



**Minutes of the Joint Brown's Creek Watershed District and Stillwater City Council
Workshop
November 1, 2011**

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

APPROVED

ROLL CALL

BCWD Board Present:

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

Absent:

Gail Pundsack, Vice-President

Stillwater Council Present:

Mayor Harycki
Councilmember Polehna (and MSCWMO Board)
Councilmember Gag
Councilmember Cook
Councilmember Roush

Others Present:

Karen Kill - BCWD Admin
Amy Carolan - MSCWMO Admin
Camilla Correll – BCWD Engineer
Larry Hansen, Stillwater City Administrator
Dave Magnuson, Stillwater City Attorney
Shawn Sanders – Stillwater City Engineer
Nancy Manos, Stillwater Admin Secretary

- 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**
President Leiser noted changes to the printed agenda table item 3 until the arrival of the presenter, delete item 5a “standardized rules for water quality requirements in Stillwater,” and add item 6 public comments. Mayor Harycki and Councilmember Roush suggested that a time for public comment be added to all future agendas.

Motion by Manager Johnson, seconded by Manager Vanzwol, to approve the amended agenda. All in favor.

3. 2011-2012 Water Quality Improvement Projects

Middle St Croix WMO

Amy Carolan, Middle St Croix WMO, provided updates on projects done in implementing the Lily Lake and McKusick Lake subwatershed assessments. She stated the WMO received a \$43,000 grant from the Board of Soil and Water Resources to begin improvements in two catchments in the Lily Lake subwatershed. She reported that open houses were held in an effort to recruit property owners willing to install some type of stormwater treatment feature in the right-of-way adjacent to their property to capture runoff from the street. She added that there was a good response from the open houses and the WMO was able to select the best locations for the installation of a treatment feature, in this case focusing on rain gardens. She indicated that 17 locations were selected. Installation of the rain gardens is under way and should be completed by the end of November 2011.

Ms. Carolan explained that the same type of project was started in the McKusick Lake subwatershed with a \$20,000 grant; rain gardens were installed at 6 locations. She stated that the WMO partnered with the City of Stillwater in the McKusick subwatershed project, having some of the work done in conjunction with the City street reconstruction project. She noted the WMO also received a \$70,000 grant from the St Croix River Association to partner with the City on the street project, noting that the WMO helped fund some of the bumpouts with stormwater treatments features on Wilkins Street.

Ms. Carolan stated the WMO plans to continue similar efforts in 2012 with more catchments identified in both subwatersheds for potential projects. She pointed out that the WMO has applied for an \$82,000 grant from the Board of Soil and Water Resources. She added that the WMO would continue working with the City on the 2012 street project utilizing the money from the St Croix River Association. Ms. Carolan also stated that the WMO also will begin work on its 2014 ten-year plan. She suggested that management of the aquatic plant community in McKusick Lake will be looked at as part of the plan update.

Brown's Creek Watershed District

Karen Kill, Brown's Creek Watershed District administrator, reviewed the Watershed District 2011-2012 projects with a photo presentation highlighting the projects at Stillwater Country Club, a buffer restoration project along the east side of Long Lake, and improvements to two culverts Brown's Creek flows through on the way to the St. Croix. She reported that the Watershed District was successful in obtaining a \$210,000 Clean Water Legacy Grant to do extensive buffering along Brown's Creek through Oak Glen Golf Course, which will result in the lowering of the summer maximum water temperature of the stream by about 6 degrees. She indicated that the District has applied for another Clean Water Legacy grant for installation of an iron-enhanced sand filter in Settler Glen 5th Addition in 2012 and that it is modeled that this feature will result in a

118 pound per year reduction in phosphorus, which achieves about 80% of the goal for the Lake McKusick diversion area. She continued that the Brown's Creek TMDL implementation plan identifies \$2.9 million in projects to reduce sediment and thermal loads to Brown's Creek. She noted a lot of these projects are adjacent to the Zephyr line, which is being purchased for the state trail and might provide opportunities for the installation of some of the projects as the trail is developed.

President Leiser pointed out the Watershed District had planned on doing these sediment reduction projects incrementally over a number of years. However, since the DNR will be working on removing rails and ties, it would seem an ideal time to bring in heavy mechanical equipment in conjunction with the DNR work to correct ravine erosion problems. President Leiser added that, in a worst case scenario, the work would result in a \$129,000 increase in the District proposed tax levy, equaling a 25% increase in the levy. However, he informed them that Washington County has expressed a willingness to loan the District the money so it wouldn't have to increase its tax levy all at one time. It is also unclear at this time how much work the DNR might be willing to do as part of its trail development. Another unknown, he explained, is the DNR timetable and whether there might be grant opportunities for work in 2013.

City of Stillwater

Public Works Director Sanders provided an update on work done in conjunction with the City street project. He reviewed two areas where infiltration treatment projects were done: Wilkins Street where bumpouts with rain gardens were installed and two ponds at the Oak Glen golf course. He described that 8 rain gardens were installed on Wilkins between 4th and Owens streets and that those projects enabled the City to exceed the Middle St Croix WMO requirements for infiltration. He noted that over the next 20 years the City must do treatment on 177 acres of impervious areas. He added that the City has achieved half of that goal with work done during its street projects in the past 4 or 5 years.

4. Brown's Creek TMDL Implementation Plan

Camilla Correll, Brown's Creek Watershed District Engineer, provided an update on the TMDL process and plan. She pointed out that Brown's Creek was listed as impaired due to a lack of cold water fish assemblage. The TMDL stressor identification study identified stressors as high suspended solids, high temperature loads to the Creek, and high copper concentrations. She suggested stormwater runoff has been identified as the primary source of the suspended solids. Sources of heat are from warm stormwater runoff and lack of riparian cover or buffer. She reviewed the allowable levels of suspended solids and permitted load allocations, existing load levels, and load reduction goals. She described the areas east of Highway 15 and north of the diversion structure are the primary contributing areas and areas of focus for both suspended solid and heat load reduction. The purpose of the implementation plan is to identify activities that will address the primary stressors and provide guidance on meeting waste load and load allocations. She reviewed some of the existing practices and projects that will address stressors and count toward meeting the load reductions, proposed projects, and implementation activities. It was noted that the plan only achieves 25% of the sediment

load reduction. It was expressed that a trend analysis will be done every 5 years to determine the effectiveness of the practices and what projects still need to be completed. Ms. Correll reviewed next steps for adoption of the plan.

5. Other Opportunities for Collaboration:

President Leiser explained that a group of agencies has been formed to look at ways to make water management in Minnesota more efficient and more effective. He described four operational recommendations that have come out of the group. President Leiser spoke of the recent examples of successful collaboration between the Watershed District, the WMO, and the City.

Armory Update

Mayor Harycki informed the panel that this proposal is still in the very early stages. Councilmember Roush noted there are wetlands on the proposed site and those will be preserved. President Leiser requested that the Watershed be kept abreast of plans in a timely fashion.

Other

Councilmember Polehna inquired if anything is being done to address unregulated agricultural practices that contribute to infiltration problems to the St Croix and President Leiser responded there are a lot of conflicting priorities and economics involved.

6. Public Comment

Bruce Werre thanked the Watershed District, WMO, and City for their work, noting he has one of the rain gardens in his yard. He indicated that he had a presentation planned regarding emerging vegetation on Lake McKusick and he is hoping a plan can be developed for a diverse plant community.

7. Adjournment

Manager Vanzwol, seconded by Manager Taillon, moved to adjourn the Brown's Creek Watershed District Board meeting at 5:50 p.m. Vote 4/0.

Respectfully Submitted by
Karen Kill, BCWD Administrator