



Capitol Region Watershed District

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

Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, December 12, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

Janna Caywood, Steve Duerre,
Ted McCaslin, Kathryn
Swanson, Michael Trojan,
Michelle Ulrich, Jerome
Wagner, Richard Weil, Gwen
Willems

Members absent with notice:

David Arbeit

Others Present:

Mike Thienes, CRWD Manager
Mark Doneux, CRWD Staff
Dawn Nelson, CRWD Staff
Elizabeth Beckman, CRWD Staff
Angie Sechler, Resident

Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Ted McCaslin opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. with a request for announcements. Administrator Doneux announced that Anna Eleria was awarded the 2012 Minnesota Watershed District Employee of the Year by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) at the Annual MAWD Conference in November.

Public Comment – For items not on the Agenda.

There were no public comments.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. McCaslin asked for additions or changes to the Agenda. There were no additions or changes to the Agenda.

CAC 12-12-01 Motion: *To approve the CAC December 12, 2012 agenda as provided.*

Caywood/Ulrich

Unanimously approved

Approval of the November 14, 2012 CAC Minutes

Mr. McCaslin asked for additions or changes to the November 14, 2012 CAC Minutes.

CAC 12-12-02 Motion: *To approve the CAC November 14, 2012 CAC Minutes as provided.*

Willems/Caywood

Unanimously approved

Items for Review and Comment Requested by the Board of Managers

Recommendations for 2012 CAC Reappointments

Administrator Doneux said in 2008 it was noted that regular attendance is a requirement of being a member of the Citizen's Advisory Committee as well as that under state statute the Board of Managers must annually appoint the Citizen's Advisory Committee. In order to maintain an orderly CAC roster and fully comply with state statute the Citizen's Advisory Committee must submit a recommended roster to the Board of Managers which will appoint CAC members for 2013 at the CRWD Annual Meeting on December 19, 2012.

CAC 12-12-03 Motion: *Recommend reappointing the following 13 CAC members through December 2013.*

David Arbeit
William Barton
Pat Byrne
Janna Caywood
Steven Duerre
Michael MacDonald

Ted McCaslin
Kathryn Swanson
Michael Trojan
Michelle Ulrich
Jerome Wagner
Richard Weil
Gwen Willems

Caywood/Ulrich
Unanimously approved

Approve 2013 Meeting Calendar

The Committee will continue to meet the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm during 2013.

CAC 12-12-04 Motion: *Recommend 2013 Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting calendar as provided.*

Willems/Duerre
Unanimously approved

Recommendations for Interim Co-Chair

Mr. McCaslin noted that the committee must have 2 co-chairs and a secretary. Mr. McCaslin said since Shirley Reider was appointed to the CRWD Board, the committee is in need of someone volunteering to be co-chair. Janna Caywood nominated Gwen Willems. Ms. Willems accepted the nomination and Michelle Ulrich seconded.

CAC 12-12-05 Motion: *Appoint Gwen Willems as Interim Co-Chair until April 2013.*

Caywood/Ulrich
Unanimously approved

Mr. Duerre suggested adding Board meeting dates as an agenda item as a reminder to Committee members to attend. Steve Duerre volunteered for the December 19th Board meeting and Michelle Ulrich volunteered for the January 2, 2013 Board meeting. Manager Thienes announced that the December 19th is the Annual Meeting and Board and staff are gathering at 5pm for a small holiday celebration and invited the CAC to attend.

Community Clean Ups, Janna Caywood, Como Neighborhood Network

Janna Caywood provided an update on the Como Lake Curbside Clean up. Ms. Caywood said the Como Lake Neighbor Network (CLNN) is a group of Como Lake residents that got together in July 2009 to learn about the Lake and what residents could do to help with the algae problem. In early 2010 they learned from Freshwater Society about a program called "Community Cleanups for Water Quality." The program, developed by Friends of the Minnesota Valley, shows local residents how to engage their fellow neighbors in a community effort to cleanup up leaves and grass clippings from street curbs and boulevards, thereby preventing the debris from washing down storm drains and into local waters. Organics in stormwater contribute significant amounts of phosphorus to lakes and rivers, fueling the excessive growth of noxious algae blooms.

CLNN applied for and was awarded a Stewardship Grant for \$610 from CRWD to conduct a 2010 cleanup effort in Como. CLNN tweaked the model to make it specific to Como Lake and the Como neighborhood and changed the name to "Como Lake Curbside Cleanup." CLNN organized their first cleanup in April 2010 in a 30 block area east of the lake. They created a brochure that explained Como's algae problem, invited neighbors to take part by cleaning their own stretch of curb and boulevard, and delivered the brochures to

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

neighbors' doors. Ms. Caywood noted that the City of Saint Paul partnered with CLNN by providing bag pickup for the spring 2010 clean up. District 10 Community Council also partnered and helped promote the event to neighbors. Ms. Caywood said 150 bags were filled by Como neighbors from approximately 500 households.

