



Capitol Region Watershed District

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

CAC Members Present:

David Arbeit, Bill Barton, Janna Caywood, Jerry Kafka, Ted McCaslin, Shirley A. Reider, Michelle Ulrich

Members absent with notice:

Michael MacDonald, Ole Olmanson, Steve Duerre, Karen Eckman

Others Present:

CRWD Manager Mike Thienes
Mark Doneux, CRWD Staff
Dawn Nelson, CRWD Staff
Steve Mittrione, Stewardship Grant Resident

Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Shirley Reider opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with a request for announcements. Janna Caywood said the Como Lake Neighbor Network (CLNN) had the Como Curbside Cleanup Saturday, October 16th, from 8am to 4pm. Ms. Caywood said there were several partners this year, including Conservation Corps MN, Como Senior High AP students, City of Saint Paul - Parks and Recreation and Public Works, District 10 Environment Committee, Capitol Region Watershed District and Hamline University Wesley Center. CLNN organized more than 40 volunteers to clean up street leaves and publicized curbside pick up of leaves to hundreds of Como neighbors. The result, 446 bags of leaves collected by the volunteers and Como residents. Ms. Caywood said that equaled 89 pounds of phosphorus and 89,000 or 44.5 tons of future algae prevented from Como Lake and the Mississippi River. Ms. Caywood said the two teams met in the middle of Lakeview, where Senator Ellen Anderson lives who came out and said hello to the crews and posed for a group picture. Ms. Caywood said it was very successful and thanked the District for partnering with CLNN.

Administrator Doneux announced Board Manager Marylyn Deneen's daughter called yesterday to inform the District that Marylyn fell in her home on Sunday and broke her hip. Dawn Nelson said Marylyn's granddaughter called today and said Marylyn had surgery, she is doing fine and will be at the hospital for a few more days. Shirley Reider suggested the Committee sign a card for Marylyn at their next meeting and staff can mail it to her home.

Public Comment – For items not on the Agenda.

Jerry Kafka said there were three street sweepers on east Como Blvd. He asked if that is an annual thing and why would they need three trucks. David Arbeit said Public Works does street sweeping annually. Mr. Barton explained that using three trucks is more efficient.

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Reider asked for additions or changes to the Agenda. There were no additions or changes to the Agenda.

CAC 10-11-01 Motion: *To approve the CAC November 10, 2010 agenda as provided.*

Arbeit/Caywood

Unanimously approved

Approval of the October 13, 2010 CAC Minutes

Ms. Reider asked for additions or changes to the October 13, 2010 CAC Minutes.

CAC 10-11-02 Motion: *To approve the CAC October 13, 2010 CAC Minutes as provided.*

Caywood/Ulrich

Unanimously approved

Discussion

Steve Mitrione Raingarden Project

Administrator Doneux introduced Steve Mitrione, a stewardship grant recipient for a raingarden in his boulevard located at 1806 Hubbard Avenue in Saint Paul. Mr. Mitrione said he requested a grant to construct a 500 square-foot raingarden in the boulevard to capture runoff from the street, sidewalk and other impervious areas. Mr. Mitrione explained that runoff from nearly 19,000 square-feet of impervious surface now drains to the raingarden. The raingarden infiltrates over 1,000 cubic feet of water from a one-inch storm. Mr. Mitrione's raingarden project is unique and larger in scale than typical single-family homeowner projects, for it infiltrates and treats stormwater runoff that extends beyond his property boundaries. Mr. Mitrione said the total project cost excluding homeowner supplied labor was \$1773. This was well under the projected budget based upon two estimates. Mr. Mitrione explained that favorable soil conditions allow for the site to process a significant amount of stormwater, leading to a reduction in the size of the project as a result. The project also led to a great deal of community interest and hence informal education about raingardens, water quality and watersheds. It is concluded that there is great potential for increasing public awareness about water quality through projects such as these. Mr. Mitrione said problems were encountered with the city permitting process that led to additional work to achieve approval. Mr. Mitrione discussed the barriers that exist and suggestions he provided to the city for improvement in the cities process for approval and installation of raingardens. Mr. Mitrione's raingarden project is unique and larger in scale than typical single-family homeowner projects, for it infiltrates and treats stormwater runoff that extends beyond his property boundaries. The committee thanked Mr. Mitrione for his presentation.

Staff and Program Updates

Highland Ravine

Administrator Doneux said on several separate occasions since 2007, CRWD staff has been approached about erosion and flooding issues in an area bounded on the west and east by Edgumbe Road and Lexington Parkway and on the north and south by Highland Parkway and Montreal Avenue. This area is known as Highland Ravine. In late August 2010, CRWD and RCD staff conducted a site visit with residents from the Deer Park Condominium Association who live at the downstream end of the ravine. These residents have been experiencing significant flooding and sedimentation on their properties likely due to unmitigated stormwater runoff from the top of the bluff and erosion in the ravine. CRWD and RCD staff observed numerous gullies of variety of depths in the ravine. The existing drainage and erosion and sediment control measures, which include a silt fence, berm and storm sewer inlet located at the back edge of the property lines, are failing. Installed in the early summer, the silt fence is already 75% full. In addition, there is significant accumulation of sediment on the berm and storm sewer inlet located just beyond the silt fence.

Administrator Doneux said the District will be conducting a feasibility study to understand local erosion, sedimentation and flooding issues in the Highland Park neighborhood this fall.

Administrator Doneux said CRWD staff has requested EOR provide a scope of work and budget for a feasibility study to remediate the flooding, erosion and sedimentation issues as well as improve stormwater quality before it discharges to the Mississippi River. Administrator Doneux said EOR will assess the

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

subwatershed area draining over the bluff and into the ravine and identify the locations and cause(s) of erosion and flooding in the ravine.

Board of Managers and CAC Observer Update

Manager Thienes reviewed recent Board actions including a special report from Melissa Baker and Matt Loyas on the Monitoring and BMP Program. The Board approved the Williams Street Pond Retrofit Project which will be an exciting project; adopted a Land Acquisition Policy and Anna Eleria provided information on a 2011 Trees and Stormwater Research Grant.

Discussion - New & Old Issues

Jerry Kafka inquired about more information on the Como Lake clean up. Janna Caywood asked if CRWD was ever consulted on the Como Transportation Plan. Administrator Doneux said the District was not involved with the plan. After a lot of discussion the committee recommended that the Board communicate to St. Paul Parks & Recreation to develop a Stormwater Management Plan to incorporate into the Como Transportation Plan for Como Park.

CAC 10-11-03 Motion: *Request that the Board recommend to St. Paul Parks & Recreation that they prepare a comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan for Como Park.*

Arbeit/Caywood

Unanimously approved

December 8, 2010 Agenda Overview

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm by consensus

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Nelson