



Capitol Region Watershed District

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Approved August 14, 2013

Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, July 17, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

Gwen Willems
Bill Barton
Ted McCaslin
Michael MacDonald
David Arbeit
Steve Duerre

Members absent:

Kathryn Swanson, with notice
Pat Byrne
Janna Caywood, with notice
Michelle Ulrich, with notice
Richard Weil, with notice

Others Present:

Lindsay VanPatten, CRWD
Nate Zwonitzer, CRWD
Elizabeth Beckman, CRWD

Mike Thienes, Board of
Managers

Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Mr. Arbeit opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m. with a request for announcements. Mr. Arbeit also requested that everyone introduce themselves. He also recognized the passing of CAC Member Jerome Wagner.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Arbeit asked for any additions or changes to the Agenda. No changes were requested.

CAC 13-013 Motion: *To approve the CAC July 17, 2013 agenda.*

Barton/Willems

Unanimously approved

Approval of the May 8, 2013 CAC Minutes

Ms. Willems requested the following two corrections; change the spelling of Janet Larson to Jana Larson and correction to the spelling of the Center for Global Environmental Education.

CAC 13-014 Motion: *To approve the CAC May 8, 2013 CAC Minutes.*

MacDonald/Willems

Unanimously approved

Items for Review and Comment Requested by the Board of Managers

- A) 2013 CRWD Boulevard Rain Garden Projects, Nate Zwonitzer and Elizabeth Beckman

Ms. Beckman presented the RSVP boulevard rain garden program and discussed projects from previous years as well as the two projects completed in 2013. In 2013, 81 rain gardens were planted. She discussed the successes and difficulties of the program and the value of partnering with the City of Saint Paul. Ms.

Beckman also emphasized the value of engaging the residents in the project areas and addressed the value of collaborating with Great River Greening on these projects.

Mr. Zwonitzer presented the Burns Avenue Boulevard Rain Garden Project that was completed this spring. He presented that eight garden plans were made and seven were installed. The project is considered a pilot project for constructing boulevard rain gardens in targeted sites that are not part of a street reconstruction project. He also covered the successes and challenges of the project. Mr. Zwonitzer discussed that the boulevard rain garden projects that are correlated to the City of St Paul's RSVP areas are very cost-effective and provide a lot of stormwater pollution prevention benefit but if we limit our construction sites to street reconstruction areas alone we would be missing important opportunities to improve stormwater pollution.

Staff and Program Updates

A) Education Plan Update, Elizabeth Beckman

Ms. Beckman reviewed the Education and Outreach goals and objectives listed in the 2009 Education and Outreach Plan, then shared that the Board authorized staff to hire a public involvement specialist from HDR Engineering to complete a strategic planning process for our initiatives for upcoming years and implementation recommendations.

B) Display Development Update, Elizabeth Beckman

Ms. Beckman shared that staff is in the process of developing new education displays and have contracted with the Center for Global Environmental Education. Ms. Beckman shared that the designer for the displays is Scott Andre and staff have also contracted with Professor, Christine Manning at Macalester College to collect information from the focus groups and provide a summary report of their findings.

C) Blooming St. Paul Award Update, Elizabeth Beckman

Ms. Beckman discussed the new partnership with City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation on the Blooming St. Paul garden award program. CRWD has sponsored what was previously the Environmental Award and it is now the Clean Water Award. Staff trained Ramsey County Master Gardeners how to judge the category which is primarily rain garden sites.

C) Como Golf Course Pond Improvement Update, Nate Zwonitzer

Mr. Zwonitzer discussed the Como Golf Course Pond Improvement Project that was recently completed.

E) Central High School Stormwater Improvement Plan, Nate Zwonitzer

Mr. Zwonitzer presented the Central High School Stormwater Improvement Plan which is currently in the design stage. He discussed that there is a very active and motivated parent committee at the school that he has been working with. Mr. Zwonitzer also discussed that the site has a lot of stormwater improvement potential due to the compacted soil, erosion problems and lack of vegetation.

Board of Managers and CAC Observer Update

Mr. Duerre attended the June 19, 2013 Board Meeting. He commented that the 2012 Monitoring Report was really interesting and presented well and he looked forward to the presentation to the CAC Members.

Mr. Thienes commented that staff has presented the 2012 Monitoring Report, Central High School and Villa Park projects at recent meetings. Mr. Thienes recommended that CAC Members visit the Villa Park Wetland Area to see the work that is being done. He also commented on what appears to be high levels of algae in Lake McCarrons.

Discussion –

A)New & Old Issues

No new business.

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

B) Identify CAC Observer for July 24th Board of Managers Meeting

No one was identified.

C) Identify CAC Observer for August 7th Board of Managers Meeting

No one was identified.

D) 2013 Event Planning and Calendar

Ms. VanPatten reminded the CAC Members that Como Fest would be held on July 18-20 and that CRWD has sponsored the event. Janna Caywood will table on behalf of CLNN and help is needed to represent CRWD at her table. Mr. MacDonald said he would be at the event and could help table when he was not at the D10 table.

E) August 14, 2013 CAC Agenda Overview

Adjourn –

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 9:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Sylvander

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