



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

1 FINAL Minutes of the regular meeting of the Brown's Creek Watershed District Board of Managers,
2 Wednesday March 12, 2025

3

4 ROLL CALL

Managers Present:	Others Present:
Klayton Eckles, President	Karen Kill, BCWD administrator
Celia Wirth, Treasurer	Hannah Peterson, BCWD staff
Debra Sahulka, Secretary	Michael Welch, Smith Partners, BCWD counsel
Chuck LeRoux, Vice President	Camilla Correll, EOR, BCWD engineer
	John Sarafolean, EOR, BCWD engineer
	Stu Grubb, EOR, BCWD engineer
Manager Absent:	Cameron Blake, Washington Conservation District staff
Larry Odebrecht, 2nd Vice President	Brett Stolpestad, Washington Conservation District staff
	Tom Kranz, Holly Kranz permit applicants
	Don Peterson, resident

5

6 **1) Call regular meeting to order**

7 President Klayton Eckles called the regular meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

8 **2) Approve agenda**

9 Karen Kill requested to postpone discussion of the revised 2025 budget (item 5b) until the April
10 meeting. She requested the addition of Brown's Creek Conservation Easement Area prescribed burn
11 contractor selection as item 7d.

12 **Manager LeRoux moved, seconded by Manager Wirth, to approve the agenda as amended.**
13 **Motion carried, 4/0.**

14 **3) Public Comments**

15 There were no public comments.

16 **4) Consent agenda**

17 **Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager Sahulka, to approve the consent agenda:**

18 a) **Approve Minutes of the February 12, 2025 Workshop & Regular Meeting**

19 b) **Accept Permit Fee Statement**

20 c) **Authorize Emmons & Olivier Resources weather station scope of work**

21 d) **Authorize staff registration for University of Minnesota stormwater training**

22 **Motion carried 4/0.**

23 **5) Treasurer's Report**

24 **Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager Sahulka, to accept the authorized funds**
25 **spreadsheet and authorize the payment of the bills as presented, totaling \$108,049.52.**

26

	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Manager Eckles	X			
Manager Odebrecht				X
Manager LeRoux	X			
Manager Wirth	X			
Manager Sahulka	X			

1 **Motion carried on a roll call vote 4/0.**

2 **6) Permits**

3 **a) BCWD Permit #25-04 Kranz Single-Family Home Addition**

4 John Sarafolean presented the engineer’s report on a permit application for an addition on a
 5 single-family home property. A variance was requested because the Kranz family had built a
 6 raingarden to provide stormwater management under Permit #22-13. The raingarden was
 7 oversized on construction and additional untreated stormwater flows to and is managed in it,
 8 but the raingarden does not capture stormwater from the proposed addition. The Kranzes are
 9 requesting a variance to allow treatment in the raingarden in lieu of management of stormwater
 10 from the new addition. The managers discussed the need to reevaluate the permit fee structure
 11 and process for single-family permits to increase efficiency and lower costs. Don Peterson, a
 12 neighbor of the Kranz family, noted his support of the project.

13 **Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager LeRoux, to approve the variance and Permit**
 14 **#25-04 with the conditions and stipulations stated in the engineer’s report. Motion carried**
 15 **4/0.**

16 **7) Projects**

17 **a) Stewardship grant and best management practice maintenance presentation**

18 Brett Stolpestad presented on the watershed district’s stewardship grant program including the
 19 projects installed in 2024 and the program’s goals for 2025. The managers discussed how to
 20 educate homeowners and make sure the projects are maintained as property ownership
 21 changes. Mr. Stolpestad also shared that the Washington Conservation District received a
 22 Pollinator Pathways grant to provide stormwater facilities in the Croixwood neighborhood in
 23 Stillwater. Cameron Blake presented on the Washington Conservation District’s maintenance
 24 program including work on specific capital-improvement projects in the watershed in 2024. Mr.
 25 Blake said program staff do not inspect BCWD permit sites.

26 **b) Groundwater well 2024 data and 2025 scope**

27 Stu Grubb presented watershed well-measurement data. The managers discussed how the wells
 28 were selected to be measured, how to locate wells, and what measuring 4-5 additional wells
 29 would cost.

