



BROWN'S  
CREEK  
WATERSHED  
DISTRICT

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**Minutes of the Joint Brown's Creek Watershed District and Stillwater City Council  
Workshop October 6, 2009**

**Stillwater City Hall, 216 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Stillwater, MN 55082**

**APPROVED**

**ROLL CALL**

BCWD Board Present: Rick Vanzwol, Acting-President  
Connie Taillon, Treasurer  
Gerald Johnson, Secretary  
Gail Pundsack, Vice-President

*BCWD Board Absent: Craig Leiser, President*

Stillwater Council Present: Mayor Harycki  
Councilmember Polehna  
Councilmember Gag  
Councilmember Roush

*Stillwater Council Absent: Councilmember Cook*

Middle St. Croix WMO: Dave Beaudet

Staff present: Karen Kill, BCWD Administrator  
Amy Carolan, MSCWMO Administrator  
Larry Hansen, Stillwater City Administrator  
Dave Magnuson, Stillwater City Attorney  
Shawn Sanders, Stillwater Public Works Director  
Erik Anderson, Washington Conservation District

Others Present: Bruce Were, Stillwater/MSCWMO Resident  
Diane and Curt Giessler, Stillwater/BCWD Residents

1 **1. Call Special Meeting to order @ 4:30 PM**

2 Acting-President Vanzwol called the Special Joint Workshop to order at 4:30 PM.

3  
4 **2. Approve Agenda**

5 **Manager Johnson, seconded by Manager Pundsack, approved the agenda as**  
6 **presented. Motion carried, Vote 4/0.**  
7

8 **3. Water Monitoring Data – Erik Anderson, Washington Conservation District**

9 Mr. Anderson reviewed the 2008 water sampling data. He explained sampling methods  
10 and noted that samples are analyzed for Total Phosphorus, chlorophyll A and  
11 transparency.  
12

13 Mr. Anderson noted the trend indicates Long Lake is improving in transparency, while  
14 Lily Lake has shown no long-term trend but has been improving since 2006, and  
15 McKusick Lake has shown an overall improving trend. On a question by Mayor Harycki,  
16 Mr. Anderson said there are many factors that impact the trends, such as rainfall,  
17 temperature fluctuations, water levels, and changes in the lake community. Mr. Anderson  
18 said data indicates that Long Lake is improving for total phosphorus content but is still at  
19 the MPCA impairment level. Lily Lake also has shown fluctuations in total phosphorus  
20 but has been improving since 2006, and McKusick would indicate no trend but is  
21 improving over the long-term. Mayor Harycki pointed out that while Lily Lake has been  
22 improving since 2006, it is still not back to the transparency levels of 2002-04; he also  
23 pointed out that McKusick was in better shape in 2000-01 than it is now. Mr. Anderson  
24 agreed that while the lakes are not back to previous levels, they are hopefully improving  
25 to get back to that point of cleaner water.  
26

27 Regarding the algae, chlorophyll A, component, Mr. Anderson said trends indicate Long  
28 Lake is improving, while Lily Lake is getting worse and McKusick Lake is fluctuating  
29 but has been increasing since 2006. He stated that taking in account the three  
30 components, the lakes, based on the Metropolitan Council's grading system, would rate  
31 about a C grade for the last several years. Based on long-term analysis, the results would  
32 indicate no trend for Lily Lake as results have fluctuated so often, with McKusick and  
33 Long Lake both showing improvement trends for transparency and TP results.  
34

35 Mr. Anderson reviewed 2008 sample results at the Brown's Creek diversion structure. He  
36 said samples are tested for Total Suspended Solids, Total Phosphorus and e-coli and  
37 heavy metal analyses. He spoke of the samples that were above the MPCA impairment  
38 thresholds for total suspended solids and the higher e-coli test results. He also spoke to  
39 the results for heavy metals testing. Also highlighted were results of 2009 grab samples  
40 taken from Long Lake to the diversion structure, as well as the McKusick tributary at the  
41 Jaycees ball field. These samples measure Total Suspended Solids, Total Phosphorus  
42 along with a flow measurement, he explained. He said moving downstream from the  
43 Long Lake outlet, generally flows increase, as do the sample concentrations of TP and  
44 TSS, except at the Jackson WMA where there is some settling that takes place of the  
45 nutrients.  
46

