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 October 8, 2025

ROLL CALL

Managers Present:	Others Present:
Klayton Eckles, President	Karen Kill, BCWD administrator
Chuck LeRoux, Vice President	Hannah Peterson, BCWD communications and project assistant
Celia Wirth, Treasurer	Michael Welch, Smith Partners, BCWD counsel
Griffin Brod, Manager	Camilla Correll, EOR, BCWD engineer
Debra Sahulka, Secretary	Paul Nation, EOR, BCWD engineer
	Jason Palmby, Magellan Land Development
	Karen Kilberg Ukura, resident

1) Call 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 Brod, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5/0.

3) Public comments

Karen Kilberg Ukura appeared before the board and stated that she has had difficulty getting a response to correspondence from BCWD. She said that School Section Lake and Goggins Lake have invasives including curlyleaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil, potentially due to fishing access on a neighbor's property, and that she is worried the plants will make their way into Brown's Creek. She also stated concerns with the construction at Liberty Classical Academy, including the size of the holding pond, exposed septic pipes, and bubbles that have been seen in South School Section Lake. The board directed staff to respond in writing to Ms. Kilberg Ukura's concerns.

4) Consent agenda

a) Approve minutes of the September 10, 2025, regular meeting as presented
b) Accept Permit Fee Statement as presented
c) Accept Authorized Funds Spreadsheet as presented
d) Authorize the payment of bills as presented, totaling $103,109.79
e) Authorize EOR scope of work to develop a draft aquatic plant management policy for board review at not-to-exceed $3,450 from account 927-0000
f) Authorize registration, lodging, and expenses for staff for the Minnesota Watersheds annual meeting from account 200-4265
g) Authorize registration, lodging, expenses, and per diems for board managers for the Minnesota Watersheds annual meeting from account 200-4000

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

5) Permits

a) BCWD Permit 22-18 Stillwater Oaks

Permit applicant Jason Palmby requested feedback from the managers on changing the irrigation plan for the Stillwater Oaks development. He said builders he is working with are pushing back constructing reuse-irrigation systems for individual residential-home lots. He noted that the board approved a reuse system for Elliott Crossing that provided for watering conservation areas rather than the individual lots and suggested a similar system at Stillwater Oakswould be easier to manage and is more appealing to home builders. He requested feedback on the proposal and asked if it was worth having staff explore further to determine the feasibility. Manager Eckles expressed his concerns with such a change, noting that it changed the irrigation into more of a disposal system because native plants do not actually require much water while the lawns will still need to be irrigated by the homeowners. He said that the variances on this permit were approved because of added benefits elsewhere and that an update to the stormwater plan could change the board's view of the project if benefits are lost. The other managers concurred. Michael Welch said that this would be a complicated permit modification that would need to come back for review but that legally, BCWD would have to consider it if Mr. Palmby goes forward with proposing the change.

6) Discussion agenda

a) Updates

(1) Administrator

Hannah Peterson shared the success of the Community Watershed Celebration and Bird Festival and noted that there is interest from the Citizens Advisory Committee in having more interaction with the board. Manager Eckles recommended that new members attend a board meeting to get a better idea of what the board does. Ms. Peterson also gave an update on the online permitting system and that pending some testing, it is near ready to go live. Karen Kill expressed her excitement in how the system will allow for increased responsiveness.

Ms. Kill also reported that community meetings for the watershed management plan update have gone well so far. She learned that both Oak Park Heights and Stillwater Township contract with the same plowing company and there could be opportunity for increased outreach on Smart Salting trainings. She also reported that there was interest in regular, more frequent communication with communities.

Ms. Kill also mentioned that BCWD was a finalist for a Minnesota Watersheds award for the homeowners' association outreach with the East Metro Water Resource Education Partnership and for the stream restoration project.

(2) Legal

Mr. Welch said that there would be a stakeholder engagement session at the Minnesota Watersheds conference about regulatory approaches to reduce chloride.

(3) Engineer

Camilla Correll said that EOR would be giving two presentations at the Minnesota Watersheds conference. The first would be on climate resiliency, sharing on the flood vulnerability assessments with Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District and Carnelian Marine St. Croix Watershed District and developing a climate-action framework with the

Mississippi Watershed Management Association. The second presentation, in partnership with Freshwater Society, would be on high water users such as data centers.

(4) Managers

Manager Eckles stated that he attended the budget meeting with the county commissioners that he attended along with Ms. Kill and Manager Celia Wirth. He noted that the commissioners were appreciative of BCWD's work, focus on partnerships, and effort to maintain a steady budget. Ms. Kill added that the county also encouraged sharing success stories, including those that happened in the early days of the watershed district and that the county appreciated BCWD's approach to the watershed management plan update by engaging the communities and partners.

7) Adjournment

Manager Brod moved, seconded by Manager Sahulka, to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:44 p.m. Motion carried 5/0.

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