



Capitol Region Watershed District

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Draft

Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, April 9, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

Gwen Willems
Bill Barton
Mike MacDonald
Richard Weil
Kathryn Swanson
David Arbeit
Janna Caywood

Others Present:

Mark Doneux, CRWD
Michelle Sylvander, CRWD
Lindsay VanPatten, CRWD
Britta Suppes, CRWD
Bob Fossum, CRWD
Shirley Reider, Board Manager

Members absent:

Ted McCaslin, w/notice
Michelle Ulrich, w/notice
Steve Duerre, w/notice
Pat Byrne, w/notice

Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Mr. Arbeit opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with a request for any announcements.

Ms. Kathryn Swanson announced that she will be moving to New Brighton and will no longer be in the watershed district.

Mr. Mike MacDonald announced that the Como spring cleanup will take place on April 12th with the kick off starting at 8:30am.

Mr. Arbeit addressed work that was done at the Como Lake Golf Course ponds. Administrator Doneux replied that Ramsey County was dredging out sediment from the ponds. This project did not require a permit. Administrator Doneux will send the permit inspector out to review the site.

Mr. Arbeit sent an email to the CAC about the viewing of the movie "Watershed". The viewing will be on Friday April 11th.

The East Side Neighborhood Green info fair will be on Saturday, April 17th.

Ms. Janna Caywood has been invited to speak at the State of the Water's Conference on May 2nd.

Mr. Arbeit noted that he witnessed a foamy substance with a strong odor. Administrator Doneux reminded everyone that if you should see illicit discharge, please contact CRWD. CRWD can send staff out to test the material or notify the proper authorities to investigate the potential problem.

Ms. Lindsay VanPatten shared an event that is being hosted by Minnehaha Watershed District on Saturday, April 12th at Landscape Arboretum. The event is called “The Benefits of Being Shallow”. The presentation is intended for general public and people who live on or near a shallow lake.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Arbeit asked for any additions or changes to the Agenda. Mr. Arbeit noted that Mr. Bob Fossum will be late, he is presenting at the City of Falcon Heights. If needed item V. B. Monitoring Program Review will be moved.

CAC 14-043 Motion: *To approve the CAC April 9, 2014, agenda.*

Swanson/MacDonald

Unanimously approved

Approval of the March 12, 2014 CAC Minutes

Mr. Arbeit requested any changes or corrections to the minutes. A couple of typos were noted for correction.

CAC 13-044 Motion: *To approve the CAC March 12, 2014 CAC Minutes with corrections.*

Weil/Swanson

Unanimously approved

District Initiatives

A) Election of Officers

Mr. Arbeit requested the nomination for two co-chair positions and secretary. According to the by-laws each position is a one year appointment with an election every April.

Willems made the motion to nominate Ulrich as the Secretary. Arbeit made the motion to nominate MacDonald as the Co-Chair. Arbeit made the motion to nominate Willems as the Co-Chair.

CAC 14-045 Motion: *To appoint Ulrich as the, Secretary and to appoint MacDonald and Willems as the Co-Chairs.*

Caywood/MacDonald

Unanimously approved

B) Monitoring Program Review (Fossum)

Mr. Bob Fossum reviewed the Monitoring and Data Collection Program that was established in 2004. In 2013, the District sought to complete a comprehensive review of the program to analyze, and if necessary refocus the goals, approach, methods, and deliverables of the Program. District staff completed a review of the existing program and discussed strengths and weaknesses of it. Ms. Elizabeth Beckman facilitated the discussion to review the existing programs strengths and weaknesses. The goal/objective of the Monitoring Program is for CRWD to identify problem areas, quantify subwatershed runoff pollutant loadings, evaluate effectiveness of BMPs, provide data to calibrate hydrologic, hydraulic, and water quality models, and promote understanding of District water resources and water quality. Ms. Britta Suppes reviewed the

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recommendations from the discussion. The recommendations were focused on the three year time period of 2014—2016.

