flood-risk mitigation purposes. Manager Wirth asked if
28		the policy would specify what the district will be doing and define what
29		communities will be engaged. Mr. Welch advised that these details should be
30		included in the management plan.
31		Manager Johnson moved, seconded by Manager Sahulka, to adopt the equity
32		policy as presented. Motion carried, vote 4/0.
33		(2) Notering Demonstration Undertain
34		(3) Natural Resource Inventory Updates (a) Wetlands
35 36		
30 37		Pat Conrad provided background on the two scopes of work included in the meeting packet for consideration as part of the management plan update. The
38		district uses an existing wetland inventory for the regulatory program. Better data
39		are available and the tool for wetland classification has been revised and updated.
40		Currently the district evaluates wetlands during each permit review and the cost is
41		covered by the applicant. Currently staff and developers work off the wetland
42		inventory and come to an agreement on how to classify the wetland. The proposed
43		scope would bring the inventory up to today's standards by applying a functional
44		assessment tool to a subset of wetlands that could then be extrapolated to all
45		wetlands in the watershed via a desktop evaluation. This would allow the district
46		to identify and protect unique resources in the district.
		to radianty and protoct anique resources in the district.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7	(b) Groundwater Dependent Natural Resources Mr. Conrad explained the district also has rules designed to protect groundwater dependent natural resources. Areas of recharge and groundwater connection are valuable information for management decisions. This effort is related to the wetlands inventory update, but specific to groundwater dependent analysis. <u>Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager Johnson, to approve the</u> <u>scopes of services for \$24,020 to conduct the wetland inventory and functions</u>
8	and values assessment and \$9,972 to conduct the groundwater dependent
9	<u>natural resource update from account number 927-0000.</u>
10	
11	Manager Eckles requested the motion be amended to specify the approved
12	scope includes an update of the entire wetland inventory, and if this work
13 14	was not intended to be included in the total scope that the scope be brought back to the managers at the Sentember meeting. Managers Wirth and
14 15	<u>back to the managers at the September meeting. Managers Wirth and</u> Johnson concurred.
16	Upon vote, the amended motion carried 4/0.
10	open vote, the amended motion carried 4/0.
18	
19	8) Discussion Agenda
20	a) Updates
21	(1) Administrator
22	Ms. Kill said Freshwater Society's fundraiser on September 12, 2024, has
23	topics that could be of interest to board managers or staff.
24	Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager Johnson, to authorize
25	payment for staff and managers for tickets to the Freshwater Society
26	fundraiser. Motion carried, vote 4/0.
27	
28	(2) Legal
29	Mr. Welch explained that Nine Mile Watershed District will be
30	considering a resolution supporting regulatory approaches to chloride-use
31	reduction next week for submission to Minnesota Watersheds.
32	
33	(3) Engineer
34	(a) Permit Inspection Update
35	Ms. Kill said active permits are getting their sites into compliance despite
36	the heavy rain.
37	
38	(4) Managers
39	Manager Celia Wirth said she was excited about the new Citizens Advisory
40	Committee members. The managers discussed potential candidates they could
41	contact to apply for the upcoming BCWD board vacancy.
42	
43	9) Adjournment
44	Manager Johnson moved, seconded by Manager Wirth, to adjourn the regular meeting at
45	<u>7:55 p.m. Motion carried 4/0.</u>
46	

- Respectfully submitted by
   Cameron Blake, BCWD st
- 2 Cameron Blake, BCWD staff and Debra Sahulka, Secretary