



Capitol Region Watershed District

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Approved

Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, May 13, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

David Arbeit
Bill Barton
Pat Byrne
Steve Duerre
Rick Sanders
Nicole Soderholm
Kathryn Swanson
Michelle Ulrich
Richard Weil
Gwen Willems

Others Present:

Mark Doneux, CRWD
Michelle Sylvander, CRWD
Lindsay VanPatten, CRWD
Joe Collins, CRWD Board
President
Monica Siems McKay, University
of Minnesota

Members absent:

Mike MacDonald, w/notice
Ted McCaslin

Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Ms. Willems opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Willems requested any announcements.

Public Comments

Ms. Willems requested any public comments. No public comments were made.

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Willems asked for any additions or changes to the Agenda. No additions or changes were made.

CAC 15-018 Motion: *To approve the CAC May 13, 2015, agenda.*

Arbeit/Duerre
Unanimously approved

Approval of the April 8, 2015 CAC Minutes

No changes or corrections were noted.

CAC 15-019 Motion: *To approve the April 8, 2015 CAC Minutes.*

Duerre/Sanders
Unanimously approved

District Initiatives

A) CRWD 2010 Watershed Plan Mid-Term Update

Administrator Doneux reviewed that on September 1, 2010, the Board of Managers adopted the District's Watershed Management Plan (WMP). The plan covers the term from 2010—2020. The District is currently at the half-way point in the term of the WMP.

Staff and EOR, Inc. have completed significant work on the on Mid-Term WMP Review. Specifically, the Initiatives, Goals, Issues, and Themes. A special meeting for the CAC was held on April 29th. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss direction from the CAC on the Mid-Term review. Mr. Fossum was very pleased with the feedback from the CAC. The structure of the report was changed because of the input from the special meeting. President Collins thanked the CAC members that attended the special meeting. The input from the CAC is needed to determine priorities for the District. The Board Managers also had a workshop on May 12th.

It was decided to have further discussion on the Mid-Term Watershed Management Plan at the June 10th CAC meeting. The annual CAC tour will be moved to July 15th.

B) 2015 Lake McCarrons Aquatic Plant Harvesting Update

Administrator Doneux provided a review of the Lake McCarron's Aquatic Plant Harvesting. The west end of the lake was reviewed in 2014 for harvesting areas with and without a permit. It appears that vegetation harvesting on Lake McCarrons is not needed for invasive species control, nor is it a cost-effective means of improving water quality. Weed harvesting has very limited benefit to the general public. St. Paul coordinates harvesting for Lake Como and Lake Phalen to control Eurasian Water Milfoil and improve lake-wide recreational access. In most cases, near-shore harvesting is managed by individual homeowners or a lake association. Two rounds of weed harvesting for access would be the approach for this year. The homeowners would be able to harvest additional rounds at their own expense. Twenty one homeowners will participate in two rounds of the plant harvesting.

CAC Initiatives

A) Student Worker Program

Earlier in 2015 CAC member, Katheryn Swanson recommended the CAC look into involving a Student through the Student Worker program the University of Minnesota. Ms. Swanson has worked with student workers in the program. Ms. Monica Siems McKay from the University of Minnesota was invited to provide an overview of the student worker program and feedback on the CAC's project ideas. CAC Members took a survey to rank a list of project ideas. Ms. VanPatten reviewed the feedback provided by the survey. The Service Learning Coordinator from the University of MN, Monica Siems McKay provided feedback on the list of project ideas. Ms. McKay recommended that the CAC consider multiple students and allow the students to select from a list of potential projects. This would give the student a greater sense of ownership of the project. The CAC, would still provide direction and supervision. Administrator Doneux suggested an outline of expected outcomes from the student worker and drafting an example of the position descriptions. Additional discussion and adoption of the position descriptions will occur at the August 12th, 2015 CAC Meeting.

