



# BROWN'S CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

Preserving the integrity of the watershed for future generations

www.bcwd.org | 455 Hayward Ave N, Oakdale, MN 55128 | 651-330-8220

## Minutes

### Brown's Creek Watershed District: Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting

Monday, February 10, 2025 at 6:00-8:00 p.m.

The Lakes at Stillwater, Reflections Room

#### **CAC Members in Attendance:**

George Vania

Jyneen Thatcher

Dory Herman

#### **Others in Attendance:**

Hannah Peterson, BCWD Staff

Celia Wirth, BCWD Board Liaison

Allison McGinnis, Sustainable Stillwater (via Zoom)

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- 1) **Called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM**
  - 2) **Approved Agenda**
  - 3) **Approved minutes from December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024**
  - 4) **Watershed Management Plan Update**

Hannah Peterson shared that EOR will be doing an Implementation Plan workshop with the CAC at the April meeting and that a draft plan should be available for the June meeting.

- 5) **Election of CAC Officers**

Hannah shared that George Vania and Anne Maule Miller are currently co-chairs. The group agreed to appoint 2025 officers at the April meeting with more CAC members in attendance.

- 6) **Vision and Goals Workshop**

Hannah shared the current CAC vision statement and asked CAC members to share goals that they have for the year. Celia Wirth recommended picking a theme each year to create goals around. The group discussed the varied attendance for Open Yards events and their challenges in outreach. George Vania asked what can be offered that is new or different. He recommended the CAC plan 2026 events around the final management plan that will be finalized in January 2026 and promote the plan once it is available. For 2025, the CAC wanted to continue focus on the Brown's Creek Park restoration and the 110<sup>th</sup> St property/Brown's Creek Conservation Area. Additional ideas were to improve involvement with local high school students and have a future permitting workshop for homeowners, homeowner's associations, or real estate agents. Jyneen Thatcher expressed concern that the managers are relying on the CAC for education and

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outreach. The group also discussed the purpose of the CAC and what the board wants them to focus on. Celia shared Minnesota Statutes section 103D.331 on requirements of the CAC and stated that they can decide what they want to focus on outside of advising the board. She recommended the CAC continue to revisit goals throughout the year.

## **7) Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities**

### **a. March 6, 2025, 4pm-7pm – Art Reception – Water Bar Volunteer/Postcards**

Hannah shared the upcoming artist reception with the group and mentioned that CAC members could volunteer at the water bar. George and Celia expressed interest. The group also discussed how to distribute the postcards for the event. Suggestions included leaving some at the Stillwater Library, the Co-op, Valley Outreach, and Sustainable Stillwater's Green Business Directory businesses in the area. Dory Herman said she would share postcards with Sustainable Stillwater.

### **b. April 26<sup>th</sup> and/or May 10<sup>th</sup> (8-11) – Planting at Brown's Creek Park Restoration Site**

Hannah shared that BCWD has ordered trees and shrubs and is planning for a volunteer planting this spring. Dory recommended waiting until May because Andrew Coyne with the City of Stillwater had urged Sustainable Stillwater to wait until May for a tree planting last spring. Hannah said she would bring this information back to the administrator and get more information on how large the trees will be and how soon they will need to be planted.

### **c. SSMN Eco Fair (April 26<sup>th</sup> 11-3) – BCWD Table**

Dory shared that this is usually a well-attended event and recommended that BCWD have a table.

### **d. Groundwater Testing Clinic**

Hannah shared that there will likely be a groundwater testing clinic upcoming in late spring or early summer. The CAC was interested in what exactly would be tested for, and Hannah said she would get more information. The group thought this would be a good outreach and/or volunteer opportunity.

### **e. September 20, 2025 10am-1pm – Fall Community Event**

Allison McGinnis joined the conversation to share that the birds from the U of M Raptor Center now cannot be reserved until six months in advance, and she is planning to call. She also shared the St Croix Valley Bird Club and Tropical Wings are both interested in having a table. Additionally, she inquired if the CAC would be interested in the Sally Manzara Interpretive Nature Center's roving bird/nature truck to be in the parking lot, and the CAC members liked the idea.

## **8) 2025 Event Planning and Volunteer Opportunities**

George shared that he would do the Long Lake West Trail Birding again, on Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8 AM. He also shared that he is doing a birding event at Brown's Creek Park on Monday May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 AM that the CAC can help promote or attend. Jyneen said she would do the Brown's Creek Tributary Restoration Project Tour on Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM, and did not recommend doing the Low Mow Lawn Open Yard again. Hannah said she would reach out to Anne on the events she led last year and recommended a Brown's Creek Restoration Project party/trout

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release in October which the CAC thought was a good idea. Boutwell raingardens were listed as another potential tour option for the summer. The current event list is as follows:

MONTH	DATE/TIME	EVENT	CAC MEMBER
MARCH	3/6 4-7pm	The Water Where We Live Reception – Water Bar Volunteer	George/Celia
APRIL	4/26 11am-3pm 8-11am?	SSMN Eco Fair Table <i>Possible Brown’s Creek Park Planting</i>	Anyone available
MAY	5/3 8am	Long Lake Trail West Birding	George
	5/5 7am	Brown’s Creek Park Birding (Non CAC event) <i>Long Lake boxes/posts</i>	George <i>Anne?</i>
	5/10 8-11am	<i>Possible Brown’s Creek Park Planting</i>	<i>Anyone available</i>
	5/17 9:30am	Brown’s Creek Tributary Restoration Project Tour	Jyneen
JUNE	June	Open Yard Tour: Butterfly Cove Gardens	Anne/Wendy?
JULY	July	Open to ideas	
AUGUST	August	Open to idea	
SEPTEMBER	9/20 10am-1pm	Community Event	Everyone
OCTOBER	TBD	Restoration/Trout Release	

## 9) CAC Project Update

### a. Newsletter – Theme, design, articles/topics

Hannah shared that she would be designing the newsletter in house to follow branding consistency and asked the CAC members for recommendations on the theme and articles. George recommended the theme of “How we protect habitat” which the CAC agreed to. Related articles would focus on the work at 110<sup>th</sup> Street and an update on the restoration on tree planting at Brown’s Creek Park. Dory recommended tailoring the event list to families and informing residents how the work of BCWD affects them. The CAC also discussed sharing content about salt alternatives being used in the area as well as the recent lakes presentations from December 2024. Celia recommended including a QR code to web content in the newsletter so that BCWD can share more than what will fit in the print newsletter.

### b. Homeowner’s Packet – Bring Updates to April Meeting

Hannah shared the current homeowners’ packet and requested CAC members bring edits to the April meeting or send via email.

## 10) Upcoming meeting educational topics – start again in June

George stated he is still very interested in follow up on these education items. The group also seemed very interested in a joint board/CAC project tour.

- a. City vs. BCWD responsibility of Long Lake buffer
- b. Oak Glen Reuse update

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- c. Brown's Creek Conservation Area/110<sup>th</sup> St Property restoration update
- d. Millbrook restoration update
- e. FAQ regarding development and the role of municipalities and HOAs
- f. Joint board/CAC project tour

**11) Adjourned Meeting at 8:02 PM**

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