



## 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

### Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, December 9, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

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#### **CAC Members Present:**

David Arbeit  
Bill Barton  
Pat Cavanaugh  
Steve Duerre  
Claudia Hochstein  
Mike MacDonald  
Rick Sanders,  
Kathryn Swanson  
Nicole Soderholm  
Richard Weil  
Gwen Willems

#### **Members absent:**

Michelle Ulrich

#### **Others Present:**

Mark Doneux, CRWD  
Michelle Sylvander, CRWD  
Anna Eleria, CRWD  
Mike Thienes, CRWD Board  
Treasurer  
Nancy O'Brien Wagner,  
Bluestem Heritage Group  
Kim Chapman, Applied  
Ecological Services  
Doug Mensing, Applied  
Ecological Services  
Tim Zalusky, University of  
Minnesota Student

#### **Welcome, Announcements, and Updates**

Mr. MacDonald opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with introductions. A new member has joined the CAC, Claudia Hochstein.

#### **III. Approval of Agenda**

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

**CAC 15-044 Motion:** *To approve the CAC December 9, 2015 agenda.*

Arbeit/Soderholm  
Unanimously approved

#### **IV. Approval of the November 12, 2015 Minutes**

No changes or corrections were noted.

**CAC 15-045 Motion:** *To approve the November 12, 2015 Minutes.*

Weil/Willems  
Unanimously approved

## V. District Initiatives

- A) 3-D Model of Curtiss Pond Project, Tim Zalusky, Service Learning Student with University of Minnesota

Mr. Tim Zalusky, a senior at University of Minnesota in Mechanical Engineering, was selected by the Service Learning Committee to complete a project for CRWD. Administrator Doneux shared CAD drawings of Curtiss Pond and a tree trench with Mr. Zalusky to use in building 3-D models. Mr. Zalusky provided a presentation of model images and requested feedback. Physical models will be ready for presentation by the February 10, 2016 CAC meeting. Ms. Swanson noted that the images Mr. Zalusky created can be used in printed materials. Members of the CAC shared they would like to see a person included in the model to help with the visual scale of the Curtis Pond model. Members of the CAC also recommended an arrow on the model to show how stormwater flows into the cistern.

- B) Willow Reserve History: Nature at Work, Nancy O'Brien Wagner, Bluestem Heritage Group

Ms. Eleria introduced Ms. Nancy O'Brien Wagner with Blue Heritage Group. The Blue Heritage Group was hired to research the history of land use and ownership of Willow Reserve. Ms. O'Brien Wagner led the research and presented the history report for the Willow Reserve. The report includes significant eras of history for the property including its natural history, Dakota presence, 19<sup>th</sup> century settlement, early 20<sup>th</sup> century truck farming, the establishment of Willow Reserve as a City park reserve and stormwater pond. Ms. O'Brien Wagner shared numerous maps showing how the land use in the surrounding area transitioned from farming to home sites being built in the 1950's. In the 1970's neighbors wanted an open space preserved. St. Paul's Planning Board adopted an amendment to designate 13 acres as "open space". Members of the CAC enjoyed the information shared and thanked Ms. O'Brien Wagner for her presentation.

- C) Willow Reserve Restoration Plan, Kim Chapman, Applied Ecological Services

Mr. Chapman with Applied Ecological Services completed a draft restoration plan for Willow Reserve. Input was provided by project partners and local community over several meetings. The draft plan describes existing ecological conditions in Willow Reserve. Mr. Chapman presented the planning principles for restoring the Reserve and outlines of restoration tasks, schedule and probable costs. The goals of the site include: assessing the existing ecological conditions, restore, enhance diversity, manage stormwater runoff, and provide human access. Mr. Chapman reviewed the land cover of the existing area. The twenty three acres of Willow Reserve is owned by the City of St. Paul. About 80% of the area is wetland migratory flyway. The wildlife survey identified three species of frogs and toads, ten species of Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies), and twenty eight species of birds. The area will be able to support additional wildlife with restoration.

