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

MEETING MINUTES

Brown's Creek Watershed District: Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting
Monday, August 11, 2025 at 6:00-8:00 p.m.
The Lakes at Stillwater, Reflections Room (2nd Floor)

CAC Members Present:	**Others Present:**
Dory Herman	Hannah Peterson, BCWD Staff
George Vania	Allison McGinnis, Bird City Stillwater/SSMN (via Zoom)
Dennis Gervais	
Anne Maule Miller (via Zoom)	
CAC Members Absent:	
Jyneen Thatcher	
Yihong Gao	
Hallie Udoli	

1) **Called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM**
2) **Approved Agenda**
3) **Approved June 9, 2025 Minutes**
4) **Watershed Management Plan Update**

   Hannah shared an update on where the board is in the process and that the plan would come back to the CAC for a workshop at the October 13th meeting.
5) **Recent Events Recap**

   Hannah and CAC members discussed the success of the trail walk at the Lakes at Stillwater with around 40 attendees. They also discussed opportunities for improvement like having a microphone or splitting into smaller groups. The CAC wants to repeat this event, potentially during different seasons, including spring to possibly include birding and fall.
6) **Upcoming Event Planning**

   Anne mentioned that she had reached to Wendy about doing another open yard, but didn't hear back, so hopefully next year she could do another tour. The CAC discussed other upcoming events in more detail.

Managers:
Klay Eckles, President | Chuck LeRoux, Vice President | Celia Wirth, Treasurer
Debra Sahulka, Secretary | Griffin Brod, Manager

DATE	TIME	EVENT
AUG 12TH	6:30-8pm	Brown's Creek Restoration Tour/ADA Fishing pier
AUG 21ST	11am-4pm	Well Water Screening Clinic (Baytown Town Hall)
SEPT 20TH	10am-1pm	Community Watershed Celebration & Bird Festival
OCT 26TH (TENT)	1-4pm	LiftBridge – Native Plant Painting or Basketmaking

a. Buckthorn removal

The CAC recommended planning for next year rather than this fall. Anne noted that we could plan for different sections, including the north end loop and the northeast side of the lake on city easement property or working with landowners. George mentioned a "Buckthorn Brigade" at Sunfish Lake that is a dedicated group that goes out every two weeks and could be an idea to replicate. The CAC thought it would be a good idea to come up with a plan in collaboration with Andrew Coyne at the City of Stillwater to mark female buckthorn for removal and plan an event in early October when Buckthorn is the only plant still green. They discussed targeting other invasive like garlic mustard as well. Hannah will follow up with Andrew Coyne on these ideas.

b. Brown's Creek Restoration Tour

Hannah mentioned that administrator Karen Kill would be leading the tour and that local officials were invited. George shared that the ADA accessible fishing pier was not yet complete.

c. Well Water Screening Clinic

Hannah shared that this event is sponsored by a variety of local organizations and that CAC members could volunteer or get their well water tested if interested. She also shared that they would not be testing for PFAS but that educators would be there to talk about the issue.

d. Community Watershed Celebration & Bird Festival

The CAC and Allison McGinnis discussed what groups would be in attendance and event promotion, including the bird costume content and having Lee Miller attend to take photos and write an article for the Stillwater Gazette. Hannah asked if the CAC had any good ideas for crafts and games, and it sounded like what has been done in the past worked well. Hannah shared opportunities for volunteers, including helping with crafts, games, water quality, and ice cream. Anne mentioned she could help with water quality. Dennis and Dory said they could attend and potentially help. Hannah will follow up with more information as the event gets finalized.

e. LiftBridge Art Event

Hannah shared that this event is currently tentative and details have yet to be finalized.

7) CAC Project Updates

The CAC discussed the seasonal flora handout idea as well as having information available about invasive species. George said he could work with Jyneen on a list of some of the top species seen each season and Anne could look for pictures of each. The group also discussed having digital handouts with QR codes in place of bird boxes.

8) BCWD Project Updates

a. Board/CAC Project Tour

Hannah shared that this is being proposed to the board, so more information to come.

b. The Water Where We Live Mobile Art Gallery

Hannah shared that the art exhibition between BCWD and A House Unbuilt will be in ArtReach St. Croix's mobile art gallery going to different events in the area this fall.

c. Brown's Creek Restoration

Hannah mentioned that the restoration is nearing completion and that signage is being budgeted for in 2026.

d. Oak Glen Reuse

Hannah shared that the reuse system is up and running, with new flow meters being installed. George inquired if there is project signage, and said there should be if not.

e. Work with HOAs

Hannah shared that she had been involved with workshops and developing educational materials for HOAs related to stormwater management and maintenance planning. Anne recommended developing HOA scorecards with checklist of things they could do like removing invasive species.

f. Permitting Program Resources

Hannah shared that as a follow up to the regulatory review meetings this past year, BCWD is working on FAQs and guidance documents for permit applicants, in addition to moving towards an online application and tracking system.

9) Upcoming Meeting Topics

The CAC shared that they are still interested in learning more about these topics. Hannah suggested a presentation with Starry Skies North on light pollution, and it was recommended to coordinate with Bird City Stillwater.

a. **City vs. BCWD responsibility of Long Lake buffer**

b. **Brown's Creek Conservation Area/110th St Property restoration update**

c. **Millbrook restoration update**

d. **FAQ regarding development and the role of municipalities and HOAs**

e. **Starry Skies North presentation**

10) **Adjourned Meeting at 7:30 PM**