



APPROVED

# Capitol Region Watershed District

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## Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday October 13, 2010 – 7:00 p.m.

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### CAC Members Present:

Bill Barton, Steve Duerre, Karen Eckman, Ted McCaslin, Michael MacDonald, Ole Olmanson, Shirley A. Reider, Michelle Ulrich

### Members absent with notice:

David Arbeit, Janna Caywood

### Others Present:

CRWD Manager Mike Thienes  
Mark Doneux, CRWD Staff  
Dawn Nelson, CRWD Staff  
Joe Bischoff, Wenck & Associates, Inc.

### Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Shirley Reider opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m. with a request for announcements. Michael MacDonald reminded the committee that Janna Caywood and the Como Lake Neighbor Network (CLNN) is having the Como Curbside Cleanup Saturday, October 16th, from 8am to 4pm. Mr. MacDonald added that there are 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. Freshwater Society is making arrangements for KARE 11 to come out and film the cleanup. Mr. MacDonald said CLNN can always use more volunteers so anyone interested should sign up. Shirley Reider said she watch a documentary, *Troubled Waters: A Mississippi River Story* on channel 2 last week and found it fascinating. Ms. Reider asked if anyone had seen the film. Steve Duerre and Karen Eckman said they both had seen the film also. Ms. Reider said she did not understand how this documentary on the Mississippi River agricultural pollution could stir up controversy at the University of Minnesota. Administrator Doneux said he had also heard of the documentary and knows that you can buy the CD.

### Public Comment – For items not on the Agenda.

There were no public comments.

### Approval of Agenda

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

**CAC 10-10-01 Motion:** *To approve the CAC October 13, 2010 agenda as provided.*

Eckman/Duerre

Unanimously approved

### Approval of the September 8, 2010 CAC Minutes

Ms. Reider asked for additions or changes to the September 8, 2010 CAC Minutes. Michael MacDonald noted that he was not listed as present on the minutes. Ms. Nelson said she would make that correction.

**CAC 10-10-02 Motion:** *To approve the CAC September 8, 2010 CAC Minutes as amended.*

Eckman/Duerre

Unanimously approved

## Discussion

### **Crosby Lake Management Plan, Shallow Lake Ecology by Joe Bischoff, Wenck Associates**

Administrator Doneux introduced Joe Bischoff from Wenck Associates. Mr. Bischoff began his presentation by saying that any lake that does not stay stratified throughout the summer season is a shallow lake. The MPCA defines a shallow lake as lakes with a maximum depth of 15 feet or less or as lakes with 80% or more of the lake area shallow enough to support emergent and submerged rooted aquatic plants. Situated in the floodplain of the Mississippi River in Saint Paul, Crosby Lake is divided into two separate water bodies by a bog trail, forming Crosby Lake and Little (or Upper) Crosby Lake. Crosby Lake is 48 acres in size and has a maximum depth of 19 feet. It receives 1,521 acres of stormwater runoff from three major outfalls and overland flow. The lake and surrounding area flood periodically because of direct stormwater runoff and the Mississippi River during high flow events.

Mr. Bischoff continued to say that water quality of Crosby Lake is generally fair especially considering its location in a highly urbanized environment. Since 1999, Ramsey County has monitored water quality of Crosby Lake each growing season from May through September. Recent analysis of water quality data indicates that Crosby Lake is not impaired and is meeting the State shallow lake standards for the North Central Hardwood Forest ecoregion for chlorophyll-*a* (20 micrograms/Liter), total phosphorus (0.06 milligrams/Liter), and Secchi depth for clarity (1 meter). However, since 2005, it has been noted that clarity has declined and chlorophyll-*a* has increased. This water quality trend corroborates the observations from the lake qualitative surveys conducted by CRWD over the past several years. These surveys have identified large mats of algae in the late summer months, which impede recreation in the lake. Invasive, non-native plants threaten the diversity and habitat value of Crosby Lake. Another threat to Crosby Lake is the accelerated bluff erosion north of the lake, which is a significant source of sediment.

