



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 and Hannah Peterson
RE: DRAFT 2027 Budget
DATE: August 12, 2026

Background

The Draft 2027 budget reflects the projects and programs in the new 2027-2036 watershed management plan. The total draft budget proposes a 1.7% increase; however, due to less projected carry forward from 2026 to 2027, the resulting draft levy increase is approximately \$139K or 11.1%.

The following are either in addition or changes from the budget memo from EOR in your packet:

Increases to internal services:

- 200-4000 Managers Per Diem & Expense: Increase \$9,250
 - Assumes 13 meetings following 2026 adopted policy of \$125 per diem for both meeting preparation and meeting attendance and an additional \$3,000 for other meeting attendance and expenses (such as MN Watersheds annual conference)
- 200-4330 Accounting – Increase \$2,400
 - \$420 per month for accounting services (no change), but also assumes upgrade of accounting software (\$75/month subscription fee and \$1500 labor to migrate accounting data to new platform)
- 200-4320 & 300-4320 Administrative services: Increase \$28,500
 - New service contract for 2027 and matching anticipated increases, 2028 will include additional 4% increase
- 200-4500 & 300-4703 Engineering Retainer: Increase \$5,500
 - New service contract for 2027 assumed at least 4% increase
- 200-4410 Legal Fees General: Increase \$1,400
 - New service contract for 2027 assumed at least 4% increase

Changes from EOR memo:

- 300-4710-1 Baseline Monitoring – Shoreline Management/Restoration score-your-shore program, reduced cost by \$10K by partnering with Washington Conservation District during regular lake monitoring
- 300-4704 Permitting Inspection Database - also includes Smartsheet annual subscription

Managers:

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

- 923-0004 Stormwater Structure Inventory – removed for 2027, continue conversation with Washington County about taking the lead with support from BCWD and other watershed districts in county
- 942-0005 Groundwater Brown’s Creek pump records assessment – removed for 2027, flow meters at golf course are now functional and continue to collect data, determine in 2028 if sufficient data and high priority
- 942-0011 Groundwater Coordinate with Users – also added Integrated Water Management Framework Grant \$50K, it is possible this work will begin in 2026 but carry forward into 2027
- 947-0004 Brown’s Creek buffer restorations at Oak Glen – Reduced total cost by \$20K by partnering with Washington Conservation District for tree survey and implementation. Good potential for grant funding.
- 947-0026 Brown’s Creek Cove Reach Restoration – this work will continue in 2027
- 947-0027 Brown’s Creek- Stillwater Country Club reuse – this work is being carried forward, no additional work has been done in 2026 awaiting total costs for BC Cove restoration so remaining grant amount is known
- 959-0002 Resource Assessment & Improvement – Diversion Tribs – Lower Priority – Heavy metals sampling in diversion tributaries - not added at this time, efforts instead toward designing project to reduce erosion

Requested Action

- Review and consider the draft 2027 budget.
- Determine if additional budget workshop time is needed before September 9, 2026.
- Schedule public hearing for September 9, 2026 regular board meeting

memo



Project Name | BCWD Annual Budget

Date | 7/15/2026

To / Contact info | BCWD Board of Managers

Cc / Contact info | Karen Kill, District Administrator

From / Contact info | Camilla Correll, PE and BCWD Team

Regarding | 2027 Budget Recommendations

Objectives

District staff have developed a list of potential activities for the BCWD Board of Managers to consider during its 2027 budget discussions. These activities reflect what the BCWD could undertake in 2027 and include projects identified in the BCWD 2026-2035 Watershed Management Plan.

This list is intended to serve as a starting point for Board discussion, recognizing that the BCWD Board of Managers will make the final determination on priorities for implementation in 2027.

Proposed 2027 Budget Recommendations

Potential activities are organized under the categories included in the BCWD 2026-2035 Watershed Management Plan as identified below. Only those categories with recommendations for implementation activities are included in this memorandum.

