



## Capitol Region Watershed District

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Approved 12/10/2014

### Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, November 12, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.

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#### **CAC Members Present:**

David Arbeit  
Steve Duerre  
Rick Sanders  
Kathryn Swanson  
Gwen Willems

#### **Others Present:**

Mark Doneux, CRWD  
Michelle Sylvander, CRWD  
Lindsay VanPatten, CRWD  
Nate Zwontizer, CRWD  
Seitu Jones, Board Manager

#### **Members absent:**

Bill Barton, w/notice  
Pat Byrne, w/notice  
Mike MacDonald, w/notice  
Ted McCaslin, w/notice  
Michelle Ulrich, w/notice  
Richard Weil, w/notice

#### **Welcome, Announcements, and Updates**

Ms. Gwen Willems opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. The meeting opened with introductions and welcoming the newest CAC member Rick Sanders.

Ms. Willems requested any announcements. Administrator Doneux shared a postcard from St. Anthony Village Sustainability Fair. The event is scheduled for Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-8:00pm at Silverwood Park. The event is free and open to the public. Administrator asked for CAC members to help table the event.

#### **Public Comments**

No public comments.

#### **Approval of Agenda**

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

**CAC 14-079 Motion:** *To approve the CAC November 12, 2014, agenda.*

Duerre/Arbeit  
Unanimously approved

#### **Approval of the October 8, 2014 CAC Minutes**

Ms. Willems requested any changes or corrections to the minutes. Ms. Willems noted corrections to the minutes.

**CAC 14-080 Motion:** *To approve the CAC October 8, 2014 CAC Minutes with changes.*

Arbeit/Duerre  
Unanimously approved

### **District Initiatives**

#### A) RSVP Program Review (Zwontizer)

Administrator Doneux gave an update on the background of the RSVP program. In 2008, CRWD began a partnership with City of Saint Paul Public Works Street Design to offer interested homeowners a curb cut rain garden. The program is part of the City's Residential Street Vitality Program (RSVP) which coordinates street and utility reconstruction. The City constructs the gardens in the boulevard if conditions are appropriate, CRWD provides plants and often coordinates a planting day, and the adjacent homeowners agree to long-term maintenance. Since spring of 2008, 207 curb cut boulevard rain gardens have been planted.

Mr. Zwontizer reviewed RSVP program that has constructed rain gardens in eight project areas. The projects were inspected for specific maintenance items such as inlet condition, sufficient watering, and presence of weeds, then given an overall grade based on the garden's condition. Gardens receiving a B or C grade will receive follow-up information from CRWD on how to correct any identified issues.

Due to the number of projects and additional planned projects, staff are developing tools that utilize the District's BMP database to manage inspection information and generate mailings. Staff have also worked with a consulting firm to develop a tool to identify appropriate rain garden locations to ensure projects result in significant water quality improvement. Additionally, staff are reviewing current planting templates based on field observations and will make modifications to those plans to improve the aesthetics and ease of maintenance for future RSVP projects.

Ms. VanPatten review a weed identification chart that has been added to the website to help residents. To access the weed identification on the website click on "Education", and "Education Resources".

#### B) 2015 Partner Grants Review Committee (VanPatten)

Mr. Arbeit reviewed the 2014 Awards Program to recognize residents and partners of CRWD. The Committee approved four award categories and the program was promoted by CRWD staff and CAC members.

Twelve nominations for the 2014 Watershed Steward Awards program were received. Nominations were received for three of the four award categories. The Awards Committee consisting of Mike MacDonald, David Arbeit, and Mark Doneux met on Monday, October 10, 2014 to review the nominations and make a recommendation to the CAC. The Board will approve the award winners at the December 3, 2014 Board meeting.

