



# 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 April 13, 2026, Community Advisory Committee Meeting

### Attendance

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

\*Attended virtually

### 1) Called the meeting to order at 6:13 pm

### 2) Approved Agenda

### 3) Approved February 9, 2026, Minutes

### 4) Elect Chair, Co-Chair, & Recorder

George agreed to be Chair if staff continue to lead meetings. Anne recommended using Zoom's recording feature in place of having someone take notes.

### 5) Watershed Management Plan Update

Hannah shared that the plan is out for 60-day review until Monday April 20<sup>th</sup>. BCWD's responses to comments will be shared with the board at the May regular board meeting and a public hearing will be held at the June regular board meeting.

### 6) Recent Events Recap

Hannah provided a recap of the Water Where We Live Reception at the Washington County Heritage Center on March 25<sup>th</sup>, noting that there was a decent turnout and an interesting panel discussion including Administrator Karen Kill, BCWD's biologist Mike Majeski, and two of the artists about the connections between art and the environment.

### 7) Upcoming Event Planning

#### a) Long Lake Trail West Birding, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 8-10am

CAC members discussed how many people have signed up, yard signs, parking, and the birds that might be seen at Long Lake based on what George and Anne have been seeing so far.

#### b) Sustainable Stillwater MN's Valley Eco Fair, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 11am-2pm

Hannah shared that she would have a BCWD table at the event and encouraged CAC members to stop by if available.

1 **c) Brown's Creek Conservation Area Planting, April 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, During Workday**

2 Hannah shared that Washington Conservation District seasonal staff would be helping with the  
3 planting, but CAC members and volunteers were still welcome. Jyneen expressed interest in  
4 helping. Hannah said she would share the exact date and time when available.

5 **d) Brown's Creek Park Restoration – Identify/mark dead trees, May 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, During Workday**

6 Hannah shared that she would share date and time when available, and that it would likely be  
7 weather-dependent.

8 **e) Brown's Creek Park Restoration – Volunteer Replanting, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 9-11am**

9 Hannah shared that volunteers would be planting new trees in place of the marked dead ones.

10 **f) Spring Creek Scene Painting, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2-4pm**

11 Hannah shared that seasonal painting events have been scheduled for spring, summer, and fall.  
12 She noted that paid registration is required to cover materials. See below for summer and fall  
13 dates.

14 **g) Walking Tour at Lakes at Stillwater Trail, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8pm**

15 CAC members discussed the success of last year's walk and breaking up into different groups  
16 based on ability. They discussed having a Washington Conservation District staff member to help  
17 lead a group.

18 **h) Summer Creek Scene Painting, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2-4pm**

19 **i) Long Lake Water Quality and Art Event in with A House Unbuilt, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 10am-2pm**

20 Hannah shared that planning is in process for this event and that the call for artists is out. She  
21 explained the challenges of where to have, since we are catering to the Croixwood  
22 neighborhood, and there is not easy access all around the lake. The current plan is the city  
23 property in Croixwood, however the lake is not visible from the grassy area. George suggested  
24 using people's properties to access the lake, and Anne said she may be willing to let a group in  
25 her yard.

26 **j) Community Watershed Celebration & Bird Festival, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 10am-1pm**

27 Hannah shared that an event application had been submitted to the city. Allison shared that the  
28 raptors have been reserved and that she talked to Get the Lead Out about participating. She  
29 also mentioned we need to find a way to better promote the bird costume contest. She also  
30 asked Hannah if Starry Skies North confirmed participation.

31 **k) Fall Creek Scene Painting, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2-4pm**

32 **l) Seeding and Snowshoeing, December 2026 or January 2027**

33 The CAC thought this was a fun idea, but recommended coordinating with the city to see if there  
34 is a need.

35 **8) CAC Updates**

36 **a) 110<sup>th</sup> Street Monitoring**

37 George provided an update that he noted 18 birds, including a Phoebe and a Raven. He also  
38 expressed concern about the adjacent property owner to the west clearing trees and having  
39 deer stands facing BCWD's property. The CAC discussed whether they could hunt on the  
40 property and talking to the landowner about safety concerns. George also noted a beaver dam,  
41 and Jyneen shared about finding skunk cabbage. They shared their availability for taking new  
42 CAC members out for a tour.

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1       **b) Seasonal Flora Handouts**  
2       Anne shared that she is working on making something like the bird handouts for seasonal flora,  
3       but that it won't be ready until next spring. She also discussed needing more handouts for the  
4       bird boxes.

5       **9) BCWD Updates**

6       **a) Newsletter**  
7       CAC members provided comments. Hannah requested any additional comments to be shared by  
8       the end of the week.

9       **b) Brown's Creek Restoration**  
10       Hannah shared that the next phase of restoration through Brown's Creek Cove has been  
11       ordered by the board. The timeline will be dependent on getting agreements in place, so  
12       construction will be summer 2026 or spring 2027.

13       **c) Beaver Management**  
14       Hannah shared a draft beaver sign and mentioned how BCWD is monitoring beaver dams and  
15       working with the University of Minnesota on management solutions.  
16       Hannah also shared BCWD stickers and wildlife trading cards created by EMWREP. She also said that  
17       BCWD is still seeking one board member and that the annual report would be shared soon.

18       **10) Adjourned Meeting at 7:52 pm**