



APPROVED January 11, 2012

# Capitol Region Watershed District

1410 Energy Park Drive, Suite 4 St. Paul, MN 55108

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Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 14, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

## CAC Members Present:

Bill Barton, Pat Byrne, Janna Caywood, Steve Duerre, Wade Johnson, Jerry Kafka, Ted McCaslin, Shirley Reider, Michael Trojan, Michelle Ulrich, , 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

## Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Shirley Reider opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. with a request for announcements. Ms. Reider shared that she had learned Milan, Italy is introducing a new concept called vertical forest skyscraper with trees built into them.

## 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 11-12-01 Motion: *To approve the CAC December 14, 2011 agenda as provided.*

Duerre/Ulrich

Unanimously approved

## Approval of the November 9, 2011 CAC Minutes

Ms. Reider asked for additions or changes to the November 9, 2011 CAC Minutes.

## CAC 11-12-02 Motion: *To approve the CAC November 9, 2011 CAC Minutes as provided.*

Willems/McCaslin

Unanimously approved

## 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. Administrator Doneux said 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 must submit a recommended roster to the Board of Managers which will appoint CAC members for 2012 at the CRWD Annual Meeting on December 21, 2011.

## CAC 11-12-03 Motion: *Recommend reappointing the following 14 CAC members through December 2012.*

David Arbeit

William Barton

Pat Byrne

Janna Caywood

Steven Duerre  
Wade Johnson  
Jerry Kafka  
Michael MacDonald  
Ted McCaslin  
Shirley A. Reider  
Michael Trojan  
Michelle Ulrich  
Jerome Wagner  
Gwen Willems

Duerre/Caywood  
Unanimously approved

### **Approve 2012 Meeting Calendar**

The Committee will continue to meet the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm during 2012.

**CAC 11-12-04 Motion:** *Recommend 2012 Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting calendar as provided.*

Duerre/Trojan  
Unanimously approved

### **Discussion**

#### **2011 Stop the Rain Drain Program, Elizabeth Beckman**

Ms. Beckman said in the 2009 CRWD Education and Outreach Plan, downspout redirection was prioritized as a preferred water pollution prevention practice. In August 2010 and June 2011 CRWD Board Managers authorized staff to carry out the Stop the Rain Drain (SRD) program.

Ms. Beckman explained that with direction from a citizen committee assembled by CRWD staff, LaBreche Communications developed a program name, logo, website, and communication plan for the redirection program. Detached garages in Saint Paul alleyways were selected as a program focus since 1) due to the age of housing stock there are thousands of garage roofs adjacent to alleyways in CRWD, and 2) the cost of redirecting garage gutters is generally lower and relatively less complicated than redirecting gutters on a house. Staff collaborated with Conservation Corps of Minnesota for six months in 2010 with plans for the Corps to provide full technical assistance to SRD homeowners, but in September the Conservation Corps suddenly withdrew from the program. Staff then sought the service of private gutter contractors to complete the projects. The program was promoted through advertising in nondaily newspapers, postcard mailings and doorhanger distribution.

Ms. Beckman said for the 2011 SRD program, CRWD Board asked staff to increase the number of redirections for less cost and reduced staff time. In 2010, the SRD program was promoted widely but during site visits of potential projects, staff found that only 40% of the garages were eligible. In March 2011, Fortin Consulting evaluated SRD 2010, interviewed participating homeowners and gutter contractors, and made recommendations for streamlining SRD 2011. Ms. Beckman explained that there are a wide range of garage conditions and drainage scenarios in CRWD, and many homeowners have difficulty fully understanding project descriptions and determining their eligibility, staff proposed to use the time of MN GreenCorps Member Kat McCarthy to identify project garages that could be served using simple elbow redirection. This reduced the time spent on nonviable projects and served homeowners with simple redirection projects that increased the treatment area at lower program costs compared to 2010. In June 2011, CRWD Board Managers approved a program using these eligibility criteria:

- a garage whose roof drains onto an impervious surface that leads to an alley or street where runoff will meet the storm drain system;

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

- a garage adjacent to a lawn or garden area where runoff can be directed and infiltrate without impacting a neighboring property; and
- a garage whose roof areas can be redirected without the downspout extension crossing a walkway.

