



BROWN'S CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

1380 W FRONTAGE RD
HIGHWAY 36
STILLWATER, MN
5 5 0 8 2

651.275.1136 X26 [PHONE]
651.275.1254 [FAX]
WWW.BCWD.ORG

1 **Minutes of the Special Joint Board Meeting of the Brown's Creek Watershed District**
2 **Board of Managers, City of Stillwater and Middle St. Croix Watershed Management**
3 **Organization, November 21, 2006.**

4
5 **Stillwater City Hall, 216 N 4th Street, Stillwater MN**

APPROVED

6
7 ROLL CALL

8 BCWD Board Present:

Craig Leiser, President
Gail Pundsack, Vice-President
Gerald Johnson, Secretary
Connie Taillon, Treasurer
Rick Vanzwol

9
10
11
12
13
14 Stillwater Council Present:

Councilmembers Harycki
Councilmember Junker
Councilmember Milbrandt
Councilmember Polehna

15
16
17
18 Stillwater Council Absent:

Mayor Kimble

19
20 MSCWMO Board Present:

Ron Nelson, Stillwater Representative

21
22 Staff present:

BCWD Administrator Kill
Stillwater City Administrator Hansen
Stillwater City Attorney Magnuson
Stillwater Public Works Director Sanders
Stillwater City Clerk Ward
MSCWMO Administrator Lewis

23
24
25
26
27
28
29 Vice Mayor Junker called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

30
31 Workshop with Browns Creek Watershed District

32
33 Craig Leiser, Chair of the Brown's Creek Watershed District, called the session to order.
34 Present were Mr. Leiser, Karen Kill, Rick Vanzwol, Connie Taillon, Gerald Johnson and
35 Gail Pundsack, all representing the Brown's Creek Watershed District; Ron Nelson and
36 Melissa Lewis of the Middle St. Croix Water Management Organization; Bruce Weree,
37 Stillwater.
38

1 Karen Kill, BCWD Administrator and Melissa Lewis, Middle St. Croix WMO, reviewed
2 the drainage flow patterns of the subwatersheds of Long Lake and McKusick Lake. Mr.
3 Leiser reviewed the history of the Brown's Creek Watershed District and the initial
4 charge to the watershed district – flooding in the Goggins, School Section lakes; flooding
5 in the Kismet Basin; and Stillwater's AUAR. Mr. Leiser briefly spoke of the diversion
6 structure at Long Lake and the issue of the level of the lake. He noted that watershed
7 districts' concerns are solely with the quality and quantity of the water. Watershed
8 districts cannot do anything related to land use management issues, he said. He stated the
9 Long Lake issue is related to both quantity and quality, both at Long Lake and McKusick
10 Lake, which receives water from Long Lake. Mr. Leiser said it is Brown's Creek
11 Watershed District's goal to open clear lines of communication between the three parties
12 – the Watershed District, the Middle St. Croix Water Management Organization, which
13 oversees McKusick Lake, and the City.

