



DRAFT

Capitol Region Watershed District

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Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday February 10, 2010 – 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

David Arbeit, Bill Barton, Janna Caywood, Jim Cotner, Steve Duerre, Karen Eckman, Jerry Kafka, Paul Kammueler, Michael MacDonald, Ole Olmanson, Shirley A. Reider, Jerry Wagner

Members absent with notice:

Ted McCaslin, Michelle Ulrich

Others Present:

CRWD Manager Mike Thienes
Mark Doneux, CRWD Staff
Dawn Nelson, CRWD Staff
Elizabeth Beckman, CRWD Staff

Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Shirley Reider opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with a request for announcements. Ms. Reider introduced new members Janna Caywood from the Como area and Karen Eckman, Supervisor, Ramsey Conservation District. Ms. Reider announced that Bruce Holdhusen has resigned from the CAC.

Public Comment – For items not on the Agenda.

Jerry Wagner spoke about former CRWD staff, Katie Huser's Wetland Assessment Report that was given in November 2009 saying he hopes staff will continue Katie's valuable work, and even enhance its usefulness by including a few well-known Vertebrate Indicator Species – e.g. chorus frogs, toads, minnows, etc. to the Taxa to better understand water quality through better water balance.

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Reider asked for additions or changes to the Agenda. Shirley Reider added a presentation provided by Bill Barton about the Mississippi Lock and Dam if time permits. Mark Doneux added discussion about a resolution to honor Bill Downing's participation with the CAC.

CAC 10-02-01 Motion: *To approve the CAC February 10, 2010 agenda as amended.*

Duerre/Wagner

Unanimously approved

Approval of the January 13, 2010 CAC Minutes

Ms. Reider asked for additions or changes to the *January 13, 2010 CAC Minutes*. There were no additions or changes to the CAC Minutes.

CAC 10-02-02 Motion: *To approve the CAC January 13, 2010 CAC Minutes as provided.*

Duerre/Barton

Unanimously approved

Items for Review and Comment Requested by the Board of Managers

Watershed Management Plan – Response to Comments

Administrator Doneux said at the September 22nd 2009 special Board meeting the Managers authorized the start of the formal review process and distribution of the draft 2010 Watershed Management Plan to the required review agencies, CAC, TAC, and the Community Group. The Managers reviewed draft response to comments at a special meeting on January 14, 2010 and directed staff to make changes to the responses as discussed at the meeting. Administrator Doneux noted that per MN statute the District needed to respond to all comments no later January 23, 2010. The Managers held the required public hearing at the February 3rd

Board meeting. Administrator Doneux reviewed the draft 2010 WMP 60 day review response to comment table noting that there were a total of 160 comments including those from the CAC December meeting. Administrator Doneux said there will be a 45 day review period, then the Plan will be submitted to BWSR for approval and then the Board will adopt the Plan. Discussion occurred.

Discussion

By-Law Revisions

Shirley Reider noted that at the January 13th CAC meeting, the Co-Chairs recommended reviewing the By-Laws and directed staff to amend the current By-Laws and provide a final copy to the Committee. Co-Chairs Shirley Reider, Paul Kammueler and staff communicated via email discussing possible revisions. Ms. Shirley explained that the revisions to be discussed that are being added are underlined and items that are being removed are lined out. Discussion occurred. Administrator Doneux said staff recommendation is that the committee sends the CAC By-Laws as amended to the Board of Managers for review and comment.

CAC 10-02-03 Motion: Adopt proposed changes to the CAC By-Laws as discussed and present to the Board of Managers for review and comment