- Stormwater Runoff Management (see page 22 of the 2026-2035 WMP)
- Erosion, Prevention and Sediment Control (see page 30 of the 2026-2035 WMP)
- Stream Management (see page 34 of the 2026-2035 WMP)
- Lake Management (see page 40 of the 2026-2035 WMP)
- Wetland Management (see page 44 of the 2026-2035 WMP)
- Floodplain and Flood Management (see page 48 of the 2026-2035 WMP)
- Groundwater Management (see page 54 of the 2026-2035 WMP)
- Ecological Health (see page 60 of the 2026-2035 WMP)
- Monitoring and Data Collection (see page 67 of the 2026-2035 WMP)
- Regulations (see page 72 of the 2026-2035 WMP)
- Recreation (see page 78 of the 2026-2035 WMP)
- Education, Outreach and Stewardship (see page 81 of the 2026-2035 WMP)
- Land Conservation (see page 92 of the 2026-2035 WMP)
- Pollutants of Emerging Concern (see page 97 of the 2026-2035 WMP)

ENGINEERING FEES

- Engineering Rate Increase – EOR recommends that the District plan for a 4% rate increase in 2027. Our rates are reviewed annually to account for inflation, rising operational costs, and investments in our team and technical capabilities. These adjustments ensure we can continue to deliver high-quality, responsive service while keeping pace with evolving industry standards and economic conditions.

Estimated Cost: 4% increase.

STORMWATER RUNOFF MANAGEMENT

Includes *Monitoring and Maintenance of Stormwater Management Facilities*.

Operation & Maintenance Costs from CIP Standard Operating Procedures Manual (SOPM) – The costs in the following table reflect the anticipated annual cost from the CIP SOPM unless otherwise noted. Some of the District's projects are approaching an age that requires more substantial restoration or replacement than budgeted for annually, e.g., THPP and IESF. The District may wish to begin planning for these additional costs in its annual budget.

Table 1. Projects that the BCWD has obligated maintenance activities through agreements

Project (Year Complete)	Anticipated Annual Cost
CIP SOPM Annual Report and Updates <i>Updates to annual cost estimates or changes to the maintenance or monitoring program for a BMP.</i>	\$2,000
THPP (Flood Mitigation - 2000) <i>Annual inspection of structures (culverts and drop structures) and infiltration basins (when dry), inspection reporting, vegetation maintenance (spot treatments, weed whipping). Estimated cost for these activities is \$6,000.</i>	\$5,800
Kismet Basin (Flood Mitigation - 2001) <i>Annual inspection of structures (culverts & drop structures) & reporting, vegetation maintenance (spot treatments, weed whipping).</i>	\$3,500
State Highway 95 & 96 Fish Baffles (Habitat Improvement - 2011) <i>Annual inspection & reporting.</i>	\$700
Oak Glen Golf Course Buffer (Habitat Improvement - 2011) <i>Annual inspection & reporting.</i>	\$350
Iron-Enhanced Sand Filter at Settlers Glen (Water Quality - 2013) <i>2026 approval - Coordination with the City and Feasibility Report. 2027 recommendation – (1) RFQ development, coordination, and plan design for replacement of the filter (\$15K); (2) Replacement of the filter (\$125K); (3) Construction oversight, contractor coordination, testing coordination, inspection of the construction process, administrative tasks (\$15K); (4) 2027 system status, maintenance, inspections including bi-annual pump inspection (\$14K).</i>	\$169,000
Countryside Auto Repair BMP (Water Quality - 2011) <i>Inspections and clearing of debris (conducted by WCD), and coordination with RLWE. Costs include system vacuum cleaning of one underground tank and cleaning of the riprap channel (Tank - Biennial, last conducted 2024, anticipated 2026-2027).</i>	\$6,000
Brown's Creek Floodplain Restoration Project (2014) <i>Inspection, vegetation maintenance (mowing, invasive removal, re-plant/seed as needed).</i>	\$4,800
Brown's Creek Park Rock Crib (Water Quality – 2017) <i>Inspections and clearing of debris (conducted by WCD), and coordination with RLWE. Contract costs for RLWE system vacuum cleaning of one underground tank (Tank - Biennial, last conducted 2024, anticipated 2026-2027).</i>	\$2,500
Long Lake Tributary Headcut Stabilization (Water Quality – 2018) <i>Inspection & Reporting; vegetation maintenance and managing invasive species.</i>	\$250
McKusick Road Water Quality Improvement Project	\$26,000

