



**BROWN'S  
CREEK  
WATERSHED  
DISTRICT**

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**Minutes of the Joint Brown's Creek Watershed District and Stillwater City Council  
Workshop July 7, 2009**

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

**Approved**

**ROLL CALL**

BCWD Board Present:                      Craig Leiser, President  
   Rick Vanzwol, Vice-President  
   Connie Taillon, Treasurer  
   Gerald Johnson, Secretary  
   Gail Pundsack, Vice-President-arrived 4:45 PM

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

Staff present:                                BCWD Administrator Kill  
   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. Approve Agenda  
**Manager Johnson, seconded by Manager Vanzwol approved the agenda as presented. Motion carried, Vote 4/0.**

Motion by Councilmember Gag, seconded by Manager Johnson, to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor.

1 **3. Long Lake**

2 **a.) Water Quality Improvement Efforts**

3 President Leiser spoke to the water quality improvements efforts at Long Lake. The  
4 District has looked at two potential projects for control of internal nutrient: flocculation  
5 by adding alum to precipitate out the phosphorus in the lake and a temporary drawdown  
6 of the lake. He stated flocculation has been ruled out as an option for the entire lake  
7 because the shallow waters would mix frequently. He said the District's engineering firm  
8 has completed a detailed analysis of a lake drawdown; the end result of the analysis is  
9 that a drawdown, too, does not seem to be the solution. He stated the pumping would be  
10 very expensive because there are three separate basins to the lake. It was found through  
11 the draw down study that the bottom sediments would not be significantly consolidated  
12 by a draw down. He said the District is still looking into a partial drawdown and removal  
13 of the sediment deltas in the southern lobe. He discussed some issues related to disposal  
14 of sediment. He stated studies indicate that shallow water lakes, like Long Lake, are  
15 detrimentally affected in terms of phosphorous in the bottom sediment being brought  
16 back into the water column by motorboats and propellers and that the Watershed District  
17 is considering asking the Council for a one-year moratorium on the operation of  
18 motorized watercraft on Long Lake to see if that would have an impact on the water  
19 quality of the lake. Councilmember Polehna and Mayor Harycki pointed out that there are  
20 very few boats on the lake now because the water is so shallow. Mayor Harycki asked  
21 about the possibility of removing some of the bottom sediment as well as the delta area in  
22 a partial drawdown of the lake. President Leiser pointed out that due to the depth of the  
23 organic material, which ranges from about 1' to nearly 30', that option doesn't appear to  
24 be a technically or financially viable solution. President Leiser stated Rotenone treatment  
25 to remove the rough fish and restocking of the lake with more preferable fish species is  
26 still a possibility; however, he pointed out that would have to be done at Watershed  
27 District expense as there is no public access to the lake, so the DNR will not participate in  
28 that venture. Mr. Polehna asked if consideration had been given to utilizing a "mudcat" to  
29 remove the sediment; President Leiser said the District could look into that possibility.

30  
31 Shoreline restoration - Ms. Kill spoke to shoreline restoration efforts. Ms. Kill stated the  
32 District had received a grant for restoration efforts in City parkland along the east side of  
33 Long Lake. She explained the City, as the landowner, will actually receive the grant  
34 money, but noted the Watershed District will be doing the work and has approved the 25  
35 percent match required for the grant. She said the hope is to begin work this summer with  
36 treatment to remove the exotic species on the site, with planting to begin in the spring of  
37 2011.

38  
39 Herberger's Pond – President Leiser spoke to the improvements at the Herberger's Pond.  
40 He noted the hope had been that an experimental device would remove phosphorus from  
41 the outflow water and result in a 25-50 pound per year phosphorus removal. Ms. Kill  
42 said the City was able to back flush the device filter and one of the more recent rain  
43 events indicated clean water was coming out of the device. The District is looking at  
44 ways to reduce the algae to keep from clogging the treatment device.  
45

1 BMP program – President Leiser said the BMP (Best Management Practices) being  
2 referred to are rain gardens, shoreline restorations and native plantings. He said a large  
3 number of rain gardens are being installed or will be installed in the Liberty and Legends  
4 development, both of which drain directly to Long Lake. He said the District is  
5 continuing to fund and is open to applications from residents who are interested in having  
6 a rain garden on their property, and the District will fund both the design and cost-share  
7 for the construction of the rain gardens. On a question by Mayor Harycki, President  
8 Leiser stated there has been a reduction in the phosphorus levels at Long Lake and the  
9 turbidity of the lake has decreased; what the District has been doing is working.