14
15 Karen Kill reviewed the Watershed District's plan for Long Lake, which includes the
16 goal of reducing the phosphorus level coming from the subwatersheds by 35 percent. The
17 first area of emphasis is the Marketplace ponds, she said; the next area of emphasis will
18 be the area south of Highway 36. She stated the Watershed District has applied for grants
19 for expansion of a rain garden program and another grant for the Long Lake plan. Mr.
20 Leiser pointed out that Long Lake has been identified by the MPCA as an "impaired
21 water body," one that does not meet federal standards for water purity. Long Lake was
22 identified as impaired due to four factors, Mr. Leiser said, high phosphorus, low oxygen,
23 turbidity, and limited biota (koi). One of the long-range goals, he said, will be to find
24 ways to eliminate/remove the koi from the lake, which aid and abet the presence of high
25 phosphorus and contribute to the turbidity of the lake. Councilmember Harycki asked if
26 there was a plan in place for dealing with the koi. It was noted that the Watershed
27 District's first priority is dealing with the external loading to the lake; once those issues
28 are addressed, internal loading issues will be addressed as funding may become available.
29 There was some discussion about the possibility of drawing down the lake.
30 Councilmember Harycki asked about street sweeping as a way of reducing the
31 phosphorus inflow to the lake; Public Works Director Sanders responded that when
32 sweeping is done, the area around Lily Lake is generally done first, followed by the area
33 around McKusick. Mr. Sanders said each street in town is swept at least twice each year.
34 Councilmember Harycki asked about holding ponds that are part of new developments
35 and whether there are standards for such ponds; Ms. Kill explained the standards for such
36 ponds and the process for monitoring ponds so that the standards are met. There was
37 discussion of the cost per pound of removing phosphorus from the inflow through
38 holding pond improvements, rain gardens and other methods. Councilmember Polehna
39 asked about efforts to educate the public about phosphorus reduction; Mr. Leiser stated
40 Browns Creek, Valley Branch Watershed District, Middle St. Croix, the City of Stillwater
41 and others are cooperating in a three-year project to hire an educator who is putting
42 together plans to promote efforts such as rain gardens.

43
44 Ms. Kill reviewed the monitoring program for Long Lake, Lily Lake and McKusick Lake.
45 Lakes are monitored every two weeks for phosphorus, nitrogen and chlorophyll A. There
46 also is a program for monitoring some inlet stream sites where data is collected every 15

1 minutes, March to November. She also spoke about several monitoring stations which
2 measure temperature, amount of flow and flow-rated samples. Councilmember Polehna
3 asked that monitoring of water elevations be continued.
4

5 Mr. Leiser stated that the Watershed District has set aside \$25,000 in its 2007 budget to
6 contribute to the development of a McKusick Lake management plan, noting that the
7 Watershed District hopes the City will match or exceed that amount. City Engineer
8 Sanders said the City has budgeted \$40,000 for a management proposal. The City has
9 accepted a proposal from Wenck to prepare a study/plan focusing on McKusick and Lily
10 lakes for a total of \$49,000. Ms. Kill noted that the Brown's Creek Watershed District
11 does not have a hydrologic connection to Lily Lake and thus would not be able to
12 financially support the development or implementation of the Lily Lake portion.
13 Councilmember Harycki noted a management plan, which listed several recommended
14 action items, for McKusick was put together in 1999; he wondered whether it would be
15 worth revisiting that plan before spending funds on another study/plan. Mr. Sanders
16 responded that Wenck could be asked to look at the previous study in conjunction with its
17 study. There was discussion of the choice of Wenck as the consulting firm; a
18 representative of the McKusick Homeowners' Association questioned the rationale of not
19 using the same consulting firm that had prepared the Long Lake study. A representative
20 of Wenck spoke to the issue. Mr. Leiser stated that the Watershed District would have no
21 problem with contributing to the study, but if the City wanted an opinion regarding the
22 selected consultant that would have to come from the Watershed District Board, which
23 has not reviewed the issue. Ms. Kill suggested that Brown's Creek would request that its
24 staff be a part of the technical advisory committee for the McKusick study. Mr. Sanders
25 responded that all the affected stakeholders would be included in the process.
26

27 There was discussion about the Watershed District's role in enforcing rules/ordinances.
28 Mr. Leiser explained the statutory language relating to Watershed District
29 enforcement/administration authority.
30

31 It was consensus that such workshops be conducted twice a year to discuss plans and
32 progress made to date. It was agreed to schedule a joint meeting sometime in May.
33

34 ADJOURNMENT

35 Motion by Councilmember Milbrandt, seconded by Councilmember Harycki, to adjourn at 5:58
36 p.m. Brown's Creek Watershed District Board concurred to adjourn. All in favor.
37

38
39 Minutes taken by
40 Karen Kill, BCWD Administrator
41