<i>Inspections and clearing of debris (conducted by WCD), and coordination with RLWE. Contract costs for RLWE system vacuum cleaning of three underground tanks and 8 sump manholes (Tanks -Biennial, last conducted 2024, anticipated 2026).</i>	
Applewood Golf Course Reuse (Water Quality – 2022) <i>Finalize O&M manual, coordinate Operation and Maintenance activities with Applewood Hills golf course. Costs include spring start-up and fall shut-down costs.</i>	\$NA Costs already budgeted
Brown’s Creek Restoration Project (2024) <i>Compile O&M manual, Operation and Maintenance activities.</i>	
<i>Inspection, vegetation maintenance (spot-mowing, invasive management/ treatments, reseed as needed) after Fall 2026. Note the Contractor is required to complete vegetation maintenance for 2 years after substantial completion which is anticipated to occur by August 30, 2024.</i>	\$4,700
TOTAL	\$225,600

Commented [KK1]: 948-0000 CIP Maintenance
Estimate \$150k in carry forward from 2026

Table 2. Projects that the District has an interest in providing maintenance/oversight assistance

Project	Anticipated Annual Cost
Norell Avenue Pond Water Quality Retrofit (2016) <i>Per the cooperative agreement, BCWD was responsible for inspections the first year following the retrofit and the City of Oak Park Heights will do inspections thereafter. The City’s MS4 permit is to cover maintenance needs for this pond. The District may wish to assist the City with inspecting the sediment depth to see that the pond sediment removal efficiency is maintained.</i>	\$500
Indian Hills Golf Course Fen Vegetation Maintenance <i>BCWD is not responsible for the fen but has conducted this annually in the interest of maintaining the vegetation quality of this unique natural resource. Costs include NST vegetation maintenance, and a prescribed burn.</i>	\$9,000
Oak Glen Golf Course Reuse Water Quality Project (2022) <i>The golf course is responsible for ongoing operation and maintenance (O&M). This costs reflects support to verify O&M activities are being conducted. These may include system startup and winterization guidance and coordination, monthly volume accounting and end of year pump monitored volume summary (runoff reuse vs. well pumped) and updates to the O&M Manual.</i>	\$1,680
Tributary Floodplain Restoration Project (2022) <i>The City of Stillwater is now responsible for ongoing vegetation management activities following the original project completed by Minnesota Native Landscapes in 2024. BCWD contracted Natural Shores Technology to perform vegetation maintenance activities in 2026. EOR, BCWD, and City staff to develop a long-term vegetation management plan to guide management activities by City staff and to inform the District’s role in on-going management to ensure project success and longevity. The District may consider keeping budget to see that O&M activities are being conducted.</i>	\$2,000
Kittentail / Bluff Prairie Restoration Work <i>In 2024, MNDOT transferred the project parcel to Washington County, so the bluff restoration work is no longer</i>	\$4,700

Commented [KK2]: 948-0000 CIP Maintenance

Commented [KK3]: 953-0000 Fen Management Plan Implementation

Commented [KK4]: 948-0000 CIP Maintenance

Commented [KK5]: 959-0002 Resource Assessment and Improvement – Diversion Tributaries

Commented [KK6]: 959-0003 Resource Improvement – Gorge Bluff

<i>applicable for the MNDOT Highway Sponsorship Program. Initial vegetation management activities were completed in 2022-2024, including cut stump treatments of buckthorn and honeysuckle and girdling of aspen. EOR will continue to coordinate with Washington County (Jennifer Oehler), BCWD, and WCD to continue bluff restoration activities through 2027. After 2027, the goal is to transfer long-term vegetation management of the parcel to Washington County Parks staff.</i>	
Brown's Creek Trail Vegetation Maintenance	\$3,200
Long Lake Shoreline Vegetation Maintenance	\$3,700
TOTAL	\$24,780

Commented [KK7]: 947-0009 Brown's Creek Trail Improvements - Habitat

Commented [KK8]: 929-0000 Long Lake Implementation Plan

- BCWD Cost-Share Program - Utilize the district's stewardship and cost-share programs to assist residents in installing water quality improvement projects (including thermal best management practices) and water quantity (e.g., volume control) practices.

Estimated Cost: \$50,000

Commented [KK9]: 914-0000 Homeowner BMP Program

- Targeted Outreach to Landowners - Continue identifying cooperative opportunities with landowners to implement stream shading projects through site assessments, landowner outreach, and preparing project development materials.

