



Capitol Region Watershed District

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Approved January 14, 2015

Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, December 10th, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

David Arbeit
Bill Barton
Mike MacDonald
Ted McCaslin
Rick Sanders
Kathryn Swanson
Michelle Ulrich
Gwen Willems

Members absent:

Pat Byrne, w/notice
Richard Weil, w/notice
Steve Duerre

Others Present:

Mark Doneux, CRWD
Michelle Sylvander, CRWD
Mike Thienes, Board Manager
Mae Davenport, University of Minnesota
Vanessa Perry, University of Minnesota
Nicole Soderholm, guest of Gwen Willems
Mike Rausch, Midway Resident

Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Mr. Mike MacDonald opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m with introductions.

Mr. MacDonald requested any announcements. There were no announcements.

Public Comments

Mr. Mike Rausch, a resident from the Midway area, shared his interest in having rain gardens installed in his neighborhood. Mr. Rausch requested additional information on obtaining a grant to have raingardens built in his neighborhood. Administrator Doneux explained that the most expensive part of a rain garden project is the curb cut. CRWD tries to work with the City of St. Paul at the planning phase when reconstructing streets and sidewalks to help keep the disruption and cost of the rain gardens down.

Approval of Agenda

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

CAC 14-083 Motion: *To approve the CAC December 10, 2014, agenda.*

Arbeit/Barton
Unanimously approved

Approval of the November 12, 2014 CAC Minutes

Mr. MacDonald requested any changes or corrections to the minutes. Corrections were noted regarding members that were marked absent without notice.

CAC 14-084 Motion: *To approve the CAC November 12, 2014 CAC Minutes with changes.*

Willems/Arbeit
Unanimously approved

District Initiatives

- A) Community Capacity Assessment, University of Minnesota (Mae Davenport and Vanessa Perry)

Ms. Davenport reviewed that in the fall of 2013, CRWD began a partnership with Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District and Mississippi Watershed Management Organization to study individual actions and behaviors as well as public decision making within the framework of a community's actual ability and power – its capacity – to engage in clean water behaviors. This joint watershed Community Capacity Study has been led by Professor Mae Davenport of University of Minnesota Department of Forestry.

Ms. Perry reviewed that the study has included interviews, focus groups and a mail survey. Twenty interviews with business and community leaders along the Green Line and on Saint Paul's East Side have been completed. Ms. Perry provided a presentation summary of interview results and preliminary analysis of behavior drivers and constraints, values and beliefs, and perceptions of clean water programs.

Forthcoming deliverables are three focus groups, a mail survey, a one-year progress report in early 2015 and a final technical report in late 2015 outlining recommendations for tailoring CRWD's education, communication and outreach programming.

No Action was requested.

- B) Highland Ravine Stabilization Project Update (Eleria)

Ms. Eleria reviewed that in 2007 issues in the Highland Ravine area were first addressed to Capitol Region Watershed. In 2010 CRWD commenced its work in the area with a feasibility study that determined the extent and causes of erosion in the ravine and flooding to downstream properties. The feasibility study also identified strategies to address these water-related issues, which included rock grade control structures, side slope stabilization measures, and a stormwater pond. In early 2012, CRWD received a State Clean Water Fund (CWF) Grant of \$150,000 to design and construct ravine stabilization measures in specific two areas of Highland Ravine. In late 2012, CRWD hired Wenck Associates to design and engineer the ravine stabilization project and provide construction engineering services. The Board awarded the construction project in May 2014 to Sunram Construction based on its bid of \$312,622, the lowest of three bids received.

Construction of the Highland Ravine Stabilization Project commenced on September 15, 2014. Anticipated to be completed in one month. An additional month was needed to finish the project due to rain, active groundwater seepage in both ravine areas, and side slope instability and slumping. The major construction activities included installation of rock grade control structures in the ravine channels, placement of brush bundles and biologs on the side slopes, construction of stormwater pond in Ravine 1, replacement of the City's sanitary sewer, and restoration of the disturbed construction areas.

Ms. Eleria reviewed that the City of Saint Paul requested that CRWD conduct work in their right-of-way to improve access to the City's sanitary and storm sewer systems. The work includes clearing and grubbing a 16-foot wide and 375-foot long area in City right-of-way behind Deer Park Townhome Association and

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modifying the City access route between the Deer Park townhomes that includes 2 feet of recycled asphalt below the surface. The City has approved Sunram's cost estimate and will reimburse CRWD for this additional work.

No Action was requested.

C) Recommendations for 2015 CAC Members

The Board of Managers must annually appoint the Citizen Advisory Committee members. In order to maintain an orderly CAC roster and fully comply with state statute the Citizen's Advisory Committee will submit a recommended roster to the Board of Managers who will appoint CAC members for 2015 at the CRWD Annual Meeting on December 17, 2014.