Arbeit/Barton

Unanimous

Staff and Program Updates

Education and Outreach Plan – Implementation Update

Ms. Beckman provided an education and outreach plan – implementation update. Ms. Beckman said in March 2009 the Board of Managers and staff completed an Education and Outreach plan to guide CRWD outreach efforts. The Board prioritized a watershed citizen evaluation as the initial step to implement the plan. Ms. Beckman said in April 2009 CRWD contracted with Amherst H. Wilder Foundation's Wilder Research to conduct an evaluation of watershed residents that ultimately included 443 completed telephone surveys and a focus group. The resulting Study of resident attitudes and behaviors related to water quality sheds light on residents' water quality attitudes and behaviors, and informs education and outreach planning for 2010 and beyond. Ms. Beckman said the study results show that 92% of respondents either "agree" or "strongly agree" that preserving the quality of local lakes and streams is one of the "most important issues" facing our region. Similarly, 91% report they are "very concerned" or "somewhat concerned" about water quality. And significantly, since a sense of efficacy is a strong predictor of behavior, 87% percent of District respondents report they believe their actions can make a difference in local water quality. Ms. Beckman said in conjunction with a media campaign or as a stand-alone project, CRWD staff will work with the board and other community partners to determine a geographic focus area and carry out a downspout redirection campaign. The program focus will be educational information about CRWD's preferred behavior of directing gutter downspouts onto pervious areas, and in some instances carrying out work tasks associated with this practice. A canvassing squad program model is suggested by staff for its ease of implementation: an advance informational alert goes out to the geographic focus area via mail or through District planning councils, a canvassing team visits each individual home with information about water quality, volume control, and the work tasks involved in downspout redirection, qualified technicians offer a suite of services including providing information only, technical advice, a project supply list and directions, or a coupon for free or reduced cost supplies. Ms. Beckman added that an additional option would be for technicians to carry out the tasks for a fee or at no cost. Ms. Beckman said in response to the importance placed on the use of communication, media, public relations, or advertising in the CRWD Education and Outreach Plan, staff distributed a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to communications firms in early January 2010. The RFQ included a two-part request for assistance developing a comprehensive communications strategy that articulates the District's preferred water quality protection behaviors, and a plan for maximizing participation in the District's 2010 downspout redirection program. The successful firm will be qualified to 1.) help refine our communication goals, segment audiences, match messages and tactics to those audiences, and measure

the effectiveness of our effort, and 2.) use these tools to increase participation in our neighborhood downspout redirection campaign. Ms. Beckman said after reviewing ten submissions, CRWD staff and the Board of Managers Education subcommittee selected three firms for interviews, which took place earlier this afternoon. The Board of Managers will approve the final selection at their February 17, 2010 Board meeting. Ms. Beckman noted to volunteer opportunities for the CAC. District 5 is having an event on April 17th and District 9 is having an event on June 19th. Shirley Reider asked Ms. Beckman to email the members with the details so they could check their calendars prior to volunteering. The committee thanked Elizabeth for her the update.

Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Update

Administrator Doneux said the District has received final plans for Central Corridor Light Rail. Staff have not received a formal permit application. Administrator Doneux reported that the state dollars for water quality projects were approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources. Capitol Region Watershed District was awarded a \$665,000 grant. Administrator Doneux added that it was the largest grant awarded.

Board of Managers and CAC Observer Update

Manager Thienes reviewed recent Board actions including; the Board had a special meeting January 14th to review and discuss draft responses to comments for the Watershed Management Plan. The Board heard a special report on the 2009 permit program from Forrest Kelley. Staff was authorized to advertise and hire the 2010 seasonal monitoring staff. The Board accepted the engineers report for the Trout Brook system repairs, approved the contract with the U of M for an Erosion Control Training and the 2010 Ramsey Conservation District service agreement. The February 3rd Board meeting was the public hearing for the Watershed Management Plan. The Board accepted the Stormwater BMP Performance Assessment and Cost Benefit Analysis, approved the contract amendment for the P-8 Modeling with EOR, Inc. and approved a Stewardship Grant for the Public Art of St. Paul.

Discussion - New & Old Issues

Administrator Doneux read a draft resolution written by staff to recognize and thank Bill Downing for his efforts with the CRWD. Administrator Doneux noted that he spoke to Tom Petersen from the Ramsey Conservation District who provided history about Bill that he was able to include in the resolution.

Accepted by consensus

Bill Barton reminded the committee that at the January meeting he had expressed his concerns about the invasive carp and possibly recommending the closing of the locks and dam in the twin cities. Mr. Barton provided a presentation on the research he had gathered on locks and Dam and the damage the carp are causing. Mr. Barton asked that the committee make a recommendation to the Board to ask the Army Corp of Engineers to evaluate the liability of operating the locks. David Arbeit asked how this involves the Districts mission. Paul Kammueler said due to the time he recommends the conversation be continued at the next meeting.

March 10, 2010 Agenda Overview

Adjourn – 9:15

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Nelson