



Capitol Region Watershed District

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Approved

Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, October 14, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

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

Others Present: Mark

Doneux, CRWD
Michelle Sylvander, CRWD
Bob Fossum, CRWD
Joe Sellner, CRWD
Wyatt Behrends, CRWD
Mike Thienes, CRWD Board
Manager
Tim Zalusky, U of M Student

Members absent:

Ted McCaslin
Kathryn Swanson, w/notice

Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Mr. MacDonald opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with introductions. Mr. MacDonald requested any announcements. Mr. Barton shared his support for the removal of the lock and dam located near the former Ford site.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. MacDonald asked for any additions or changes to the Agenda. Administrator Doneux requested that item VII. Project and Program Updates A) Monitoring, Research and Maintenance Division Updates be moved up on the agenda to follow V. District Initiatives A) Ford Site Stormwater Planning.

CAC 15-036 Motion: *To approve the CAC October 14, 2015, agenda with requested change.*

Duerre/Arbeit
Unanimously approved

Approval of the September 9, 2015 Minutes

No changes or corrections were noted.

CAC 15-037 Motion: *To approve the September 9, 2015 Minutes.*

Weil/Sanders
Unanimously approved

VI. District Initiatives

A) Ford Site Stormwater Planning (Fossum)

Mr. Fossum provided an update for the CAC on the former Ford Assembly Plant. The City of St. Paul approached Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) to assist with responsible planning in creating an open space that could also treat stormwater runoff. Mr. Fossum reviewed a presentation outlining the planning process. Planning started in 2007 to include Hidden Falls. Ford Motor Company is the current owner of the land and will be putting the property on the market for sale in late 2015 or early 2016. The City of St. Paul anticipates having zoning and public realm plans in place by 2016 before the land is purchased by a developer. A public information meeting was held in June 2015 by the City of St. Paul. At the public meeting Wes Saunders-Pearce, the Water Resources Coordinator for the City of St. Paul shared visionary plans with the public. The meeting was very well attended by the public and supported by residents. The purpose of Phase one planning was to work with the general public and develop concept plans for reuse of the land. Mr. Fossum reviewed how Phase one has been completed and the project is now into Phase two. The goal of Phase two is to characterize the benefits, determine cost value and the overall sustainability profile.

Mr. Arbeit inquired about who hired Impact Infrastructure, LLC (ISI). Mr. Fossum replied that ISI is a contractor hired by Barr Engineering. Mr. Barton asked how the return on investment can be calculated for this project. Mr. Arbeit also inquired on how the economic value is determined. Mr. Fossum replied that there are numerous factors involved. The added water features will also increase the value of buildable land. Ms. Cavanaugh asked about area C shown on the site map. Mr. Fossum replied that Ford will continue ownership of this area to address contamination issues.

Project and Program Updates

A) Monitoring, Research and Maintenance Division Updates

WISKI Database (Joe Sellner)

In April 2014 members of the CAC recommended increased effectiveness and efficiency for the Monitoring Program. Mr. Sellner reviewed how over ten years of data was stored in numerous file types. The reporting of load calculations varied, calculations would become broken after information was cut and pasted in worksheets. To improve the reporting effectiveness and efficiency staff researched data management software and found Water Information System Kisters (WISKI). Mr. Sellner shared how information is easy to import and export. The new WISKI software has automated numerous time consuming processes. Mr. Sellner shared that staff plans to move forward with utilizing additional features in WISKI to include lake monitoring data. Mr. Sellner recently attended a user group meeting. Mr. Arbeit asked if any other watersheds are using this software. Administrator Doneux replied that Minnehaha Creek has asked for a demonstration of the WISKI software.

Remote Access (Wyatt Behrends)

As part of the CAC recommendations to increase effectiveness and efficiency, power has been installed at Trout Brook East & West Branch. Mr. Behrends explained how monitoring stations are powered by marine batteries. The batteries need to be switched out and recharged on a weekly basis. Having power at these sites has now enabled staff to install remote access to monitor these sites without physically leaving the

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office. Mr. Behrends demonstrated how staff is able to log into a software program to adjust monitoring specifications. The remote monitoring stations will also alert the office when samples are ready to be picked.

Mr. Sanders asked if the system will alert if the power should go out. Mr. Sellner replied that the system does have a battery backup system. Mr. Behrends stated that staff is researching solar recharging options for some of the remote locations. The CAC thanked staff for their presentation.

CAC Initiatives

A) Student Worker Program

Administrator Doneux reviewed the Student Worker Program. At the April CAC meeting the Committee discussed having a student worker from the University of Minnesota work on a project for the District chosen by the Committee. Kathryn Swanson has worked with students at the University of Minnesota on service learning projects and recommended the program. Kathryn volunteered to be the primary contact on behalf of CRWD for the student worker. Staff contacted the Service Learning Office at the University of Minnesota and invited Ms. Monica Siems McKay to the May CAC meeting to provide more information about the program and feedback on project ideas.

Ms. Willems introduced Mr. Tim Zalusky. Mr. Zalusky is a senior at University of Minnesota in Mechanical Engineering. Mr. Zalusky was selected by the Service Learning Committee to complete a project for CRWD. The CAC discussed possible projects involving Mr. Zalusky building 3-D models of projects that are underground such as a tree trench or Curtiss Pond. Ms. Willems stated the subcommittee of Ms. Soderholm, Ms. Swanson, and Ms. Willems will have a meeting to determine the project and timeline for Mr. Zalusky.

B) 2015 Awards Program

In 2014 the CAC adopted the CRWD Watershed Steward 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 three of the four categories were received. Since CRWD is no longer sponsoring an award through the Blooming St Paul program the committee discussed adding a project award category to the CRWD Watershed Steward Awards program. The 2014 Awards Committee, David Arbeit and Mike MacDonald, presented a new project award category description that was approved by the CAC at the August meeting. Staff will be promoting the awards program until nominations are due, but do not plan on submitting any nominations. Mr. Arbeit recommended resubmitting nominees from last year. Nomination forms are now on the website and quick and easy to fill out.

CAC 15-038 Motion: *To extend the deadline of nominations to October 23rd, 2015.*

Arbeit/Willems

Unanimously approved

C) Fall Freshwater Society Moos Family Lecture Series update

Administrator Doneux gave the CAC an update on the Freshwater Society Moos Family Lecture Series. Bill Stowe, the CEO and General Manager of the Des Moines Water Works (DMWW) has been scheduled to speak at the St. Paul Student Center. Earlier this year DMWW filed a Clean Water Act complaint against three “upstream” counties that manage agricultural drainage districts discharging high nitrate concentrations

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into the Raccoon River. These actions have captured national attention with questions over responsibility for agricultural water pollution and the costs of clean water. The date has been set for Tuesday, November 3, 2015. Mr. Duerre, Ms. Ulrich and Mr. Barton have volunteered to help at the information table. There is no charge for this event but registration is required.

Discussion

A)New & Old Issues

Mr. Barton discussed Special Grants that have been approved.

B)Identify CAC Observer for the October 21st and November 4th Board of Managers Meetings.

Mr. Weil attended the October 7th Board of Managers Meeting. He stated the meeting was short with just a permit issued and one permit closure.

No observers identified for October 21st and November 4th Board of Managers Meetings.

C)2015 Meeting Schedule

The Committee reviewed the 2015 meeting schedule.

Adjourn –

CAC 15-039 Motion: *To adjourn the October 14, 2015 CAC Meeting.*

Duerre/Sanders
Unanimously approved

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Sylvander

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