Ms. Caywood said 2012 was a week-long event during the second week of October. Volunteers distributed brochures to approximately 2,500 homes. Ms. Caywood said there were 40 volunteers conducting 'visible' cleanups in 3 areas and 8 block leaders organized group cleanups on their blocks. There were 3 drop-off locations in the neighborhood with roll-off dumpsters. Ms. Caywood said 1,303 bags were filled by Como neighbors and taken to drop-off sites or reported to us and then composted on their own. It was estimated that the average household contributed 5 bags - so 1,303 bags represents about 260 households participating.

The committee thanked Ms. Caywood for her presentation.

2013 Grants Program Update, Elizabeth Beckman

Ms. Beckman said the Board of Managers have approved 243 grant proposals including residential and public stormwater management projects and stormwater education programs since 2003. Ms. Beckman explained that the CRWD grant programs are divided into four categories; Stewardship, Project, Program and Special Grants. Stewardship grants are grants up to \$2,000 and primarily for residential rain gardens, rain barrels for individual homeowners and rain barrel workshops for small organizations. Project grants are grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$20,000 for organizations engaged in one-time projects with a water quality or water quality education focus. Program grants also range from \$2,000 to \$20,000 that may include staff time for organizations engaged in ongoing water quality or water quality education work. Special grants are grants greater than \$20,000 made primarily to institutions or government agencies with multiple partners.

Ms. Beckman explained that due to suggestions from the staff who administer the grant programs and also from past grantees, staff began meeting in September 2012 to discuss ways to improve and streamline CRWD grant programs. Staff revisited the original goals of the grant program and identified its many assets, including the strong support of grant making from CRWD Board of Managers and the planting plans and technical assistance provided to grantees. Ms. Beckman reviewed the possible changes to CRWD Grant Programs with the committee and asked for comments. Angie Sechler said she was a grant recipient several years ago and said the most difficult part of the grant process was creating a budget. Angie Sechler asked if staff knows the completion rate in terms of grants applied for. Ms. Beckman said out of the 243 grant proposal requests, 216 were residential rain gardens and 50% of them sought reimbursement from the District.

Ms. Beckman said staff will have more materials for review and comments in the future. The committee thanked Elizabeth for the update.

Staff and Program Updates

MAWD Annual Conference Update

Administrator Doneux said there seemed to be more exhibitors at the conference this year. Ms. Ulrich said there seemed to be more Board managers from other Districts in attendance also. Ms. Ulrich said she found the sessions interesting that she attended.

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

TBI Realignment Video

Administrator Doneux played the Phase I Construction of the Trout Brook Interceptor Realignment Project video and paused to describe the different steps of the project going on during the video. Administrator Doneux added that real time pictures are being taken every 15 minutes and the project site almost looks the same as preconstruction. Most of the dewatering wells will be left in place. Administrator Doneux said the dewatering wells are offline and capped.

Phase I activities included installation of 162 feet of 12'x9' box culvert beneath BNSF railroad tracks within 30-hour work window, installation of an additional 400 feet of box culvert outside of BNSF ROW, construction of City sanitary sewer line and manholes, dewatering of construction area and pumping groundwater to TBI, and removal and disposal of contaminated soil.

Administrator Doneux said Phase II of the project is scheduled to commence on June 1, 2013 after MnDOT has removed the existing Mississippi Street Bridge and must be completed in eight weeks. Major Phase II activities include dewatering the construction area, installing the remaining 236 feet of new box culvert, constructing the transition sections between the existing and new TBI, and abandoning the existing TBI alignment that will be replaced by the new TBI alignment.

Board of Managers and CAC Observer Update

Manager Thienes reviewed recent Board actions including a request from Brian Bloomfield, Executive Director of Nova Classical Academy requesting the possibility of a Green Roof grant. Kevin Biehn from Emmons Olivier Resources, Inc. presented the results from the Victoria Park Hydrology Study. The Board approved a consultant agreement with Houston Engineering for the development of a BMP database. Wes Saunders Pearce, Water Resource Coordinator City of St. Paul provided an update of the Pervious Alley Pilot Project.

Discussion - New & Old Issues

No Discussion

January 9, 2013 Agenda Overview

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm by consensus.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Nelson