



APPROVED May 11, 2011

# Capitol Region Watershed District

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Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday April 13, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

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## CAC Members Present:

Steve Duerre, Shirley Reider,  
Mike Trojan, Michelle Ulrich,  
Jerome Wagner, Gwen  
Willems, Ted McCaslin

## Others Present:

CRWD Manager Joe Collins  
Mark Doneux, CRWD Staff

## Members absent with notice:

David Arbeit, Bill Barton,  
Janna Caywood, Michael  
MacDonald

## Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Shirley Reider opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. with a request for announcements.

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

There were no public comments.

## Approval of Agenda

Ms. Reider asked for additions or changes to the Agenda. There were no additions or changes to the Agenda.

## CAC 11-04-01 Motion: *To approve the CAC April 13, 2011 agenda as provided.*

Duerre/Ulrich

Unanimously approved

## Approval of the March 9, 2011 CAC Minutes

Ms. Reider asked for additions or changes to the March 9, 2011 CAC Minutes. Michelle Ulrich asked to include her name as one of the attendees for the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## CAC 11-04-02 Motion: *To approve the CAC March 9, 2011 CAC Minutes as amended.*

Duerre/Jerome Wagner

Unanimously approved

## Items for Review and Comment Requested by the Board of Managers

### Highland Ravine Update

Administrator Doneux gave some background and an update on the Highland Ravine Study. Since 2007, CRWD has received two reports about flooding to private properties down gradient of Highland Ravine; these properties are located on the western side of Lexington Parkway. To address flooding issues in the southern ravine (identified in our report as Catchment #1) in 2007, the City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Department deepened and stabilized the down gradient end of the ravine and built a berm on its northeastern edge to contain flows within it. The City also modified the adjacent grassy boulevard to be slightly depressed so ravine runoff could be conveyed to the City's storm sewer system. Last summer,

Ramsey County and CRWD were contacted by residents of Deer Park Condominiums about severe flooding and sedimentation issues on their property. A site visit was conducted and it was determined that best management practices (such as raingardens) on Deer Park property would not resolve their issues completely or over the long term.

Mr. Doneux continued to say that because of these phone calls over the past four years, CRWD decided to conduct a small feasibility study, which is directly aligned with CRWD's interests for protecting local water resources. The goal of the study was to understand the water-related issues within the study area, including ravine erosion and sedimentation and downstream flooding and sedimentation and poor water quality, the causes of these problems and the potential solutions for addressing them. CRWD contracted with EOR, Inc. to prepare the Highland Ravine Study.

Since CRWD has released the draft report, CRWD has received a number of questions and concerns, with a handful related to any financial obligations to the landowners. CRWD wants to be clear up front that we will not be assessing homeowners for the recommendations that will be presented later in the meeting. The goals of the study were to investigate the problems and determine potential solutions for addressing them. Our intent with the study was not to assign responsibility for causing the problems or responsibility for financing and implementing the solutions. The sole purpose of the study was to objectively analyze the problems and determine the solutions. The CAC discussed the project with Administrator Doneux and Manager Collins.

## **2005-2010 Water Monitoring Data Summary**

Administrator Doneux started out the discussion by stating that since 2005, CRWD has collected water quality data from four major subwatersheds within the district. The four major subwatersheds (East Kittsondale, Phalen Creek, Saint Anthony Park, and Trout Brook) represent 42% of the total watershed area. With six complete years of monitoring data (2005-2010), long-term water quality trends have emerged from these four subwatersheds. Additionally, annual pollutant loading data is robust enough so it can be extrapolated to represent the unmonitored regions of CRWD in order to estimate total watershed export.

The two primary water quality parameters of concern to CRWD are total suspended solids (TSS) and total phosphorus (TP). Since 2005, CRWD monitoring efforts have aimed to better understand the total export of these pollutants from the watershed. Through the monitoring program, six years of water quality data from 2005 to 2010 have been collected and analyzed.

The purpose of this report is to summarize the average export of total TSS and TP from CRWD using the 2005-2010 water quality data collected from the four major subwatersheds. Summarizing this data will assist in identifying which subwatersheds are the largest pollutant contributors. Secondly, the summarized data will be extrapolated to represent total average pollutant export from CRWD. The extrapolated values will then be compared to actual physical quantities (e.g., number of dump trucks of sand) to better characterize and quantify CRWD's total pollutant contribution to the Mississippi River.

Analysis found that Trout Brook exports the lowest average TSS yield (16.52 lb/ac/in) and the second lowest average TP yield (0.038 lb/ac/in). Comparatively, East Kittsondale subwatershed has the highest average yields of both TSS (42.73 lb/ac/in) and TP (0.078 lb/ac/yr). Of the four major subwatersheds, East Kittsondale exports 40% of the average annual TP load and 41% of the average annual TSS load.

Next, the data for average pollutant loads (pounds) from 2005-2010 was extrapolated to represent total annual watershed export for TSS and TP. Results show that CRWD annually discharges an average of 8,188,348 lb TSS and 16,557 lb TP. For TSS, this is equivalent to 8.2 million lb per year or 210 dump trucks

of sand. For TP, the estimated annual load is equivalent to over 8 tons of TP per year or 4421 bags of lawn fertilizer. This amount of lawn fertilizer is capable of growing 8.3 million pounds of algae per year or 818 dumps trucks of algae. Table 1 from the handout in the packet outlines the data extrapolation for estimated annual loading from CRWD to the Mississippi River.

The CAC thanked Mr. Doneux for the update and discussion.

## **Discussion**

### **Special Board Meeting, April 18<sup>th</sup>**

Administrator Doneux reviewed with the CAC the purpose and key discussion items for the upcoming Special Board meeting for April 18th with the City of Saint Paul. Mr. Doneux stated that the 2010 Subwatershed Studies, the current volume bank and the City's policy Green Streets were of primary interest.

## **Staff and Program Updates**

### **2011 CAC Elections**

Ms. Reider announced that it was election time. The committee will elect 2 co-chairs and a secretary. Ms. Reider explained that she has been a co-chair for quite some time and it was a great experience. Ms. Reider explained that the Secretary serves as a second set of eyes to review the minutes prior to being mailed. Ms. Reider said anyone is welcome to volunteer to be an officer. Ms. Reider agreed to remain a co-chair. Michelle Ulrich agreed to continue as Secretary.

**CAC 11-04-03 Motion:** Shirley Reider and Ted McCaslin were re-elected as co-chairs.

Ulrich/Duerre  
Unanimously Approved

**CAC 11-04-04 Motion:** Michelle Ulrich was re-elected as Secretary.

Duerre/McCaslin  
Unanimously Approved

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

Manager Collins reviewed recent Board actions.

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

Administrator Doneux led a discussion of the draft "banners" being prepared to supplement the existing table top display. CAC members commented and made numerous helpful and insightful suggestions to the display banners. Overall the CAC felt they were a good idea and well done.

## **May 11, 2011 Agenda Overview**

**Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm by consensus.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Doneux