FINAL Minutes of the regular meeting of the Brown's Creek Watershed District Board of Managers, Wednesday November 12, 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*	Paul Nation, EOR, BCWD engineer
Debra Sahulka, Secretary	

**Attended virtually*

1) Call to order

President Klayton Eckles called the regular meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2) Approve agenda

Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager Brod, to approve the agenda as presented.

	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Manager Eckles	**X**			
Manager LeRoux	**X**			
Manager Wirth	**X**			
Manager Sahulka	**X**			
Manager Brod	**X**			

Motion carried on a roll call vote 5/0.

3) Public comments

There were no public comments.

4) Consent agenda

Manager Eckles requested removing from the consent agenda item 4i, accept EOR's Brown's Creek toxic E. coli sampling results summary, for discussion.

a) Approve minutes of the October 8, 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 $245,433.86
(1) Authorize the payment of $19,717 from account 947-0022 to Geomorphic Restoration Inc. for the Brown's Creek stream restoration work completed under pay application 7.
e) Authorize EOR Trout Habitat Preservation Project maintenance scope of work not to exceed $5,404 from account 903-0001, including $4,750 as a subcontract with Edge Ecosystems LLC.
f) Authorize EOR scope of work for additional community meetings not to exceed $6,614 from account number 923-0000
g) Appoint Manager Brod as the BCWD delegate for the Minnesota Watersheds annual meeting
h) Accept EOR's East Bass Lake lead sampling results summary

j) Accept EOR's diversion drainage water quality analysis report

Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager Sahulka, to approve the consent agenda as amended.

	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Manager Eckles	**X**			
Manager LeRoux	**X**			
Manager Wirth	**X**			
Manager Sahulka	**X**			
Manager Brod	**X**			

Motion carried on a roll call vote 5/0.

i) Accept EOR's toxic E. coli sampling results summary

The managers discussed how the E. coli levels in Brown's Creek are lower compared to the St. Croix River and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency standards and indicated an interest in a comparative summary in the report. They also discussed the challenges of tracking where exactly E. coli is coming from and questioned the value of expending district resources to track down sources, especially since people are not swimming in the creek. Karen Kill clarified that the study looked at four specific pathogens that caused illness and found one present in the samples.

Manager Sahulka moved, seconded by Manager Wirth, to direct staff to request an executive summary comparing the E. coli levels in Brown's Creek to state standards from EOR and to bring a revised report to the December regular meeting.

	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Manager Eckles	**X**			
Manager LeRoux	**X**			
Manager Wirth	**X**			
Manager Sahulka	**X**			
Manager Brod	**X**			

Motion carried on a roll call vote 5/0.

5) Planning

a) Aquatic Plant Management Policy

Ms. Kill introduced a draft Aquatic Plant Management Policy for discussion preliminary to its adoption and inclusion in the updated watershed-management plan. The managers discussed how to present this information and use it as an educational tool about lake vegetation. They also discussed the watershed district's role versus the Minnesota Department of Natural Resource's role in managing aquatic invasive species. The managers generally agreed with the policy as written but wanted to see an overview of the policy at the beginning and emphasis on the district's collaborative role, directing staff to bring an updated draft for the December regular meeting.

6) Discussion agenda

a) Updates

(1) Administrator

Ms. Kill shared that the board could request presentations at future meetings on the topics covered by the reports included on the consent agenda.

She said that meetings with watershed communities for the plan update have been completed except for adding and scheduling a meeting with Washington County Public Works and Emergency Management, and that the communities have generally been supportive of a one-on-one meeting each spring. A presentation will be part of the next meeting. Ms. Kill also shared that staff will be less available with the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday and Minnesota Watersheds conference. She is still waiting on approval from the Environmental Protection Agency for the next round of funding for Brown's Creek restoration.

(2) Legal

Michael Welch said that there would be a stakeholder engagement session at the Minnesota Watersheds conference about regulatory approaches to reduce chloride and that he would bring back a summary to the December regular meeting to discuss and seek guidance from the managers on next steps.

(3) Engineer

Paul Nation shared that he attended an interesting session at the Water Resources Conference presented by Andy Erickson of the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory about using more conservative rainfall distributions in modeling and that EOR should have more information to share as they learn more.

(4) Managers

The managers discussed how to prepare Manager Griffin Brod for the Minnesota Watersheds conference and annual meeting as BCWD's delegate. They also asked about beaver activity and directed staff to follow up on University of Minnesota project that BCWD wrote a letter of support for.

7) Adjournment

Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager Brod, to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:22 p.m.

	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Manager Eckles	**X**			
Manager LeRoux	**X**			
Manager Wirth	**X**			
Manager Sahulka	**X**			
Manager Brod	**X**			

Motion carried on a roll call vote 5/0.

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