



BROWN'S CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

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MINUTES

**Brown's Creek Watershed District
Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting
Monday, October 9, 2023 at 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Family Means, Desch Room**

CAC Members Attending:

Jyneen Thatcher
George Vania

Others Attending:

Cameron Blake, BCWD Assistant
Karen Kill, BCWD Administrator
Camilla Correll, EOR
Allison McGinnis, Sustainable Stillwater, Bird City (virtually)

1) Called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM

2) Approved Agenda

3) Approved Minutes from August 14th, 2023

4) Education Topic: BCWD Plan Update and Enhanced Engagement (Camilla Correll)

District engineer Camilla Correll explained the background of the district's upcoming 10 year management plan creation; including the board's decision to make efforts towards enhanced stakeholder engagement during this plan creation. This presentation was recorded and will be shared with the entire CAC, and also presented at the BCWD board meeting this week. The CAC and Board are asked to participate in this effort with the following ask:

- i) Review the provided list of organizations who may represent people who haven't historically been part of the conversation to see who the BCWD has identified to date
- ii) Add any Organizations/Groups that may be missing from the list.
- iii) Identify which Organizations/Groups you have a connection to and would be willing to survey about the BCWD plan update.

These organizations can also be classified per their relationship to the district, or opportunities for partnership whether that be a volunteer base, projects, etc.

The group brought up the following groups: Valley Outreach, interim housing complexes, the Cimmaron Mobile Park, gardening groups, Scouting Troops including youth groups, Wilder Forest, Manitou Fund, DNR Wildlife Division, Kelly Farms WMA, DNR Waters and Ecological Services, the hound hunters who use Kelly Farms, county parks included under public works, gravel pits, the water consortium, EMWREP, HOAs, National

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Park Service, Housing First America, the Zephyr Theater, the Land and Water Legacy group from the county, the MN Erosion and Sediment Control Association, newspapers and outreachers, sustenance fishers, the prison who gets food from the CSA's, and the Laudatosi Buddhist Community.

The group discussed why groups that seem to be in the periphery are being added to the list and Karen Kill explained the goal of the enhanced outreach was to identify if there was opportunity for partnerships and some may not have but the district wouldn't know until it tried. Other topics included people identified by nitrate pollution in wells, others who are impacted by water conservation concerns, or flooding concerns. They also noted the diversity in the landscape and interests represented across the district.

Jyneen noted she was not able to reach out to organizations for the plan update effort as she is already involved in different efforts of outreach for other organizations she is a part of.

5) 2023 Open Yard Events- Reflection and Feedback

Overall the buckthorn events were poorly attended and the group discussed only doing those types of events in the future if a specific service opportunity was identified (Scout Troops, NHS, Community Thread event, etc.). Overall there is a goal for greater attendance and the group wanted to try something different next year. Some ideas were to drum up some local connections, doing more events in town, and targeting them around information the public has expressed interest in.

The group asked to reach out to Nancie at Sustainable Stillwater about what feedback she may have received at the community event in terms of what folks are interested in learning. They suggested contacting those who have attended, thanking them for attending the previous event, and asking what they may be interested in learning about. Cameron noted this was one of the fields on the bingo cards that are turned in and this information can be summarized as it was last year when the field was added in time for the 2022 event.

This topic will be re-visited to the December board meeting for other CAC members to participate in the discussion.

6) 2023 Community Event- Reflection and Feedback

Allison McGinnis stated she thought the joint event last month went well. She felt the Raptor Show went well, there was at least 150 in attendance, and Bird City felt there was great traffic flow. George thanked SSMN for co-hosting the community event and felt they were a positive addition for the event. He also thanked Allison for locating the bird skins for the event through the Tamarack Nature Center. He felt he made great connections with younger attendees and the only negative is that there was no floating staff and so he was unable to take a break from his table to see the rest of the event. Jyneen thought more of the attendees this year had been reached by promotional efforts, and they were intentional about what they hoped to get out of the event. She liked the structure of the plant-related

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organization tables in the park and thought it was great to have the UMN Turf table there. She also liked the band in attendance and felt they did not overpower the event.

Jyneen and George both agreed with co-hosting the event next year with Bird City and that doing the raptor show again would be good. They liked the timing and length of the show. This topic will be re-visited to the December board meeting for other CAC members to participate in the discussion.

7) CAC Position Updates

- Graphic Design and Promotion
- Education and Community Engagement
- Habitat Restoration
- BCWD Board Activities

8) Upcoming meeting educational topics ideas from the CAC

- Brown's Creek Conservation Area (BCCA)/110th St. Property in terms of next steps for restoration, what weeds to target, and what kinds of seeding or plantings may be planned.
- George Johnson's buckthorn removal techniques and equipment information at Sunfish Lake Park
- Status on follow up for HOA projects such as Millbrook buckthorn removal follow up efforts that are the HOA's responsibility
- Oak Glen golf course reuse project update
- Chloride impacts on Long Lake biology
- How development decisions are made by townships, how they can impact HOA proceedings

9) Adjourned Meeting at 8:00PM

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