BROWN'S CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

Preserving the integrity of the watershed for future generations

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FINAL Minutes of the regular meeting of the Brown's Creek Watershed District Board of Managers, Wednesday May 14, 2025

ROLL CALL

Managers Present:	**Others Present:**
Klayton Eckles, President	Karen Kill, BCWD administrator
Debra Sahulka, Secretary	Hannah Peterson, BCWD staff
Chuck LeRoux, Vice President	Michael Welch, Smith Partners, BCWD counsel
Celia Wirth, Treasurer	Camilla Correll, EOR, BCWD engineer
	Ryan Fleming, EOR, BCWD engineer
Manager Absent:	Max Seitz, Loucks
Larry Odebrecht, 2nd Vice President	Val Anderson, Loucks
	Trevor Gruys, Loucks
	Alan Kranzo, HealthPartners
	Ryan Hoefs, Washington County engineer
	Rody Lageson, Kraus Anderson

1) Call regular meeting to order

President Klayton Eckles called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2) Approve agenda

Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager LeRoux, to approve the agenda. Motion carried 4/0.

3) Public comments

There were no public comments.

4) Consent agenda

Manager Celia Wirth requested removing from the consent agenda item 4a, approve minutes of the April 9, 2025, regular meeting, and Manager Debra Sahulka requested removing item 4c, approve revised 2025 budget and accept Authorized Funds Spreadsheet, 4f, authorize the vegetative maintenance scope not to exceed $17,800 with Emmons and Olivier Resource, including $17,300 as a subcontract with Natural Shores Technology, and 4h, authorize the 2025 macroinvertebrate assessment scope not to exceed $4,058 with Emmons and Olivier Resources, including a subcontract with RMB Labs for $1,600, for discussion.

b) Accept Permit Fee Statement

d) Authorize the payment of bills in the amount of $222,923.50

e) Authorize the iron enhanced sand filter operation and maintenance scope not to exceed $25,064 with Emmons and Olivier Resources

g) Authorize the Brown's Creek fishing access and trail construction oversight scope not to exceed $6,839 with Emmons and Olivier Resources

i) Accept the 2024 Macroinvertebrate monitoring report

j) Approve the revised watershed management plan development schedule

k) Approve the minor amendment to the Lower St. Croix Watershed Management Plan as recommended by the LSC Policy Committee and authorize administrator to notify the LSC Partnership

l) Approve the LSC Partnership FY23 watershed-based implementation funding work plan and budget revision as recommended by the LSC Policy Committee

m) Appoint Dennis Gervais to the BCWD citizen advisory committee

n) Accept regulatory partner meeting report

o) Authorize Administrator to send Marketplace reuse letter to city of Stillwater

Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager Sahulka, to approve the consent agenda as amended. Motion carried 4/0.

a) Approve Minutes of the April 9, 2025 Regular Meeting

Manager Wirth asked whether she could vote on approval of minutes for a meeting she was absent for, and administrator Karen Kill clarified that she can.

Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager LeRoux, to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2025 regular meeting. Motion carried 4/0.

c) Approve revised 2025 budget and accept Authorized Funds Spreadsheet

Manager Sahulka asked what the amount of the meeting space budget item was previously, and Ms. Kill clarified that it is a new line item with funds taken from the contingency reserve.

Manager Sahulka moved, seconded by Manager LeRoux, to approve the revised 2025 budget and accept the Authorized Funds Spreadsheet. Motion carried 4/0.

f) Authorize the vegetative maintenance scope not to exceed $17,800 with Emmons and Olivier Resource, including $17,300 as a subcontract with Natural Shores Technology

h) Authorize the 2025 macroinvertebrate assessment scope not to exceed $4,058 with Emmons and Olivier Resources, including a subcontract with RMB Labs for $1,600

Manager Sahulka asked if the subcontracts included in 4f and 4h were included in the total cost, and Ms. Kill clarified that they were.

Manager Sahulka moved, seconded by Manager LeRoux, to authorize both the vegetative maintenance scope, not to exceed $17,800 with Emmons and Olivier Resource, including $17,300 as a subcontract with Natural Shores Technology, and the 2025 macroinvertebrate assessment scope, not to exceed $4,058 with Emmons and Olivier Resources, including a subcontract with RMB Labs for $1,600. Motion carried 4/0.

