



APPROVED August 8 2012

# Capitol Region Watershed District

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**Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, June 13, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.**

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**CAC Members Present:**

David Arbeit, Bill Barton,  
Janna Caywood, Mike  
MacDonald, Ted McCaslin,  
Shirley Reider, Kathryn  
Swanson, Michael Trojan,  
Gwen Willems

**Members absent with notice:**

Steve Duerre, Wade Johnson,  
Michelle Ulrich

**Others Present:**

Mary Texer, CRWD Manager  
Mark Doneux, Administrator  
Dawn Nelson, Office Manager  
Matt Loyas,  
Water Resource Technician  
Don Ganje,  
St. Paul Parks and Recreation

**Welcome, Announcements, and Updates**

Shirley Reider opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m. with introductions and a request for announcements. Bill Barton announced that he saw Marylyn Deneen and she says hello to everyone.

**Public Comment – For items not on the Agenda.**

David Arbeit discussed the incredible harvesting of weeds. Administrator Doneux said he would contact Cy Kosel about weed harvesting.

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**CAC 12-06-01 Motion:** *To approve the CAC June 13, 2012 agenda as provided.*

Willems/Barton

Unanimously approved

**Approval of the April 11, 2012 CAC Minutes**

Ms. Reider asked for additions or changes to the April 11, 2012 CAC Minutes. Gwen Willems asked that the April 11<sup>th</sup> minutes reflect that she was in attendance. David Arbeit may have been in attendance. Shirley Reider said she chaired the meeting and requested motion request corrections in the minutes as needed.

**CAC 12-06-02 Motion:** *To approve the CAC April 11, 2012 CAC Minutes as amended.*

Willems/Arbeit

Unanimously approved

**Items for Review and Comment Requested By Board of Managers**

**Great River Passage Plan, Don Ganje, City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation**

Don Ganje from the City of St. Paul presented the major components of the Great River Passage Plan. Mr. Ganje said the Master Plan includes St. Paul's 17 miles of Mississippi River frontage. The three major principles of the plan include: more natural, more urban, more connected. Mr. Ganje highlighted several projects of interest to the CRWD including the Watergate Marina, Island Station and the downtown river overlook. Mr. Ganje noted the connections between the Great River Passage Plan and the District's Watershed Management Plan.

Administrator Doneux noted in April the Board approved a comment letter in support of the Great River Passage Plan. In general, the plan is very well done and includes several of the District's goals and initiatives. Discussion occurred

The Committee thanked Mr. Ganje for his presentation.

### **2011 CRWD Monitoring Report, Matt Loyas, Water Resource Technician**

Mr. Loyas reviewed the 2011 draft Monitoring Report. Mr. Loyas stated he would review the monitoring locations, monitoring methods, the data analysis, monitoring results, and the proposed 2012 Monitoring.

Mr. Loyas said throughout 2011, CRWD collected water quality and flow data from storm sewers, stormwater ponds, and lakes at 17 monitoring sites. Mr. Loyas said of those 17 sites, ten 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 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 sites, two were flow-only stations at Como Lake and Lake McCarrons and four were water level recording stations at three stormwater ponds located in the Trout Brook subwatershed and one pond located in the Villa Park subwatershed.

Ramsey County Public Works Department (RCPW) 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 noted that 2011 was an above average year for precipitation based on historical normal rainfall averages. Five sites were monitored throughout the entire year with an average of 358 days of data collected at each. These five sites (East Kittsondale, Phalen Creek, St. Anthony Park, Trout Brook – West Branch, Trout Brook – East Branch, were located in the four major subwatersheds. Sites not monitored for the entire year had an average of 222 days of data each. Winter monitoring efforts is aiding in the MPCA's Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Chloride Project.

