



Capitol Region Watershed District

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Approved

Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, March 9, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

David Arbeit
Pat Cavanaugh
Steve Duerre
Claudia Hochstein
Mike MacDonald
Rick Sanders
Nicole Soderholm
Richard Weil
Gwen Willems

Others Present:

Mark Doneux, CRWD
Michelle Sylvander, CRWD
Lindsay VanPatten, CRWD
Joe Collins, CRWD Board
President
Cheryl Haines, University of
Minnesota

Members absent:

Bill Barton
Kathryn Swanson, w/notice
Michelle Ulrich, w/notice

Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Ms. Willems opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with introductions. After introductions Ms. Willems asked for any public comments. There were no public comments.

III. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Willems asked for any additions or changes to the Agenda. Administrator Doneux requested the addition of Central High School and Lake McCarrons to VIII. Project and Program Updates.

CAC 16-007 Motion: *To approve the CAC February 10, 2016 agenda with changes.*

Duerre/MacDonald
Unanimously approved

IV. Approval of the February 10, 2016 Minutes

CAC 16-008 Motion: *To approve the February 10, 2016.*

MacDonald/Duerre
Unanimously approved

V. Special Report – Characterization of the microbiological quality of two non-potable water reuse systems in Minnesota, Cheryl Haines, University of Minnesota

Ms. Cheryl Haines a graduate student from the University of Minnesota shared a presentation of her work with the water reuse system in the University of Minnesota's student housing. Gray water is captured, treated and used for flushing toilets at one of the student housing dormitories. The reused water has blue dye added to indicate that it has been treated. Because of health risk concerns of reused water Ms. Haines tested gray water at the student housing. Water reuse systems currently do not have any standards to follow. Ms. Haines tested for coliform bacteria and other pathogens. Her testing methods used tap water for her control. Samples were gathered from the inside and outside of the cistern. A hemodialysis is used to filter out bacteria.

Ms. Haines also tested water from a stormwater storage pond in Centerville, MN where the water is reused to irrigate ball fields. President Collins asked if anyone has gotten sick from the ball fields being irrigated. Ms. Haines replied that it is unknown if anyone has gotten sick from the irrigation.

Mr. Arbeit asked if there is any literature data on this type of research. Ms. Haines replied that this is still a new area of research. Some research has been done in Europe and Australia. Mr. Arbeit asked if Ms. Haines has written a hypothesis for her study. Ms. Haines replied that she has mixed feelings about water reuse. Her opinion was that human exposure should be limited.

VI. District Initiatives for Review, Comment and Recommendations

A) Stewardship Grant Program Update, Gustavo Castro

Mr. Castro provided an update to the CAC on the stewardship grant program. Since 2015, the CRWD Stewardship Grant program offers technical and financial assistance to property owners interested in implementing stormwater best management practices (BMPs) on their property. Projects that capture runoff from streets, parking lots, or other larger impervious surfaces receive higher awards due to their higher water quality benefits. These projects could potentially receive up to 100% of the total project costs in addition to free design services. On the other hand, projects that have a small impact in reducing stormwater volume and pollutants receive a lower grant award, or may not qualify for Stewardship Grant funds. Regardless of size or benefits of the project, CRWD provides free site visits and technical resources to all grant applicants.

CRWD has distributed around 250 education packages since 2014. A total of 99 site visits were conducted in 2015 and 165 in 2016. The number of installed projects also increase from 7 in 2013 to 18 in 2015. CRWD has also seen an increase in the quality/size of projects installed. Overall the new program has received positive feedback from grant applicants and other watershed districts. Other districts in the metro area have created their own versions of Clean Water Plans (CWPs), or are considering adding CWPs and a grant calculator to their grant programs.

Ms. Cavanaugh asked if there is a way to track site visits and how much they cost. Administrator Doneux replied that in the past every site visit included site plans. Ms. Cavanaugh added that it is better to look at each site visit as an education opportunity.

B) Strategic Communication and Education program Updates, Lindsay VanPatten

Ms. VanPatten shared with the CAC that with the departure of CRWD Education and Outreach Coordinator, Elizabeth Beckman and the completion of three studies related to Education and Outreach, Staff and the Board have been reviewing the District's Education and Outreach Program.

In February, Dr. Mae Davenport from the University of Minnesota, Department of Forest Resources presented a summary of the Community Capacity Study that was completed in collaboration with Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District and Mississippi Watershed Management Organization. At the February 17 Board meeting, the Board supported a staff recommendation to draft Education and Outreach Objective No. 5 that incorporates findings from the **Draft Community Capacity Study, Watershed Management Plan Mid Term Review** and **Strategic Communications Plans** to guide the work of the District's Education program moving forward. Ms. VanPatten reviewed that programs are being evaluated. The program goal is to increase awareness of stormwater runoff in the community and use education to promote changes in behavior that will help restore and protect water quality in the District.

Mr. Arbeit asked why efforts seem to be concentrated in District 6 and District 11. Ms. VanPatten replied that these are the areas identified as residents having an interest in working with CRWD. Ms. Cavanaugh asked if stenciling is related to the Adopt A Drain program. Ms. VanPatten replied that they are not related.

VII. CAC Initiates

A) 2016 Student Worker Update

Mr. MacDonald met with the student worker Ms. Briese from the University of Minnesota. Ms. Briese will begin working on summarizing rules from other watershed districts. Ms. Cavanaugh asked if there was an update on the 3-D model project. No update was available.

B) Governor's Water Summit

President Joe Collins, Gwen Willems and Ms. Cavanaugh attended the Governor's Water Summit. President Collins shared that he heard many great comments about CRWD. Ms. Cavanaugh shared that she felt it was clear that Governor Dayton wants to keep water a priority.

VIII. Project and Program Updates

A) Snelling Midway Redevelopment Project

Administrator Doneux provided a brief update on the Snelling Midway Redevelopment Project. Staff have sent a letter to the property owners to consider a district stormwater management approach. The letter addresses that CRWD would consider being a financial partner for the shared stacked green infrastructure practices that go above and beyond CRWD stormwater requirements.

B) Central High School

Administrator Doneux shared with the CAC that the Board of Managers have approved additional funds to install a well for the students at Central High School to monitor stormwater. Ms. Cavanaugh suggested contacting the Villager to write a news story about Central High Schools projects.

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

C) Lake McCarrons

Administrator Doneux updated the CAC that the Board of Managers support concerns about unintentional spreading of invasive species by weed harvesting. Mr. Sanders shared that a few neighbors are unhappy but understand. Administrator Doneux stated that the District will remain focused on water quality.

IX. CAC Observer Update

President Collins provided an update for the CAC. The Managers have had discussions on the Education and Outreach position changes

X. Discussion

A) New & Old Issues

No discussion

B) CAC Observer for the Board of Managers Meetings March 16, 2016 and April 6, 2016.

Ms. Cavanaugh volunteered to attend the March 16th Board of Managers Meeting.

C) 2016 Meeting Schedule

The April 13th, 2016 CAC meeting will be moved to Thursday, April 14th so that members can attend the Moos Family Lecture being held on April 13th, 2016. The April 14th CAC meeting will include the annual election of officers, review of the 2015 Permit Program and update on the Lakes and Stormwater Monitoring Report

XI. Adjourn

CAC 16-009 Motion: *To adjourn the March 9, 2016 CAC Meeting.*

Arbeit/MacDonald
Unanimously approved

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.
Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Sylvander

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