



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 and City of Stillwater, May 1, 2007.**

3
4 **Stillwater City Hall, 216 N 4th Street, Stillwater MN**

APPROVED

5
6 **ROLL CALL**

7 BCWD Board Present: Craig Leiser, President
8 Gail Pundsack, Vice-President
9 Gerald Johnson, Secretary
10 Connie Taillon, Treasurer
11 Rick Vanzwol

12
13 Stillwater Council Present: Mayor Harycki
14 Councilmember Gag
15 Councilmember Milbrandt
16 Councilmember Polehna
17 Councilmember Nyberg

18
19 Staff present: BCWD Administrator Kill
20 Stillwater City Administrator Hansen
21 Stillwater City Attorney Magnuson
22 Stillwater Public Works Director Sanders
23 Stillwater City Clerk Ward
24 Joe Bischoff, Wenck

25
26 City of Stillwater Workshop with Browns Creek Watershed District

27
28 Watershed District Manager Leiser called the regular meeting of the Watershed District
29 to order at 4:37pm. Roll call was taken; all Board members were present.

30
31 **Manager Vanzwol, seconded by Manager Johnson, moved to approve the agenda as**
32 **presented. Vote 5/0.**

33
34 Introductions – All present introduced themselves.

35
36 Joe Bischoff, Wenck Associates, provided an update on the lake management study,
37 focusing on McKusick Lake. The presentation highlighted the ecology of shallow-water
38 lakes, such as McKusick, and the established lake standards for aquatic life and
39 recreational uses. He pointed out that the new view of shallow lake management is that
40 the biology of the system must be considered, as well as the nutrients, in managing for a

1 clear water state. He noted that in Minnesota, lakes are managed for all uses; however,
2 some uses may have differing management goals in the amount of nutrients. The
3 presentation reviewed the physical data, including depth, phosphorus levels, chlorophyll
4 levels. Mr. Bischoff noted that McKusick Lake is not far off from the MPCA shallow
5 lake standards and would argue that McKusick Lake is in the clearwater state. The
6 presentation also reviewed the drainage pattern of the McKusick watershed. Mr.
7 Bischoff said watershed water quality modeling and ecological assessment is being
8 completed at this time. He provided a timetable for completion of the study, and noted
9 that the stakeholders/education process is beginning in the near future. Mayor Harycki
10 asked Mr. Bischoff for his long-range vision for McKusick. Mr. Bischoff responded that
11 his vision would be a lake that cannot support motorized activity, and has a healthy and
12 diverse plant community with vegetation shore-to-shore that out competes the
13 filamentous algae, and has healthy fish and zooplankton populations. There was a
14 question about the length of time required to control the current situation of filamentous
15 algae growth. Mr. Bischoff said the first step is to get the nutrient budget load to a
16 certain level; he said there are methods that can enable the system to be shifted rather
17 quickly, such as lake drawdown. Mayor Harycki asked about the value of continued
18 algae harvesting. Mr. Bischoff said the harvesting is treating the symptom rather than the
19 cause, and he would expect additional algae bloom after harvesting. Mr. Bischoff stated
20 that by removing the filamentous algae, it could lead to a bloom of toxic blue-green algae.
21 Public Works Director Sanders told those in attendance that the first meeting of the
22 stakeholders group was scheduled for May 9 from 4 to 6 p.m.; he said stakeholder
23 meetings would be scheduled over the course of the next four or five months.

24
25 Karen Kill, Brown's Creek Watershed District Administrator, provided an update on the
26 Watershed District's Long Lake management plan and capital improvements. She noted
27 the District will begin working on improvements to two ponds in the next few weeks.
28 She briefly spoke of several residential cost-share projects the Watershed District has
29 approved, including a shoreline restoration project and "blue-thumb" projects; she said
30 there is funding for about 10 projects and the District will be prioritizing the projects to
31 receive funding. Mr. Leiser pointed out there is no quick fix for the lake, and he
32 suggested that a decision has to be made on the desired end use of the lake. If the desired
33 use is deep-water boating, Mr. Leiser noted that except for a very small portion, the lake
34 won't sustain that use.

35
36 Mr. Leiser discussed the Watershed District's third generation plan, which took about 18
37 months to prepare, and which reviewed and revised the Watershed rules. He said the plan
38 and rules have been accepted by BWSR on behalf of the State. He asked that the City
39 receive and incorporate the rules and plan as part of the City's Comprehensive Plan and
40 local water management plan. Mr. Leiser noted the City includes portions of three
41 watershed districts – Middle St. Croix, Carnelian-Marine and Brown's Creek and
42 suggested that it would be beneficial to all if the four entities were working off the same
43 page – the same set of rules and ordinances. Councilmember Polehna asked how the
44 Watershed District publicizes the rules, so the public is aware of the new regulations. Mr.
45 Leiser explained the District utilizes a citizen advisory committee and also held several
46 public awareness meetings.

