



Capitol Region Watershed District

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Approved

Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, February 10, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

David Arbeit
Bill Barton
Pat Cavanaugh
Steve Duerre
Claudia Hochstein
Mike MacDonald
Rick Sanders
Michelle Ulrich
Richard Weil
Gwen Willems

Members absent:

Kathryn Swanson, w/notice
Nicole Soderholm, w/notice

Others Present:

Mark Doneux, CRWD
Michelle Sylvander, CRWD
Anna Eleria, CRWD
Joe Collins, CRWD Board
President
Nathan Campeau, Barr
Engineering
Mike McKinney, Barr
Engineering
Mae Davenport, University of
Minnesota
Trista Briese, University of
Minnesota Student

Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Mr. MacDonald opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with introductions. After introductions Mr. MacDonald asked for any public comments. Ms. Cavanaugh shared two announcements. Freshwater Society will have a Moos Family Speaker Series on water resources. Evolution to Cleaner Water and Greener Water Companies will take place on April 13, 2016 at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul Student Center Theater. Ms. Cavanaugh also shared that the 2016 State of The Water will be held at Arrowwood Resort on April 14th & 15th.

Mr. Arbeit asked about staff working on Como Lake. Administrator Doneux replied that staff has been collecting core samples from Lake McCarrons and Como Lake to test sediment levels in the lakes. This information will be used to help determine the role of sediment in water quality.

III. Approval of Agenda

Mr. MacDonald asked for any additions or changes to the Agenda.

CAC 16-004 Motion: *To approve the CAC February 10, 2016 agenda.*

Arbeit/Duerre
Unanimously approved

IV. Approval of the January 13, 2016 Minutes

Ms. Ulrich and Ms. Willems noted a correction in the Announcements of the minutes.

CAC 16-005 Motion: *To approve the January 13, 2016 Minutes with corrections.*

Duerre/Weil

Unanimously approved

V. District Initiatives

A) Community Capacity Assessment, Mae Davenport, University of Minnesota

Administrator Doneux reviewed that in 2013, CRWD Board of Managers approved a partnership with Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD) and Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) to study individual actions and public decision making within the framework of a community's actual abilities – its capacity – to engage in clean water behaviors. This joint watershed assessment is led by Professor Mae Davenport of University of Minnesota Department of Forest Resources.

Dr. Davenport reviewed the draft copy of the Community Capacity Assessment for Stormwater Management in the Twin Cities Metro Area. The primary research questions of the study were:

- What are drivers of and constraints to community capacity to engage in stormwater management in the watersheds?
- What are community member values, beliefs and norms associated with water and water resource management?
- What are community member perceptions of existing water programs?
- What water programming is most likely to influence future conservation behavior among community members?

In 2014, stakeholder interviews were conducted with business and community leaders along the Green Line and on Saint Paul's East Side. In 2015, the final stages of data gathering were completed through focus groups and a mail survey. Dr. Davenport reviewed recommendations of neighbors needing to talk and share existing community issues and to engage water into conversations. Dr. Davenport also pointed out the link into what is working.

Mr. Duerre asked how the interview results compared to the other watersheds that were surveyed. Dr. Davenport replied that there were many similarities in the results. Ms. Cavanaugh asked for clarification, is the survey asking about personal needs or the needs of others. Dr. Davenport replied that community leaders were surveyed to gather a social approach on how to get other people in the community involved and thinking about water. Dr. Davenport concluded that people need to see how they connect to water and the ways they use water like gardening. Mr. Arbeit asked for clarification on one of the business owners' comments regarding the care of tree trenches and rain gardens along the corridor. Dr. Davenport replied that they were displeased about not being involved with the planning process and now felt it was their responsibility to care for these gardens. President Collins asked how this compares to recycling. Dr. Davenport agreed that recycling is a good comparison to this project. Administrator Doneux requested any additional recommendations be forwarded to the office by the end of next week. The plan will be presented to the Board of Managers in April for approval. Recommendations will be added to the Education and Outreach program in 2017.

B) Technical Report: Eustis Street Regional Modeling, Nathan Campeau, Barr Engineering

Ms. Eleria reviewed that last summer, CRWD, in partnership with City of Lauderdale and Ramsey County, began evaluating opportunities for managing stormwater runoff in a portion of the City of Lauderdale. Originally the focus of the project was to evaluate the feasibility of implementing green infrastructure practices along Eustis Street south of Larpenteur Avenue and within an adjacent County-held drainage easement. Based on further discussions with project partners and a private property owner during this evaluation, localized flooding issues were raised and the project scope was expanded to a regional analysis of the hydrologic and water quality concerns within approximately 150 acres. It also includes identification of potential flood mitigation and water quality improvement options in the study area.

Mike McKinney with Barr Engineering reviewed how a model was developed to simulate the existing conditions. The goals of the modeling project were to minimize the flooding, enhance treatment and look for the opportunity to add water features. Mr. McKinney reviewed the draft of the Eustis Street Regional Modeling Project Report. Barr has estimated the 10-year and 100-year flow rates and pollutant loading for the subwatershed and the current pollutant removal efficiencies of several dry and wet ponds and evaluated alternatives to mitigate flooding and improve water quality. CRWD and Barr Engineering staff will present the scope of work and results of the project to the CAC and seek input on the findings and recommendations.