The land surrounding Crosby Lake, collectively known as the Crosby Farm Regional Park, is a City of Saint Paul park and a part of the National Park Service's Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. The Park provides opportunities for fishing, canoeing, walking, hiking, and cross country skiing. This area was farmland until the 1960s, when the Saint Paul Port Authority purchased the land and transferred ownership of two-thirds of the property to the City of Saint Paul.

The 736-acre park consists of a large area of floodplain and valley side slopes or bluffs. The area contains a complex system of diverse wetland and forest habitats that offer refuge for a broad diversity of native wildlife species.

Land use beyond the immediate park land area surrounding Crosby Lake is highly mixed with industrial, commercial and single-family residential uses. The majority of industrial land uses are concentrated between Shepard Road and W. Seventh Street. North of W. Seventh Street, land is predominately residential and commercial with pockets of open space.

Crosby Lake is a vital economic resource to the City of Saint Paul and the State as it provides various recreational opportunities including a respite from built, urban environment and essential environmental functions including flood control for the Mississippi River and aquatic and wildlife habitat.

Mr. Bischoff stated the goal of the plan is to protect the water quality and natural hydrologic regime of Crosby Lake by applying sound, science-based lake management implementation activities. The objectives of the plan are:

- to assess the current conditions of the lake;
- to identify the issues of concern and the priority watershed areas for management;
- to develop management goals and objectives; and

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

- to determine the implementation opportunities and activities for protecting and improving the ecological, aesthetic and recreational benefits of the lake.

## **Staff and Program Updates**

### **Williams Street Pond**

Administrator Doneux said at the April 1, 2009 Board meeting that the Managers adopted McCarrons Subwatershed 4 Study. All projects contained in the study have been included in the capital improvement section of the District's 2010 Watershed Management Plan.

Administrator Doneux explained that the Williams Street Pond has a 50-acre drainage area. It is owned by the Minnesota National Guard Armory and it currently has excess capacity. The Lake McCarrons Management Plan stated a 15-pound loss of TP in a 2003 study. The District was approached by Ramsey Conservation District regarding grant funding that is available in 2010 for BMP construction projects in Ramsey County. These projects would need to be completed by the end of 2010. At the June 2, 2010 Board meeting the Managers approved the scope and budget with Wenck Associates for the Williams St. Pond Retrofit Project. Administrator Doneux said the engineering for the project has progressed significantly during the fall. Staff have discussed and negotiated a financing plan with Ramsey Conservation District and the City of Roseville to assist in funding the Williams Street Retrofit Project. The cost of the project includes: engineering \$30,000; construction \$66,500; and construction administration fees of \$15,000 for a total of \$111,500. Administrator Doneux the said Ramsey Conservation District will contribute \$25,000, the City of Roseville \$25,000 and CRWD \$61,500. Construction is anticipated to begin late in 2010.

### **Prior/Goodrich and Blair/Griggs RSVP Subwatershed Studies**

Administrator Doneux said two 2011 City of Saint Paul Residential Street Vitality Program areas within Council Ward 4 have been identified as being located within the Saint Anthony Park Subwatershed and the Central Mississippi River Blvd Subwatershed. Administrator Doneux said in November or December staff will have more detailed plans for the committee.

### **Board of Managers and CAC Observer Update**

Manager Thienes reviewed recent Board actions including a special report from Bob Fossum on the affects of the August 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Storm Event in our District, and Anna Eleria discussed the McCarron's Shoreline Restoration Program. CRWD was selected by the MPCA in August to serve as a host site for GreenCorps, which places AmeriCorps members with organizations to serve for a year addressing critical environmental issues while gaining valuable job skills. The Board held a public hearing on the proposed Amendment to Wetland Management Rule E, and Manager Thienes noted that the 45-day comment period ends October 18, 2010. The Board and staff also discussed their position on CRWD land acquisition, the possible circumstances and criteria the Board would exercise their authority to acquire land for water resource protection purposes. Manager Thienes said staff will draft a policy for the Board to review.

## **Discussion - New & Old Issues**

### **November 9, 2010 Agenda Overview**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Nelson