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 December 10, 2025

ROLL CALL

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

**Attended virtually*

1) Call to order

President Klayton Eckles called the regular meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

2) Approve agenda

Karen Kill requested removing from the consent agenda item 4e, accept the Emmons and Olivier Resources Brown's Creek E. coli sampling results summary, and including it on the January agenda instead.

Manager Sahulka moved, seconded by Manager Brod, to approve the 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 4/0.

3) Public comments

There were no public comments.

4) Consent agenda

Michael Welch requested removing from the consent agenda items 4d, authorize the payment of bills as presented, and 4g, approve 2026 meeting location application and payment to Stillwater Township, for discussion.

a) Approve minutes of the November 12, 2025, regular meeting as presented
b) Accept Permit Fee Statement as presented
c) Accept Authorized Funds Spreadsheet as presented
f) Approve the Aquatic Plant Management Policy as presented
h) Approve education event in partnership with Lift Bridge and Denise Lau

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 4/0.

g) Approve 2026 meeting location application and payment to Stillwater Township

Mr. Welch stated that Stillwater Township has not yet set rates for renting the town hall in 2026, so the item seeks authorization for the administrator to enter into an agreement at the 2025 rate, and that if the township increases rates, staff will present a request for additional authorization at a subsequent meeting.

Manager Sahulka moved, seconded by Manager Wirth, to authorize the administrator to submit the application and payment of up to $1,440 for 2026 use of Stillwater Township Town Hall.

	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 4/0.

d) Authorize the payment of bills as presented, totaling $144,869.36

Mr. Welch noted that the payment of bills could be authorized as presented after discussion of the payment to Stillwater Township in 4g.

Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager Brod, to authorize the payment of bills as presented, totaling $144,869.36.

	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 4/0.

5) 2026 Budget

a) Public Meeting regarding 2026 Budget and Levy

Manager Eckles opened the public meeting for the 2026 budget and levy. No members of the public were present to comment on the budget or levy. Ms. Kill explained that there were no proposed changes since the September's budget meeting. Manager Eckles shared that the budget and levy were presented to the county commissioners, who were supportive.

b) Resolution 25-04 Final 2026 Budget and Levy

Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager Sahulka, to approve Resolution 25-04 2026 Final Budget & Certified 2026 Tax Levy Resolution: All Funds

	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 4/0.

6) Planning

a) Chloride legislation update and scope

Mr. Welch reported that after many years of unsuccessfully trying to get a bill providing limited liability to property owners and chloride applicators who utilize smart-salting protocols, the consensus is that such a bill is not viable. Rather, it is time to switch to a regulatory approach to address chloride pollution. He shared some options that were presented at the Minnesota Watersheds conference, including requiring licensing of applicators, and asked the board whether they would like to continue to support him in this work. The managers discussed whether the BCWD should be at the forefront of the salt issue being a small watershed and agreed that education plays a large role in reducing chloride pollution. They requested an update from Mr. Welch after he discusses the continued work with his other watershed district clients.

Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager Sahulka, to authorize legal counsel to develop and support, in collaboration with the administrator, other watershed organizations and interested parties, options to reduce or fix salt contamination in waters in 2026 at a cost not to exceed $5,000 from account 300-4410.

	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 4/0.

b) Watershed Management Plan Update – Community meetings summary and implementation plan

Camilla Correll and Ms. Kill provided a summary of the community meetings, sharing that the communities were interested in the BCWD's data and having more regular one-on-one conversations, but that no specific capital improvement projects were identified in the process. Ms. Correll said that the floodplain and flood management implementation items had been added into the watershed management plan update.

Alex Furneaux gave an update on the planning timeline and presented on the implementation plan budget. The managers discussed how inflation plays a role in projecting costs through the life of the 10-year plan and requested that an inflation rate be incorporated into the projected yearly budget. They also discussed the floodplain management budget and whether a cost-share program for flood repair assistance should be added to the plan, ultimately deciding not to

include it. For the implementation plan, clarification was requested on a few items but no major changes. Managers Wirth and Eckles said they would collaborate on a president's letter for the plan.

7) Discussion agenda

a) Updates

(1) Administrator

Ms. Kill shared that the vegetation survey results for South School Section Lake and Goggins Lake were included in the board packet and that the results for Long Lake and Benz Lake would be coming in January. She noted that the BCWD and EOR had applied for a grant for curlyleaf pondweed treatment at South School Section Lake and that a scope for that work would be shared at the January meeting. Ms. Kill also shared that the BCWD may have an upcoming opportunity to work with Victoria Bradford Styrbicki from A House Unbuilt to highlight the beneficial aquatic plants in Long Lake. She also noted that the art from the Water Where We Live Exhibit will be going to the Washington County Historical Society in January. Ms. Kill mentioned that staff is working to clear outstanding checks identified in the audit process. She noted that a policy subcommittee meeting is in order to address online payments and digital signatures. She noted she has been working with the engineer and legal counsel on getting the Applewood Golf Course reuse system up and running in the spring. Lastly, Ms. Kill shared that the East Metro Water Resource Education Program won the program of the year award at the Minnesota Watersheds conference for its homeowners' association outreach program.

(2) Legal

There were no updates.

(3) Engineer

There were no updates.

(4) Managers

Manager Brod shared that he enjoyed his experience at the Minnesota Watersheds conference and that it was good to learn more about what others are doing in the state.

8) Adjournment

Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager Eckles, to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:41 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 4/0.

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