



Capitol Region Watershed District

DRAFT

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Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday July 14, 2010 – 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

Janna Caywood, Steve Duerre, Karen Eckman,
Jerry Kafka, Paul Kammueler, Michael
MacDonald, Ole Olmanson, Shirley A. Reider,

Members absent with notice:

David Arbeit, Bill Barton, Mary Jo Murray,
Michelle Ulrich, Ted McCaslin

Others Present:

CRWD Manager Mike Thienes
Mark Doneux, CRWD Staff
Dawn Nelson, CRWD Staff
Matt Loyas, CRWD Staff

Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Shirley Reider opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with a request for announcements. Karen Eckman made an announcement about a community tour and distributed a flyer with the time and location. Jerry Kafka asked what was wrong with Como Lake. He stated that the algae and smell was particularly bad this year and wanted to know what was being done. Manager Thienes reviewed a series of projects that the Watershed District has undertaken with the Cities including shoreland restoration, sediment delta removal as well as all of the Arlington Pascal projects. Manager Thienes continued to say that while many projects have been done, more needs to be done to turn Como Lake from a turbid lake to a clear water lake. He also noted that because Como Lake is a shallow lake that the job is even harder due to the runoff into the lake that adds to the algae problem.

Public Comment – For items not on the Agenda.

There were no public comments.

Approval of Agenda

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

CAC 10-07-01 Motion: To approve the CAC July 14, 2010 agenda as provided.

Duerre/Reider

Unanimously approved

Approval of the May 12, 2010 CAC Minutes

Ms. Reider asked for additions or changes to the May 12, 2010 CAC Minutes. There were no additions or changes to the minutes.

CAC 10-07-02 Motion: *To approve the CAC May 12, 2010 CAC Minutes as provided.*

Reider/Eckman

Unanimously approved

Items for Review and Comment Requested by the Board of Managers

2009 Monitoring Program Report, Matt Loyas, Water Resource Technician

Mr. Loyas reviewed the 2009 draft Monitoring Report. Mr. Loyas stated he would review the monitoring locations, monitoring methods, the data analysis, monitoring results, and the proposed 2010 Monitoring. Mr. Loyas said from late March through December 2009, CRWD collected water quality and flow data from storm sewers, stormwater ponds, lakes and BMPs at 15 stormwater sites. Of those 15 sites, nine sites were full monitoring stations where both water quality and flow data were collected. Four major subwatersheds in CRWD; East Kittsondale, Phalen Creek, Saint Anthony Park, and Trout Brook, had full monitoring stations.

The other five full monitoring stations collected data from portions of two major subwatersheds, Saint Anthony Park and Trout Brook. Como 7, Villa Park, Trout Brook – West Branch, and Trout Brook – East Branch are located within Trout Brook subwatershed while Sarita is located within the Saint Anthony Park subwatershed. Samples were collected during both baseflow (dry weather) and stormflow (wet weather) and were analyzed for a suite of water quality parameters including nutrients, sediment, metals, and bacteria. Of the remaining six sites, two were flow-only stations at Como Lake and Lake McCarrons and four were water level recording stations at four stormwater ponds located in the Trout Brook subwatershed.

