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 May 13, 2026

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, 2nd Vice President	Camilla Correll, EOR, BCWD engineer
Luke Mattson, Secretary	Alexander Furneaux, EOR
	Anne Wilkinson, EOR

1) Call to order

President Klayton Eckles called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2) Approve agenda

Manager Brod moved, seconded by Manager Mattson, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5/0.

3) Public comments

There were no public comments.

4) Consent agenda

Celia Wirth requested removing item 4g, authorize beaver informational signage not to exceed $500 from account 910-0000, and Michael Welch requested removing item 4k, authorize administrator to amend, on advice of counsel, the agreement for engineering services to update the rates as presented, from the consent agenda for discussion.

a) Approve minutes of the April 8, 2026, regular meeting as presented
b) Accept Permit Fee Statement as presented
c) Accept Authorized Funds Spreadsheet and approve revised 2026 Budget as presented
d) Authorize the payment of bills as presented, totaling $187,486.27
e) Authorize the apparel order for managers, staff, and community advisory committee not to exceed $1,000 from 200-4949 Miscellaneous Expenses
f) Authorize the Brown's Creek restoration signage scope not to exceed $5,000 for Emmons and Olivier Resources and $5,000 for Vacker Sign for a total not to exceed $10,000 from account 910-0000 Education and Outreach
h) Accept the groundwater trends summary report
i) Authorize the groundwater trend monitoring scope with Emmons and Olivier Resources not to exceed $4,160 from account 942-0004
j) Accept the macroinvertebrate monitoring summary report from 2016-2025

Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager Brod, to approve the consent agenda as amended/presented. Motion carried 5/0.

g) Authorize beaver informational signage not to exceed $500 from account 910-0000

Manager Wirth asked about the format of the signs proposed to be purchased by staff to educate the public on beaver activity, and the idea that people should "encourage" beaver activity. Hannah Peterson said that they would be 18-inch by 24-inch aluminum signs installed in three locations and that the language was influenced by University of Minnesota beaver researchers. Karen Kill said that landowners have been interested in beavers and the ecological benefits they provide. President Eckles shared that he has seen habitat benefits and wildlife activity from the dams by his property. He requested legal counsel to look into the trapping laws for beavers on public property. Manager Wirth requested a QR code to be added linking to beaver information on the BCWD website.

Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager Eckles, to authorize beaver informational signage with the language as presented not to exceed $500 from account 910-0000 and to direct legal counsel to research the legality of trapping on public property. Motion carried 5/0.

k) Authorize administrator to amend, on advice of counsel, the agreement for engineering services to update the rates as presented

Ms. Kill and Mr. Welch explained that Stu Grubb is listed in the updated scope of services at a higher rate for principals.

Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager Brod, to authorize the administrator to amend, on advice of counsel, the agreement for engineering service to update the rates as presented. Motion carried 5/0.

5) Selection of officers and designation of acting administrator June 5-21, 2026

a) Designation of acting administrator June 5-21, 2026

Ms. Kill said that she will be out of the office and country from June 5 to June 21, 2026, and recommended designating Hannah Peterson as acting administrator during her absence. Manager Eckles asked about designating an acting administrator for whenever Ms. Kill is out, and Mr. Welch recommended just doing for the timeframe noted since Ms. Kill will be unreachable, and to avoid potential confusion by adopting a more general designation.

Manager Mattson moved, seconded by Manager Wirth, to designate Hannah Peterson as administrator *pro tem* from June 5 to June 21, 2026. Motion carried 5/0.

b) Selection of officers

The managers discussed the responsibilities of the various officers and which roles they were interested in.

Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager Mattson, to designate Klayton Eckles as president, Celia Wirth as treasurer, Chuck LeRoux as vice president, Luke Mattson as secretary, and Griffin Brod as 2nd vice president. Motion carried 5/0.

