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

FINAL Minutes of the regular meeting of the Brown's Creek Watershed District Board of Managers, Wednesday August 13, 2025

ROLL CALL

| Managers Present: | Others Present: |
|---|---|
| Chuck LeRoux, Vice President | Karen Kill, BCWD administrator |
| Celia Wirth, Treasurer | Hannah Peterson, BCWD communications and project assistant |
| Griffin Brod, Manager | Michael Welch, Smith Partners, BCWD counsel |
| Klayton Eckles, President | Camilla Correll, EOR, BCWD engineer |
| Debra Sahulka, Secretary | Anne Wilkinson, EOR, BCWD engineer* |
| | Paul Nation, EOR, BCWD engineer |

** attended virtually*

**1) Call to order**

President Klayton Eckles called the regular meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

**2) Approve agenda**

**Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager LeRoux, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5/0.**

**3) Public comments**

There were no public comments.

**4) Consent agenda**

**a) Approve minutes of the July 9, 2025, regular meeting as presented**
**b) Accept Permit Fee Statement as presented**
**c) Accept Authorized Funds Spreadsheet and revised 2025 budget as presented**
**d) Authorize the payment of bills as presented, totaling $152,619.88**
**e) Authorize September community event expenses as presented not to exceed $2,000**
**f) Authorize EOR scope of work for Brown's Creek outlet sampling as presented, not to exceed $3,115, $885 of which will be subcontracted for laboratory analysis at Minnesota Valley Testing Laboratory, from account 947-0017**
**g) Appoint David Wortman to the Brown's Creek Watershed District Citizens Advisory Committee**
**h) Authorize EOR scope of work as presented, not to exceed $3,840 from account 947-0022 to complete construction services for the Americans with Disabilities Act trail and stone steps**

**Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager Brod, to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 5/0.**

**5) Planning**

**a) 2026 budget and public hearing**

Karen Kill shared data on the BCWD's estimated market values, levy, and the tax burden imposed on individual properties, as well as a few budget items that could be cut to reduce the

proposed 6.6 percent increase: the groundwater dependent natural resources update, the land conservation program, and vegetation management at Mendel Wetland. After discussion of costs that could be deferred to a future budget, Manager Eckles proposed delaying development of a two-dimensional flood-risk model, budgeted for $40,000, since watershed communities have not asked for this information, and cities often have their own models. The managers agreed to discuss the model with watershed communities, but delay implementation of the scope, reducing the levy increase to 3.3 percent. Ms. Kill said that the county budget meeting would be on November 4, 2025, and that she and two board managers would meet with county commissioners earlier this fall. Manager Eckles and Manager Wirth expressed interest in attending.

**Manager LeRoux moved, seconded by Manager Wirth, to propose the budget and levy with 3.3 percent levy increase for the public hearing at the September 10, 2025, meeting. Motion carried 5/0.**

**b) Watershed management plan**

**(1) Flood vulnerability assessment update**

Paul Nation presented EOR's progress on the flood-vulnerability assessment, including the drafting of flood risk maps which will be shared with the relevant community staff to get feedback in early fall. Ms. Kill stated that the meetings with each community to be held this fall will be a good opportunity to start collaborating on the municipal planning processes.

**(2) Wetlands and groundwater-dependent natural resources inventory data**

Ms. Correll asked the managers if they would be comfortable using the most up-to-date data for both wetlands and groundwater-dependent natural resources in the updated plan. She said state-approved methods of resource assessment and categorization are undergoing revision right now and will soon to be adopted. The managers discussed the implications, which included the data looking different and the need to address related rules changes early in the plan's adoption.

**Manager Sahulka moved, seconded by Manager Wirth, to include the updated data and methods in the watershed management plan update. Motion carried 5/0.**

**6) Discussion agenda**

**a) Updates**

**(1) Administrator**

Ms. Kill asked if the managers would be interested in a project tour in conjunction with the Citizens Advisory Committee. The managers directed the administrator to schedule the tour, noting that a tour would be a time to connect the managers to the CAC. Ms. Kill also shared that there was a good turnout at the restoration-project tour on August 12, the Americans with Disabilities Act access is close to complete, the grant for the restoration project is closed out. She noted that there is a two-year vegetative maintenance contract in place to begin this fall. She also shared that she applied for grant funding from the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership to be used as match funds for the next phase of Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 319 grant funding for further restoration upstream.

**(2) Legal**

Mr. Welch noted that collaborative work continues on reduction of chlorides in state water resources.

**(3) Engineer**

Camilla Correll requested the completed homework on implementation strategies from the managers for the August 26 workshop.

**(4) Managers**

Manager LeRoux mentioned Lake Alice, which had recently completely drained, and asked about the viability of reflooding the basin. Ms. Kill said it wasn't a natural lake and was on Department of Natural Resources property.

**7) Adjournment**

**Manager LeRoux moved, seconded by Manager Wirth, to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:03 p.m. Motion carried 5/0.**

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