



Capitol Region Watershed District

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Approved February 12, 2014

Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, January 15, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

Gwen Willems
Steve Duerre
David Arbeit
Bill Barton
Katheryn Swanson
Mike MacDonald
Pat Byrne

Members absent:

Janna Caywood, w/notice
Ted McCaslin, w/notice
Michelle Ulrich, w/notice
Richard Weil, w/notice

Others Present:

Mark Doneux, CRWD
Michelle Sylvander, CRWD
Stephanie Herbst, CRWD
Britta Suppes, CRWD
Joe Bischoff, Wenck

Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Mr. Arbeit opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with a request for any announcements.

Ms. Swanson shared that she has information about an internship/volunteer undergraduate program. Ms. Swanson will forward this information to Administrator Doneux.

Public Comments

Mr. Duerre asked if there were any updates from the City regarding salting applications. Administrator Doneux replied that he attended a meeting with the City to discuss winter street maintenance. After a challenging snow fall the media quoted the City as using 800 pounds of salt per lane mile on residential streets. The media failed to report how the city has certified training for plow truck drivers and that experimental snow plowing blades have been installed on some of the plow trucks in addition to sensors for detecting the temperature of the pavement.

Mr. Barton shared a flyer for a film titled Growth Busters. The film will be shown at the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church at 700 South Snelling Avenue on Thursday, February 27th at 7:00pm. This event is free and co-sponsored by the Wetlands and Water Committee North Star Chapter Sierra Club.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Arbeit asked for any additions or changes to the Agenda. There were no changes.

CAC 13-031 Motion: *To approve the CAC January 15, 2014 agenda.*

Willems/Duerre

Unanimously approved

Approval of the December 11, 2013 CAC Minutes

Mr. Arbeit requested any changes or corrections to the minutes.

CAC 13-032 Motion: *To approve the CAC December 11, 2013 CAC Minutes with one correction as noted.*

Duerre/McDonald

Unanimously approved

District Initiatives

A) CRWD Administrator, Doneux introduced Joe Bischoff with Wenck Associates, Inc. In early January 2013, CRWD hired Wenck Associates, Inc. to conduct a more in-depth analysis of the four CRWD lakes water quality data collected by Ramsey County to better understand temporal, seasonal and climatic trends and the factors driving these trends. Specifically, CRWD sought answers to several questions for each of the lakes including: 1) Is the lake water quality data generally getting better or worse; 2) What are the trends; and 3) What factors are driving these trends. Mr. Bischoff reviewed statistical and graphical analysis of CRWD lake water quality data, trend analysis of selected water quality parameters, and a qualitative assessment of potential trend drivers.

B) CRWD Water Resource Technician, Ms. Herbst reviewed a power point presentation of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. The program is an education and certification program developed by Audubon International that seeks to minimize the potentially harmful impacts of golf course operations. Golf courses that choose to partake in the program are held responsible to implement a plan that will address key environmental components. Como Golf Course and Highland Golf Course are both members of the Sanctuary Program. The golf courses are responsible for implementing a set of environmental management practices that target six key areas: environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, chemical use reduction and safety, water conservation, water quality management, and outreach and education. Documentation is required, and designation as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary is awarded by Audubon International upon meeting environmental management standards in each area. In 2012, Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) entered verbal agreements with the Highland Golf Course and the Como Golf Course stating that CRWD would lead efforts for the golf courses' water quality monitoring programs. *A Guide to Environmental Stewardship on the Golf Course*, the official guide for the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, describes the purpose and procedure of water quality monitoring. As outlined in the guide, CRWD collected samples once a month for four months (June- September) that were analyzed for physical characteristics and nutrient concentrations.

Based on the 2013 data, the parameter of greatest concern for both golf courses is total phosphorus (TP). Total phosphorus relates to dissolved oxygen (DO) because an excessive amount of TP could lead to eutrophication, a process in which excessive aquatic growth depletes oxygen supply. According to *A Guide to Environmental Stewardship on the Golf Course*, baseline testing should be conducted four times per year during the first two years. 2013 marks the end of the baseline testing. For future years, sampling twice a year is considered sufficient, unless problems such as algae blooms, fish kills, or unusual wildlife behavior arise.

CAC Initiatives

A) Develop Outline of 2014 Meetings
Administrator Doneux reviewed the scheduled CAC meeting dates for 2014. Action items and items for review/comment that were requested by the CAC members, were drafted into the calendar. The tentative schedule of items includes:

February or March - Visit from Ellen Anderson, how to effectively communicate with the Legislature
May – Update on monitoring program
June – Site tour of CRWD projects
August – 2015 Budget review, complete a new member packet
October - A large event with a guest speaker

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

December – reappoint CAC members

- B) Discuss the Development of CAC Orientation Packet

Administrator Doneux asked the members of the CAC their feelings about outsourcing the orientation packet. Additional discussion on this item has been moved to the February 12th meeting.

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

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

Project and Program Updates

- A) North and East Groundwater Management Area (Doneux)

Administrator Doneux attended a meeting with the DNR. The DNR is developing three groundwater pilot programs. CRWD is located in the area where one of these pilot programs will take place. Further meetings are scheduled with more details.

CAC Observer and Board of Managers Update

Mr. Arbeit attended the December 18th Board of Managers meeting. Prior to the meeting a social hour was held with staff and guests. Administrator Doneux presented a review of the 15 year history of CRWD. He reviewed selected projects and the impact they have had on stormwater. Time was dedicated to awards presented to staff member Bob Fossum, Board of Manager Mike Thienes for his fifteen years of service. Family & Friends of Jerome Wagner attended for a special presentation of a memorial plaque in his honor.

Discussion –

- A) **New & Old Issues**

There was no discussion.

- B) **Identify CAC Observer for January 22nd Board of Managers Meeting and the February 5th, 2014 Board of Managers Meeting**

- C) **CAC Agenda Overview**

Adjourn –

CAC 13-033 Motion: *To adjourn.*

MacDonald/Byrne

Unanimously approved

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Sylvander