FINAL Minutes of the special meeting of the Brown's Creek Watershed District Board of Managers, Tuesday August 26, 2025

ROLL CALL

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

1) Call to order

President Klayton Eckles called the workshop to order at 5:07 p.m.

2) Watershed management plan update workshop

Alex Furneaux shared the workshop agenda and next steps for having a draft plan ready for distribution for review in December 2025. He gave a summary of the prior workshop and homework, noting that the managers expressed the most questions and concerns about groundwater management and wetland management. Karen Kill noted that watershed cities and townships will start to update their comprehensive plans in 2026, and they will need the BCWD plan for the process.

Regarding implementation items for the plan, Manager Eckles noted that some of the activities could be led by other agencies rather than BCWD. Michael Welch clarified that implementation items can be partnerships and support for other programs, rather than BCWD doing all the work. The managers discussed having different levels of priority, as in the current plan, and the need to strike a balance between describing projects broadly enough to provide flexibility in deciding exactly which projects to pursue and providing the specificity needed to meet legal requirements for the plan. Manager Debra Sahulka stated that BCWD should compare its plans to those of other watershed organizations. The managers indicated that they would like more time to review their questions and comments on implementation prior to and at the September regular meeting. They would also like to review the questions and comments in the context of the full implementation plan.

Mr. Furneaux presented BCWD's budget history and an estimated budget by issue area for the updated plan. The managers indicated that they would like to see how expenditures are increasing in the next 10 years based on increased maintenance responsibilities as new project go in. They indicated that they would like to see capital improvement projects broken out by new projects and ongoing operation and maintenance costs. They also indicated that activities at the Brown's Creek Conservation Easement Area should fall under CIP maintenance, but savings for future land

conservation projects could be a separate category. The managers indicated that they would like to further discuss the budget in the plan-update process.

The managers discussed having a continuing education credit program for engineers and having a recognition program for good stewards in the watershed district. They discussed how to get engineers to participate and asked whether the watershed district could pay them to come or make it a requirement for permit applicants. For a recognition program, the managers supported highlighting good stewards in the newsletter or on social media.

3) Adjournment

Manager Eckles adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Hannah Peterson, BCWD staff and Chuck LeRoux, Recording Secretary