



APPROVED April 14, 2010

Capitol Region Watershed District

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Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday March 10, 2010 – 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

Bill Barton, Janna Caywood, Steve Duerre, Karen Eckman, Paul Kammuehler, Ted McCaslin, Shirley A. Reider, Michelle Ulrich, Jerry Wagner

Members absent with notice:

David Arbeit, Ole Olmanson, Michael MacDonald

Others Present:

CRWD Manager Mike Thienes
Dawn Nelson, CRWD Staff
Elizabeth Beckman, CRWD Staff
Gary Leatherman, Resident
Kevin Flynn, Resident

Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Paul Kammuehler opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. with a request for announcements. Shirley Reider announced that Michael MacDonald emailed her noting that he may not attend the meeting tonight and provided written comments on the carp issue. Janna Caywood announced that she attended a training workshop that was hosted by the Freshwater Society to teach how to organize a community clean-up for water quality. Ms. Caywood said the Como Lake Neighborhood Network (CLNN) applied for a grant from the CRWD for Community Clean-up in the Como neighborhood scheduled for April 17, 2010. Shirley Reider reminded the Committee that Elizabeth Beckman sent everyone an email requesting volunteers for different upcoming events. Ms. Reider encouraged everyone to volunteer if their schedule permits.

Public Comment – For items not on the Agenda.

Jerry Wagner said he wanted to make the committee aware of the activity at the Rice Street Highway 36 Interchange. Mr. Wagner said he knows a permit was submitted with the District but he didn't know the status. Mr. Wagner asked that the CAC minutes from January 13th be revised to say a spring fed pond. Manager Thienes said it has not been shown that the pond is completely spring fed so that would be an incorrect statement.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Kammuehler asked for additions or changes to the Agenda. Bill Barton asked if he could provide a brief update on his findings on the invasive carp to address David Arbeit's question of why the District would be involved in this.

CAC 10-03-01 Motion: To approve the CAC March 10, 2010 agenda as amended.

Reider/Eckman

Unanimously approved

Approval of the February 10, 2010 CAC Minutes

Mr. Kammuehler asked for additions or changes to the *February 10, 2010* CAC Minutes. Ms. Reider noted that the Corp of Engineers was misspelled.

CAC 10-03-02 Motion: To approve the CAC February 10, 2010 CAC Minutes as amended.

Duerre/Reider

Unanimously approved

Items for Review and Comment Requested by the Board of Managers

No items for review or comment.

Discussion

Stewardship Grants & Residential Green Roofs

Elizabeth Beckman explained that the green roof technology is an innovative way to manage stormwater that also reduces the need for cooling energy, improves air quality, and improves aesthetics. Green roofs are shown to retain 60-100% of incoming rainfall, and create vegetated areas in highly developed urban areas where such space is at a premium. Ms. Beckman said in 2008 the CRWD Board of Managers approved stewardship grant requests for two residential green roof projects in St. Paul, Ms. Beckman introduced Kevin Flynn and Gary Leatherman who will both provide presentations on their projects.

Mr. Flynn said he is an architect and a resident in the St. Paul's Highland neighborhood. Mr. Flynn said his project is his home and his architecture practice, EcoDEEP. Mr. Flynn's project will seek Minnesota GreenStar Gold level certification for their home, which incorporates renewable energy systems, nontoxic building materials, and innovative stormwater management techniques in the landscape.

Mr. Leatherman said his plan was to install a green roof atop his newly constructed three car garage built on the alley of his duplex at 2259 Carter Avenue in St. Paul. The structure was planned and designed to hold a green roof, up to 50 lbs per sq. ft. By comparison, a standard roof is designed for 15 lbs per sq. foot. Mr. Leather chose to install a green roof to retain stormwater, to extend the life of his garage roof, to improve air quality, and to help beautify the neighborhood.

The committee thanked Mr. Flynn and Mr. Leatherman for their presentations.