- D) Review of Final 2016 CRWD Budget and Levy, Mark Doneux

Administrator Doneux reviewed the final 2016 budget. At the August 12, 2015 CAC meeting members shared concerns about the levy increase. Administrator Doneux noted that revenues are down. In the last few years CRWD has had MN DOT and State funding for capital projects that will not be coming in for 2016. At the September 2, 2015, Board of Managers meeting, Managers reviewed and discussed proposed budgets with a reduced increase of 15% and 5%. Managers felt the budget was in line with the five year plan and recommended approval. Administrator Doneux reviewed changes in the project list. The Lafayette Park Campus project will not be happening so adjustments were made. Manager Thienes noted that funds have

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been allocated for the planning of a new office site. A committee has been working on visiting sites to either purchase land and build or renovate an existing building.

**CAC 15-046 Motion:** *Approve the 2016 Final Budget and Levy as presented.*

Arbeit/Sanders  
Unanimously approved

E) Recommendation of Appointments for 2016 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 Advisory Committee will submit a recommended roster to the Board of Managers who will appoint CAC members for 2016 at the CRWD Annual Meeting on December 16, 2015.

**CAC 15-047 Motion:** *Recommend reappointing CAC members through December 2016.*

David Arbeit, 1384 East Como Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55117  
William Barton, 533 Cretin Ave South, St. Paul, MN 55116  
Patricia Cavanaugh, 908 Saint Paul Ave., St. Paul, MN 55116  
Steven Duerre, 76 Bates Street, St. Paul, MN 55106  
Claudia Hochstein, 487 Dayton Ave., #3, St. Paul, MN 55102  
Michael MacDonald, 1391 Almond Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108  
Rick Sanders, 363 S. McCarrons Blvd., Roseville, MN 55113  
Nicole Soderholm, 108 N. Pierce St., Apt #3, St. Paul, MN 55104  
Kathryn Swanson, 2798 16<sup>th</sup> 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

Cavanaugh/Willems  
Unanimously approved

## VI. CAC Initiatives

A) 2015 Watershed Awards (Doneux)

Administrator Doneux reviewed for the CAC that CRWD accepted nominations for the 2015 Watershed Steward Awards through Friday, October 23, 2015. Staff received 15 nominations for the five award categories. The Awards Committee of CAC members, David Arbeit and Mike MacDonald, Board Managers, Mary Texer and Joe Collins and Mark Doneux and Lindsay VanPatten from staff met on Monday November 2nd to review the nominations. The Board Managers serving on the Awards Committee presented the recommended winners of the 2015 CRWD Watershed Steward Awards at the board meeting on November 4 meeting for approval.

At the December 2, 2015 Board of Managers Meeting, Managers approved the 2015 Watershed Steward Award winners as follows:

Watershed Citizen of the Year: Val Cunningham

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Watershed Partner of the Year:	City of Falcon Heights
Watershed Project of the Year:	Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary – Saint Paul Parks
Young Watershed Steward of the Year:	Kamarah Short
Lifetime Stewardship Awards:	Tom Petersen and Terry Noonan, and District 10, Como Neighborhood Environment Committee

Administrator Doneux stated the winners have been notified and will be presented with a plaque at the Annual Meeting to be held at the Wilder Foundation on December, 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Mr. Arbeit and Mr. MacDonald will provide the presentation.

## VII. Project and Program Updates

### A) Upper Villa Stormwater Improvement Project

Administrator Doneux shared a time-lapse video of the Upper Villa construction. The project was started on November 2, 2015. The cistern has been installed with an OptiRTC system similar to that of the Curtiss Pond project. Stormwater collected in the cistern will be used for irrigation of the baseball field.

## VIII. CAC Observer Update

Ms. Cavanaugh attended the December 2, 2015 Board of Managers meeting. Ms. Cavanaugh noted that the meeting was short. Administrator Doneux was acknowledged by a note written to the Managers about his outstanding leadership skills with the Water Environment Federation.

## Discussion

### A) New & Old Issues

No report.

### B) Identify CAC Observer for the December 16<sup>th</sup> and January 6<sup>th</sup> Board of Managers Meetings.

December 16, 2015 - Most of the CAC members plan to attend the Awards Ceremony after the Board of Managers Meeting.

January 6, 2016 – Ms. Cavanaugh plans to attend

### C) 2015 Meeting Schedule

## Adjourn –

**CAC 15-048 Motion:** *To adjourn the December 9, 2015 CAC Meeting.*

Barton/Weil  
Unanimously approved

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 PM.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Sylvander

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