



**BROWN'S
CREEK
WATERSHED
DISTRICT**

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**Minutes of the Joint Brown's Creek Watershed District and Stillwater City Council
Workshop
January 20, 2009**

Stillwater City Hall, 216 North 4th Street, Stillwater, MN 55082

APPROVED

ROLL CALL

BCWD Board Present: Craig Leiser, President
Rick Vanzwol, Vice-President
Gail Pundsack, Vice-President
Connie Taillon, Treasurer

Absent: Gerald Johnson, Secretary

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

Staff present: BCWD Administrator Kill
BCWD Engineer Pat Conrad
Stillwater City Administrator Hansen
Stillwater City Attorney Magnuson
Stillwater Public Works Director Sanders
Stillwater City Clerk Ward

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

President Leiser called the Special Joint Workshop to order at 4:30 PM.

2. Long Lake

a.) Elevation/Outlet Operation

Mr. Leiser stated the Watershed District would be willing to do some modeling regarding the lake elevation and issues related to the weir at 72nd Street, but stated at this time there is not enough high water data to proceed with such a study. He noted there is plenty of data for low water

1 conditions, but stated the Watershed would like to have another year of
2 data when there is a heavy snowmelt or several large storms for high water
3 data.
4

5 **b.) Water Quality Improvement Efforts**
6

7 Long Lake Draw Down Feasibility Study

8 Mr. Leiser stated the Watershed District is conducting a Long Lake draw
9 down feasibility study. He stated a financial estimate should be available
10 in the near future, and the District is looking at results from two other
11 lakes where draw downs have been done. He said the Watershed is not
12 contemplating doing any dredging at this time. Mayor Harycki and
13 Councilmember Polehna asked about the delta areas at the south end of the
14 lake. Ms. Kill said some limited dredging might be done in that area.
15 Mayor Harycki suggested perhaps the City might be able to offer some
16 assistance with a draw down/dredging. During discussion, Mr. Leiser
17 pointed out that according to state statute, a draw down requires 100
18 percent approval of adjacent property owners, which in the case of Long
19 Lake, is about 60 or 65 property owners. Mr. Leiser said there has been
20 some talk of legislation to change the 100 percent approval requirement.
21 Mayor Harycki moved to direct City staff to draft a letter to the City's
22 state legislators seeking their support for legislation, which would reduce
23 the 100 percent approval requirement for a lake draw down.
24 Councilmember Polehna seconded the motion; motion passed
25 unanimously.
26

27 Herberger's Pond

28 Mr. Leiser and Ms. Kill reviewed several projects to improve the water
29 quality of Long Lake. They stated an experimental engineering solution is
30 being tested at the holding pond by Herberger's where a filter that
31 selectively attracts and removes phosphorus has been installed. They said
32 this is a new technique and the Watershed District is currently working
33 with the manufacturer on this possible solution to high phosphorus levels.
34 In 2009, automated sampling will be done at the pond. Mr. Leiser and Ms.
35 Kill both expressed appreciation for the assistance that has been provided
36 by City staff.
37

38 BMP Program Projects

39 Other water quality projects include Best Management Practices grants for
40 lakeshore restoration or installation of rain gardens. Ms. Kill described a
41 shoreline restoration project completed in 2008. In 2009, Ms. Kill said the
42 Watershed District will be doing shoreline restoration in two City park
43 areas; the two projects total 3,000 feet of shoreline, a total of 105,000
44 square feet. It was noted that the Watershed District has \$50,000 budgeted
45 for matching funds for Best Management Practices. It was noted that each
46 rain garden removes from 0.5 to 5 pounds of phosphorus, which would

1 otherwise enter the lake in runoff. In 2008, there were 20 shoreline
2 restorations or rain garden projects installed, with 23 additional projects
3 approved, according to a Watershed handout. Councilmember Polehna
4 suggested that information about the rain garden program be included in a
5 City newsletter. Mr. Leiser briefly highlighted a summary of lake quality,
6 which indicates Long Lake had a C+ grade in 2008 and which indicates an
7 improving trend for water clarity and average total phosphorus.
8