30 **Manager Wirth, seconded by Manger Eckles, to authorize the Emmons and Olivier Resources**
 31 **scope of services for monitoring the existing well network and groundwater management for**
 32 **\$4,160 from account 942-0004 and \$8,500 from account 942-0011 for a total of \$12,660, in**
 33 **addition to the carryover of \$5,576 for expanding the well network from 2024. Motion carried**
 34 **4/0.**

35 **c) Hydrologic and Hydraulic Model update presentation**

36 Camilla Correll requested the presentation be tabled until the April meeting.

1 **d) Brown's Creek Conservation Easement Area prescribed burn contractor selection**

2 Ms. Kill shared the quotes from three contractors for a prescribed burn at the Brown's Creek
3 Conservation Area, lowest of which from Edge Ecosystems. She noted that the burn would take
4 place this spring, likely in the early morning with optimal wind conditions.

5 **Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager Sahulka, to authorize the administrator to**
6 **contract with Edge Ecosystems not to exceed \$1,400 from account 935-0002 upon advice of**
7 **counsel to conduct the prescribed burn at the Brown's Creek Conservation Easement Area.**
8 **Motion carried 4/0.**

9 **8) Old business**

10 **a) Meeting location**

11 Ms. Kill discussed possible meeting locations. While the Stillwater Township board denied
12 Brown's Creek Watershed District's request to use its Town Hall, the managers said that would
13 be their first choice and encouraged the administrator to follow up and offer to pay a fee if
14 needed. They said that Oak Glen Golf Course would be their second choice. The board decided
15 to meet at the Washington County Government Center again in April and until a new location is
16 finalized.

17 **b) Schedule of regular and special 2025 meetings**

18 The managers elected to postpone approving a full schedule of meetings until a new meeting
19 location is finalized. Ms. Kill shared that staff will send a poll for dates for the two remaining
20 watershed-management plan update workshops.

21 **9) Discussion Agenda**

22 **a) Updates**

23 **(1) Administrator**

24 **(a) Belwin education collaboration**

25 Ms. Kill shared that Belwin Conservancy is looking to partner with Stillwater schools on
26 educational programming in their new accessible facility, and a proposal will be coming
27 to BCWD for financial support, similar to a previous partnership with Warner Nature
28 Center, supported by local watershed districts.

29 **(b) MS4Front demonstration**

30 Ms. Kill shared that she, Manager Wirth, Hannah Peterson, and a representative from
31 EOR attended a demonstration of permit-management software by Houston
32 Engineering and that a quote will be pulled together for the board to consider.

33 **(c) Beaver study letters of support**

34 Ms. Kill told the board that she wrote a couple of letters of support for a University of
35 Minnesota professor who is applying for grant funding to conduct research on the
36 impacts of beavers on water resources in Minnesota. Mr. Grubb shared additional
37 upcoming beaver education events including a presentation to EOR and the National
38 Beaver Summit.

39 **(d) MSCMWO Management Plan Update**

40 Ms. Kill shared that she will be reviewing and providing comments on the Middle St
41 Croix Watershed Management Organization's updated watershed management plan.
42

1 **(e) Brown’s Creek restoration next steps**

2 Ms. Kill shared that she is working with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
3 Fisheries on a change order for the steps to the creek and that she is working with them
4 on a new accessible access point funded through a Get Out More grant. She also told
5 the board about the upcoming planting at the restoration site on April 26, 2025 at 8
6 a.m.

7 **(2) Legal**

8 Michael Welch noted that a provision in the district’s contract with EOR’s contract provides
9 that the administrator may waive apparent conflicts of interest for the engineer to work
10 with others in the watershed under particular circumstances. He also shared that there is no
11 update on the chloride limited-liability legislation at this time.

12 **(3) Engineer**

13 Mr. Grubb shared that EOR has acquired a new drone with infrared thermal sensing
14 technology that could be used to identify where groundwater is feeding Brown’s Creek and
15 the wetlands in the district.

16 **(4) Managers**

17 Manager Wirth confirmed with the board that she will be the only delegate attending the
18 Minnesota Watersheds special meeting on March 21, 2025.

19 **10) Adjournment**

20 **Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager Sahulka, to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:47**
21 **p.m. Motion carried 4/0.**

22
23 Respectfully Submitted by
24 Hannah Peterson, BCWD staff and Debra Sahulka, Recording Secretary