B) CAC By-Laws Adoption

The Bylaws were presented to the Board of Managers for suggested edits. The Board of Managers reviewed and approved the changes. The committee reviewed and made a few changes in the Bylaws.

CAC 15-020 Motion: *To adopt the CAC Bylaws as approved by the Board of Managers.*

Duerre/Ulrich

Unanimously approved

C) June 10th CAC Tour Planning

Administrator Doneux reviewed a list with two groups of potential sites for the annual tour. The first group of sites would focus along the Mississippi River corridor. Proposed tour sites include: Kellogg Blvd. Reconstruction, Island Station, Highland Ravine, Crosby Lake, Hidden Falls/Ford Site, St. Anthony Outlet Monitoring Site. The second group of sites would be current or future project sites. Proposed tour sites include: Eustis Street, German Emersion School, Willow Reserve, Great River School and Victoria Park. The date of the tour will be moved to July 15th. Additional discussion of the Mid-Term Watershed Management Plan will take place at the June 10th meeting instead.

D) 2015 Awards Program

Administrator Doneux reviewed the Blooming St. Paul Awards. CRWD will no longer be providing the staff time to the Blooming St. Paul awards but will continue to provide financial support. The CAC discussed adding an additional project award category. Administrator Doneux will discuss drafting a new award criteria with Mr. Arbeit and Mr. MacDonald to be adopted by the August 12th, CAC meeting.

E) Fall CAC “Event” Update

Administrator Doneux has meet with the Freshwater Society, they provided a list of potential speakers. Administrator Doneux shared a list that has been paired down to five speakers that have the potential for broad general public appearance and the most relevance to CRWD Mission.

1. Bill Stowe, from Des Moines Water Works
2. Moira McDonald, Senior Program Officer for the Environmental Focus Area
3. Peter Gleick from the Pacific Institute
4. Chuck Fox, who worked in the EPA in the Clinton administration and was the EPA’s Chesapeake Bay “czar” early in the Obama administration.
5. Charles Fishman, investigative journalist who wrote the book “The Big Thirst”.

CAC members ranked the list of speakers. Administrator Doneux will follow up with the Freshwater Society with the preferred list of potential speakers.

Project and Program Updates

A) 2015 CRWD Events

Administrator Doneux reviewed a list of upcoming events with CRWD. A number of events are coming up in May and June that need additional support.

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

CRWD Staff is seeking help from the CAC to attend events.

- Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary Grand Opening Sat. May 30th 1-3
- St. Paul Arbor Month Celebration Sat. May 30th 10-2
- Landscape Revival Native Plant Expo, Sat., June 6th 9-3
- Great River Greening Rain Garden Plantings, date to be announced

CAC Observer Update

Ms. Nicole Soderholm attended the April 15th Board of Managers meeting. Ms. Soderholm reported that Ms. Beckman reviewed the draft of the 2014 Annual Report. The City of St. Paul is currently in an evaluation phase of redeveloping the former Ford site. CRWD has been asked to serve on a subcommittee for the redevelopment at the former Ford site.

Mr. Duerre attended the May 6th Board of Managers meeting. Students from the University of Minnesota provided a presentation on their Capstone Project of the Trout Brook East Branch subwatershed. A grant was approved to the City of Roseville to purchase a parcel of wetland. The Managers discussed artwork for the Lowertown Ballpark. An update was given on the Lake McCarron's Plant Harvesting. A public meeting is scheduled in June for the Ford Site Redevelopment.

Discussion –

A)New & Old Issues

No new or old business.

B)Identify CAC Observer for the May 20th and June 3rd Board of Managers Meetings.

No one was identified.

C)June 10th CAC Agenda Overview

The annual tour planned for June 10th has been moved to July 15th. The June 10th meeting will include: awards program development, event planning, WMP mid-term review and development on the 2016 work plan.

Adjourn –

CAC 15-021 Motion: *To adjourn the May 13, 2015 CAC Meeting.*

Weil/Sanders

Unanimously approved

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Sylvander

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