Estimated cost: \$1,000

Commented [KK10]: Part of overall 910-0000 Education and Outreach

- Targeted Outreach to Landowners - Improve the quality of buffers in priority wetlands as identified in the district's wetland functions and values assessment through preservation, restoration, and enhancement projects. Specifically, meetings with landowners to talk about the quality of the wetlands and technical assistance for making improvements. **SEE IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES IDENTIFIED UNDER LAKE, POND, AND WETLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN (Error! Reference source not found.)**.

Estimated cost: \$7,500

Commented [KK11]: Part of overall 910-0000 Education and Outreach

- Tributary Phosphorus Sampling - Revisit sampling at the Long Lake inlet, and three locations within the Zephyr tributary for six to eight rain events to evaluate possible sources of phosphorous and recent data trends.

Estimated Cost: \$6,000

Commented [KK12]: 959-0002 Resource Assessment and Improvement - Diversion Tributary

- BCWD Cost-Share Program - Establish a cost-share program that will allow BCWD to partner with its member communities to implement water quality improvement/retrofit projects. In 2027, this will likely involve partnering with the City of Oak Park Heights in the design and implementation of a road reconstruction project in the Kern Center Commercial Area.

Estimated Cost: \$25,000

Commented [KK13]: 940-0000 BMP Program - Community/Business Cost-share

EROSION, PREVENTION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL

- Shoreline Management/Restoration - Identify shoreline restoration opportunities. For example, using the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' "Score Your Shore" tool. Preliminarily, WCD to conduct shoreline assessments in late July/early August on the lakes they are monitoring to establish baseline conditions. Deliverable will be a map identifying shoreline conditions. In future years, BCWD will share the tool for all residents to complete on waterbodies.

Estimated Cost: \$15,000

Commented [KK14]: 300-4710-1 Baseline Monitoring – reduced this item to \$5K by partnering with Washington Conservation District during regular lake monitoring

STREAM MANAGEMENT

- Fish and Macroinvertebrate Sampling - Reassess the fish and macroinvertebrate community health at representative sites at three historical sites along Brown's Creek (Headwaters, Middle Reach and Gorge).

Estimated cost: \$10,000 (includes lab analysis of samples estimated at \$1,800)

Commented [KK15]: 947-0018 Brown's Creek Biological Survey

- Implement TSS reduction projects based on the findings of the BCWD's sediment evaluations (e.g., PTMapp Analysis and McKusick Stormwater Feasibility Analysis) - **SEE IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES IDENTIFIED UNDER BROWN'S CREEK MANAGEMENT PLAN (Table 81).**

Estimated cost: \$89,250 (Note: WMP includes \$68,400)

Commented [KK16]: This number is not specifically added to the budget – the activities below were added

- Table 81 Activities

- Buffer Improvements - Improve buffer on 1,800 feet on Oak Glen LLC and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Observations from a site visit on 7/14/2026 indicate that the development of a dense canopy (approximately 25 years post DNR restoration) has led to poor (habitat) stream width to depth ratio. This shaded overgrowth has resulted in reduced bank stability and is causing the channel to widen and fill with sediment. The channel in this section is 3 to 4 times wider than the restored upstream reach. Recommended improvements to improve instream habitat within this reach include:
 - A. Identify viable BCWD tree/shrub plantings; address any constraining browsing protection; and clear undesirable woody growth/limbs within 5' radius [≤ 5k if completed by District staff and conservation corps type contractor; cost is negligible if rolled into B/C]
 - B. Inventory canopy and selectively remove ~50% of (early successional) trees to spur undergrowth and narrow stream width to depth [≤ 50k construction & engineering cost]
 - C. Accelerate width to depth narrowing and create instream habitat via utilization of woody removal and installation of brush bundles [≤ 15k construction & engineering cost]

Note: If executing all three, it is recommended that the BCWD implement all three concurrently. Action A can be completed without B/C. Activity B may warrant

community engagement to acknowledge the tree removal. Assuming Activity C can be completed under the District's/SWCD's general permit.

Estimated Cost: \$20,000 (From the WMP) - \$70,000 for all 3 items noted above.

- Evaluate options to treat stormwater contributions to Brown's Creek and/or Lake McKusick from gate valve in the storm sewer along Neal Avenue (e.g., pre-treatment, split flows between Brown's Creek, Oak Glen Golf Course, and Lake McKusick).

Estimated Cost: \$30,000 (2027-Project Development) / \$50,000 (From implementation plan 2028 Implementation – grant opportunity?)

