



Capitol Region Watershed District

1410 Energy Park Drive, Suite 4 • Saint Paul, MN 55108
T: (651) 644-8888 • F: (651) 644-8894 • capitolregionwd.org

Approved September 9,
2015

Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, August 12, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

David Arbeit
Steve Duerre
Mike MacDonald
Rick Sanders
Kathryn Swanson
Gwen Willems

Others Present:

Mark Doneux, CRWD
Michelle Sylvander, CRWD
Lindsay VanPatten, CRWD
Joe Collins, CRWD President

Members absent:

Bill Barton
Ted McCaslin
Nicole Soderholm, w/notice
Michelle Ulrich, w/notice
Richard Weil

Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Mr. MacDonald opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Mr. MacDonald requested any announcements. Administrator Doneux announced that Pat Byrne has given his resignation. Pat Byrne served as one of the original Board Managers for CRWD. Administrator Doneux will write a letter to Mr. Byrne thanking him for his years of service with CRWD.

CAC 15-026 Motion: *Accept the resignation of CAC Member Pat Byrne.*

Duerre/Willems
Unanimously approved

Public Comments

Mr. MacDonald requested any public comments. No public comments were made.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. MacDonald asked for any additions or changes to the Agenda. No additions or changes were made.

CAC 15-027 Motion: *To approve the CAC August 12, 2015, agenda.*

Arbeit/Sanders
Unanimously approved

Approval of the June 10, 2015 CAC Minutes

No changes or corrections were noted.

CAC 15-028 Motion: *To approve the June 10, 2015 CAC Minutes.*

Willems/Duerre
Unanimously approved

Approval of the July 15, 2015 CAC Tour Summary

No changes or corrections were noted.

CAC 15-029 Motion: *To approve the July 15, 2015 CAC Tour Summary.*

Duerre/Swanson
Unanimously approved

District Initiatives

A) CRWD 2016 Budget and Levy

Administrator Doneux reviewed that the Board of Managers met on July 27th for a workshop to review and discuss the first draft of the Preliminary 2016 CRWD Budget and Levy. Administrator Doneux reviewed the timeline schedule for the budget process. Administrator Doneux reviewed recurring projects and proposed projects in the budget. The entire budget reflects a 25% levy increase.

President Collins noted that CRWD owns and maintains the Trout Brook Interceptor. When money is spent on lakes such as Como, or McCarrons, the project benefits the public and City partners. President Collins also added that the projects help Cities by improving property values. Administrator Doneux added that many of the projects CRWD does, would not be done or a City to implement. Administrator Doneux reviewed funds budgeted for the maintenance of completed projects such as Highland Ravine. More planning work is anticipated for the former Ford site.

Lafayette Park Campus Project is in the 2016 preliminary budget and includes stormwater treatment with pavers, tree trenches, and raingardens. Pollution Control Agency (PCA) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are tenants of the Lafayette Park and want a facility that can be an example. PCA added a lease amendment that the property owner will cooperate in stormwater management. Mr. Arbeit shared concerns that CRWD is spending money where the property owner would already be spending their own money. Staff is applying for a Clean Water Legacy grant of \$400,000. CRWD has begun feasibility studies to implement green infrastructure practices. Administrator Doneux noted that CRWD will look to the property owners to help with funding. CRWD is interested in this project to treat such a large area.

Administrator Doneux noted that revenues are down. In the last few years CRWD has had MN DOT and State funding for capital projects that are not coming in this year. Mr. Arbeit expressed concerns of the historical increases and if the impact of proposed projects were being taken into consideration when added to the budget. After much discussion the members of the CAC did not have suggestions for cutting the budget but agreed they wanted to see a revised budget with only 15% increase and a 5% increase. Administrator Doneux will make some revisions to reflect a 15% and 5% increase. A preliminary levy will be proposed at

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

the September 2, 2015 Board Meeting. Mr. MacDonald asked to review the revisions prior to the September 2, 2015 Board Meeting.

CAC 15-030 Motion: *CAC recommends developing option for a revised draft budget reflecting a 15% and revised budget showing a 5% levy increase.*

Arbeit/Willems

Unanimously approved

B) Master Water Stewards

Administrator Doneux reviewed that CRWD will assist Freshwater Society in developing meaningful volunteer opportunities for Stewards and recruit a minimum of eight candidates for the 2016 program year at a cost of \$2,500 per Steward. Freshwater Society will organize the classes, hire instructors, assist with recruitment of potential Stewards, track and report Stewards' activities and provide ongoing continuing education opportunities. The program would have a monthly commitment with weekly trainings for twelve weeks. Due to limited meeting time additional discussion will take place at the September 9, 2015 CAC meeting. Ms. VanPatten will send out additional information to the CAC.

CAC Initiatives

A) Student Worker Program

Ms. VanPatten reviewed that at the May CAC meeting, the committee discussed project ideas and decided to have a student worker for the fall 2015 semester. A student worker subcommittee was formed of Ms. Swanson, Ms. Willems and Ms. Soderholm. Ms. Swanson will be going to the campus to help provide more information for potential students interested in the program.

B) 2015 Awards Program

Mr. MacDonald reviewed that the Awards Committee and staff have worked on a new project award category description for review and approval. Mr. Arbeit stated the committee has drafted a timeline. Ms. VanPatten asked for two volunteers to help serve on the Awards Program Committee. Mr. MacDonald recommend the discussion for volunteers be tabled till the September CAC meeting.

CAC 15-031 Motion: *Approve the 2015 CRWD Watershed Steward Awards program guidelines and categories.*

Arbiet/Sanders

Unanimously approved

C) Fall Freshwater Society Moos Family Lecture Series update

Administrator Doneux gave the CAC an update Moos Family Lecture Series. Bill Stowe, the CEO and General Manager of the Des Moines Water Works (DMWW) has been scheduled to speak. Earlier this year DMWW filed a Clean Water Act complaint against three "upstream" counties that manage agricultural drainage districts discharging high nitrate concentrations into the Raccoon River. These actions have captured national attention with questions over responsibility for agricultural water pollution and the costs of clean water. The date has been set for Tuesday, November 3, 2015. Ms. Willems asked if the CAC will

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

have a table at the event. Administrator Doneux will confirm that the CAC will be able to have an information table.

Project and Program Updates

A) 2015 CRWD Events

Ms. VanPatten asked if anyone is interested in helping at the Eco-Action booth at the State Fair. Volunteers will receive a free ticket to the State Fair.

CAC Observer Update

No updates were given.

Discussion –

A) New & Old Issues

Mr. Arbeit noted that in the last couple of weeks the City has been dumping gravel. The gravel sits for several days before the streets are oiled. Mr. Arbeit is concerned about the gravel going down into the storm drains.

B) Identify CAC Observer for the August 19th and September 2nd Board of Managers Meetings.

No one was identified.

C) 2015 Meeting Schedule

September meeting: Master Stewards, Student Worker, 2016 Budget, Awards program

Adjourn –

CAC 15-032 Motion: *To adjourn the August 12, 2015 CAC Meeting.*

Duerre/MacDonald
Unanimously approved

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Sylvander