6) Planning

a) 2027-2036 Watershed Management Plan

i) Draft responses to written comments

Alexander Furneaux presented an overview of the comments received on the draft watershed management plan and possible responses prepared by staff, engineers, and legal counsel. The managers shared appreciation for the comments and staff time spent developing responses. They discussed how the City of Stillwater did not provide comments, but staff was involved in the development of the plan, while the City of Oak Park Heights was not very involved in the planning process, but provided specific comments. The managers also discussed the comparison of monitoring budgets for BCWD and neighboring

Valley Branch Watershed District. Mr. Welch also shared updated language regarding city involvement in regional solutions. Ms. Peterson said that the tables in the plan will be updated to a more accessible format.

ii) Next steps – June 10, 2026 public hearing and finalize responses to comments

Mr. Welch presented the next steps in the plan-update process, noting that a public hearing on the draft plan will be held as part of the June regular meeting.

Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager Brod, to authorize the administrator to finalize and issue the proposed responses to comments, and duly notice the public hearing on the plan for the regular June meeting. Motion carried 5/0.

b) Brewer's Pond water quality improvement feasibility

Ms. Kill said that Brewer's Pond is one of the final water bodies for which BCWD will complete a management plan, in addition to Heifort Pond. The managers discussed the proposed process and costs and asked Anne Wilkinson for clarification on the benefit of conducting a sediment analysis. Dr. Wilkinson explained that the sediment analysis through University of Wisconsin-Stout, a more cost-effective choice than the few labs in the area that can perform such analysis, would determine which form of phosphorus is bound to sediment in the pond and indicate what the dose of alum would achieve the targeted results. She said that the cost of alum treatment has risen significantly and that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency wants to see the due diligence of a study prior to treatment, rather than just treating the pond and seeing how it goes.

Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager LeRoux, to approve the scope of services not to exceed $24,939, of which $5,184 will be subcontracted with UW-Stout for sediment analysis, all from account 967-0000 after transferring $4,939 from the contingency reserve. Motion carried 5/0.

7) Projects

a) Brown's Creek Restoration Phase 2: Brown's Creek Cove land-use agreements

Ms Kill said that progress has been made with getting landowners to agree to all access to and use of their properties for the creek-restoration project. Brown's Creek Cove Homeowners' Association has given verbal support, and its officers are ready to sign an agreement. The other landowners asked about a non-permanent option, and Mr. Welch proposed an easement where there is a recorded easement for a set period, recommended as 10 years, but the landowner can request it be removed after that time. He also said it could be removed earlier if both parties are in agreement. The managers were supportive of this approach.

Manager Eckles moved, seconded by Manager LeRoux, to authorize the administrator to execute land-use agreements, on advice of counsel, with Brown's Creek Cove Homeowners' Association with a permanent easement and with the other landowners with an easement with a termination provision after 10 years, for the Brown's Creek Restoration Project Phase 2: Brown's Creek Cove. Motion carried 5/0.

8) Discussion agenda

a) Updates

iii) Administrator

Ms. Kill said the Minnesota Watersheds summer tour would be August 25-26 in Detroit Lakes and explained that Minnesota Watersheds is the membership organization for watershed organizations. She said that there are Community Advisory Committee minutes and a regulatory program update for review in the packet and that she has recently had

good communication with new city staff and homeowners' associations. She also shared about the July Long Lake art event with A House Unbuilt and three artists, that the Brown's Creek accessible fishing pier was a part of the governor's fishing opener, and that Stillwater Area High School released trout through the Trout in the Classroom program and did macroinvertebrate sampling. Additionally, Ms. Kill said that there was an upcoming tree planting event at the Brown's Creek restoration area, that the audit report should be ready by June, and that the board may request presentations on reports in the consent agenda. She also asked about date preferences for the East Metro Water Resource Education Program's 20th anniversary, and Manager Wirth and Manager Mattson indicated preference for Thursday, September 29.

iv) Legal

Mr. Welch said that he is tracking changes to state plumbing law that would prohibit using stormwater for irrigation.

v) Engineer

There were no updates.

vi) Managers

The managers discussed that registration fees for the Minnesota Watersheds summer tour would be brought to the board when available. Manager Brod said that he would be absent for the June regular meeting.

b) June 2026 Regular Meeting Agenda

9) Adjournment

Manager Mattson moved, seconded by Manager Brod, to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:39 p.m. Motion carried 5/0.

Respectfully submitted by Hannah Peterson, BCWD staff and Luke Mattson, Secretary