



BROWN'S
CREEK
WATERSHED
DISTRICT

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AGENDA

**Brown's Creek Watershed District
Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting
Monday, December 9, 2024 at 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Conference Room, Stillwater Library**

CAC Members Attending:

George Vania
Sandy Noreen-Ruben
Jyneen Thatcher
Aimee Eberle
Yihong Gao (via Zoom)

Others Attending:

Cameron Blake, BCWD Assistant
Hannah Peterson, BCWD
Celia Wirth, BCWD Board Liaison
Alexander Furneaux, EOR
Camilla Correll, EOR

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- 1) Called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM and gave introductions.
 - 2) Approved Agenda
 - 3) Approved Minutes from October 14th, 2024
 - 4) Management Plan Update Workshop (EOR)
Alex explained that the updates and proposed changes to the management plan were occurring by participation from the board, CAC, Technical Advisory Plan meetings, and by the district staff including engineering and legal.
Alex then went over the timeline of the management plan update and what topics were worked on last by the TAC; lake and wetland management. The group discussed the latest wetland inventory and Jyneen requested the methodology used be sent to her. George emphasized the importance of source water protection for wetland and groundwater dependent resource health. The group participated in the climate change activity in which climate stories were discussed and shared. There is an opportunity for the CAC to participate in interviews for a climate story project EOR is conducting.
 - 5) 2024 Community Event Reflection and Feedback and 2025 Planning

MANAGERS:

KLAYTON ECKLES, PRESIDENT • CHUCK LeROUX, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT • LARRY ODEBRECHT, MANAGER
• CELIA WIRTH, VICE PRESIDENT • DEBRA SAHULKA, SECRETARY •



The group discussed the 2024 community event and challenges with the weather that made it so the bird skins couldn't be displayed, the musicians were unable to perform, and the bingo cards were not distributed. Despite these challenges there was a good turnout and the event was considered successful. Allison asked if the group ever considered setting a rain date and the CAC said this posed too many logistical challenges and were not interested in doing so. Allison explained the theme for 2025 World Migration Day was creating space in bird friendly cities and communities. The CAC will consider what opportunities there are from a watershed district perspective for this theme for 2025. Allison asked if another table could be included in 2025, a non-profit called Tropical Wings which focuses on habitat restoration in Bird City Stillwater's sister city in Costa Rica, and if the local bird club could also participate in the event and the group was favorable.

The group decided to keep the 3rd Saturday of September for the 2025 community event which will be September 20th. George will reserve bird skins form the Tamarack Nature Center and Allison will reserve the raptor show.

Celia and Jyneen noted that they liked including other organizations but wanted to discuss the issue of name recognition for the district at the community event and otherwise. This is part of a larger concern about awareness of the watershed district among residents and participation in outreach and education events. The CAC discussed having a larger discussion about the overall mission and vision of the CAC at the February meeting in which Hannah Peterson will be taking over as BCWD assistant. Topics covered will also include event planning, volunteer retention and the timing of the CAC meetings. Aimee noted she didn't experience as much hands on activities with her time volunteering on the CAC, and wondered if there was opportunity for larger group wide projects other than the community event.

6) CAC Member Updates

George and Jyneen discussed changing the timing of the biological surveying at the Brown's Creek Conservation Area in 2025 and will keep the group updated on what they decide.

7) BCWD Project/Program Update

The management plan update is continuing from the board and there is a new board manager, Larry Odebrecht.

8) Adjourned Meeting

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