



## Capitol Region Watershed District

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Approved  
December 9, 2015

### Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, November 12, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

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

David Arbeit  
Pat Cavanaugh  
Steve Duerre  
Mike MacDonald  
Nicole Soderholm  
Michelle Ulrich  
Richard Weil  
Gwen Willems

#### **Others Present:**

Mark Doneux, CRWD  
Michelle Sylvander, CRWD  
Sarah Wein, CRWD  
Britta Suppes, CRWD  
Joe Collins, CRWD Board  
President

#### **Members absent:**

Bill Barton, w/notice  
Ted McCaslin  
Rick Sanders, w/notice  
Kathryn Swanson, w/notice

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

Ms. Willems opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with introductions. Ms. Willems requested any announcements. Mr. Duerre inquired if anyone knew any additional information about erosion problems causing a sink hole in Florida. No comments.

#### **Approval of Agenda**

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

**CAC 15-040 Motion:** *To approve the CAC November 12, 2015.*

Duerre/MacDonald  
Unanimously approved

#### **Approval of the October 14, 2015 Minutes**

No changes or corrections were noted.

**CAC 15-041 Motion:** *To approve the October 14, 2015 Minutes.*

Weil/Duerre  
Unanimously approved

## VI. District Initiatives

### A) Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary Monitoring Program (Suppes)

Ms. Suppes provided an update of the Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary for the CAC. CRWD in partnership with City of St. Paul Public Works, City of St. Paul Parks & Recreation Department and Great River Greening broke ground on the Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary in 2014. CRWD began setting goals for additional monitoring and project objectives in 2015. The goals of additional monitoring was to gather baseline data to demonstrate the functions and benefits of TBNS. The other goal was to verify TBNS is fulfilling project objectives such as: treat & utilize stormwater to improve water quality, provide a natural stream system to support aquatic life, create habitat for wildlife, a connective greenway between Lake McCarrons and the Mississippi River and provide a natural resource for bikers, pedestrians, residents and students. Ms. Suppes reviewed how the side streets near Trout Brook drain into three main sand filtered ponds. St. Paul Public Works will gather samples from the sand filtration ponds. The Minnesota Dragon Fly Society will be monitoring the aquatic biological life. Great River Greening will be monitoring the vegetation. A lift station will be added to provide a constant flow for the stream during dry periods. Ms. Suppes explained the remote access system that was added in the spring of 2015. The new remote access has enabled staff to reduce the number of site visits. Staff is able to receive text messages from the site letting them know when samples are ready to be picked up. Staff is also able to remotely adjust the rate samples are being collected. Ms. Willems asked what kind of wildlife are seen in the sanctuary. Ms. Suppes replied that a large variety of birds have been seen in the area. Administrator Doneux added that a constant flow of water in the stream will attract additional wildlife to the area. The members of the CAC thanked Ms. Suppes for her presentation.

### B) BMP Monitoring (Wein)

Ms. Wein, provided an update to the CAC on BMP Monitoring Initiatives. The goals of BMP Monitoring are to: track volume reduction, pollutant load and performance over time. Additional monitoring sites have been added along the Green Line, Arlington-Pascal, Villa Park, William Street Pond, and Curtiss Pond. A total of 70 sites are monitored and 16 are reported on an annual basis. Data is used to grade major projects such as Villa Park, Curtiss Pond and Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary. Information is also shared with other partnerships.

## CAC Initiatives

### A) 2015 Watershed Awards (Doneux)

Administrator Doneux reviewed for the CAC that CRWD accepted nominations for the 2015 Watershed Steward Awards through Friday, October 23, 2015. Staff received 15 nominations for the five award categories. The Awards Committee of CAC members, David Arbeit and Mike MacDonald, Board Managers, Mary Texer and Joe Collins and Mark Doneux and Lindsay VanPatten from staff met on Monday November 2 to review the nominations. The Board Managers serving on the Awards Committee presented the recommended winners of the 2015 CRWD Watershed Steward Awards at the board meeting on November 4 meeting for approval.