CAC 14-085 Motion: *Recommend the Board of Managers reappoint CAC members through December 2015.*

- *David Arbeit, 1384 East Como Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55117*
- *William Barton, 533 Cretin Ave South, St. Paul MN 55116*
- *Pat Byrne, 243 S Lexington Pkwy St. Paul, MN 55104*
- *Steven Duerre, 76 Bates Street, St. Paul, MN 55106*
- *Michael MacDonald, 1391 Almond Ave., St. Paul MN 55108*
- *Ted McCaslin, 1675 Lilac Lane, Mendota Heights, MN 55118*
- *Rick Sanders, 363 S. McCarrons Blvd., Roseville, MN 55113*
- *Kathryn Swanson, 2798 16th Terrence NW, New Brighton, MN 55112*
- *Michelle Ulrich, 1561 Lincoln Ave., St Paul MN 55105*
- *Richard Weil, 25 Charles Ave, St. Paul, MN 55103*
- *Gwen Willems, 1880 Tatum Street Falcon Heights MN 55113*

Barton/Ulrich
Unanimously approved

CAC Initiatives

A) CAC Recruitment Update

The CAC discussed continuing efforts to recruit additional members. One person of interest has contacted the office. Ms. Nicole Soderholm, a guest of Gwen Willems, was in attendance interested in joining the CAC. Ms. Soderholm lives in the Capitol Region Watershed District and works as a BMP/Construction site inspector for Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District.

B) 2014 Recognition Program Update

Administrator Doneux provided an overview of the Recognition Program agenda. The awards program will begin at 6:00. The Year in Review will be included. Mike MacDonald and David Arbeit will co-host and present the Watershed Steward Awards. Mr. MacDonald encouraged members of the CAC to attend the program. Ms. Swanson suggested that a certificate be passed out to the kids from Urban Roots.

Project and Program Updates

A) Partner Grants Update

Administrator Doneux reviewed that at the October 1, 2014 Board Meeting the Board commented on and approved the 2015 Partner Grant Application form and distribution list. Board Managers, Thienes and Texer were appointed to the Partner Grant Review Committee, CAC members Michelle Ulrich and Kathryn Swanson were appointed at the October 10, 2014 CAC meeting.

The District received 14 Partner Grant applications during the application period of October 2 - November 7, 2014. Staff reviewed all applications and made preliminary recommendations.

The 2015 Partner Grants budget is \$75,000. On November 18, the Partner Grant Review Committee reviewed 2015 CRWD Partner Grant applications and made recommendations. Some applications were not recommended for funding because of a weaker connection to CRWD's stormwater improvement goals as expressed in the 2014-15 Education and Outreach Plan. It was recommended that the Willow Reserve Cleanup project be funded through the Wetland Restoration budget and that CRWD provide FMR a \$3,500 sponsorship in lieu of funding #12 FMR – Landscape for the River Community Workshops.

B) Special Grants Update

Administrator Doneux reviewed the 2015 Special Grants Program in place of Mr. Zwonitzer. For the past several years the District has budgeted funds for budget fund 440 Special Projects and Grants. The District typically sets a preliminary budget amount and then solicits applications for projects to fund. Applications for 2015 Special Grant funds were due October 10, 2014.

CRWD received 12 project applications totaling \$1.67 million. Approximately \$550,000 is budgeted in 2015 for the program. Applications were reviewed by staff and a Special Grants Committee made up of two CAC members, Richard Weil and Gwen Willems and Board Managers Shirley Reider and Mike Theines. The committee has met to discuss the projects and developed a funding recommendation for the Board of Managers. The Board of Managers approved the Special Grants at the December 3, 2014 meeting.

Administrator Doneux thanked the committee for their input.

CAC Observer Update

Mr. Duerre attended the November 19th, 2014 Board of Managers Meeting. Manager Mike Thienes provided an update that Ms. Perry from the University of Minnesota was in attendance. Mr. Perry provided an update on the Community Capacity Study, a joint study with Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District and Mississippi Watershed Management Organization. The purpose of the study is to gather information on the perceptions of clean waters. The Board of Managers reviewed the Special Grants. Manager Thienes provided an update on a MAWD resolution that was approved at the annual meeting for a legislative agenda to be provided to members.

Discussion –

A)New & Old Issues

No new or old business.

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B) Identify CAC Observer for the December 17th and January 7th Board of Managers Meetings.

Most of the CAC should be in attendance of the December 17th meeting. Ms. Kathryn Swanson plans to attend the January 7th meeting.

C) January 14th CAC Agenda Overview

The 2014 Fish Survey and Stewardship Grants will be reviewed along with an update on the Eustis Street Feasibility Study.

D) 2015 Meeting Schedule

Adjourn –

CAC 14-086 Motion: *To adjourn.*

Arbeit/Barton

Unanimously approved

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Sylvander

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