



APPROVED March 11, 2009

# Capitol Region Watershed District

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## Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting February 11, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.

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### CAC Members Present:

David Arbeit, William Barton, Steven Duerre,  
Paul Kammueler, Ole Olmanson, Shirley Reider,  
Bruce Holdhusen, Bill Downing, Jerome Wagner  
(arrived at 8:10 PM)

**Members absent with notice:** Michael  
MacDonald, Judith Monson, Michelle Ulrich,  
Brandon Wiarda (*absent until spring 09'*)

### Others Present:

CRWD Manager Mike Thienes  
Mark Doneux, CRWD Staff  
Greg Brick, Presenter

### 1. Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

David Arbeit opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m. with a request for announcements. There were no announcements.

### 2. Public Comment – For items not on the Agenda.

Bruce Holdhusen commented that he felt the CRWD should prepare a monitoring plan. He said the monitoring plan should include the goals, purpose, sampling plan and monitoring locations. Manager Thienes stated that this information is available in various documents such as the 2009 CRWD Work Plan and annual Monitoring Report. Administrator Doneux also noted that the District has a Monitoring Procedures Manual that is updated annually. Staff will take this suggestion under advisement.

Bill Barton said there was an article in the Minneapolis Tribune about road salt and its affects on water resources. He also stated the article discussed training city crews take to reduce road salt use.

### 3. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Arbeit asked for additions or changes to the agenda. There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

**CAC 09-02-01 Motion:** *To approve the CAC February 11, 2009 agenda as presented.*

Reider/Duerre

Unanimously approved

### 4. Approval of the January 14, 2009 CAC Minutes

Mr. Arbeit asked for additions or changes to the January 14, 2009 CAC Minutes. Mr. Arbeit asked to change “implies” to “applies” on page 3 under Rules discussion. There were no other changes to the January 14, 2009 Minutes.

**CAC 09-02-02 Motion:** *To approve the January 14, 2009 CAC Minutes as amended.*

Reider/Duerre

Unanimously approved

### 5. Review and Comment Requested by Board of Managers

No public comments.

## 6. Discussion

### **Historic Waters of the Capitol Region Watershed District, Greg Brick**

Administrator Doneux reminded the Committee that a work item included in the 2010 Watershed Management Plan (WMP) work plan was to document historic water resources of the District. EOR, Inc. has retained the services of Greg Brick to document the historic resources of CRWD. Mr. Brick has worked on historic water resources of the Twin Cities for several years and was able to compile a good amount of previous work for our use.

Mr. Brick reviewed and discussed the work that has been completed relative to the historic water resources of the District. Mr. Brick said he has been tracking information about Capitol Region Watershed District springs for many years. Mr. Brick said he has an advanced degree in Geology and he taught Environmental Geology at Normandale. Mr. Brick said Carver's Cave is a spring cut cave in the St. Peter Sandstone, formed by the eroding away of sand grains by flowing water, a process called piping. Mr. Brick said Carver's Cave has undergone repeated episodes of naturally sealing itself with debris from the cliffs above and then it is open again by individuals. The Cave had sealed itself again and was relocated and dug open in 1977 by the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department. As an official Bicentennial project. Afterwards it was sealed with steel doors to restrict access. Mr. Brick said another historical cave is Fountain Cave which still exists but is inaccessible because the highway department sealed it during the construction of Sheppard Road in 1960. Fountain Cave is more than 1,000 feet long with four rooms. Mr. Brick said springs in CRWD tend to be found along spring lines at discrete elevations, depending on the bedrock contacts, where there are perched water tables. The springs are organized by spring-line, starting with the stratigraphically most elevated one. The most coherent spring-line in St. Paul is that marking the contact of the glacial drift with the underlying Decorah Shale, along the edges of the Decorah Shale highlands. This is called the third type of spring which is defined as springs at contact of unconsolidated material with solid rock. Water seeps down through porous material until meeting an impervious layer and is then shed laterally to the river gorge. Mr. Brick said he found an ornate lamppost in 1993 with water gushing from their bases, which were swathed with filamentous green algae, suggesting an on-going, rather than merely temporary situation which was the Grand Avenue Springs. Mr. Brick said most springs he has found flow approximately one gallon a minute. Mr. Brick described Sunny Slope Lane spring where he encountered a rivulet flowing in the street and he traced it back to a private residence. Mr. Brick said it looked as if a garden hose had been left running in the front yard. After contacting the owner Mr. Brick had learned that there was a trapdoor in the basement that could be lifted to view the spring. Mr. Brick said the largest spring in St. Paul is the Fish Hatcheries which flows 400 gallons per minute. Mr. Brick said he walked the length of Trout Brook in the 1980's.

The Committee thanked Mr. Brick for his presentation.

Jerome Wagner interjected at the end of Mr. Brick's presentation that he wanted a second opinion on the Loeb Lake study. Mr. Wagner asserted that he felt the study was wrong in that Loeb Lake should be classified as a Groundwater Lake and not a Recharge Lake. Mr. Wagner stated he wanted to make a motion to have a second review of the Loeb Lake plan conducted, specifically looking at the groundwater affecting the lake. A lengthy discussion followed. Administrator Doneux reminded the Committee that the draft Loeb Lake plan was presented to the CAC in November of 2008 and this issue did not come up at that time. Mr. Holdhusen stated in the interest of moving forward he would offer a motion to clarify Mr. Wagner's concerns.

**CAC 09-02-03 Motion:** *To request the District conduct a second review of the Loeb Lake plan pertaining to the hydrogeology of Loeb Lake.*

Holdhusen/Wagner

Discussion occurred. Shirley Reider stated she was uncertain on how to vote because she did not have adequate information to base her decision. She also stated that this was not an agenda item. Administrator

Doneux stated that the District would not be hiring another consultant to look at this issue. He stated the District could have the section of the report in question reviewed by the Minnesota Geological Survey or another similar organization. The goal would be to have a quick review to confirm the reports findings rather than restudy the entire issue.

Chair Arbeit called for the vote. The motion carried, 7-1-1, seven in favor, one opposed and one abstention.

## **7. Staff and Program Updates**

### **1. Trout Brook Stormsewer Interceptor – Maryland Avenue Repairs**

Administrator Doneux gave a short update on the Trout Brook Stormsewer Interceptor – Maryland Avenue Repair project.

### **2. 2010 Watershed Management Plan Update**

Administrator Doneux said the Issues, Goals and Policies section would be brought before the committee at the March meeting.

## **8. Board of Managers and CAC Observer Update**

Manager Thienes briefly reviewed recent Board actions.

## **9. Discussion - New & Old Issues**

**10. March 11, 2009 Agenda Overview** – Administrator Doneux stated the Issues, Goals and Policies section from the Watershed Management Plan will be on the Agenda for discussion and comment.

Bill Downing wanted to point out to the Committee that the group took a significant portion of the meeting discussing an item that was previously reviewed and discussed by the CAC and was not on the evening's agenda. He further commented that the unplanned discussed forced a rushed overview of the remaining items that were on the agenda following Mr. Brick's presentation.

**11. Adjourn** - Committee agreed to adjourn at 9:11 by consensus.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Doneux

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