10  
11 Councilmember Polehna asked about the weir and whether the District is still looking at  
12 the lake elevation. President Leiser said in the drawdown studies, it was found that there  
13 is some groundwater contribution to the lake, some springs within the lake. President  
14 Leiser also pointed out that the District has said it would like three years of evaluation  
15 regarding the management of the lake elevation and that the District would like at least  
16 one year of heavy rain events to ensure that whatever is done doesn't have to be reversed.

17  
18 Ms. Kill said the presence of Eurasian milfoil has been discovered at Long Lake. She said  
19 the information has been sent to the DNR for verification.

#### 20 21 **4. Long Lake/McKusick Lake/Lily Lake management plan**

##### 22 **a.) 2009 Long Lake to Diversion Structure Grab Sample Results to date**

23 Ms. Kill reviewed the grab sample information of total phosphorous (pounds per day)  
24 taken of the Brown's Creek diversion drainage. She said sampling indicates a relatively  
25 low phosphorous concentration in water coming out of Long Lake, with an increase in  
26 the phosphorous seen between the Jackson Wildlife Management Area and Boutwell  
27 Road and again between Boutwell and the south Brown's Creek tributary branch. She  
28 said there is not a great deal added between that sample site and the diversion structure,  
29 and not a huge addition between the two sampling points on the western branch. She  
30 noted this is limited data due to the dry weather conditions. In addition to total  
31 phosphorous, measurements are being taken for total suspended solids, along with flow  
32 measurements. President Leiser said the data would indicate the high phosphorous count  
33 at McKusick is not coming from Long Lake or the Jackson Wildlife Management Area; it  
34 is coming from between County Road 12 and the diversion structure. In discussion, it was  
35 noted there are considerable wetlands in the area and a long history of agricultural  
36 activity in the area in question. Bruce Werre, McKusick Lake Water Association, asked  
37 about sampling at the City's old dump site; President Leiser responded that area is in the  
38 Middle St. Croix Water Management Organization, not the Brown's Creek District. Mr.  
39 Werre suggested that without that sampling, the picture as to the problems at McKusick  
40 is incomplete. Mr. Werre also suggested treatment of the water at the diversion structure.  
41 President Leiser suggested that in future joint meetings, the Middle St. Croix WMO be  
42 invited to participate.

##### 43 44 **b.) TMDL & Implementation Plan**

45 Ms. Kill stated a TMDL workplan for Long/McKusick and Lily lakes has been  
46 submitted to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

1 **5. Brown's Creek**

2 Ms. Kill stated the draft of the TMDL plan for Brown's Creek has been submitted for  
3 comment to all stakeholders and will be submitted to the MPCA later this summer.  
4 President Leiser said the District is working with the DNR and Trout Unlimited on  
5 Brown's Creek restoration efforts.  
6

7 **6. Jackson Wildlife Management Area**

8 President Leiser noted the state would like to relinquish management of the area, and the  
9 Brown's Creek Watershed District has sent a letter of interest in managing the area as a  
10 continuing wildlife area and the intent would be to keep the area in as natural a state as  
11 possible. He said the District would welcome the cooperation of the City in managing the  
12 area.  
13

14 **7. Other areas of collaboration**

15 President Leiser said in future meetings it would be appropriate to invite the Middle St.  
16 Croix WMO to participate. Councilmember Gag asked about the 2010 budget and what  
17 major projects are planned. President Leiser stated the District is concerned about the  
18 economic conditions and does not want to add to the tax burden; he briefly spoke to  
19 several projects of interest to the District. It was noted there remains a considerable  
20 budget for Long Lake improvements. In discussion, it was suggested a fall tour of the  
21 sampling sites and diversion area might be a good idea. President Leiser provided an  
22 update on the Stone Bridge restoration. It was decided to schedule the next joint meeting  
23 for October 6, with perhaps a tour prior to the meeting.  
24

25 **8. Adjourn**

26 **Manager Vanzwol, seconded by Manager Johnson, moved to adjourn at 6:00 PM.**  
27 **Motion carried, Vote 5/0.**  
28

29 The City Council meeting was recessed.  
30

31 Respectfully Submitted by  
32 Karen Kill, BCWD Administrator  
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