Ms. Beckman explained that after determining a guttered garage was eligible, the homeowner was left with a doorhanger that included a tear-off postcard. Interested homeowners returned the postcard to CRWD and staff arranged for redirection work to be completed by a contractor at less than \$100 per project including time and materials. If there was no response after three weeks, a reminder postcard was sent via US Mail.

Ms. Beckman said the contractors who participated with SRD 2011, DTD Construction and LetUs Service, also installed rain barrels purchased by the homeowner. Homeowners then were allowed to request a \$50 reimbursement from CRWD. Homeowners who did the redirection work themselves were also eligible to apply for reimbursement at \$4 per linear foot subject to CRWD approval after submitting completed paperwork and receipts.

Ms. Beckman said at the close of the program in November 2010, 33 garages were redirected at a total program cost of \$50,820. With one-time material development costs removed the cost is about \$560 per garage. Considering labor and materials only, the average cost is \$269 per garage. At the close of the SRD in November 2011, 69 garages were redirected at a total program cost of \$14,150, \$200 per project. Ms. Beckman said considering labor and materials only, the cost is \$80 per project.

The Committee thanked Elizabeth for her work and the presentation.

## **Staff and Program Updates**

### **Central Corridor Light Rail Transit – Stormwater BMPs**

Administrator Doneux provided a presentation on the completed BMPs underway for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) noting that the work began on 4<sup>th</sup> Street in downtown St. Paul Fall of 2009. In March 2011, major work commenced on University Avenue at Emerald Street. Since March the south drive lanes have been closed off from City limit to Syndicate Avenue.

Administrator Doneux described cross sections providing the Pervious Pavers/Structural Soil designs and explained the infiltration trench designs. The second phase of green infrastructure practices will include stormwater planters and rain gardens at five sites located in the boulevards of streets adjacent to University Avenue. Administrator Doneux noted that this second set will complement CRWD's four side street green infrastructure practices that will be constructed in 2011 and 2012 by Met Council in Phase I. Administrator Doneux said the District contracted with Barr Engineering earlier this year to find additional sites to design and construct green infrastructure practices. Staff found a total of nine sites for feasibility for construction and staff narrowed that list down to the five sites listed. Administrator Doneux said the construction of the first green infrastructure practice that will be built by Met Council is a stormwater planter at the southeast corner of Aldine Street. There will also be a two-cell rain garden at the northwest corner of Pillsbury Street.

Administrator Doneux stated that the Aldine storm water planter has been completed. He explained the difference between the storm water planter and the rain garden installed at Pillsbury.

### **Trout Brook Interceptor – 35 E/Cayuga Interchange**

Administrator Doneux explained that MnDOT and CRWD have met to discuss the upcoming reconstruction of I-35E from University Avenue to Maryland Avenue and the potential impacts as they relate to CRWD's Trout Brook Storm Sewer Interceptor (TBI) since early 2011. Administrator Doneux said MnDOT has

provided CRWD several concepts for realigning TBI in the vicinity of I-35E/Cayuga. Administrator Doneux said staff will provide an update when a realignment has been chosen.

### **2012 Special and Partner Grants**

Administrator Doneux said earlier this fall, the Managers authorized solicitation of applications for the 2012 Special Grant and Partner Grant Program. Administrator Doneux noted that the District received six Special Grant applications for a total requested amount of \$422,521 and eight Partner Grant applications for a total requested amount of \$96,600. The Special/Partner Grants committee consisted of Managers Jones and Texer, CAC members Mike MacDonald and Wade Johnson and Staff members Mark Doneux, Elizabeth Beckman and Bob Fossum. Administrator Doneux discussed the project and funding recommendations for each applicant.

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

Manager Thienes reviewed recent Board actions including the Board postponing Rule revisions to allow TAC members to meet again before going out for public review and a special report on the BMP Performance and Cost-Benefit Analysis, 2007-2010 by Melissa Baker.

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

No Discussion

### **January 11, 2012 Agenda Overview**

Melissa Baker, BMP Performance and Cost-Benefit Analysis, 2007-2010

**Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm by consensus.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Nelson