- Long Lake tributary from 400 feet upstream of south central tributary to Boutwell Road: ~ 1,110 LF; canopy thinning and removal of woody invasives; grade control to address remaining incision and reconnect floodplain; restore hydrology in wetland below Boutwell Road.

Estimated Cost: \$217,000 (2027-2028) - \$54,250 (2027 Project Development)

- Hold annual meetings with member communities to discuss progress toward local surface water management plan implementation, TMDL Implementation Plan goals, other mutual goals, and opportunities for partnerships.

Estimated cost: \$2,750

- Support beaver activity in the watershed and utilize pond levelers in beaver dams to maintain habitat and flow to prevent flooding of infrastructure and property. *Cost for this work at IESF already included in CIP SOPM. Cost for new beaver management initiatives included here.*

Estimated cost: \$2,000 per leveler

Commented [KK17]: 947-0004 Brown's Creek Buffer Restoration – Oak Glen – Reduced \$20K by partnering with the Washington Conservation District for tree survey and implementation, eligible for Lower St. Croix Partnership grant consideration

Commented [KK18]: 947-0013 Brown's Creek Neal Ave Stormwater Feasibility Assessment

Commented [KK19]: 959-0002 Resource Assessment and Improvement – Diversion Tributaries

Commented [KK20]: Part of overall 910-0000 Education and Outreach

Commented [KK21]: Contingency Reserve as needed

LAKE MANAGEMENT

• Table 82 Activities

- No activities for 2027 and 2028 – *Noticed the following error in Table 82. The implementation activity to conduct a "subwatershed assessment/evaluate pollutant loading to the waterbodies" – has Heifort identified in 2027 and South School Section identified in 2028 but no budget for these years. This error will be addressed when meeting with the BWSR sub-committee and will be corrected prior to the Board adopting the 2027-2036 Watershed Management Plan.*

- Conduct a Subwatershed Assessment for Heifort Pond to evaluate pollutant loading and additional management needs.

Estimated cost: \$15,000

- Long Lake Flood Elevations - Evaluate options to address high water levels on Long Lake for the existing and projected 100-year rainfall event to provide additional protection for residences with less than adequate freeboard and for the protection of roads (Mid Oaks, 62nd

Commented [KK22]: 968-0000 Heifort Pond Subwatershed Plan – received letter from Ponds of Heifort Hills HOA and two phone calls/site visit with eastern landowners requesting Board move forward with developing an implementation plan for improving water quality in 2027

St, & 72nd St inundated for current 100-year event) [2021 Long Lake Flood Reduction Risk Evaluation].

Estimated cost: \$15,000 (this will be a limited analysis)

Commented [KK23]: 923-0003 Long Lake Flood Risk Assessment

- Unique Species Inventory – Maintain the BCWD’s iNaturalist inventory of surface and groundwater resources for unique and notable features, protection strategies, and integrated findings with community conversations.

Estimated cost: \$1,000

Commented [KK24]: Part of overall 910-0000 Education and Outreach

WETLAND MANAGEMENT

- Fen Management - Maintain the high-level functions and values of the watershed’s fen by managing the vegetation to control the encroachment of invasive vegetation on the wetland and protecting the fen groundwater recharge area.

Estimated cost: NA – Included in CIP SOPM

- Wetland Buffers - Conduct routine evaluations of wetland buffers recorded via the district’s regulatory program to ensure the quantity and quality of recorded buffers are being maintained.

Estimated cost: \$2,500 (WCD to include in 2027/2028 contract)

Commented [KK25]: 300-4704 Permitting Inspection Database (item also includes Smartsheet annual subscription)

FLOODPLAIN AND FLOOD MANAGEMENT

- Promote natural asset management by supporting member communities in identifying, valuing, and protecting natural features that provide flood storage and contribute to stormwater management and watershed resilience. Natural Asset Management is the practice of identifying, valuing, and managing natural features such as wetlands, forests, floodplains, urban tree canopy, riparian buffers, and prairie areas, with the same intentionality that municipalities apply to built infrastructure like pipes, roads, and buildings. The core premise is that natural features provide measurable services to communities including flood storage, filtration, groundwater recharge, and temperature regulation, and that protecting and restoring these features is often more cost-effective than building engineered alternatives.

