



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 February 9, 2026, Community Advisory Committee Meeting

Attendance

| CAC Members Present: | Others Present: |
|----------------------|---|
| Jyneen Thatcher | Hannah Peterson, BCWD Staff |
| Dennis Gervais | Celia Wirth, BCWD Manager |
| Anne Maule Miller* | Allison McGinnis, Bird City Stillwater/SSMN* |
| Hal Udoli* | Mari Frederickson, CAC Applicant |
| David Wortman | Victoria Bradford-Styrbicki, A House Unbuilt* |
| Dory Herman* | |
| | |
| | |
| CAC Members Absent: | |
| George Vania | |

*Attended virtually

1) Called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

2) Introductions

CAC members and others in attendance in person and online provided a brief introduction.

3) Approved Agenda

4) Approved December 8, 2025 Minutes

5) Elect Chair, Co-Chair, & Recorder

The CAC decided to table until their April meeting since current chair, George Vania, was absent. Hannah encouraged CAC members to consider taking on more of a leadership role.

6) Watershed Management Plan Update

Hannah shared that the plan would be going out for 60-day review after board approval at their February 11th regular meeting.

7) Recent Events Recap

Hannah provided a recap of the winter creek painting event with Denise Lau and the DaVinci Fest at Stillwater area high school. She shared that both events were moderately successful, but that an interactive salt-related activity would have been helpful to engage students at the DaVinci Fest.

8) Upcoming Event Planning

Hannah shared the planned and tentative events for 2026:

a) **Water Where We Live Reception at Heritage Center, March 25th, 6-8pm**

b) **Sustainable Stillwater MN's Valley Eco Fair, April 26th, 11am-2pm**

c) **Brown's Creek Conservation Area Planting, April 27th-29th, During Workday**

Hannah shared that bare root trees will be arriving on April 24th, and that due to the location, Washington Conservation District seasonal staff would be helping with the planting. The CAC discussed that any interested volunteers are still welcome, but this wouldn't be advertised as a community volunteering event.

1 **d) Long Lake Trail West Birding, Late April/Early May, Morning**

2 Hannah noted that she would connect with George on a date.

3 **e) Brown's Creek Park Restoration – Identify/mark dead trees, May 11th-15th, During Workday**

4 **f) Brown's Creek Park Restoration – Volunteer Replanting, May 16th-17th, Morning**

5 **g) Spring Creek Scene Painting, May 31st, 2-4pm**

6 **h) Walking Tour at Lakes at Stillwater Trail, Summer Tuesday, 6:30-8pm**

7 Hannah asked if Jyneen would be interested in leading again. The CAC discussed splitting into a
8 few groups of different abilities due to overwhelming success last year. They proposed June 16th
9 and June 23rd as potential dates, noting that the 23rd would be close to a summer painting event
10 if that is June 28th.

11 **i) Summer Creek Scene Painting at outdoor location, June 28th or July 12th, 2-4pm**

12 **j) Fishing Event at New Pier at Restoration Site, May or Summer Weeknight**

13 Hannah shared that she is discussing the feasibility of this event with Trout Unlimited.

14 **k) Long Lake Water Quality and Art Event in Collaboration with SSMN and A House Unbuilt,
15 August 1st or 2nd**

16 Hannah shared that based on previous CAC discussion and cool plant findings at Long Lake that
17 BCWD staff were looking to put on a lake health related event at Long Lake. Victoria Bradford-
18 Styrbicki shared her vision for the event, bringing in three artists to help engage community
19 members through embodied/performative, community listening, and hands-on activities. The
20 CAC was very supportive of this type of event, but they expressed some concern of it being the
21 same weekend as the Washington County Fair and suggested looking at other date options.

22 **l) Community Watershed Celebration & Bird Festival, September 19th, 10am-1pm**

23 Allison shared that she is not yet able to reserve the raptors. She also said it would be fun to do
24 a bird costume contest again. The CAC discussed if live music was worthwhile and decided that
25 it should still be part of the event.

26 **m) Fall Creek Scene Painting, October 11th, 2-4pm**

27 **n) Seeding and Snowshoeing, January 2027**

28 Hannah shared this idea for 2027. Jyneen described how winter seeding works.

29 **9) CAC Updates**

30 CAC members discussed seasonal flora handouts to include in the boxes along the trail at Long Lake
31 with the bird handouts. Anne and Jyneen agreed to select some plant photos to start with and come
32 up with descriptions. Hannah or Celia could then help turn it into a handout. CAC members also
33 discussed the use of QR codes versus paper and other opportunities to provide educational content.
34 David proposed creating audio or video content on the species. The CAC discussed use of the East
35 Metro Water Resources Education Program photos and materials, and Hannah shared that as a
36 partner with a shared office, we have access to a lot of that content. Jyneen also shared that her and
37 George will likely resume their plant and bird surveys at the Brown's Creek Conservation Area in
38 April.

39 **10) BCWD Updates**

40 Hannah proposed a theme of lake health for the 2026 newsletter and requested CAC members to
41 share any content ideas they have. She also shared that BCWD is still seeking one board member.
42 She provided an update on the Brown's Creek Restoration Project, sharing that the next phase
43 through Brown's Creek Cove will hopefully begin this year.

44 **11) Adjourned Meeting at 8:00 pm**