1 Mayor Harycki asked if there is enough data yet to determine where the phosphorus that  
2 is getting to McKusick Lake is coming from. Mr. Anderson noted there have been just  
3 five sampling dates, and he suggested that the amount of flowage is an important piece to  
4 be considered as well as Total Phosphorus measurements. Ms. Kill pointed out the intent  
5 is to do a detailed analysis of the data after two more samples have been taken yet this  
6 year. Mr. Anderson spoke to the two samples taken at the Jaycee ball field pond and the  
7 Meadowlark outlet; and that the results indicate the pond is settling out the nutrients.  
8

9 In discussion, Mr. Vanzwol noted that while the thought is that Long Lake flow is  
10 contaminating McKusick, there was no flow from Long Lake or Jackson WMA during  
11 June and July, indicating the contaminants is coming from elsewhere. Mr. Vanzwol  
12 stated Brown's Creek does intend to have their engineers do a full analysis of this data  
13 and said monitoring will be continued next year.  
14

#### 15 **4. Long Lake**

##### 16 **a) Sediment Coring Data**

17 Mr. Vanzwol said he interpreted the data from a report just recently received as  
18 indicating the sediment is safe enough to be disposed of without considering it a  
19 hazardous waste, which means excavating and pumping down would cost on the  
20 order of \$40,000.  
21

22 Ms. Kill said the Watershed budgeted \$30,000, with the understanding that the  
23 City would do the pumping and man the pumps and a private contractor would  
24 remove and dispose of the sediment.  
25

26 Mr. Vanzwol said the Watershed Board has not had a chance to discuss the report.  
27

28 Mayor Harycki suggested that the Watershed contact the City's Public Works  
29 Department to see if there are some areas for assistance. Mr. Vanzwol referred to  
30 a statement in the report that the reason for the removal of the sediment would be  
31 for aesthetic and recreational purposes, not necessarily for the health of the lake.  
32

33 Mayor Harycki said there is some concern among residents at the south end of the  
34 lake that development in the Cub Foods/Target area has created the sediment  
35 deltas; those residents would like to see the lake restored to pre-development  
36 levels. Mr. Vanzwol reiterated that the Board has not had a chance to discuss the  
37 report, but said he felt the homeowners ought to be contributing something as well  
38 the Watershed and City.  
39

40 Mayor Harycki asked if state law had changed regarding approvals for  
41 drawdowns; Mr. Vanzwol responded in the affirmative. There was discussion  
42 about the fact there is no public access to Long Lake and regarding the issue of  
43 spending taxpayer dollars for improvements to benefit homeowners' aesthetic and  
44 recreational opportunities. Mayor Harycki noted the City is trying to establish a  
45 public access; he also suggested there might be ways the City could help reduce  
46 the overall cost of the project.

1  
2           **b) Long Lake Milfoil**

3           Ms. Kill stated the Watershed Board approved a vegetation study at both Long  
4           Lake and the Jackson Wildlife Management Area. That study has been completed  
5           and that the good news is that the Eurasian milfoil is not yet into the Jackson  
6           WMA pond; however, there is limited milfoil in the channel area and by the outlet  
7           structure. She said engineers will be making some management recommendations  
8           and that discussions with the DNR have not been encouraging regarding the  
9           success of removing milfoil once it has become established. She stated that at a  
10          very minimum, the Board has given direction to notify homeowners surrounding  
11          the lake about the presence of milfoil and the danger of spreading the invasive  
12          species. Ms. Kill noted the Board of Managers has not discussed this report or  
13          possible actions; Mr. Vanzwol said at this point, it is a matter of informing the  
14          homeowners.  
15