The goal of this project is not to deliver a full natural asset management program but to help city staff and elected officials understand what natural assets are, why they matter, and how to protect them via their comprehensive plan. Project tasks would include:

1. Baseline Natural Asset Mapping – Develop a community-specific natural asset map and summary fact sheet showing what natural assets exist, where they are located, and what functions they provide.
2. Natural Asset Valuation Snapshot – For a select natural asset (i.e., wetland complex or a riparian corridor), conduct a simplified valuation exercise quantifying the flood storage, stormwater retention, and water quality services provided and estimate what it would cost to replace those services with

engineered infrastructure. Develop a one-page summary per community showing the estimated dollar value of key natural assets and the cost of losing them.

3. Educational Workshop for City Staff and Elected Officials – Introduce the concept of natural asset management, walk communities through their community's natural asset map and valuation snapshot, and discuss how other communities have incorporated natural asset protection into their comprehensive plans.
4. Community Case Studies – Develop a brief document profiling two to three peer communities that have successfully incorporated natural asset management into their comprehensive plans.
5. Comprehensive Plan Language – Develop a customizable menu of draft comprehensive plan language organized by plan element for member communities to consider as they go through the comprehensive planning process.

Estimated Cost: \$50,000

- H/H Model Updates - Conduct updates to BCWD's hydrologic and hydraulic model to complete the following:
 1. Reflect new development activity annually.
 2. Incorporate any new information collected by BCWD and/or member communities (e.g., structure inventories) before the next plan update. This task includes incorporating recommendations for model revisions from the series of meetings with the communities conducted for the preliminary flood vulnerability assessment and using the updated H/H model to run Atlas-15.
 3. Sharing results with member communities for their Comprehensive Planning process.

Estimated cost: \$20,000

Commented [KK26]: Not included in budget - options to include some of these activities as part of EMWREP education to city staff and elected officials

Commented [KK27]: 923-0000 H&H Model Maintenance

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

- Annual Groundwater Level Measurements – Collect groundwater elevation data from residential wells, monitoring wells, high capacity wells, and near landlocked basins at least annually. Install data recorders to collect more frequent measurements where possible. Share information with Washington County and the Metropolitan Council.

Estimated cost: \$5,000

Commented [KK28]: 942-0004 Measuring Trends in Groundwater elevations

- Groundwater Coordination – Here are the things we typically do under this budget.
 1. Collaborate with the Minnesota Department of Health to review and resolve differences related to BCWD-identified areas of contamination concern and recharge protection in the Drinking Water Supply Management Areas (DWSMA) and aquifer vulnerability assessments delineated by Stillwater and Oak Park Heights.
 2. Continue to participate in the North and East Metro Groundwater Management Area Plan Project Advisory Team by attending meetings.

3. Work with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' Observation Well program and others to install deep observation wells near Brown's Creek to monitor bedrock aquifers.

Estimated Cost: \$4,000

Commented [KK29]: 942-0011 Groundwater Coordinate with users

- Evaluate Effect of High Volume Pumping Wells on Brown's Creek. Review pumping records from Oak Glen golf course wells (and the new stormwater reuse system) and the City of Stillwater wells. Pumping records would be compared to changes in groundwater levels recorded in DNR observation wells in Brown's Creek Park. The results will provide information about aquifer properties and whether the wells are having an influence on the base flow of Brown's Creek. Findings from this analysis will be used to develop groundwater management recommendations, such as coordinated pumping schedules, that protect coldwater fisheries and ecosystems while supporting the operational needs of the golf course and the City.

Estimated Cost - \$25,000

Commented [KK30]: Not included in budget (942-0005)

ECOLOGICAL HEALTH

- Implement native plant community preservation and restoration projects (e.g., Kittentail restoration work with Washington County, Mendel Wetland restoration). Specifically, it is recommended that the BCWD address the large landowners on the western side of the wetland that need help with buckthorn removal or manage cattail invasion in the small peatland basins at the Grant 14 MBS site.

Estimated cost: \$7,000

Commented [KK31]: 961-0001 Habitat Restoration Vegetation management

- Work with the City of Stillwater and area residents to develop a plan and conduct ongoing monitoring and maintenance of the oak forest found on the west side of Long Lake (identified as a Rare Feature) to evaluate its quality, and if any management activities are needed to ensure its sustainability. This task will include facilitating a workshop to discuss the needs and what this management plan should include.

Estimated cost: \$1,500

Commented [KK32]: 961-0001 Habitat Restoration Vegetation management

- Coordinate with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources on future Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) assessments to share unique systems for data gathering and sharing. For example, addressing the under ranked MBS site in Grant.