2009 Stewardship Grant Program

Ms. Beckman said since 2005, the CRWD Stewardship and Partner Grant Programs have provided cost-share funding and technical assistance for best management projects, such as rain gardens, rain barrels, and green roofs, and for education and outreach activities that improve water quality and raise awareness of the impacts of stormwater runoff. CRWD residents, non-profits, businesses and schools located in the District are eligible for a grant. In 2009, through the Stewardship Grant Program, CRWD supported 44 water quality improvement projects at a cost of nearly \$31,000. The 2009 budget for Stewardship Grant projects was \$32,000. Three education and outreach projects were funded through the Partner Grant Program at a total cost of nearly \$24,000, which was within the 2009 Partner Grant Program budget of \$49,000. Ms. Beckman reviewed a summary of the 2009 Stewardship and Partner Grant Programs with the committee.

Staff and Program Updates

Education and Outreach Update

Ms. Beckman said after reviewing ten submissions and interviewing three firms for the Communication Consultant RFQ, CRWD staff and the Board of Managers Education subcommittee selected LaBreche. At the February 17th meeting, the Board approved the selection of LaBreche to create a strategic communications plan, and assist with the design of our downspout redirection program.

Board of Managers and CAC Observer Update

Manager Thienes reviewed recent Board actions including; the February 17th and March 3rd Special Report was both about the financial management of the Watershed Management Plan. The Board accepted the Stormwater BMP Performance Assessment and Cost Benefit Analysis, approved the contract amendment for the P-8 Modeling with EOR, Inc. and approved a Stewardship Grant for the Public Art of St. Paul.

Discussion - New & Old Issues

Bill Barton reminded the committee that at the January meeting he had expressed his concerns about the invasive carp and possibly recommending the closing of the locks and dam in the twin cities. Mr. Barton

provided a presentation on the research he had gathered on locks and Dam and the damage the carp are causing. Mr. Barton asked that the committee make a recommendation to the Board to ask the Corps of Engineers to evaluate the liability of operating the locks. Mr. Barton said David Arbeit had asked how this involves the District and wanted to share his research. Mr. Barton noted that the Minnesota Statute states the general purpose of a Watershed District is to conserve the natural resources of the state by land flood control, and other conservation projects by using scientific principles for the protection of the public health and the provident use of the natural resources, the establishment watershed districts is authorized under this chapter. Mr. Barton said Asian Carp have severely impacted fishing and recreation on the waters they infest. They can spawn multiple times each year and can quickly out-compete native species by disrupting the food chain. Asian carp would have a devastating effect on the ecosystem and a significant economic impact on the \$2.5 billion fishing economy in Minnesota. Once above St. Anthony Falls, Asian carp can access many new tributaries connected to the river. These fish aggressively compete with native commercial and sport fish for food. Mr. Barton said Saint Paul's water is drawn from the Mississippi River north of the Twin Cities. Water drains through a series of lakes and eventually into Vadnais Lake where it enters the water treatment system at the McCarron pumping station. Water is chemically treated to meet State health requirements and lime is introduced to soften water. Communities up and down the river use the Mississippi to obtain fresh drinking water and to discharge their industrial and municipal waste waters. Mr. Barton said seventy to eighty percent of Saint Paul's water comes from the Mississippi River. The rest is obtained from wells in the Vadnais Lake area. Mr. Barton said he is requesting that the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Capitol Region Watershed District recommend that the Watershed District request the US Army Corps of Engineers to complete an economic viability review for the three twin cities locks that includes invasive species barrier value before the 2010 shipping season begins. Mr. Barton said the closing of the three twin cities locks converts the three locks to a virtually fail safe 100% physical barrier system to invasive carp; closing of the three twin cities locks will save taxpayers ~\$20 million dollars per year and the barge transportation is not "critical" to economic growth as often claimed by barge interests when referring to the entire upper Mississippi river. Discussion occurred.

CAC 10-03-03 Motion: The Citizens Advisory Committee of the Capitol Region Watershed District recommends that the Watershed District request the US Army Corps of Engineers complete an economic viability review of the three twin cities locks that includes invasive species barrier value.

Barton/Duerre

Unanimously approved

April 14, 2010 Agenda Overview

Shirley Reider said she would like for the committee to go on a field trip during a future meeting to visit some of the new projects.

Adjourn – 9:15

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Nelson