### Watershed Citizen of the Year Nominees:

1. Jeff Warner for helping with Como Curbside Cleanup events
2. Jenn Morrow for installing a rain garden on her property and sharing information with her neighbors

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

3. Val Cunningham for years of outreach and rain garden maintenance in Como neighborhood.
4. Steve Mitrione for community outreach in Hamline Midway neighborhood

**Watershed Partner of the Year Nominees:**

1. Saint Paul Public Works for partnering on SPSVP boulevard rain gardens (also in Project)
2. Saint Paul Parks Dept. and Ramsey County Environmental Services for helping with Como Curbside Cleanup
3. City of Falcon Heights for partnering on Curtiss Pond, Arlington Pascal and City Hall projects

**Watershed Project of the Year Nominees:**

1. CHS Field – City of Saint Paul
2. SPSVP Boulevard Rain Gardens – Saint Paul Public Works Dept. (also in Partner)
3. Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary – Saint Paul Parks
4. Environmental Artmaking Workshop – Public Art Saint Paul Teaching Artist Cohort

**Young Watershed Steward of the Year Nominees:**

1. Ava Limberg for adopting a storm drain
2. Urban Roots Grow Crew Interns for sharing their conservation and water stewardship knowledge with their communities
3. Kamarah Short for taking on a leadership role through Great River Greening’s Field Learning for Teens program

**Lifetime Stewardship Award Nominees**

1. Tom Petersen and Terry Noonan for their leadership roles at CRWD during our founding years
2. District 10, Como Neighborhood Environment Committee for their involvement in the foundation of CRWD and ongoing support of water quality improvement projects in Como Neighborhood

Administrator Doneux stated the winners will be presented with a plaque at the Annual Meeting to be held at the Wilder Foundation on December, 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

**CAC 15-042 Motion:** *Approve the 2015 Watershed Steward Award winners as follows:*

*Watershed Citizen of the Year: Val Cunningham*

*Watershed Partner of the Year: City of Falcon Heights*

*Watershed Project of the Year: Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary – Saint Paul Parks*

*Young Watershed Steward of the Year: Kamarah Short*

*Lifetime Stewardship Awards: Tom Petersen and Terry Noonan, and District 10, Como Neighborhood Environment Committee*

Ulrich/Weil

Unanimously approved

B) Student Worker Program

Administrator Doneux reviewed that he has shared CAD plans to the Student worker Mr. Zalusky. Mr. Zalusky will be building a 3-D model of Curtiss Pond. The goal is for the project to be completed by December 1, 2015.

C) Fall Freshwater Society Moos Family Lecture Series update

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Administrator Doneux asked how members that attended the Moos Family Lecture felt about the presentation. Mr. Duerre said he had very good traffic at the CRWD information table, Ms. Ulrich said the speaker was very good. Ms. Soderholm was glad a YouTube video was made that she was able to share with co-workers that were not able to attend. President Collins said he saw BWSR Board members in attendance. Members felt the topic was very informative. Administrator Doneux recommended the CAC sponsor a speaker for the Freshwater Society in the fall of 2016.

### **Project and Program Updates**

#### **A) Upper Villa Stormwater Improvement Project**

Administrator Doneux shared a time lapsed video of the Upper Villa construction. The project was started on November 2, 2015. The cistern has been installed with an OptiRTC system similar to that of the Curtiss Pond project. Stormwater collected in the cistern will be used for irrigation of the baseball field.

### **CAC Observer Update**

President Collins provided an update. The last couple of meetings have been shorter with mostly permits and no major issues discussed.

### **Discussion**

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

Mr. MacDonald asked if CRWD will be involved with the new soccer stadium. Administrator Doneux replied that the City is still assigning roles and assured that CRWD will have a roll in the soccer stadium. Ms. Cavanaugh asked if there are any clean up issues. Administrator Doneux replied that there will be cleanup issues. President Collins stated that CRWD staff has a strong relationship with the City of St. Paul because of all the work from the former Ford site.

#### **B) Identify CAC Observer for the November 18<sup>th</sup> and December 2<sup>nd</sup> Board of Managers Meetings.**

Ms. Soderholm may be able to attend the November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ms. Cavanaugh will attend the December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

#### **C) 2015 Meeting Schedule**

The Committee reviewed the 2015 meeting schedule. The next CAC meeting will be on December 9<sup>th</sup>, with the reappointment of officers.

### **Adjourn –**

**CAC 15-043 Motion:** *To adjourn the November 12, 2015 CAC Meeting.*

Cavanaugh/Soderholm  
Unanimously approved

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 PM.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Sylvander

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