Recommendation number one is to update the goal/mission statement for the Monitoring Program. The District stated the goal/objective of the monitoring program as: objectives of the program are to identify water quality problem areas, quantify the subwatershed runoff pollutant loadings to the Mississippi River, evaluate the effectiveness of BMPs, and provide data for the calibration of hydrologic, hydraulic, and water quality models. It is recommended that the District adjust the goal/objective of the Monitoring Program as: CRWD monitors waters within the District to identify problem areas, quantify subwatershed runoff pollutant loadings, evaluate effectiveness of BMPs, provide data to calibrate hydrologic, hydraulic, and water quality models, and educate and increase awareness. Educate and increase awareness was added to the objective. Ms. Reider asked why runoff pollutant loadings to the Mississippi River removed? Mr. Fossum replied that, CRWD is monitoring more than just the Mississippi River and the changes to the statement made the mission more broad.

Recommendation number two is to improve staff organization and training.

Recommendation number three, the District should better incorporate monitoring data into the following work of the District. Specifically, better utilizing monitoring data within the following programs should be evaluated:

- a) BMP Performance
- b) Focus CIPs, grants and education
- c) In-lake management decisions
- d) Spatial Analysis
- e) MS4 permit, specifically TMDL compliance/progress

Mr. Fossum addressed intensions of to be more deliberate of linking information to other programs. What do our audiences need to effectively make use of our data?

Recommendation number four is to develop enhanced monitoring partnerships. This was based on the idea that a true partnership needs to mutually benefit all parties. Five specific partners should be prioritized for actively developing or enhancing our monitoring partnerships over the next 3 years. The five priority partners are:

1. University of Minnesota
2. City of St Paul
3. Ramsey County (CD and PW)
4. RWMWD
5. MWMO

The District would continue to actively communicate with several other entities and partner with them as appropriate partnerships present themselves but would not actively attempt to develop/nurture partnerships during the next three year period.

Ms. Suppes reviewed recommendation number 5, to install AC Power and Remote Data Access to baseline six sites. This would improve the monitoring by: temperature control (heating & cooling), year-round monitoring, reduce frequency of site visits, analyze and report data more quickly, and improve data quality.

Recommendation six is to improve methods and efficiency of sample preparation and lab analysis, including:

- a. Submittal requirements and procedures

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- b. Laboratory results reporting
- c. Bottle Cleaning

Recommendation seven is to evaluate and consider discontinuing monitoring at the following locations:

- a. Trenches (T5E, T4W, T4E)
- b. Golf Course Pond Inlet and Outlet
- c. AHUG Outlet
- d. Como 3 Subwatershed
- e. Level Loggers—do we need this many deployed? What is data being used for?

Recommendation eight is to evaluate and consider discontinuing analysis of the following chemical parameters:

- a. Nitrogen
- b. Metals with non-detects (Ni, Cr)

Recommendation nine is to adjust sampling frequency at baseline sites:

- a. Fewer baseflow samples (1x per month vs 2x per month)
- b. Focus sampling towards larger storm events only

Recommendation ten is to expand Lakes Monitoring to include additional biological data

- a. Biological data
 - i. Fisheries
 - ii. Macrophytes
 - iii. Phyto/Zooplankton
- b. Temperature
- c. Ice cover/Ice out
- d. Sediment

Recommendation eleven is to evaluate and consider discontinuing Qualitative Lakes Data Collection. Consider utilizing volunteers to accomplish this work. Ms. Caywood suggested members of the CAC help with this work.

Recommendation twelve is to develop a comprehensive monitoring database that could more effectively manage the large data sets of the District.

Recommendation thirteen is to complete a comprehensive evaluation of and implement improvements to the District's reporting methods. The evaluation should focus on improvements to: format, frequency, analysis types, generation of figures & tables, data cleaning.

