

**BROWN'S
CREEK
WATERSHED
DISTRICT**

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Minutes

**Brown's Creek Watershed District
Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting
Monday, June 12, 2023 at 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Boutwell Landing's Auditorium C**

CAC Members Attending:

Jyneen Thatcher
George Vania
Yihong Gao (attended virtually)
Aimee Eberle
Steve Merchant

Others Attending:

Cameron Blake, BCWD Assistant
Rebecca Oldenburg, Washington Conservation District (virtually)
Allison McGinnis, Great River Greening (virtually)
Celia Wirth, BCWD Board Liaison (virtually)

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- 1) Called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM
 - 2) Approved Agenda
 - 3) Approved Minutes from April 10th, 2023
 - 4) Education Topic: BCWD 2022 Water Monitoring Report (Rebecca Oldenburg, Water Resource Specialist, WCD)

Rebecca Oldenburg presented an overview of the BCWD water monitoring efforts and 2022 water monitoring report. Jyneen asked if they were going to consider monitoring at the Brown's Creek Conservation Area/110th St Property. The group discussed landcover changes in the district and whether the monitoring results reflect those changes. Jyneen suggested this was a good reason to have more monitoring in the northern part of the watershed district. George asked about data for the Oak Glen Reuse pumping project, the BCWD IESF performance monitoring, and information regarding high capacity well pumping and its effect on Brown's Creek. The group discussed Long Lake's water quality and the supplemental volunteer water monitoring efforts that complement the BCWD water monitoring program.

The group asked if there was anything the BCWD could do to communicate the importance of Andy Weaver and Glen Boettcher's involvement with the district in the wake of their retirement. The CAC will provide statements that Karen Kill can share with the high school principal Rob

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Bach of their recommendation the school continue the partnerships and programs it has been involved in with the district.

5) 2023 Community Event: Joint planning with Allison McGinnis, Sustainable Stillwater
 The group reviewed the lists of needs for Sustainable Stillwater for the bird festival/community event and the Raptor Center. Jyneen expressed concerns that the event may not be a good fit for the Raptor Center’s requirements. Allison will coordinate with the Raptor Center to see if we are able to set up what the center needs to be able to participate in the event. Allison said she will be able to provide folding tables and will work on securing a canopy for Sustainable Stillwater’s materials and volunteers. The group wondered if SSMN could extend their “What’s That Plant” set up through the event date. Cameron will coordinate with their graphic design volunteer on the flyer for promoting the event.

The CAC brainstormed topics for tables at the event. George will ask his contact at Stillwater’s wastewater treatment department if he is available for the event to discuss the impact of “flushable” wipes, and provide guidance on what kinds of things are ok to flush and what are not. Karen Kill suggested a table on trash, recycling, and compost given the MPCA article recently about the issue of trash in the Twin Cities. Potentially a compost bin and rain barrel could be given away as prizes. The CAC will finalize table assignments at the August CAC meeting.

Tables for CAC/BCWD assignment

- Birds- George
- Welcome Table- Cameron
- Native plants-Jyneen
- Water Quality/Watershed Map and projects- Karen?
- Macroinvertebrates
- Ice Cream
- Games
- Crafts- Yihong?
- Compost/Trash/Recycling
- Watewater

6) 2023 Event Schedule

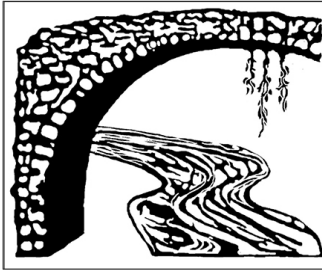
- Open Yard Series

The CAC overviewed the remaining Open Yard events.

Month	Date/Time	Event	CAC Member
April	4/29 8am	Long Lake West Trail Birding	End of 62 nd St

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		Long Lake boxes/posts	
May	5/17 6:30pm	Wildflower Walk	Schulenburg Park
June	6/21 6:30pm	Millbrook Restoration Tour	Brown's Creek Park parking lot
July	7/19 6:30pm	Fly Fishing Workshop	Brown's Creek Park parking lot
August	8/9 6:30pm	Brown's Creek Tributary Restoration Project Tour Part 2	Brown's Creek Park parking lot
September 16th	10am-1pm	Community Event	Brown's Creek Park
September	9/23 9am-12pm	Long Lake Buckthorn Brigade	End of 62 nd St
October	10/7 9am-12pm	Brown's Creek Conservation Area Buckthorn Brigade	St. Croix Ballet Studio parking lot if permission is received

7) Board/CAC Tour August 30th at 5:30-8pm

- Desired locations/projects
The CAC discussed recent Capital Improvement Projects. Jyneen suggested a tour of more historic projects since many of the Open Yard events are near current projects so the CAC will be familiar with them. Jyneen will share her thoughts with Karen and the itinerary will be shared at the next CAC meeting.
- Logistics planning
The CAC would like this to be a bus tour.

8) CAC Position Updates

- Graphic Design and Promotion
- Education and Community Engagement
- Habitat Restoration
Jyneen shared her recent observations of the plant community on the property. She shared her recommendations for management activities this year and shared that the soil samples from the burn piles indicate they have not been significantly altered. recently toured the property with county staff as part of the Land and Water legacy program. The programs funding is back on the ballot in 2024.
- BCWD Board Activities
 - i) The board has been discussing improvements to the permitting program, as well as getting ready for 2023 budget planning.

9) Adjourned Meeting at 8:00PM

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The CAC agreed to return to the 6PM starting time for the meeting as the hour and a half meeting has felt rushed.

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