



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, April 14, 2025 at 6:00-8:00 p.m.

The Lakes at Stillwater, Reflections Room

CAC Members in Attendance:

George Vania

Jyneen Thatcher

Dory Herman

Yihong Gao

Others in Attendance:

Hannah Peterson, BCWD Staff

Alexander Furneaux, EOR

Camilla Correll, EOR

Allison McGinnis, Sustainable Stillwater (via Zoom)

Jeff Young, Stillwater Resident

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- 1) Called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM**
 - 2) Approved Agenda**
 - 3) Approved minutes from February 10, 2025**
 - 4) Community Event Updates**

Allison McGinnis shared a few updates from Bird City Stillwater for the community event. She shared that the raptors, including a bald eagle and two additional birds, have been reserved, but plans could change with the bird flu. She also shared that the St. Croix Valley Bird Club and Tropical Wings are planning to come, and that she needs to check with the Sally Manzara nature truck again, but they will be at Sustainable Stillwater's Eco Fair on April 26th. George Vania confirmed that he could get bird skins from Tamarack Nature Center, but still needed to reserve them. Additionally, Allison suggested having a bird costume contest with judges from Sustainable Stillwater and BCWD, and the CAC discussed having a bird mask craft. Alex Furneaux mentioned a local artist group that had made pigeon costumes and that he could share more information.

- 5) Watershed Management Plan Update – Implementation Plan**

Alex led an implementation planning workshop with help from Camilla Correll. He shared background on the planning process thus far, and the CAC had a discussion on all the monitoring that the Brown's Creek Watershed District conducts to provide background for Jeff Young. Alex

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and Camilla guided the CAC through three different implementation planning activities. The first activity gave the CAC the opportunity to prioritize the plan's issue areas by choosing two that are critical and three that are concerning to them. The second activity allowed the CAC to prioritize which resources they would budget funds towards. The third activity had the CAC look at how the board has prioritized implementation activities in the past and indicate how high a priority they would place on each method. Alex and Camilla wrapped up by sharing they would go through all the data collected from the CAC as well as the TAC, incorporate it into the implementation plan for the board of managers to review, and hopefully come back in June with a draft plan for the CAC to review. They also mentioned that CAC members could provide additional feedback on the draft implementation items, and Hannah Peterson shared she could pass those comments to EOR if CAC members have more to share.

6) Election of CAC Officers

Hannah shared that George Vania and Anne Maule Miller are currently co-chairs. The group agreed to postpone appointing 2025 officers until Anne is present.

7) Upcoming Events

The CAC discussed the upcoming event list. Yihong shared that she may be able to assist with Long Lake bird boxes and posts, and Hannah said she would connect with Anne Maule Miller and Cameron Blake on what was done for those in the past. Hannah asked about doing a bike tour, and Jyneen expressed concern with congestion on the trail. She recommended a walking tour on the Brown's Creek Trail near the gorge. The CAC discussed accessible tour options, including Jyneen's suggestion, the Brown's Creek restoration with ADA accessible fishing area, and the potential of working with the Lakes at Stillwater for a tour on the trail behind their building. Hannah shared that a trout release is unlikely this year and shared the suggestion of partnering with a brewery for a painting night or doing basket making with native plants. Jyneen also shared that someone from Washington County Parks was looking to do an art in the park program, potentially with fairy houses, and may be reaching out.

DATE	TIME	EVENT	CAC MEMBER
APRIL 26 TH	8-11am	Brown's Creek Park Tree Planting	
APRIL 26 TH	11am-2pm	SSMN Eco Fair Table	Anne?
MAY 3 RD	8-10am	Long Lake Trail West Birding	George
MAY 10 TH	8-11am	Alternate Brown's Creek Park Planting	
MAY 17 TH	9:30am	Brown's Creek Tributary Restoration Project Tour	Jyneen
MAY/JUNE TBD		Long Lake boxes/posts	Anne/Yihong?
JUNE TBD		Open Yard Tour: Butterfly Cove Gardens	Anne/Wendy?
SUMMER TBD		Walking Tour – Brown's Creek Trail near gorge or trail behind the Lakes at Stillwater	
SUMMER TBD		Brown's Creek Restoration Tour/ADA fishing pier	Karen
SEPT 20 TH	10am-1pm	Community Event	Everyone
OCT TBD		Basket making and/or native plant painting	

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8) CAC Project Update

a. Newsletter – Edits

The CAC noted that it looked good, aside from Yihong noting that the event dates need to be updated.

b. Annual Report – Edits

George noted that the watershed facts section should indicate where each of the four landforms are geographically. The CAC asked if there was a map of that somewhere. Hannah said she would look into finding or making one.

c. Homeowner's Packet – Edits

Dory suggested adding a section on smart salting and fertilizer use to encourage homeowners to limit their use of chemicals.

Hannah mentioned additional edits for the three items could be shared via email.

9) BCWD Project Updates

a. 110th Street (Brown's Creek Conservation Area)

Hannah shared that a prescribed burn had taken place on April 7th as part of the HELP Grant restoration work. Jyneen noted that her and George's biological surveys would be switching to Tuesdays this year, with birds at 7am and plants at 9am.

b. Brown's Creek Park Restoration

Hannah shared that the next steps are the tree planting on April 26th and working with the DNR on an ADA accessible fishing pier.

10) Adjourned Meeting at 7:58 PM

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