9 **3. Long Lake/McKusick Lake/Lily Lake Management Plans**

10
11 **a.) McKusick Lake Sediment Core Results**

12 City Engineer Sanders provided copies of an internal phosphorus loading
13 assessment for McKusick Lake prepared by Wenck & Associates. Mr.
14 Sanders noted that it has been determined that the algae growth at
15 McKusick is not due to the sediment in the lake – the phosphorus loading
16 is coming from upstream.
17

18 **b.) Long Lake to Diversion Structure Grab Sample Results**

19 Ms. Kill reviewed the results of the 2008 sampling of the Long Lake-
20 Brown's Creek diversion drainage area. She stated that samples were
21 collected at the Long Lake outlet, the Jackson Wildlife Management Area
22 outlet, the drainage crossing at Boutwell Road and at the diversion
23 structure. She said sampling indicates that total phosphorus levels
24 increases as water goes down the system, noting there is a significant
25 difference between samples collected at the Boutwell site and the
26 diversion structure. She pointed out there are several large wetlands in that
27 area which may be significant contributors. Ms. Kill said the Watershed
28 will consider adding four additional sampling sites in 2009 to try to
29 pinpoint where the large spikes in phosphorus loading are coming from.
30 Mayor Harycki questioned whether four additional sites would be
31 adequate and whether sampling results would be available in a timely
32 fashion. There was discussion about the need to determine the source of
33 the phosphorus pollution before determining a potential solution. The
34 BCWD is aware of the feeling by McKusick Lake property owners that
35 the diversion project is responsible for the current problems at McKusick
36 Lake and will assist in trying to find a viable solution once the specific
37 sources of the phosphorus are identified.
38

39 **c.) TMDL & Implementation Work Plan**

40 Ms. Kill stated the City's three lake management plans will be used to
41 complete the final Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study report,
42 which will make the City/Watershed eligible for state and federal funds.
43 The Washington County Conservation District will serve as applicant.
44

1 **4. Brown’s Creek Biota TMDL**

2
3 Mr. Leiser stated Brown’s Creek has been listed as an impaired water body
4 because of its low biota – not enough creatures to support a fish population. He
5 said the stressor identification indicates high quantities of suspended solids, a high
6 copper concentration and temperature as possible contributing factors. Ms. Kill
7 noted that Stillwater is a MS4-permitted community and its MS4 permit will have
8 to be updated to comply with the TMDL, as will all MS4’s in the watershed. Ms.
9 Kill asked how the Council wished to be informed of the process – at workshop
10 sessions, through staff, or at Council meetings. It was consensus that the
11 workshop sessions are helpful and ought to be held on a more regular basis; it was
12 decided to schedule the next workshop in late April/early May.

13
14 It was noted that the Watershed has received a grant from Trout Unlimited for a
15 stream bank restoration project. Ms. Kill said she has identified a possible site in
16 the Brown’s Creek Park Reserve for the restoration project.

17
18 **5. Stone Arch Bridge**

19
20 Mr. Leiser updated the Council on efforts to repair the Stone Arch Bridge. He
21 noted the bridge is located on private property. He said the property owner is
22 working with a number of funding sources in an effort to refurbish the bridge. He
23 stated the Watershed District has agreed to fund a project which would redirect
24 the stream flow of Brown’s Creek as the current flow is eroding the streambank
25 and the bridge abutment on the east side.

26
27 It was the consensus of the City Council and the Brown’s Creek Watershed District
28 Board that another joint meeting should be held the end of April or beginning of May.

29
30 **6. Adjournment**
31 **Manager Pundsack, seconded by Manager Taillon, moved to adjourn the**
32 **Brown’s Creek Watershed District Board meeting at 5:52 p.m. Vote 4/0.**

33
34 The City Council meeting was recessed until 7 p.m.

35
36 Respectfully Submitted by
37 Karen Kill, BCWD Administrator

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