



Capitol Region Watershed District

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APPROVED

Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, March 13, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

Bill Barton, Pat Byrne, Janna
Caywood, Steve Duerre,
Michael MacDonald, Ted
McCaslin, Michelle Ulrich,
David Arbeit,
Kathryn Swanson, Richard
Weil, Gwen Willems

Members absent with notice:

Jerome Wagner, Michael
Trojan

Others Present:

Lindsay VanPatten, CRWD Staff
Michelle Sylvander, CRWD Staff
Ryan Johnson, Ramsey County
Conservation District

Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Gwen Willems opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. with a request for announcements.

Public Comment – For items not on the Agenda.

There were no public comments.

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Willems asked for additions or changes to the Agenda. There was one correction near the bottom of page 3.

CAC 13-004 Motion: *To approve the CAC March 13, 2013 agenda as provided.*

Duerre/Weil

Unanimously approved

Approval of the February 13, 2013 CAC Minutes

CAC 13-005 Motion: *To approve the CAC February 13, 2013 CAC Minutes as provided.*

Duerre/Weil

Unanimously approved

Items for Review and Comment Requested by the Board of Managers

- **Plants for Clean Water, Ryan Johnson, Ramsey Conservation District, Ryan Johnson**
Mr. Johnson shared a presentation showing commonly used native plants for plantings, rain gardens, and shorelines. He explained that native plants are recommended due to their hardiness, lower maintenance, habitat potential, stormwater benefits, and overall appealing look. There is a wide range of plants that grow in shade, part sun, and full sun, and all of which do not require continuous watering, or fertilizers to sustain. Examples of completed projects were shown to help demonstrate how native plants can add variety to any landscape and improve water quality.

Planting for clean water is part of the solution to water pollution because it mimics nature and natural hydrology. In natural landscapes, rain tends to soak into the ground gradually. However, nowadays, much of the land is covered by impervious surfaces - such as streets, parking lots and roofs - where the water cannot soak into the ground. Native plantings help infiltrate water back into the ground and stop the stormwater runoff.

- **Event Planning and Calendar, Lindsay VanPatten**

Ms. VanPatten explained how community engagement and public education are necessary for increasing knowledge and awareness of water quality issues. CRWD Staff participate in community events and work to foster partnership relationships with many organizations and city agencies.

CRWD Staff attend and support many community events throughout the year in an effort to engage and educate residents about water quality issues and the role of the District. Engaging district residents and increasing public awareness are tools to encourage behavioral changes that positively impact our shared water resources. These efforts also have the potential of resulting in the sharing of information with friends, family and neighbors and populations that would otherwise not be reached.

CRWD Staff requested that CAC Members help represent CRWD and attend at least one community event listed on the 2013 Events Calendar. Ms. VanPatten provided a sign-up sheet and asked if CAC Members are aware of other water quality education or outreach events that Staff should consider promoting or participating in they should let them know.

Staff and Program Updates

- **2013 City of St. Paul RSVP Projects, Lindsay VanPatten**

Ms. VanPatten reviewed the Blair Griggs RSVP project. RSVP is the City of St. Paul Residential Street Vitality Program. This program has been coordinated with the City of St. Paul street reconstruction.

In 2012, 60 rain gardens were installed. The city has provided the curb cuts, excavation, and mulch. The residents must commit to planting and taking care of the rain gardens. CRWD provides the plants and assists with any planting. Plants are chosen by the conditions either sunny or shady. This year some rain gardens will include trees. This year the planting dates will be May 18th and June 8th.

- **2013 Education and Outreach Work Plan, Lindsay VanPatten**

Ms. VanPatten shared that in June 2009, Board Managers approved the CRWD Education Plan. Ms. VanPatten explained the objective of the plan is to guide efforts to persuade citizens to adopt water pollution prevention practices. These practices include landscape practices that make a limited environmental impact in order to reduce effects on local lakes and the Mississippi River. The 2009 Plan stresses the importance of using communication strategies, media, public relations, advertising, events, classroom visits, training and grant making to meet CRWD's education goals.

In an effort to increase the impact of CRWD's education and outreach efforts, the Board has approved Staff to post a Request for Qualifications for a consultant or firm to develop an Education and Outreach Strategic Planning Process for the 2014 – 2015 Program year.

CRWD seeks assistance with:

- an assessment of program resources and strengths;
- segmentation of audiences and matching messages and tactics to those audiences;
- refining of program goals;

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

- the development of a 2014-15 implementation plan and suggestions for linking the plan to annual staff work plans; and
- Recommendation for tools to measure the effectiveness of education and outreach efforts.

In addition to the request for qualifications, Staff is working to develop a communication plan for such things as press releases and public notices as well as to better utilize social media and technology to reach residents.

Board of Managers and CAC Observer Update

Mr. McCaslin gave a brief update on the February 20th Board of Manager Meeting. The 35E MN DOT project may eliminate a trail connection. The Trillium project should be complete in 2014.

Mr. Jones gave an update on the March 6th Board of Manager Meeting and workshop meeting. Prior to the board meeting a workshop was held with department heads and key staff from the City of St. Paul. The two groups were able to sit down and share projects. The workshop was viewed, successful for the relationship between CRWD and the City of St. Paul. One of the items the board approved was the education and outreach program.

Discussion –

New & Old Issues – No items were discussed

Identify CAC Observer for March 20th Board of Managers Meeting, Michael MacDonald to attend.

Identify CAC Observer for April 3rd Board of Managers Meeting, Janna Caywood to attend.

Adjourn –

CAC 13-006 Motion: *Adjourn the March 13, 2013 CAC Meeting*

Duerre/McDonald

Unanimously approved

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Sylvander