Mr. Loyas said Ramsey County Public Works Department monitored water quality of the four lakes in CRWD on a monthly or bi-monthly basis from May through September. The lakes were monitored for a suite of water quality parameters including nutrients, sediment, water clarity, and chlorophyll *a*. Mr. Loyas said 2009 was a below average year for precipitation based on historical normal averages. Compared to other monitoring years, 2009 had similar rainfall to 2008 and was drier than 2005, 2006, and 2007. Five monitoring sites were monitored through December and collected approximately 270 days of data. These five sites collected data for three of the four major subwatersheds. Sites not monitored through December were removed in November and collected approximately 215 days of data. Mr. Loyas said in general, CRWD major subwatersheds had less flow and lower phosphorus and sediment loads and yields in 2009 than in previous years. Trout Brook subwatershed generated the highest discharge and TP and TSS loads in CRWD with Phalen Creek and St. Anthony Park subwatersheds producing the next highest TP and TSS loads. Most of this pollutant loading occurred during storms rather than during dry weather conditions. On a per acre basis, the water export was highest from Phalen Creek subwatershed compared to the other major subwatersheds. Trout Brook subwatershed had the second highest water yield. In terms of pollutant concentrations and yields, East Kittsondale had lower flow-weighted average concentrations of TP and TSS in 2009 than other years, but was still highest of the four major subwatershed sites. In East Kittsondale, land use and activities produced higher pollutant loading per acre of land and per inch of runoff than other subwatersheds. Mr. Loyas said for the most part, CRWD was more polluted for TP and TSS than the Mississippi River and minimally impacted streams in this ecoregion with CRWD monitoring sites having higher flow-weighted average concentrations. While East Kittsondale subwatershed had the highest TP and TSS flow-weighted average concentrations, Trout Brook subwatershed had the lowest flow-weighted concentrations. Mr. Loyas noted that besides phosphorus and sediment being pollutants of concern in CRWD, metals and bacteria issues were identified in 2009. During storm events, the average lead and copper concentrations at all monitoring sites except one were higher than the state standards. Average zinc concentrations during storms at four monitoring sites were higher than the state standard.

Mr. Loyas said nearly all samples from every site during storm events in 2009 exceeded the maximum standard for *E. coli* bacteria with many concentrations much higher than the maximum standard, several greater than 100,000 mpn/100mL. Conversely, during dry weather, all monitoring sites except East Kittsondale met the maximum standard for *E. coli* bacteria. At East Kittsondale, during dry weather conditions every bacteria sample but one was in excess of the maximum standard. Besides high bacteria concentrations, CRWD has documented other evidence that indicates illicit discharges are occurring within the subwatershed. Shirely Reider asked how staff knows when something is an illicit discharge as opposed to being something else. Mr. Loyas said staff manually goes through the hydrographs and the shape is somewhat different too that points out the illicit discharge. Mr. Loyas said in comparison to stormwater from other urbanized areas in the country, CRWD had higher median concentrations for numerous pollutants including bacteria, total suspended solids, total phosphorus, total Kjeldahl nitrogen, copper and lead. Median concentrations of ammonia, nitrate+nitrite and cadmium were lower in CRWD than in other urban communities. Mr. Loyas said despite the elevated pollutant concentrations of stormwater in CRWD, all four lakes in CRWD had fairly good water quality meeting the state eutrophication standard, which is based on total phosphorus and chlorophyll *a* concentrations and water clarity (Secchi depth). Eutrophication indicators for CRWD lakes were very similar to those seen in 2008. Mr. Loyas said based on the results and

findings of the 2009 monitoring program, CRWD makes several recommendations for 2010. CRWD will continue to document illicit discharges, collect water additional water quality data, and work with the City of Saint Paul to determine the source(s) of the high bacteria concentrations. Matt noted that since the report was completed the bacteria issue at East Kittsondale during dry weather was identified and eliminated by the City of Saint Paul. CRWD will also further investigate the data from the subwatersheds of most concern to better identify relationships between portions of the subwatersheds, the variations from year to year, and the differences in discharge and pollutant loading between baseflow and stormflow. The Committee thanked Mr. Loyas for his presentation.