VI. CAC Initiatives

A) 2016 Student Worker Update and Discussion

Mr. MacDonald introduced Trista Briese with the University of Minnesota Service Learning Program. Mr. MacDonald reviewed potential service learning projects for Ms. Briese to work on. Potential projects include:

1) Develop a table summarizing all of the 14 metro watershed district regulations

This work has been done previously just in Washington County in 2003. It would be beneficial and interesting to compare stormwater policies for rate, volume and water quality standards for the 14 metro watershed districts. This is of special interest following the adoption of the State-wide MIDS program over two years ago.

2) Identify policies to encourage or incentivize Green Infrastructure

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) has developed some recommendations to create incentives for green infrastructure. Incentive programs provide a way to increase the use of green infrastructure on private property. These programs can help implement stormwater controls on both new and existing developments not covered by stormwater requirements. The project could involve evaluating the five WEF recommended approaches, documenting which approaches CRWD is already being effective in implementing and make recommendations for additional programs or policies that would provide greater incentives for green infrastructure.

3) Document existing and possible future polices for watershed district (MAWD and or CRWD) involvement in groundwater

A project similar to this was done 11 years ago in Washington County. Given the recent focus on groundwater, it would be useful to begin drafting groundwater protection policies for not only CRWD but other metro watershed districts. This is of special interest following the adoption of the North and East Metro Groundwater Management Area Plan in November of 2015.

Ms. Cavanaugh and Mr. Arbeit strongly recommended the first potential idea of developing a summary table of all 14 metro watershed district regulations. Ms. Briese will review and have further discussions with Mr. MacDonald.

B) 2016 Event, Doneux

Administrator Doneux recommends continuing a fall event. President Collins noted that there were a wide range of attendees at the 2014 and 2015 events. Administrator Doneux will contact Freshwater Society about a list of potential speakers for CRWD to sponsor for the fall of 2016.

VII. Project and Program Updates

A) Snelling Midway Redevelopment Project

Ms. Eleria reviewed that a portion of the 35-acre superblock bounded by University Avenue, Snelling Avenue, I-94 and Pascal Street, herein known as the Snelling Midway Redevelopment. The site has been selected for the future MN United FC Soccer Stadium. Formerly known as the bus barn, the proposed site is owned by Metropolitan Council. The remaining land area owned by RK Midway will eventually be redeveloped with an emphasis on commercial (retail, entertainment and office), residential and open space land uses. The development of a master plan for the entire site and a stadium site plan that will be reviewed and approved by the City of Saint Paul.

Ms. Eleria serves on the technical advisory committee. The City of Saint Paul held a stormwater workshop for the Snelling Midway Redevelopment Site in January. The purpose of the workshop is to catalyze a comprehensive, district-wide stormwater planning effort. The goals of the workshop are: facilitate a discussion of shared, stacked green infrastructure (SSGI) options and identify TAC priorities, develop narrative and visual suggestions for the site's master plan and collect ideas to present to the CAC and community.

SRF Consulting Group Inc. in conducting a comprehensive, district-wide stormwater planning effort. The services being sought are assistance in planning the stormwater workshop, preparing workshop materials, facilitating the workshop and preparing renderings based on workshop findings.

B) CRWD Public Map Viewer Discussion

Mr. Zwonitzer shared with the members of the CAC a demonstration of the GIS interactive maps at the January CAC meeting. The mapping system helps to identify points for the next phase of a development and set goals. Administrator Doneux encouraged the CAC to review and test the system. A link can be found on the CRWD website. The BMP data base is used to track BMP's, permits, grant and capital projects. Administrator Doneux encouraged members of the CAC to share any feedback with Nate Zwonitzer. Mr. Arbeit shared that the site needs more general language for the general public to review and should include samples of items like a catch basin, what is it and how it works.

C) Education Program Review

Administrator Doneux shared with the CAC that Ms. VanPatten has moved from Administration into Education and Outreach full time. Ms. VanPatten was previously 75% Education and Outreach and 25% Administrative Assistant. Belinda Gardner is now temporarily filling the Administrative Assistant position.

D) CAC Project and Program Review Update

Administrator Doneux compiled a list of projects for the CAC to review. The list contains twenty two projects. Administrator Doneux will review the list with the CAC co-chairs to help decide which projects would be best presented to the CAC for review and comment. Other projects would be sent with a google form for members to add recommendations and comments.

VIII. CAC Observer Update

Ms. Cavanaugh attended the February 3, 2016 Board of Managers meeting. Ms. Cavanaugh reviewed that she enjoyed attending the Education and Outreach workshop and hearing the discussions of future planning. An update was given on the Ford site, Willow Reserve and Personnel. Ms. Cavanaugh encouraged other CAC Members to attend the Board of Manager meetings.

Discussion

A) New & Old Issues

Mr. MacDonald talked to someone at the University of Minnesota, where rainwater runoff is being captured and reused for flushing toilets. Mr. MacDonald will be in contact with this person to schedule a time for them to come and share a presentation on water reuse with the CAC.

B) CAC Observer for the Board of Managers Meetings February 22 & March 2, 2016.

The February 17th Board of Managers Meeting has been rescheduled to February 22nd at 5:00 pm. No members identified.

C) 2015 Meeting Schedule

The March 9, 2016 CAC meeting will include Strategic Communication Plan, Stewardship Grants program update and Event Planning.

Adjourn –

CAC 16-006 Motion: *To adjourn the February 10, 2016 CAC Meeting.*

Barton/Willems
Unanimously approved

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.
Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Sylvander

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