Estimated cost: \$1,500

Commented [KK33]: 961-0001 Habitat Restoration Vegetation management

MONITORING AND DATA COLLECTION

- Weather Station - Continue collecting climatology data in 2025. This information is being collected to support a variety of District programs such as hydrologic and hydraulic model upgrades and calibration (which require 15-minute precipitation data), thermal modeling efforts, and other projects including the Settlers Glen iron-enhanced sand filter,

THPP, and the Biological Monitoring Program. Recommend calibrating precipitation logger and making any replacements to sensors as needed.

Estimated cost: \$4,200

Commented [KK34]: 957-0000 Weather Station

- **THPP Monitoring** – The BCWD has committed to monitoring the THPP on a 3-year cycle and the last monitoring effort was completed in 2021. As a result, it is recommended that the District budget for the installation of 3 level loggers to monitor infiltration rates at the Basin 1-3 complex, as well as a temperature logger at the THPP outlet to record temperatures during discharge events. This budget includes infiltration data analysis and preparation of a memorandum.

Estimated cost: \$6,500

Commented [KK35]: 903-0001 THPP Monitoring – carry forward from 2026

- **Comprehensive Stormwater Structure Inventory** – Washington County has been actively inventorying roadway culverts, and both Oak Park Heights and Stillwater are required under their MS4 Stormwater Pollution Prevention Programs (SWPPPs) to maintain storm sewer and waterbody inventories. In 2024, the District explored a partnership with the County to maintain a centralized structure inventory; however, the County declined to lead this effort. This effort will compile and organize these existing datasets and the District's own 25-year archive of survey data. This step will improve the District's ability to manage stormwater infrastructure, support regulatory compliance, and inform future modeling and planning efforts. Benefits to the District include improved data access and consistency, supporting regulatory and planning needs, maximizing use of existing investments, and laying the groundwork for future enhancements and improved interagency coordination. This step will also benefit smaller municipalities like May Township by sharing BCWD data that the township may not have been aware of or had the capacity to collect on its own.

Estimated cost: \$25,000

Commented [KK36]: 923-0004 Stormwater Structure Inventory – not included in budget, continue conversations with Washington County and Water Consortium on partner effort

REGULATIONS

- **Comprehensive Planning Process** - Utilize local water management plan review and approval process to ensure implementation of water resource protection standards consistent with or more protective than district standards. *In 2027, this will likely involve meeting with member communities to clarify expectations for Local Surface Water Management Plan updates and share information (i.e., community-specific handouts) as available.*

Estimated cost: \$2,000

Commented [KK37]: 922-0000 Plan Reviews – LGU/LWMP

- **Permit Management Program** - Implement the online application portal and electronic payment process.

Estimated cost: \$5,000

Commented [KK38]: 300-4704 Permitting Inspection Database – reduced to \$2500 to reflect Smartsheet subscription

- **Permit Management Program** – Conduct a review and revision of BCWD's rules (adopted in 2020) in accordance with Minnesota Statutes section 103D.341. Further evaluate the need to develop and adopt rule language regulating to a simplified performance goal like the Minimal Impact Design Standard.

Estimated cost: \$30,000

Commented [KK39]: 909-0000 Rules review/Evaluation

EDUCATION, OUTREACH AND STEWARDSHIP

General Education and Outreach Activities:

- EMWREP - Coordinate BCWD education and outreach efforts with those of municipalities and other local watershed organizations by continuing to support the East Metro Water Resource Education Program.

Estimated cost: \$32,000

Commented [KK40]: 300-4810 Shared Educator – reduced to \$25,500 to reflect agreement

- Annually promote BCWD's events and accomplishments through multiple communication channels (e.g., mailings, newsletters, social media) to reach audiences, and share information about topics such as groundwater recharge, wetland and lake aesthetics and natural condition, home and yard care practices, and shoreline and wetland stewardship.

Estimated cost: \$10,000

Commented [KK41]: Part of overall 910-0000 Education and Outreach

- Host information sessions on education topics of interest (e.g., estate planning)

Estimated cost: \$1,500

Commented [KK42]: Part of overall 910-0000 Education and Outreach

- Artist-in-Residence - Pilot an artist in residency program to creatively engage the public in conversations about their watershed.