Discussion

Central Corridor Light Rail Transit

Administrator Doneux said the District has collaborated with Central Corridor Project Office (CCPO), the City of Saint Paul, and Ramsey County on the design and review of the stormwater treatment system for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) project. Plans have been finalized and staff is completing a final review in order to present a recommendation to the Board at the July 21, 2010 meeting. Administrator Doneux said the CCLRT is a linear project. District Stormwater Rule C provides a cap on the cost for volume reduction and water quality practices. This cap is set annually by the Board and is currently \$30,000/acre of impervious surface. The impervious area for the project from Emerald Street to Broadway is 93.46 acres, resulting in a cost cap of \$2,803,800. The bids for the entire tree trench infiltration system came in at \$3,290,000. According to the Rules, the project would be in compliance if only \$2.8M worth of trench was built, but it is the intent of Met Council to build the entire system. Administrator Doneux said the Operation and Maintenance Facility (OMF) is not considered a linear project. Due to contamination and high groundwater levels, infiltration is not feasible on this site. Through alternative compliance sequencing, Met Council proposes to contribute to the Stormwater Impact Fund at a rate of \$40,000/acre. The OMF will create 7.4 acre of impervious for a total of \$296,000. This money would go directly to the construction of the tree trench system on University Avenue. Essentially, this raises the regulatory cost cap from \$2,803,800 to \$3,099,800. Administrator Doneux said based on CRWD calculations, the entire project will provide approximately 3 acre-ft of volume reduction, or 130,680 cubic feet. This is approximately 43% of the 1-inch volume reduction standard for the entire project (7 ac-ft). Administrator Doneux noted that a table summarizing the pertinent numbers was included in their packet for discussion. Administrator Doneux reviewed the table and details of the proposed system with the CAC. Discussion occurred.

June 9th CAC Tour

Administrator Doneux noted that the June CAC meeting was a tour of a several projects in the District. Karen Eckman provided a CD with photos of the tour. The committee agreed that it was a good tour. Ms. Reider said it was a good combination of projects and the right amount of projects given the time. Discussion occurred.

CAC Participation on Consultant Selection Committee

Administrator Doneux explained that the District distributed a request for qualifications for engineering services for the development of the Crosby Lake Management Plan (CLMP). An engineer review committee was assembled to evaluate the SOQs. The committee consisted of CRWD Managers Bob Piram and Joe Collins, CRWD staff, Mark Doneux and Anna Eleria, CRWD CAC member Shirley Reider and Phil Belfiori from the City of St. Paul. The engineer review committee evaluated each firm based on five criteria: 1) project understanding; 2) project approach/tasks; 3) previous lake plans/studies; 4) personnel qualifications; and 5) SOQ quality. Ms. Reider said it was educational and she was glad she participated.

Staff and Program Updates

Crosby Lake Watershed Management Plan

Administrator Doneux said an engineer has been selected for the Crosby Lake Management Plan. The District also recruited a community outreach consultant for assistance in engaging citizens in the development of the Crosby Lake Management Plan (CLMP). Administrator Doneux noted that the project will begin in August.

Downspout Diversion Program (Stop the Rain Drain) Update

Administrator Doneux said staff continues to work with LaBreche Communications and citizens from Districts 7 and 14 to implement the Stop the Rain Drain campaign in summer 2010. Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa (formerly MCC) will complete technical assistance work at first in the campaign focus areas, then outside the focus areas, in September 2010. Administrator Doneux noted that an updated campaign workplan and budget summary were included in the packet. It was noted that LaBreche designed a website for Stop the Rain Drain and staff is currently developing the website content and photographs; Phase One outreach begins July 9th when a utility insert promoting downspout redirection is included in utility bills sent to 80,000 St. Paul homes; CRWD and LaBreche staff continue to develop collateral materials for Phase Two of the campaign, including printed materials (e.g. door hangers, mail, counter tents for local businesses), a television public service announcement, and print advertising for the Highland Villager, the Grand Gazette, and the Park Bugle. Administrator Doneux said staff anticipate spending less than \$7,000 promoting Phase 2 of the campaign. CRWD and LaBreche staff are working to establish partnerships with Kendall's Ace Hardware and Grand Avenue Hardware to help promote the campaign. CRWD and LaBreche staff will promote the campaign through contacts with District planning councils, canvass in the campaign Focus Areas and event appearances. LaBreche will complete work on a comprehensive communications plan in August.

Board of Managers and CAC Observer Update

Manager Thienes reviewed recent Board actions including; The District has been appointed a new County Attorney, Kevin Lindsey. The Board had a special recognition for Minger Construction who completed the repairs on Trout Brook. Matt Loyas provided the Board with the 2009 Monitoring Program presentation in preparation for presenting at the 2010 National Monitoring Conference in Colorado. The Board approved a Loan Agreement for Villa Park.

Discussion - New & Old Issues

August 11, 2010 Agenda Overview

Adjourn – 9:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Nelson