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

Minutes of the December 8, 2025, Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

Attendance

CAC Members Present:	**Others Present:**
George Vania	Hannah Peterson, BCWD Staff
Dennis Gervais	Celia Wirth, BCWD Manager*
	Allison McGinnis, Bird City Stillwater/SSMN*
CAC Members Absent:	
Dory Herman	
Anne Maule Miller	
David Wortman	
Jyneen Thatcher	
Yihong Gao	
Hallie Udoli	

**Attended virtually*

1) Called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM

2) Approved Agenda

3) Approved October 13, 2025 Minutes

4) Watershed Management Plan Update

Hannah shared that the draft management plan would be shared with the board in early 2026 prior to being sent out for review.

5) Recent Events Recap

Hannah shared that she had created a virtual tour of the Long Lake Board/CAC tour held in September since many managers and CAC members were unable to attend. The virtual tour can be found at: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/1994ccf8442c46bda2feadca71aed327.

6) Upcoming Event Planning

a) Survey Results

Hannah shared the results from 24 respondents of a recent survey about what types of events community members would be interested in attending. Recommendations based on the results were to continue partnering with Sustainable Stillwater MN on the Community Watershed Celebration & Bird Festival as well as find additional partnership opportunities, to host an event focused on lake water quality, to continue hosting tours of new projects, to engage the community in planting events, and to connect with community members willing to share projects in their yards.

b) CAC Event Ideas

CAC members discussed the survey events and what events they would like to do. George shared that he would still like to do the Long Lake West birding tour. The CAC talked about doing a water quality event around Long Lake to engage with the surrounding neighborhoods. They

also discussed the value of sharing new projects and opportunities to partner with landowners for yard tours. The CAC discussed an event to assess the survival of last year's tree planting at Brown's Creek Park and a replanting event. They also discussed doing a buckthorn removal event, potentially with Sustainable Stillwater.

c) Current Event Schedule

The CAC will be looking at dates for events at the next meeting. Currently scheduled events for 2026 include:

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Jan 11	**2-4**	**Painting Event at Lift Bridge (Must register/pay in advance)**
Jan 24	**12:30-4**	**DaVinci Fest – Partner with Sustainable Stillwater on Water table**
April 26	**TBD**	**Sustainable Stillwater MN's Valley Eco Fair**
Spring-Summer	**TBD**	
Sept 19	**10-1**	**Community Watershed Celebration & Bird Festival**

7) CAC Updates

George shared that he will begin walking the 110th street property in March for birds, and Allison mentioned wanting to join for a tour.

8) BCWD Updates

Hannah shared that phase one of the Brown's Creek Restoration Project is nearly complete with signage to be added in 2026 and that BCWD is getting started on planning phase two. She also gave an update on beavers, saying that one of the pond levelers will be moved, BCWD is thinking about adding beaver signage in 2026, that the situation is being monitored for flooding impacts, and that staff is meeting with the Beaver Innovations team at the University of Minnesota.

9) Other Updates

Allison shared that Sustainable Stillwater MN is looking for a new leader for their water workgroup.

10) Content for Future Meetings

CAC members shared that they are still interested in a forestry presentation from the city of Stillwater, an update on Millbrook's restoration, and more info related to HOAs. George shared that he would like a more in-depth presentation on beaver management and that he attended a chloride presentation by Hailey Sauer that would be good to bring to the CAC. The CAC also discussed a presentation from Starry Skies North in partnership with Sustainable Stillwater.

11) Adjourned Meeting at 7:04 PM