



Capitol Region Watershed District

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Approved
March 12, 2014

Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, February 12, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

Gwen Willems
Michelle Ulrich
Steve Duerre
David Arbeit
Bill Barton
Mike MacDonald
Janna Caywood

Others Present:

Mark Doneux, CRWD
Michelle Sylvander, CRWD
Elizabeth Beckman, CRWD
Lindsay VanPatten, CRWD
Gustavo Castro, CRWD
Joe Collins, Board of Manager

Members absent:

Ted McCaslin, w/notice
Richard Weil, w/notice
Pat Byrne, w/notice
Katheryn Swanson, w/notice

Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Ms. Willems opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with a request for any announcements. Ms. Willems gave an update on a workshop she attended titled “More Than a Message”. Ms. VanPatten and Ms. Beckman were also in attendance. The day-long workshop was with Eric Eckl. Mr. Eckl described big concepts and gave practical tips on planning and budgeting communications, researching audiences, crafting and delivering effective messages, and measuring the audience reached and their responses.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Willems asked for any additions or changes to the Agenda. There were no changes.

CAC 13-034 Motion: *To approve the CAC February 12, 2014, agenda.*

Barton/Duerre
Unanimously approved

Approval of the January 15, 2014 CAC Minutes

Ms. Willems requested any changes or corrections to the minutes.

CAC 13-035 Motion: *To approve the CAC January 15, 2014 CAC Minutes.*

Arbeit/Duerre
Unanimously approved

District Initiatives

A) Ms. VanPatten reviewed the 2013 Partner Grants. CRWD Partner Grants support organizations who share in our mission to protect, manage and improve water resources. Grants are awarded once a year, and typically range from \$2,000 to \$20,000. Partner Grants have been awarded since 2007 to help further education and outreach goals of CRWD.

In 2013, the Board approved staff to hire a consultant to develop an Education and Outreach Strategic Plan for 2014-2015. Staff considered the goals and initiatives of the plan to help guide the 2014 grant review process. Members of the CAC were part of the Partner Grant Review Committee. Ms. VanPatten reviewed results of 2013 Partner Grant projects including Alliance for Sustainability, Mother Earth Festival, Como Lake Neighbor Network, City of St. Paul – snow plowing blades and temperature sensors, Urban Roots – engaging youth, Friends of the Mississippi, and Great River Greening. Ms. VanPatten also provided an update on projects approved for 2014. The 2014 projects include: Community Compassity – partnering with other watersheds, Central High School – working with parent group and a Watershed game that has been partnered with Minnehaha Creek. Ms. VanPatten gave a general update on education and outreach work from the last year. A good discussion occurred about the benefits of the partner grant program and how it reaches many audiences that CRWD does not always connect with. The committee thanked Ms. VanPatten for her update.

B) Mr. Castro provided an update and outline on the BMP Database. Since 2003, CRWD has been providing BMP cost share grants, completing capital improvement projects since 2002, and issuing permits for stormwater management practices since 2006. To date, CRWD has managed the information related to the ownership and location of these BMPs in Excel spreadsheets. Mr. Castro said that staff is exploring new technologies to obtain, file and to better manage this increasingly large amount of data. This new technology will provide opportunities to share information with the general public and integrate mapping capabilities with BMP inspection, function and maintenance. Mr. Castro gave a brief overview of Database system and its mapping interface. The committee thanked Mr. Castro for his presentation.

CAC Initiatives

A) Discuss the Development of CAC Orientation Packet

Administrator Doneux gave a review of the CAC reinvigoration plan. A CAC charter group was formed by CAC members Gwen Willems and David Arbeit, Board of Managers Mary Texer & Shirley Reider. This group will draft a new charter to be reviewed at the March 12th meeting.

An orientation packet was one of the action items in the reinvigoration plan. Gwen Willems, Michelle Ulrich and Steve Duerre formed a subcommittee to begin drafting the information the CAC members would like to have in a new member packet. Administrator Doneux suggested that the CAC draft the packet and outsource the design work. The group discussed topics to include in the new member packet.

B) Discuss basic elements of fall 2014 “Event”

The group discussed ideas of having some kind of shared educational speaker to help bring awareness to the watershed district. The Freshwater Society was noted for being a good source to find speakers. The group agreed that they would like a topic and speaker that would connect with the public and provide an opportunity to bring awareness of the watershed district. The hot topics for a speaker would be groundwater, climate, and storm water reuse. Administrator Doneux will call Steve Woods to discuss a fall event.

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

- C) Follow up discussion from December 11th CAC meeting

This item has been moved to the March 12th meeting.

Project and Program Updates

- A) Lowertown Ballpark Update (Doneux)

Administrator Doneux reviewed the Lowertown Ballpark project. The City of St. Paul was awarded \$225,000 through the Special Grant program for stormwater elements at Lowertown Ballpark. These funds can only be used for stormwater elements that treat runoff above and beyond what is required by CRWD rules.

A unique opportunity to treat a portion of the adjacent Green Line Operation and Maintenance Facility (OMF) roof through rainwater harvesting and reuse was identified. Experts in the area of rainwater reuse developed a feasibility analysis, modeling, and cost estimates. The Board of Managers also awarded an additional \$100,000 in Special Grant funds to be used to pursue rainwater reuse for toilet flushing and ballfield irrigation, with a total grant funding not to exceed \$325,000. Funding is contingent on visible cisterns or two interactive kiosks in high traffic location if cisterns are not visible. The Kiosks will educate public on the reuse projects and be designed in cooperation with CRWD. Discussion occurred.

CAC Observer and Board of Managers Update

President Collins shared that CRWD and the City of St. Paul Directors of City Departments will be meeting for a workshop on February 19, 2014. The workshop is about staying connected and keeping open communication with the City.

Discussion –

- A) **New & Old Issues**

There was no discussion.

- B) **Identify CAC Observer for February 19th Board of Managers Meeting and the March 5th, 2014 Board of Managers Meeting**

No members were identified.

- C) **CAC Agenda Overview**

Former State Senator, Ellen Anderson will not be able to attend the March 12th meeting. The board agreed to invite other watershed districts to attend when Ellen Anderson is scheduled. Other items for the agenda will included an update on the stewardship grant program and addition discussion on planning an event in the fall.

Adjourn –

CAC 13-036 Motion: *To adjourn.*

Caywood/Barton

Unanimously approved

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

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

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