16           **5.       62<sup>nd</sup> Street/Furgala Culvert -**

17          Ms. Kill stated there is a property owner at the south end of 62<sup>nd</sup> Street where there is an  
18          inlet from the drainage of the Bradshaw/Bergmann/Kern's Center area that experiences  
19          periodic flooding. She said an analysis was done in 2003-04 and looking at models for  
20          100-year storm event indicated the driveway of the impacted property owners would be  
21          flooded for two days. She said at that time there was a 24" culvert and a structure in front  
22          of the culvert; the City did remove the structure, which helped the situation, but the  
23          culvert was not replaced. She said the Watershed is interested in possible cost-sharing  
24          with the City for a new culvert and has budgeted \$7,500 for such a project.  
25

26          Public Works Director Sanders said he had received two quotes earlier this year, ranging  
27          from a low of \$6,300 to \$7,300, plus \$1,500 for road repair. Mr. Sanders said City staff  
28          could probably do the road repair, but looking at the budget for this year, there would be  
29          no funds available so cost-share would have to be limited to the road repair.  
30

31          Mayor Harycki asked if this was something the storm sewer fund could absorb; Mr.  
32          Sanders said there is no money for the rest of the year other than MS4 inspections, which  
33          are required.  
34

35          Mr. Vanzwol proposed that the Watershed District provide the culvert and excavation  
36          and the City do the road repair. He stated that Watershed Board would discuss and  
37          presumably approve the funding for the culvert and excavation at its upcoming meeting  
38          and then direct Ms. Kill to work with Mr. Sanders to get the project done.  
39

40           **6.       Watershed Budget**

41          Ms. Kill provided an overview of the Watershed's preliminary budget and levy for 2010.  
42          She said the overall levy, as proposed, will decrease by 2 percent from 2009; some  
43          programs will be put on a slower track. She said the Watershed will be able to continue  
44          its contribution to the fund for a McKusick project once studies have been completed and  
45          a potential project identified. Mayor Harycki asked about funding for storm sewer  
46          maintenance; Ms. Kill said funding is still available for some potential improvements in

1 the Market Place/Menards area. Ms. Kill noted funding is included for the sediment delta  
2 area, with the understanding that pumping is not included. She stated the Watershed is  
3 also building up funding for specific projects for Brown's Creek itself to get the Creek  
4 back into compliance. Mr. Vanzwol noted that watershed districts are required to have a  
5 citizens' advisory committee; he stated the advisory committee had reviewed the  
6 proposed budget and there were some who spoke against reducing the levy by the 2%.  
7

#### 8 **7. Watershed Tour**

9 Mr. Vanzwol stated the tour had fallen apart for a number of reasons. It was decided to  
10 look at having a tour late next spring or early summer. Ms. Kill noted a best management  
11 practices tour organized through the Washington County Water Consortium was  
12 scheduled for the day after the Council meeting; she highlighted various stops on the  
13 tour.  
14

#### 15 **8. Opportunities For Collaboration**

16 Mayor Harycki asked when analysis of the sampling data might be available so there is a  
17 clearer picture of what might be impacting McKusick. Ms. Kill stated the monitoring data  
18 will become available sometime in January, with analysis of the diversion structure  
19 sampling likely started in late November; she anticipated more data might be available to  
20 share with the City in February/March. It was agreed to tentatively schedule another joint  
21 meeting for February or March. There was discussion of the value of continued studies  
22 and the necessity to make a commitment to a project at some point.  
23

24 Councilmember Polehna asked if there would be any decision regarding the elevation of  
25 Long Lake; Mr. Johnson said he would be more willing to make a decision if there was  
26 public access on Long Lake. A resident of the south end of Long Lake asked about  
27 participation in an excavation/draw down project, saying he thought there would be a lot  
28 of interest in such a project. The resident asked what level of participation the Watershed  
29 might be looking at and a possible mechanism for participation. There was discussion  
30 about the possibility of establishing a special taxing district. Mr. Vanzwol suggested that  
31 the homeowner attend the upcoming Watershed Board of Managers meeting to bring up  
32 the issue.  
33

#### 34 **9. Adjourn**

35 **Manager Johnson, seconded by Manager Taillon, moved to adjourn at 5:50 PM.**  
36 **Motion carried, Vote 4/0.**  
37

38 The City Council meeting was recessed.  
39

40 Respectfully Submitted by  
41 Karen Kill, BCWD Administrator  
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