Mr. Loyas said in general, CRWD major subwatersheds recorded greater flow and lower normalized phosphorus and sediment yields in 2011 than in previous years. The Trout Brook subwatershed generated the highest discharge and TP and TSS loads in CRWD with East Kittsondale subwatershed producing the next highest TSS load while Phalen Creek produced the second highest TP load. Most of this pollutant loading occurred during storms rather during dry weather conditions. The Phalen Creek site experienced high water during most of the spring and summer. This site yielded much smaller TSS loads than in the past. Of the major subwatershed outlets, the per acre water export was highest from Phalen Creek. The Trout Brook subwatershed had the second highest per acre water yield. In terms of flow-weighted pollutant concentrations, East Kittsondale had the highest flow-weighted average TP and TSS concentrations of all sites in 2011, but the concentrations were low in comparison to other monitoring years. 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 stated for the most part, stormwater runoff from CRWD was more polluted for TP and TSS than the Mississippi River. While the East Kittsondale subwatershed had the highest TP and TSS flow-weighted average concentrations, the Phalen Creek subwatershed had the lowest flow-weighted concentrations.

Besides phosphorus and sediment being pollutants of concern in CRWD, metals and bacteria issues were identified in 2011. During storm events, the average lead and copper concentrations for all major subwatershed outlet sites except one were higher than the state standards. Average zinc concentrations during storms at two of the four major subwatershed outlet sites, East Kittsondale and St. Anthony Park, were higher than the state standard.

Mr. Loyas said thirteen of 19 samples collected during storm events at the four major subwatershed outlet sites in 2011 exceeded the maximum standard for *E. coli* bacteria with the highest being 40,400 mpn/100mL. Conversely, during dry weather, only 4 of 65 samples exceeded the state standard. The City of Saint Paul eliminated an illicit sanitary discharge of bacteria in the East Kittsondale subwatershed in May 2010, and 2011 bacteria concentrations show that it has been completely eliminated, with only one exceedance at this site during dry weather.

Mr. Loyas explained that due to a wet monitoring season and the occurrence of spring flooding, all four lakes experienced increased total phosphorus and chlorophyll *a* concentrations, with Como Lake and Crosby Lake not meeting the state eutrophication standard, which is based on total phosphorus, chlorophyll *a* concentrations and water clarity data. 2011 was the first year Crosby Lake did not meet the state standard.

Based on field observations, CRWD staff observed up to 10 potential illicit discharges from the St. Anthony Park subwatershed. Due to fluctuations from the Mississippi River these discharges could not be confirmed by flow data. However, staff noted colorful plumes, floating debris, and foul odor during these events. While results are currently inconclusive, the discharges typically have higher concentrations of total dissolved solids, total suspended solids, and *E. coli*. Mr. Loyas said District staff is working with the City of Saint Paul to determine the source of these discharges.

Mr. Loyas said based on the results and findings of the 2011 monitoring program, CRWD makes several recommendations for 2012. District staff will continue to document illicit discharges throughout the watershed, including St. Anthony Park and work with the City of Saint Paul to eliminate this and other potential sources of pollution. Staff will also work to continue monitoring through winter months and work with the MPCA in monitoring the extent of chloride pollution. Mr. Loyas said District staff will also begin to evaluate important portions of unmonitored subwatersheds for consideration of new short or long-term monitoring sites. Bill Barton asked about Sulfate testing. Mr. Loyas said sulfate testing will be added to the monitoring program. Discussion occurred.

The committee thanked Matt for his presentation.

### **Staff and Program Updates**

#### **Ashland Pascal RSVP Rain Gardens Update**

Administrator Doneux said since the time of planting in August 2008, there have been issues with several of the Ashland-Pascal rain gardens. The two most common problems are the selection of plants whose mature size is out of scale with the boulevard planting area and severe plant dieback. After surveying the gardens, staff proposes in 2012 to contract with a landscape maintenance professional to, with permission from homeowners, carry out for each garden general weeding, edging, clearing of inlets, manual regrading and replanting where necessary. Administrator Doneux said the Board authorized stewardship grant funds for a landscape maintenance contract and authorized staff to work with Saint Paul Public Works and Ashland-Pascal residents to conduct rain garden maintenance.

#### **Board of Managers and CAC Observer Update**

Manager Mary Texer said the permits are down and budget season is starting. Manager Texer announced that Forrest Kelley passed his PE professional engineer test.

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

**Discussion - New & Old Issues**

No Discussion

**July 11, 2012 Agenda Overview**

Manager Thienes will attend the July, August and September CAC meetings.

**Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm by consensus.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Nelson