



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 August 10, 2026, Community Advisory Committee Meeting

Attendance

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

*Attended virtually

1) Called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm

2) Approved Agenda

3) Approved June 8, 2026, Minutes

4) Watershed Management Plan Update

Hannah shared that the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Central Region Committee approved the plan on August 3, 2026, to go to the full BSWR board on August 27, 2026. If approved the BCWD board of managers will adopt the plan at its September meeting.

5) City of Stillwater Forestry Presentation

Andrew Coyne presented on forestry in the City of Stillwater. He shared forestry challenges including drought, insects, and fungi, mentioning that the Emerald Ash Borer has had significant impact in Stillwater, making ash trees functionally extinct. He shared about past grant projects to remove impacted ash trees on public property and the city's replacement methods to ensure tree species diversity. He also shared on recent forestry projects including Lumberjack Landing, Croixwood Open Square Woods, Pioneer Park, Brown's Creek restoration, Nightingale Park, and Brown's Creek prairie enhancements. Andrew and CAC members discussed future opportunities for volunteers.

6) Recent Events Recap

a) Walking Tour at Lakes at Stillwater Trail, June 16th, 6:30-8pm

Hannah shared that the tour was led by Jyneen and a WCD staff member, Brett Stolpestad. It was well attended by residents and focused on native plants along the trail.

b) Still Water, Living Lake – Long Lake Event, July 25th, 10am-2pm

Hannah shared that the event had 30+ attendees, primarily from the Croixwood neighborhood and that engagement was generally good. Three artists led engagement activities, including a

1 printmaking activity, a guided walk, and a natural puppet making activity, and a biologist was
2 present to talk about aquatic plants. Hannah shared that a highlight of the event was a little girl
3 who was playing in the lake and catching frogs.

4 **c) Summer Creek Scene Painting at Brown's Creek Park, August 2nd, 2-4pm**

5 Hannah shared that a summer watercolor painting event took place near Brown's Creek where
6 stairs had been installed as part of the restoration project. There were six attendees who
7 painted their views of the creek to create fun, colorful artwork.

8 **7) Upcoming Event Planning**

9 **a) Stillwater Township Community Event, August 16th, 12-3pm**

10 Hannah shared that Karen Kill would be having a table at Stillwater Township's community
11 event and that CAC members could help if interested.

12 **b) Climate Trivia with Sustainable Stillwater MN, September 15th, 6:30-8pm**

13 Hannah shared that BCWD would be partnering with Sustainable Stillwater to host an
14 environmental trivia night at Lift Bridge Brewing as one of their Townie Tuesday fundraisers.
15 This event will support Sustainable Stillwater MN and is one of many events in their first Valley
16 Climate Action week.

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

18 Hannah shared an overview of the event including activities and partners and mentioned a
19 potential printmaking activity to teach attendees more about macroinvertebrates. George said
20 he would still have his bird table and request bird skins from Tamarack nature center, and Celia
21 said she would do macroinvertebrates again. Mari and Dennis indicated interest in helping as
22 well. Allison talked about promotion, especially for the bird costume contest. Anne
23 recommended looking into the National Eagle Center to attend next year instead of the Raptor
24 Center. Hannah said she would share more information, including a map, closer to the event
25 once organizations are all confirmed.

26 **d) Table at Aamodt's Apple Farm, Date to be determined**

27 Hannah shared that BCWD would likely have a table at Aamodt's during a weekend of their fall
28 busy season to share information about the watershed.

29 **e) Fall Creek Scene Painting, October 11th, 2-4pm**

30 Hannah shared that this would take place at Lift Bridge and would be an acrylic painting with fall
31 colors.

32 **f) Brown's Creek Conservation Area Replanting, October**

33 Hannah shared that the district might do a planting event this fall to fill in whatever doesn't
34 survive the summer, but it might depend on remaining grant funding.

35 **g) Seeding and Snowshoeing, January 2027**

36 The CAC and Andrew Coyne discussed a possible seed collection event at the city's prairie near
37 Brown's Creek Park, followed by a snowshoe planting event this winter. George requested that
38 the area be mowed prior to snowfall for easier planting and mentioned he could share the
39 opportunity with the Boy Scouts.

40 **h) Fishing Event with Trout Unlimited, May 2027**

41 Hannah shared that she had talked to Trout Unlimited about a potential fishing event at the ADA
42 access point near the restored stream section.

1 **8) CAC Updates**

2 **a) 110th Street Monitoring**

3 George shared that he hasn't been out yet this year but hopes to soon.

4 **b) Long Lake Bird Boxes**

5 Hannah shared that these didn't get put out this year but hopefully will next year.

6 **c) Seasonal Flora Handouts**

7 Hannah shared that this is on pause with the goal to be ready next spring.

8 **9) BCWD Updates**

9 **e) Brown's Creek Restoration**

10 Hannah shared draft signage for the restoration site and indicated that construction of the next
11 phase through Brown's Creek Cove would likely take place early spring 2027.

12 **10) Content for Future Meetings**

13 Hannah shared that she would like to discuss the Artist in Residence program with the CAC at a
14 future meeting as well as determine which activities in the plan the CAC might be able to help with.

15 **11) Adjourned Meeting at 7:31 pm**