#### **Watershed Citizen Award: 3**

1. Ryan Backman, Teacher at Central High School
2. Janna Caywood,
3. Linda Jungwirth

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

**Watershed Partner Award: 7**

1. City of Falcon Heights – Attn: Kristine Giga, City Engineer
2. Great River Greening – Attn: Deborah Karasov, Executive Director
3. City of Saint Paul Environmental Section in Parks and Rec Dept.
4. Solution Blue, Inc. – Attn: Mitchell Cookas
5. St. Anthony Park Community Council Environment Committee, Attn: Stephen Mastey
6. First Covenant Church
7. Urban Roots staff and interns – Attn: David Rittenhouse

**Young Watershed Steward: 2**

1. David Rittenhouse
2. Urban Roots staff and interns – Attn: David Rittenhouse

**Lifetime Stewardship Nominations: No Nominations**

The committee recommend:

- Linda Jungwirth for the Watershed Citizen Award
- City of St. Paul Natural Resource Section of St. Paul Parks & Rec. Dept. for the Watershed Partner Award
- Urban Roots staff and interns for the Young Watershed Steward award.

A ceremony will include all the nominations being recognized.

**CAC 14-081 Motion:** *Recommend 2014 Watershed Steward Award Winners:*

- *Linda Jungwirth for the Watershed Citizen Award*
- *City of St. Paul Environmental Section in Parks & Rec. Dept. for the Watershed Partner Award*
- *Urban Roots staff and interns for the Young Watershed Steward award.*

Duerre/Williams

Unanimously approved

**CAC Initiatives**

A) CAC Recruitment Update

Ms. VanPatten shared a map showing where CAC and Board of Managers are located in the district. CAC members have requested this information to help identify areas in the district that need more representation.

The Freshwater Society was not able share the list of registrants from the Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> event. They would be willing to share information on our behalf.

Ms. VanPatten reviewed that a number of ads have been placed in local papers promoting the CAC membership.

Administrator Doneux will follow up with the University of Minnesota Community Capacity Assessment with Ms. May Davenport. Ms. Davenport has some great sources that may be interested in joining the CAC.

## **Project and Program Updates**

Administrator Doneux gave an update on the Curtiss Pond Improvement Project. The project is complete. Restoration will take place in the spring when the City of Falcon Heights makes some improvements to the park. The Opti RTC will be installed in the new utility building that will be constructed at that time.

Administrator Doneux provided an update on the Highland Ravine Stabilization project. The project has had a number of challenges including a late start and extremely wet conditions. The project is almost complete. The City of St. Paul has requested that CRWD conduct work in their right-of-way to improve access to the City's sanitary and storm sewer systems. The City has approved the contractors cost estimate and will reimburse CRWD for this additional work.

Administrator Doneux reviewed a letter written to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Rules were drafted for the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) on June 2, 2014. Administrator Doneux will be following up with a letter.

## **CAC Observer Update**

Mr. Jones provided an update on the October 15<sup>th</sup> and November 5<sup>th</sup> Board of Managers meetings. Ms. Jenna Fletcher from the Trust for Public Land reviewed the need to develop additional parks along the Green Line. The goal of the Trust for Public Land is to protect and conserve land of historical and cultural importance so people can experience nature close at hand. At the November 5<sup>th</sup> Board of Managers meeting, Ms. Wein reviewed the 2014 Fish Survey completed at Como Lake and Little Crosby Lake. The 2015 Special Grant Program received 12 applications totaling \$1.67 million. Approximately \$550,000 is budgeted for the 2015 program. The committee will make recommendation for the Board of Managers to take action at the December 3, 2014 regular meeting.

## **Discussion –**

### **A)New & Old Issues**

Members of the CAC discussed the views of composting in the City of Roseville vs. the City of St. Paul. The City of Roseville offers a curb side clean up service where residents can pay a fee to rack their leaves to the curb to be picked up. Discussion regarding the City of St. Paul's composting sites are excessively busy. Perhaps, additional temporary locations could be set up like at the St. Fair grounds. Mr. Arbeit suggested that this would be an opportunity for Education and Outreach. Ms. VanPatten shared a video that was recently added to the CRWD website and Facebook page. The video provided instructions on building a simple composting bin.

### **B)Identify CAC Observer for the November 19th and December 3<sup>rd</sup> Board of Managers Meetings.**

Steve Duerre plans to attend these meetings.

### **C)December 10th CAC Agenda Overview**

The 2014 Fish Survey will be reviewed along with an update on the Eustis Street Feasibility Study.

### **D)2014 Meeting Schedule**

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

**Adjourn –**

**CAC 14-082 Motion:** *To adjourn.*

Willems/Swanson

Unanimously approved

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Sylvander

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