



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

DRAFT Minutes of the 2027 budget workshop and regular meeting of the Brown's Creek Watershed District Board of Managers, Wednesday August 12, 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 (regular meeting only)
Luke Mattson, Secretary	Camilla Correll, EOR, BCWD engineer
Griffin Brod, 2 nd Vice President	Paul Nation, EOR, BCWD engineer (regular meeting only)

1) 2027 budget workshop

Karen Kill provided a draft 2027 budget based on the activities outlined in the 2027-2036 watershed management plan. President Klayton Eckles proposed reducing the levy increase by postponing \$30,000 of activities under account 947-0013 for Neal Ave stormwater feasibility analysis and \$62,000 under account 959-0002 for resource assessment and improvement in the diversion tributaries. Ms. Kill said that there might be grant opportunities available. Manager Griffin Brod asked about the \$6,500 budget item for the Trout Habitat Preservation Project monitoring, and Ms. Kill said that the monitoring is undertaken only in wet years and will not be conducted if 2027 is another dry year. The managers discussed keeping the levy increase below 4 percent and agreed to President Eckles' recommendation but to leave \$2,000 for diversion tributaries and seek grant funding for the project, resulting in a \$90,000 decrease in the draft budget.

Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager LeRoux, to schedule a public hearing for the September 9, 2026, regular meeting, on the draft 2027 budget of \$2,428,140 and a levy of \$1,296,740. Motion carried 5/0.

2) Call to order

President Eckles called the regular meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

3) Approve agenda

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

4) Public comments

There were no public comments.

5) Consent agenda

- Approve minutes of the July 8, 2026, regular meeting as presented**
- Accept Permit Fee Statement as presented**
- Accept Authorized Funds Spreadsheet as presented**
- Authorize the payment of bills as presented, totaling \$195,615.79**

e) Authorize education event expenses not to exceed \$800 from 910-0000 for Jennifer Awes Freeman services and materials for an interactive art activity at the September 19, 2026 community event

f) Authorize purchase of water monitoring equipment from Tech Sales Co. for not to exceed \$3,000 from account 300-4640

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

6) Permits

a) Resolution 2026-04 – Erosion Control Permitting in Stillwater

Ms. Kill noted that the City of Stillwater's regulatory program permits erosion control in the city in a manner consistent with BCWD's regulatory requirements. She proposed that BCWD agree to suspend its permitting of erosion control in the city and acknowledging the city's sole exercise of such authority. Michael Welch stated that BCWD's provides for such an agreement, which would be memorialized in a nonbinding memorandum of understanding. The managers supported this approach, noting that the risk is low because contractors utilize erosion-control best practices and the city has reports on its program to the state. They also discussed that any projects triggering stormwater management would still come to BCWD for permits. Ms. Kill and Mr. Welch said they still had work to do on the resolution and will bring it to a future meeting for approval.

b) Violation hearing

Ms. Kill said that a landowner in probable violation of the BCWD rules requested a special meeting for an enforcement hearing. The managers directed the administrator to advise the landowner that BCWD would not hold a special meeting, noting that the property owner could attend by web conference. They directed the administrator to schedule the enforcement hearing for the September 9, 2026 regular meeting.

7) Planning

a) Minnesota Department of Health Accelerated Groundwater Protection Initiative accelerated implementation grant

Ms. Kill said BCWD received the grant from the Minnesota Department of Health to convene public entities in the watershed to improve groundwater protection. Camilla Correll said the project will need to be completed by the end of 2027.

i) Grant agreement

Mr. Welch said he had no concerns about the agreement. The managers discussed accessibility requirements.

Manager Brod moved, seconded by Manager Mattson, to authorize the administrator to enter the grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Health for the Integrated Water Management Plan project. Motion carried 5/0.

ii) Work plan scope

President Eckles asked about the workplan line items with no estimated hours or cost, and Ms. Correll said that the hours would even out across tasks. Ms. Kill said that Hannah Peterson could finalize the report if there was no remaining budget at that point.

Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager LeRoux, to authorize the EOR scope of work for the Integrated Water Management Plan project not to exceed \$50,000 from account 942-0011. Motion carried 5/0.

8) Discussion agenda

a) Updates

i) Administration

(1) Watershed management plan approval process status

Ms. Kill said that the draft watershed management plan was approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources Central Region Committee on August 3, 2026, and that it would be presented to the full BWSR board on August 27, 2026. She said that they will be meeting at the Minnesota Watersheds Summer Tour and that she planned to attend both the tour and the meeting. She said that the BCWD board of managers will then likely adopt the plan at the September 9, 2026 regular meeting.

(2) Brown's Creek restoration project phase 2 status

Ms. Kill said that she is still working on agreements with the landowners for Brown's Creek Cove stream restoration but that all permits have been received and the bidding process is upcoming to prepare for spring 2027 construction.

(3) Subcommittee appointment for selection of 2027-2028 services and county fall meeting

Ms. Kill asked if managers were interested in subcommittee appointment for selecting 2027-2028 services and the fall meeting with the county. President Eckles and Manager Wirth expressed interest in attending the county meeting again. Ms. Kill explained the process for service selection, and Manager Brod and Manager Mattson expressed interest in being on the subcommittee. Manager Wirth said she could help too if needed.

(4) Oak Glen wetland reuse pump maintenance

Ms. Kill said that maintenance was required that has been added to the existing maintenance agreement with Rock Leaf Water Environmental. She requested ratification of the amendment of the agreement.

Manager Wirth moved, seconded by manager LeRoux to ratify the administrator's execution of an amendment of the agreement with Rock Leaf Water Environmental for maintenance of the Oak Glen Golf Course pond pump for not to exceed \$3,190. Motion carried 5/0.

(5) Upcoming events

Ms. Kill shared that she would be attending the Stillwater Township community picnic on August 16, 2026. Hannah Peterson said that the annual community event will be on September 19, 2026, and Ms. Kill encouraged the managers to attend. Manager Brod indicated an interest in volunteering. Ms. Peterson said that there would also be a trivia night in partnership with Sustainable Stillwater on September 15, 2026, at Lift Bridge Brewing as well as a fall painting event on October 11, 2024, also at Lift Bridge.

ii) Legal

Mr. Welch stated that numerous engineering professional associations sent a letter to state agencies and others arguing that stormwater reuse should be designated as outside of the authority of the Minnesota Plumbing Board.

iii) Engineer

Paul Nation shared a memo about the use of iron-sand infiltration in nearby watersheds for stormwater management on private properties. The managers discussed long-term maintenance concerns and how iron-enhanced systems will likely become more common with increased infill and redevelopment projects.

1 **iv) Managers**

2 President Eckles requested that staff and consultants spell out acronyms in board materials
3 to promote better understanding of terminology.

4 **9) Adjournment**

5 **Manager Wirth moved, seconded by Manager Brod, to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:01 p.m.**

6 **Motion carried 5/0.**

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