Estimated cost: \$15,000

Commented [KK43]: Part of overall 910-0000 Education and Outreach

- Annual Event - Host an annual event celebrating a watershed resource (e.g., BCWD on the Lake could provide an opportunity for small watercraft to explore a lake and learn about improvements and challenges facing the resource).

Estimated cost: \$4,000

Commented [KK44]: Part of overall 910-0000 Education and Outreach

- Recognize community member efforts in water and natural resource protection every two years.

Estimated cost: \$500

Commented [KK45]: Part of overall 910-0000 Education and Outreach

- Host annual community watershed event and smaller events to highlight local projects and to engage residents in scientific and recreational activities.

Estimated cost: \$3,000

Commented [KK46]: Part of overall 910-0000 Education and Outreach

- Youth Education

- Partner with Belwin Conservancy to provide educational content for grade school lessons in the classroom in Stillwater area schools.

Estimated cost: \$5,000

Commented [KK47]: Part of overall 910-0000 Education and Outreach

- Partner with Trout Unlimited to provide education content for grade school Trout in the Classroom sessions.

Estimated cost: \$1,000

Commented [KK48]: Part of overall 910-0000 Education and Outreach

- Participate in school community education events (e.g., DaVinci Fest).

Estimated cost: \$1,000

Commented [KK49]: Part of overall 910-0000 Education and Outreach

- **Board Training**

- Develop a board training plan annually, identifying training opportunities and ongoing learning.

Estimated cost: \$500

Commented [KK50]: Part of overall 910-0000 Education and Outreach

- Support manager attendance at external trainings (e.g., Water Consortium, Minnesota Watersheds, EMWREP, Lower St. Croix Partnership).

Estimated cost: \$1,000

Commented [KK51]: 200-4000 Manager Per Diem and Expense

LAND CONSERVATION

- **Comprehensive Planning** - Work with member communities during the Comprehensive Planning process to evaluate protection strategies near and within priority land conservation areas.

Estimated cost: \$2,500

Commented [KK52]: 935-0003 Land Conservation Priorities –carry forward

- **Acquisition of Easements** – The BCWD has been setting aside funds for the potential acquisition of property as the opportunity arises (e.g., acquisition of the property at 110th street in partnership with Washington County). The District currently has \$200K in its budget for a future acquisition and should plan to grow this by \$50K annually.

Estimated cost: \$50,000

Commented [KK53]: 935-0000 Land Conservation

- **Easement Restoration** – The BCWD has an easement over the property at 110th Street which is called the Brown's Creek Conservation Easement. In 2017 the District developed the Brown's Creek Conservation Area Management plan which identifies restoration activities for this easement. The following budget amount builds the funds available for larger restoration efforts slated for the future.

Estimated cost: \$25,000

Commented [KK54]: 935-0002 110th Street Property Maintenance – carry forward

Lower Priority Activities (Table 84)

STORMWATER RUNOFF MANAGEMENT

- Develop communication materials to convey the benefits of routine maintenance and operation of facilities and the consequences if these are not met.

Estimated cost: \$9,000

Commented [KK55]: Potentially part of overall 910-0000 Education and Outreach

- Further investigate heavy metals at the Long Lake inlet and opportunities for erosion control within the wetland adjacent to it.

Estimated cost: \$10,000

Commented [KK56]: 959-0002 Resource Assessment & Improvement – Diversion Tribs – not added at this time, efforts instead toward designing project to reduce erosion

WETLAND MANAGEMENT

- Select two to five sentinel wetlands to conduct five-year monitoring for land use and climate change implications and assess ten different wetlands on a bi-annual basis to expand the function and value assessment.

Estimated cost: \$10,000

Commented [KK57]: 963-0000 District wide Vegetation Surveys - wetland

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

- Review water appropriation permits for potential impacts to groundwater levels in other wells, and groundwater flow to groundwater dependent natural resources to provide input on the DNR's review process.

Estimated cost: \$10,000

Commented [KK58]: Part of 300-4703 Permitting as needed

ECOLOGICAL HEALTH

- Lead a tour of high-quality rural wetland, pond, and lake ecological resources with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Washington County, Washington Conservation District, communities (including staff and city councilors and officials), and other stakeholders to increase support for these features in regional planning and conservation activities.

Estimated cost: \$10,000

Commented [KK59]: Part of overall 910-0000 Education and Outreach