1
2 Mayor Harycki asked about the dredging of the south end of Long Lake. Mr. Bischoff
3 noted that for the right reasons dredging can be done and be effective, but water quality is
4 typically not one of the reasons for undertaking a dredging project. Mr. Leiser said
5 dredging is mentioned in the Long Lake management plan, as well as the possibility of a
6 lake drawdown, which he said is a better option than dredging. Further analysis would
7 need to be completed to determine whether dredging or a drawdown would be
8 economically feasible. Councilmember Polehna asked how the Watershed prioritizes its
9 projects. Mr. Leiser explained that the prioritizing is done based on community impact,
10 technical cost effectiveness, as well as an evaluation of what additional tax cost taxpayers
11 might accept to accomplish specific projects. Mr. Leiser pointed out that the Watershed's
12 10-year plan includes a list of every potential project, which is then evaluated and
13 reviewed for priority yearly. Mayor Harycki asked if there would be a regular schedule
14 of maintenance of the stormwater ponds in the Long Lake watershed. Ms. Kill explained
15 the new regulations related to storm water management and requirements for maintaining
16 such ponds. Councilmember Milbrandt suggested that a drawdown doesn't seem like a
17 real costly undertaking; Ms. Kill explained that the requirement for environmental impact
18 studies would be a costly aspect of such a project. Councilmember Polehna asked if the
19 Watershed had held any informational meetings/workshops with the homeowner
20 associations around Long Lake to explain projects and priorities. Mr. Leiser noted that
21 public meetings had been held in relation to the "blue-thumb" projects and in relation to
22 the plan preparation; he said the Watershed would be willing to participate in joint
23 informational meetings with the City and in fact would prefer joint sponsorship of such
24 meetings.
25

26 Mr. Leiser discussed the Watershed District's position regarding 72nd Street/Legacy on
27 Long Lake/Jackson Wildlife Management Area proposals. He said the Watershed
28 District has some concerns about runoff from a paved 72nd Street as it goes between Long
29 Lake and Jackson WMA and in the Legacy development where it runs downhill with a
30 potential to add substantial runoff to the lake. He said the Watershed District would be
31 holding the developer to high standards regarding treatment of potential runoff/sediment.
32 Councilmember Milbrandt asked about the Watershed District's position regarding a
33 paved walking trail along the lake in the Jackson Wildlife Management property; Ms.
34 Kill said she and City staff had reviewed plans and there appears to be adequate buffer
35 between the trail and wetlands as proposed, and there appears to be room for further
36 discussion regarding that possibility. Mr. Leiser spoke of the possibility of using a more
37 pervious material for any new trails on the periphery of Long Lake.
38

39 Mr. Leiser brought up the Watershed's position that it would not make any change in
40 managing the level of Long Lake for at least three years. However, he said because the
41 past three years have been so dry, the District has no way to evaluate what happens to
42 Long Lake in a high-water condition. If the District were to be asked at this point whether
43 it would be advisable to raise the level, he said the District would have to respond that
44 would not be advisable until better data is available regarding a high-water condition.
45 Councilmember Polehna said he had no problem with the height of the weir, but was
46 concerned with the "v" in the weir, to which he had heard from a resident that a District

1 engineer has attributed the water level problems. Mr. Leiser explained that the “v” was
2 an economic solution made by the City of Stillwater engineer to the cost of manually
3 adjusting the weir level on a continual basis. There was discussion about the possibility
4 of plugging the “v.” Dave Magnuson, City Attorney, stated that the v-notch provided the
5 maximum flooding protection for the Croixwood neighborhood.
6

7 Mayor Harycki suggested it would be good to invite the Middle St. Croix Watershed
8 people to be in attendance at the next joint meeting with the Watershed District. It was
9 agreed to have Administrator Hansen and Ms. Kill communicate to determine the date for
10 the next joint meeting, a date after there is more definition to the McKusick Lake plan.
11 Mr. Leiser volunteered to work with the City to put together an informational seminar
12 with Long Lake homeowner associations.
13

14 **Manager Vanzwol, seconded by Manager Johnson, moved to adjourn its regular**
15 **meeting at 6:00 p.m. Vote 5/0.**
16

17
18 Respectfully Submitted by,
19 Karen Kill
20 BCWD Administrator