Recommendation fourteen is to consider expanding analysis to other stormwater parameters. Historically, the District has focused on more typical stormwater parameters such as phosphorus and total suspended solids. The District should consider expanding its analysis of other stormwater parameters, including:

- a. Bacteria/microbial source tracking
- b. Chloride
- c. Trash
- d. PAHS

Recommendation fifteen is to consider monitoring and/or analysis of previously unmonitored subwatersheds. This effort should focus on:

- a. Subwatersheds with land uses/source areas different than previously monitored locations
- b. Utilize modeling to simulate loading

Recommendation sixteen is to consider expanded stand-alone sub-watershed reports that would contain a more comprehensive look at the subwatershed. This could include reports for the Como Lake and/or Trout Brook Subwatersheds.

Recommendation seventeen is to consider additional BMP monitoring, such as:

- a. Research based BMP monitoring
- b. "Microsite" monitoring (roofs, parking lots, green space, construction sites, private BMPs)
- c. Climate change adaption monitoring

CAC 13-046 Motion: *Recommend that the Board of Managers approve the suggested recommendations to the Monitoring Program.*

Willems/Caywood
Unanimously approved

C) Curtiss Pond Improvement Project (Fossum)

Administrator Doneux reviewed the Curtiss Field Pond Improvement Project in place of Mr. Fossum. The pond is located in Falcon Heights and regularly floods during moderate rainfalls. This limits the use of the park, park infrastructure and presents a safety concern for the City. In 2011, the City requested the assistance of CRWD in determining the causes of the problems and identifying possible solutions to mitigate the flooding. In 2012, CRWD completed the Curtiss Pond Improvement Project Feasibility Study. The study recommended a project to increase the stormwater storage and infiltration area within the park. During 2013 and early 2014 the District has been completing final design of the project.

Administrator Doneux reviewed the newest design that will lower the level of the pond by two feet before anticipated rainfall. An Opti RTC (real time control) system will optimize the design for underground storage tanks to infiltrate stormwater. The OptiRTC is programmed to weather reports. Pond water will be pumped into the underground storage tanks prior to a storm which will lower the level of the pond. Stormwater would be able to drain into the pond and prevent flooding. CRWD will operate the system. Educational informational signage will be added to the site. The City of Falcon Heights is currently in the planning process for the park area. The city plans to remove the current basketball court. The hockey rink will be paved and serve as the basketball court in the summer months. The City of Falcon Heights will be reviewing the project and schedule. Work would not begin until after the MN State Fair due to heavy traffic. The project is going out to bid next week. This project was budgeted in 2013 but postponed because of the street reconstruction project.

Mr. Arbeit thanked Administrator Donuex for the presentation and felt it is a wonderful project with a great set of solutions.

CAC 13-047 Motion: *Recommend that the Board of Managers approve the Curtiss Pond Improvement Project.*

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Willems/MacDonald
Unanimously approved

CAC Initiatives

A) Discuss the Development of CAC Orientation Packet

Ms. Willems reviewed the development of the CAC Orientation Packet. The orientation packet committee consists of: Michelle Ulrich, Steve Duerre, and Gwen Willems. The rough draft was reviewed. A new map will be placed in the packet with better resolution. Ms. Willems requested that members write a short three sentence bio to be included in the packet. The draft will be presented to the Board of Managers. The Committee will accept comments from the CAC and bring back the next draft of the packet. There was much discussion about the proper way spell out CAC, should it be Citizen's or Citizen. The sub committee will meet on April 30th for further discussion of the orientation packet.

B) Discuss basic elements of fall 2014 "Event"

This topic will be postponed till the next meeting.

Project and Program Updates

A) 2014 Rule Revisions (Doneux)

This topic will be postponed till the next meeting.

CAC Observer Update

No update was given.

Discussion –

A)New & Old Issues

There was no discussion.

B)Identify CAC Observer for April 16th Board of Managers Meeting and the May 7th, 2014 Board of Managers Meeting

No members were identified.

C)May 14th CAC Agenda Overview

Adjourn –

CAC 14-048 Motion: *To adjourn.*

Arbeit/Willems

Unanimously approved

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Sylvander

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