



Capitol Region Watershed District

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Approved

Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, January 14, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

Steve Duerre
Mike MacDonald
Ted McCaslin
Rick Sanders
Nicole Soderholm
Kathryn Swanson
Richard Weil
Gwen Willems

Others Present:

Mark Doneux, CRWD
Michelle Sylvander, CRWD
Britta Suppes, CRWD
Nate Zwontizer, CRWD
Joe Collins, Board Manager
Nathan Campeau, Barr
Engineering

Members absent:

David Arbeit, w/notice
Bill Barton
Pat Byrne, w/notice
Michelle Ulrich, w/notice

Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Mr. Mike MacDonald opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Mr. MacDonald requested any announcements. New member Nicole Soderholm was welcomed.

Public Comments

Mr. MacDonald said he was not able to find the stewardship grants on the website. Administrator Doneux replied that the website is currently undergoing some updating. Administrator Doneux will check into it.

Approval of Agenda

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

CAC 15-001 Motion: *To approve the CAC January 14, 2015, agenda.*

Willems/Duerre
Unanimously approved

Approval of the December 10, 2014 CAC Minutes

Mr. MacDonald requested any changes or corrections to the minutes. Corrections were noted.

CAC 15-002 Motion: *To approve the December 10, 2014 CAC Minutes with changes.*

Weil/Duerre
Unanimously approved

District Initiatives

A) 2014 Fish Survey, (Britta Suppes)

Ms. Suppes reviewed that in 2013, CRWD contracted Wenck Associates, Inc. to complete a statistical analysis of CRWD lake data to determine if any water quality trends exist and what factors could be causing these trends. One major recommendation from the report was to increase monitoring of biological data, as many of these parameters (aquatic vegetation, zooplankton and phytoplankton abundance, and fish populations) could be having an effect which cannot be determined by examining chemical and physical data alone. By obtaining data on biological parameters that have not been monitored in the past or monitored infrequently, a better picture of what is happening within the District's lakes can be obtained.

At the April 9th, 2014 CAC meeting, the CAC members approved the *Monitoring Program Review and 2014-2016 Recommendations*, including enhance lake monitoring and conduct a more complete analysis. At the April 16th, 2014 Board meeting, the Managers reviewed the *Enhanced Lake Biological Monitoring Work Plan*, which included initiating annual fisheries surveys. The primary goal of this expanded monitoring is to enhance understanding of how the biological, chemical, and physical parameters of a lake interact to shape lake water quality to better inform in-lake management decisions.

Ms. Suppes reviewed a presentation of the fish surveys. In June 2014, the District contracted Wenck Associates, Inc. to conduct fish surveys on Como and Little Crosby Lakes during the month of August as part of the program's expanded monitoring goals. Wenck obtained a permit from the DNR to conduct both trap and gill net surveys. Como Lake was surveyed using 8 trap nets and two gill nets over the course of three days (4 trap nets/one gill net per day, repeated two days in a row). Little Crosby Lake was surveyed using 4 trap nets and one gill net in two days. Fish collected during the surveys were identified, weighed, and measured. All data was analyzed and compiled into a report produced by Wenck staff, where data was compared to previous DNR fish survey data. CRWD staff is in the process of incorporating this information into its annual lakes report.

Members of the CAC shared questions with Ms. Suppes. Ms. Willems asked if additional surveys will take place. Ms. Suppes replied that CRWD does plan to do more fish surveys in the future. The information will help to provide more information on lake management. Administrator Doneux noted that CRWD would like to add more educational outreach to the fish survey. People were very interested in what staff were doing on the lakes when staff was working on the fish survey. Ms Suppes thanked the members of the CAC for their feedback.

B) District 6 Natural Resources Inventory (Nathan Campeau, Barr Engineering)

Mr. Zwonitzer reviewed that in 2014, CRWD partnered with the City of St. Paul and the District 6 Planning Council to complete a natural resource inventory within a targeted area of District 6. CRWD contracted Barr Engineering to complete the inventory and develop a report. The goal of the report is to document existing natural resources and their condition, identify opportunities for resource protection/restoration, and provide recommendations on how to increase resource connectivity by creating natural resource corridors. The report will inform the City's planning process and provide direction to CRWD activities.

Barr Engineering completed a desktop analysis, field investigations, MLCCS evaluation, tree canopy cover estimates, and vegetation surveys to identify critical natural resource areas. In addition to identification and

inventory, Barr developed management goals, strategies, and opportunities for the study area. Goals include protection of open green space, enhancing habitat, and establishing corridors of natural vegetation.

Mr. Nathan Campeau with Barr Engineering reviewed the 24 study sites over 280 acres. Specific parcels were identified for potential future acquisition to create corridors, while other parcels were identified for invasive species removal or creation of a small “pocket park”. The report provided a snap shot of the area’s current natural resources and guidance for future planning efforts. Mr. Zwonitzer noted that the City of St. Paul is currently reviewing the information for future planning.

CAC Initiatives

A) 2014 Watershed Stewards Awards Wrap Up

Mr. MacDonald reviewed the Annual Meeting and Awards. Ms. Williems suggested a different location that could accommodate more people. Administrator Doneux agreed that a larger meeting space like the Wilder Foundation will be considered for the 2015 award ceremony. The members of the CAC discussed when to start promoting nominations for the awards this year and a way to recognize those who were nominated, like a certificate of merit. Administrator Doneux suggested adding a category to the awards that would recognize a project.

B) 2015 CAC Recruitment

The CAC discussed efforts to continue recruitment of additional members. Ms. Swanson mentioned that there is a Green Jobs Fair. Administrator Doneux noted that CRWD plans to attend the Jobs Fair on Feb. 11th and have a table to help promote CRWD and the CAC. Administrator Doneux noted that he intends to talk to Mae Davenport with the University of MN. Ms. Davenport has been working on a Community Capacity Assessment and may have some recommendations for potential groups that might have an interest in the CAC. Administrator Doneux suggested contacting City Council District members to focus in on areas around the district that maybe low in membership representation.

Project and Program Updates

A) 2015 – A Look Ahead

Administrator Doneux reviewed the 2015 work plan worksheet. Administrator Doneux highlighted some of the new additions and gave more details to the projects planned for 2015. Some of the new additions include a MOU for Como Regional Park. Funds have been allocated for the prevention and development of a plan for aquatic plants in Lake McCarrons. The Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary will officially open in 2015. CRWD will be monitoring in this area. The Lowertown Ball Park has been awarded funds for stormwater reuse. Rainwater will be reused for flushing toilet and irrigating the ball fields.

CAC Observer Update

Ms. Kathryn Swanson attended the January 7th, 2015 Board of Managers Meeting. Ms. Swanson provided an update that the Board approved the 2015 Special Grant Agreements. The Board of Managers had a discussion about drafting a policy that will help define and create guidelines for reimbursement grants.

Discussion –

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

A)New & Old Issues

No new or old business.

B)Identify CAC Observer for the January 21st and February 4th Board of Managers Meetings.

No one was identified.

C)February 11th CAC Agenda Overview

An update will be presented on the 2015 Education Program at the February 11, 2015 CAC Meeting.

D)2015 Meeting Schedule

Adjourn –

CAC 15-003 Motion: *To adjourn the January 14, 2015 CAC Meeting.*

Swanson/McCaslin
Unanimously approved

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Sylvander

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