



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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brown's Creek Watershed District Board
FROM: Karen Kill
RE: Capital Improvement Projects – engineering approach discussion
DATE: July 2, 2026

Background

The BCWD board recently expressed interest in reviewing the 2027-2036 watershed management plan proposed capital improvement projects and determining criteria or a list of projects that may benefit from a broader engineering consultant selection process for feasibility studies, design, permitting, bidding assistance, and/or construction oversight.

Under the District's current process, the Board selects a District Engineer every two years. The District Engineer then assists the Board through the following project development steps:

1. Identify watershed problems and issues
2. Evaluate feasible solutions
3. Board determination and project ordering, if feasible
4. Project development and design
5. Construction oversight

The proposed 2027–2036 Watershed Management Plan identifies the watershed issues that BCWD intends to address during the planning period. For several proposed projects, potential solutions have already been identified. Examples include buffer improvements, buckthorn removal, and fish barrier removal. These projects, listed in Table 81, are primarily habitat restoration initiatives with well-established water quality benefits and implementation approaches that are already familiar to the District Engineer.

Staff recommends that separate requests for proposals (RFPs) not be issued for feasibility studies or design services for these habitat restoration projects. Conducting additional consultant selection processes for projects with well-understood solutions would likely increase project costs and timelines while providing limited additional value to the District.

The Plan also identifies watershed issues that require further evaluation to determine the most cost-effective and beneficial solutions. For these projects, there may be advantages to seeking proposals from multiple engineering firms for feasibility studies, design services, and/or construction oversight. Potential benefits include exposure to innovative approaches, competitive pricing, and access to specialized technical expertise.

Managers:

Klay Eckles, President | Chuck LeRoux, Vice President | Celia Wirth, Treasurer
Luke Mattson, Secretary | Griffin Brod, 2nd Vice President

Accordingly, staff recommends that the Board consider issuing RFPs only for larger infrastructure projects where the potential benefits of a broader consultant selection process are expected to outweigh the additional time and administrative costs associated with developing, soliciting, and evaluating proposals.

Specifically, staff recommends that the Board request proposals for the following projects identified in the 2027–2036 Watershed Management Plan:

- Table 81 page 130 - “Explore options for addressing thermal loads from the drainage area in Zone D from the McKusick Road Stormwater Feasibility Analysis” and combine with “Explore feasibility of using property adjacent to the Oakd Glen Golf Course for the location of a large-scale rock crib (as identified in McKusick Road Stormwater Feasibility Analysis), as well as design and construct the rock crib” (\$240K in 2031-2034)
- Table 81 page 130 - “Explore options for addressing thermal loads to Brown’s Creek and/or Lake McKusick from gate valve in the storm sewer along Neal Ave” (\$30K in 2027)
- Table 82 page 133 – “Subwatershed Assessment/Evaluate pollutant loading to the waterbodies” – the goal is a management plan and feasibility for implementation projects and implementation (\$15K each – Heifort pond 2027, South School Section 2028)

Staff further recommends that for capital projects not identified in the adopted Watershed Management Plan, the Board determine whether an RFP is appropriate before initiating project development. This approach allows the Board to consider the project's scope, complexity, and the potential benefits of a broader consultant selection process during the plan amendment process.

Requested Action

Provide direction for engineering approach to implement proposed projects in the 2027-2036 watershed management plan.