



Capitol Region Watershed District

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Approved

Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Thursday, April 14, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

David Arbeit
Steve Duerre
Claudia Hochstein
Rick Sanders
Nicole Soderholm
Michelle Ulrich
Gwen Willems

Others Present:

Bob Fossum, CRWD
Belinda Gardner, CRWD
Elizabeth Hosch, CRWD
Britta Suppes, CRWD
Michael Thienes, CRWD Board
Treasurer
Sarah Wein, CRWD

Members absent:

Bill Barton, w/notice
Pat Cavanaugh, w/notice
Mike MacDonald, w/notice
Kathryn Swanson w/notice
Richard Weil, w/notice

Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Ms. Willems opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with introductions. After introductions Ms. Willems asked for any public comments. There were no public comments. Ms. Willems mentioned that that Ramsey Conservation District has its second monthly forum “Urban Pollinators” on April 21, 2:00-4:00 pm.

III. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Willems asked for any additions or changes to the Agenda. No additions or changes.

CAC 16-010 Motion: *To approve the CAC March 9, 2016 agenda.*

Sanders/Duerre
Unanimously approved

IV. Approval of the March 9, 2016 Minutes

CAC 16-011 Motion: *To approve the March 9, 2016.*

Arbeit/Duerre
Unanimously approved

V. District Initiatives for Review, Comment and Recommendations

A) Regulatory Program Update, Elizabeth Hosch

Ms. Hosch provided an update to the CAC on the 2015 Permit program. She started off with a review about the projects that require a permit from CRWD. What requires a permit? 1 acre of disturbance, in the floodplain, impacting wetlands, connections to Trout Brook Interceptor. Stormwater management is under Rule C. Three main components of that rule include rate control (no increase), water quality (90% TSS removal), volume reduction. Volume reduction in the amount equal to 1.1 inches of runoff from the newly constructed site impervious surface. Volume reduction BMPs include: Infiltration Basins (Surface), Infiltration Trenches (Subsurface), Pervious Pavements, Green Roofs, Cisterns/Water Reuse. Permit actions include: 34 approved, 44 issued, and 33 closed/expired/withdrawn. Ms. Hosch reviewed the ongoing construction projects with photos of each project.

Mr. Arbeit asked for clarification on the definition of a closed permit. Ms. Hosch replied a closed permit is a project that's gone under construction CRWD has inspected it everything is stable on site and they've done all their paperwork. Mr. Arbeit asked for clarification of 1.1 volume reduction standard. Ms. Hosch went over examples of projects in the last year and current activity being constructed as of 2015. Ms. Willems asked about the ballpark and whether or not we are getting feedback about the features. Ms. Hosch stated that there is signage, but we do not know of any feedback. Mr. Arbeit touched on the Wholefoods site and questioned if there is a way for Wholefoods to promote and advertise the benefits. Ms. Hosch stated that there is a reuse component for that site and renters are participating in the reuse program, but not aware of a specific target to the public. Mr. Arbeit recommended that if there is an education opportunity with this type of project to get the public involved.

B) Wetland Report, Sarah Wein

In 2007, CRWD began collecting and analyzing wetland data in order to establish a baseline dataset of District wetland quality. From 2007-2014, CRWD monitored biological (macroinvertebrate and aquatic plants), chemical (nutrients, pH, and conductivity), and physical (dissolved oxygen and temperature) parameters at 20 wetland locations in order to understand baseline wetland conditions and general wetland health using an Index of Biological Integrity (IBI). Understanding wetland integrity is useful for informing management decisions regarding District wetlands. Historical wetland data was reported in the *2007-2008 Wetland Monitoring Report* in 2009, though this report only represented two years of data. Since then, CRWD has continued to monitor at 20 wetlands on a bi-annual basis to build upon the 2007-2008 dataset. In 2015, staff compiled the 2007-2014 wetland data and recalculated all plant and macroinvertebrate Index of Biological Integrity (IBI) scores using revised methods from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Staff also compiled additional water quality and sonde data that has been collected at each wetland from 2007-2014. Cumulatively, this data was assembled into the *2007-2014 Wetland Monitoring Report* to summarize and analyze the relative wetland health of 20 wetlands in CRWD.

