



APPROVED April 13, 2011

Capitol Region Watershed District

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Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday March 9, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

David Arbeit, Bill Barton,
Janna Caywood, Steve Duerre,
Michael MacDonald, Ted
McCaslin, Ole Olmanson,
Shirley Reider, Michelle
Ulrich, Gwen Willems

Members absent with notice:

Others Present:

CRWD Manager Mike Thienes
Mark Doneux, CRWD Staff
Dawn Nelson, CRWD Staff
Anna Eleria, CRWD Staff

Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Shirley Reider opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. with a request for announcements. David Arbeit reported that he received a letter from the Como Lake Knowledge, Aptitude and Practices (KAP) neighborhood study letting residents know that they will be going to conduct a door-to-door survey in the Como neighborhood about urban run-off and its effect on Como Lake. Mr. Arbeit also announced that he read that Senator Ellen Anderson is resigning from the Senate. She was appointed to Chair the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission by Governor Mark Dayton.

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 11-03-01 Motion: *To approve the CAC March 9, 2011 agenda as provided.*

Arbeit/MacDonald

Unanimously approved

Approval of the February 9, 2011 CAC Minutes

Ms. Reider asked for additions or changes to the February 9, 2011 CAC Minutes.

CAC 11-03-02 Motion: *To approve the CAC February 9, 2011 CAC Minutes as provided.*

Arbeit/Duerre

Unanimously approved

Items for Review and Comment Requested by the Board of Managers

Legislative Update, Ray Bohn

Ray Bohn provided the committee with a MAWD Legislative update. Mr. Bohn said since the final budget forecast in late February activities have increased considerably. Budget committees have been working to craft budgets to fit within the spending targets given them by their leadership. The final touches on both Environmental Finance Bills are being completed. Both bills are expected to move quickly to and through each floor to conference committee. It is unclear when and where the governor is going to weigh in on the finance bills, but most are expecting that the governor will weigh in with vetoes and then the negotiating will begin. The House Environment Finance Bill also eliminates funding for the clean water partnership program.

The Senate bill also includes the language on water rulemaking moratorium and water agency study. Also included in the bill are the LCCMR items for funding including \$5.8 million one-time funding for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) for the biennium. The House version includes \$5.6million one time funding for AIS.

The DNR has proposed Aquatic Invasive Species legislation that has a permanent funding scheme and an increase in inspections, penalties, service provider training, harvesting, etc. as well as changes to streamline permitting to deal with AIS. The House and Senate are both including AIS funding within their respective Finance bills but not much long-term funding, which is critical to the success of this program.

The Clean Water Fund Bill authored by Clean Water Council member and House member Rep. Paul Torkelson has had one hearing before the Environment Committee and will be heard again on March 29 to be included in the Omnibus Legacy legislation. Rep. Torkelson's bill generally follows the recommendations of the Clean Water Council for fund and also formalizes the CWC as the official group to make recommendations on the Clean Water Fund to the governor and legislature. Rep. Torkelson will be our special guest at the Legislative Breakfast on Thursday morning to speak about his bill. The legislation includes adding four non-voting legislators to the council as well as the commissioner of the Health Dept. Discussion occurred. The committee thanked Mr. Bohn for the update.

Discussion

2010 Stewardship Grant Program Summary (Anna Eleria)

Ms. Eleria said since 2005, CRWD has provided cost-share funding and technical assistance for water quality improvement projects, such as rain gardens, rain barrels, green roofs and education and outreach activities, for residents, non-profits, businesses and schools located in the District. Ms. Eleria said in 2010, CRWD funded 44 Stewardship and Partner Grant Projects for a total award amount nearly \$65,000. The five Partner Grant projects were primarily focused on water quality educational programming with a total award amount nearly \$35,000.

Ms. Eleria said Stewardship Grant projects ranged from rain barrel construction workshops, green roofs and rain gardens with a total grant award of nearly \$30,000. The majority of Stewardship Grant projects in 2010 were residential rain gardens, which provides an estimated 2,500 cubic feet of stormwater volume storage on an annual basis.

Highland Ravine Study Update (Anna Eleria)

Ms. Eleria said in late October 2010, CRWD's Board of Managers hired EOR to complete a feasibility study in Highland Ravine, which is located just east and north of the City's Highland Park. The goals of the study are to understand local hydrology and assess flooding, erosion and sedimentation, and water quality issues in this area.

The week of March 21st, CRWD staff anticipates completing the revisions to the draft report and distributing it to the homeowners located within the study area. A public meeting to present the study findings and recommendations will be held at 6:30PM on Tuesday, April 5th at Edgcumbe Recreation Center, which is located at 320 Griggs Street.

Central Corridor Light Rail Transit – Stormwater BMPs Update (Anna Eleria)

Ms. Eleria provided an update on the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) including the Green Infrastructure Practices within and outside the CCLRT project area. From 2011 to 2013, the full reconstruction of University Avenue in Saint Paul for the CCLRT presents a unique opportunity to improve the quality of stormwater runoff, aesthetics, and sustainability of the Corridor that will not likely be seen

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

again for decades. With financial assistance from the State through the Clean Water Fund, Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD), the City of Saint Paul, Ramsey County and Metropolitan Council will be implementing highly visible, green infrastructure practices in this major transportation corridor to achieve significant stormwater volume reduction and water quality improvements. In addition, other environmental benefits include improved aesthetics, better air quality and reduced air temperatures. The following four categories of green infrastructure practices will be constructed in the Corridor to achieve runoff reduction, stormwater infiltration and water quality improvements; integrated tree trench system; stormwater planters; rain gardens; and infiltration trenches. Funds are for implementing eleven stormwater BMPs, six were implemented as part of the CCLRT main design which was considered Phase I. Ms. Eleria said to fulfill the grant, five additional BMPs are proposed in the CCLRT corridor as Phase II.

Crosby Lake Management Plan Update (Anna Eleria)

Ms. Eleria said Wenck Associates; the consultant preparing the Crosby Lake Management Plan anticipates a draft report to the Board at the April 6 meeting. If the Board approves the draft plan, staff will send it out for a 30 day comment period followed up by a public meeting in May.

Staff and Program Updates

There was no update.

Board of Managers and CAC Observer Update Highland ravine update

Manager Thienes reviewed recent Board actions including the same project updates heard tonight. The Board reviewed a second draft of the 2010 WMP Summary, but after some discussion the Board and staff agreed that more information about the District and what we do needed to be included in the WMP.

Discussion - New & Old Issues

Michael MacDonald announced that CAC member and Professor at the U of M, Jim Cotner is giving a talk on phosphorous on April 11th at 3:30 at Borlaug Hall. Mr. Arbeit suggested Mr. Cotner present to the CAC. Bill Barton announced that the Watershed Summit 2011: Managing Water on the Land from a Watershed Perspective is Saturday, March 12 at the Arboretum. Administrator Doneux added that CRWD staff, Melissa Baker is presenting at the conference.

April 13, 2011 Agenda Overview

David Arbeit announced he will be absent the April 13th meeting. Administrator Doneux reminded the Committee that officer elections is held at the April meeting.

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm by consensus.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Nelson

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