5) Permits

e) BCWD Permit 25-03 Lakeview Hospital

Camilla Correll presented the engineer's report on a permit application for building Lakeview Hospital's new campus. The managers discussed the proposed prairie size with the Lakeview team, who said they are only looking at what is required for modeling and the declaration but have plans to do more. Trevor Gruys emphasized the ever-changing nature of healthcare and stated that they are trying to build in flexibility if the opportunity for expansion arises. President

Klayton Eckles and Mr. Gruys discussed the pine forest being in the buffer and will not be developed. The managers and Ms. Correll discussed the wetland requirements, since one wetland will be filled and another partially filled, and Ms. Correll clarified some of the stormwater management terminology. Ms. Kill said that Lakeview might want a three-year permit and proposed making the submission of a draft maintenance declaration and recording after approval a stipulation rather than condition of the permit to give Lakeview more time to work with legal counsel and have the final declaration based on the as-builts versus the plans. Rody Lageson confirmed that construction is anticipated to take about three years, finishing up in fall 2027 or spring 2028. President Eckles asked about the partnership with the county, and Mr. Gruys said that they have been working together for a long time on this project and are supportive of a partnership that allows the county to use Lakeview's excess stormwater management capacity to meet the BCWD permit requirements of the county's road project. Michael Welch noted that the landowner was Lakeview Memorial Hospital Association while the permit was under HealthPartners and recommended changing the permit to Lakeview. The managers applauded the work of the Lakeview team and their efforts to support the surrounding environment.

Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager LeRoux, to approve Permit 25-03 for Lakeview Memorial Hospital Association Inc. with the conditions and stipulations stated in the engineer's report with two alterations: recordation of the maintenance declaration after approval by BCWD is a stipulation; and a term of three years, expiring May 14, 2028. Motion carried 4/0.

6) Projects

e) Hydrologic and hydraulic model update and flood vulnerability assessment

Ryan Fleming presented on the hydrologic and hydraulic model update. Mr. Fleming and Ms. Correll proposed the next step of a flood vulnerability assessment of BCWD communities. The managers discussed what the district's role should be in flood management, such as that being educators was important, and whether they needed more background before moving forward on this effort. President Eckles expressed concern that they needed to better understand their role and that this next step would uncover a lot more problems to be solved. The managers discussed the difference between the unlikely 100-year, 24-hour event versus more frequent localized flooding in vulnerable areas. Ms. Kill proposed sharing materials from a 2022 board workshop on floodplain management in addition to webinars or other materials the managers could review to better understand the issues. The managers asked for more time to review the floodplain issues and get a better idea of what other watersheds are doing before potentially moving forward on a flood vulnerability assessment at the June meeting.

7) Old business

e) Meeting location

Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager Sahulka, to adopt Resolution 25-02 Principal Place of Business, scheduling a public hearing for the June 25, 2025, board meeting.

	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Manager Eckles	**X**			
Manager Odebrecht				**X**
Manager LeRoux	**X**			

Manager Wirth	**X**			
Manager Sahulka	**X**			

Motion carried on a roll call vote 4/0.

8) Discussion Agenda

e) Updates

(1) Administrator

Ms. Kill and the managers discussed the recent board survey on making board meetings more productive. The managers expressed support for having more items on the consent agenda. Ms. Kill also shared that she has been having positive conversations with landowners on past and upcoming watershed projects. She met with a supportive new landowner with a Trout-Habitat Protection Project easement. She also scheduled a meeting with the fourth property owner needed for the Brown's Creek Cove restoration and has been in touch with Stillwater Country Club on irrigation reuse, two projects that are included for the next round of funding through the MPCA 319 grant. Additionally, Ms. Kill shared the success of the April 26 volunteer planting with about 70 volunteers planting 200 native trees and shrubs.

(2) Legal

Mr. Welch said the chloride limited-liability legislation is still not moving through the legislature. He proposed discussing regulatory approaches to chloride reductions in waters in the next few months.

(3) Engineer

No updates

(4) Managers

No updates

9) Adjournment

Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager Eckles, to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:55 p.m. Motion carried 4/0.

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