Ms. Soderholm asked how CRWD chooses wetlands to monitor. Mr. Fossum stated that CRWD focuses on the major wetlands that are easy to access and also wetlands that are a priority. Ms. Willems asked how CRWD decides which wetlands to monitor in the future. Ms. Wein mentioned that we monitor each one every other year. Mr. Arbeit confirmed that there will be a different method of monitoring. Ms. Wein stated that CRWD is moving toward vegetation and water quality only. Mr. Fossum stated the objective is to come up with a baseline assessment of wetlands. It's a way of balancing efficiency and accuracy. Ms. Wein discussed how they compare wetlands. Mr. Fossum discussed the next step and how we identify wetlands that need to be restored.

VI. CAC Initiates

"Our mission is to protect, manage, and improve the water resources of the Capitol Region Watershed District."

A) 2016 Student Worker Update

No update was available.

B) Election of Officers

Ms. Willems called for nominations. Ms. Ulrich nominated Ms. Willems as co-chair. Ms. Willems accepted. Ms. Willems nominated Mr. Duerre as co-chair. Mr. Duerre accepted. Ms. Willems nominated Ms. Ulrich as Secretary. Ms. Ulrich accepted.

CAC 16-012 Motion: *To appoint Ms. Willems and Mr. Duerre as the co-chairs.*

Sanders/Soderholm
Unanimously approved

CAC 16-013 Motion: *To appoint Ms. Ulrich for Secretary.*

Soderholm/Duerre
Unanimously approved

VII. Project and Program Updates

A) Snelling Midway Redevelopment Project

Mr. Fossum discussed that we have been asked by the city to look at a site wide stormwater plan that would deal with stormwater run-off from the stadium site, the Arcade Midway Development and all of the public space within the development. The board approved a contract with SRF Consulting to put together a stormwater management plan. Decisions are being made daily and there will more information at the May CAC meeting. Mr. Arbeit questioned how complaints about the project will affect CRWDs role. Mr. Fossum responded that we have been invited by the City of St. Paul into the planning. Mr. Arbeit clarified are there community issues that we might not be aware of. Mr. Fossum said he heard the same concerns and that we have stayed away from that to focus on the stormwater piece. Mr. Thienes stated that we are working very closely with the city and the developer and the common goal to get a more centralized approach to stormwater management. We are setting precedent by working with the City. Mr. Fossum stated that this project will set us up for future projects.

B) Annual Report

Mr. Fossum stated CRWD staff emailed the Annual report in the packet. However, the CAC members did not see the annual report in their email. Hochstein was able to open both reports on her end. Mr. Fossum stated that he will ask Ms. VanPatten to resend both links to the CAC members.

C) Targeted Watershed Program

Mr. Fossum stated that the grant program is looking to demonstrate measurable improvement of water quality. The District applied for \$3,000,000 grant from the Clean water. Funds would be used for initiatives in and around Como Lake and Lake McCarrons, CRWD is one of six finalists. The grant would help push a lot of things forward and get the attention of partners. Mr. Arbeit asked about the grant period. The grant is

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a four year period. Mr. Arbeit asked where the funds come from and Mr. Fossum replied that the funds come from the Clean Water Fund. Mr. Thienes stated that they are looking for programs that are project ready.

D) Pierce Butler Route

Mr. Fossum stated that the Hamline Midway Coalition approached the District and are looking for enhancements to the project.

VIII. CAC Observer Update

Mr. Duerre stated that he went to the March 16 meeting and the emphasis was on the soccer stadium. Mr. Thienes stated that the Board held a special workshop on March 30th about the plan to help move things in the right direction. SRF is doing the work and we are partnering with the City who is supporting 50% of the costs. Mr. Thienes added that the board promoted Lindsay VanPatten and Nate Zwonitzer.

IX. Discussion

- A) New & Old Issues
- B) CAC observer for April 20 and May 4, 2016 Board of Managers Meetings
- C) 2016 Meeting Schedule

A) New & Old issues

No discussion

B) CAC Observer for the Board of Managers Meetings April 20, 2016 and May 4, 2016.

Ms. Soderholm volunteered to attend the April 20th Board of Managers Meeting.

C) 2016 Meeting Schedule

Ms. Willems stated that there will be many items to discuss under CAC initiatives.

X. Adjourn

CAC 16-014 Motion: *To adjourn the March 9, 2016 CAC Meeting.*

Sanders/Soderholm
Unanimously approved

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.
Respectfully submitted,
Belinda Gardner

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