



## Capitol Region Watershed District

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Approved October 8, 2014

### Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, September 10, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.

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

Gwen Willems  
Bill Barton  
Mike MacDonald  
Richard Weil  
David Arbeit  
Steve Duerre  
Kathryn Swanson

#### **Others Present:**

Mark Doneux, CRWD  
Michelle Sylvander, CRWD  
Bob Fossum, CRWD  
Joe Collins, President – Board  
Managers  
Brian Tortellet, City of St. Paul  
Parks & Recreation Department

#### **Members absent:**

Ted McCaslin, w/notice  
Pat Byrne, w/notice  
Michelle Ulrich, w/notice

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

Mr. Mike MacDonald opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with a request for any announcements.

Ms. Kathryn Swanson announced that she was back from her studies in South Dakota. Ms. Swanson has moved out of the watershed district but would like to remain as a non-voting member.

**CAC 14-065 Motion:** *To approve Kathryn Swanson to remain as a non-voting member of the CAC.*

Barton/Willems

#### **Public Comments**

Michael Barron a student, observed the meeting as a guest.

Mr. Weil asked for an update on the guests who attended the August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting. Administrator Doneux replied that both guests have been contacted. Mr. Kelley has contacted MN DOT. A number of changes have been made to the design of the pond. The residents are happy with the planned changes.

#### **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. MacDonald asked for any additions or changes to the Agenda. No additions or changes were made.

**CAC 14-066 Motion:** *To approve the CAC September 10, 2014, agenda.*

Arbeit/Weil

Unanimously approved

**Approval of the August 13, 2014 CAC Minutes**

Mr. MacDonald requested any changes or corrections to the minutes.

**CAC 13-066 Motion:** *To approve the CAC August 13, 2014 CAC Minutes.*

Arbeit/Barton

Unanimously approved

### **District Initiatives**

A) Hidden Falls Water Resource Feasibility Study (Fossum)

Mr. Fossum reviewed that at the December 7, 2011 Board Meeting, the CRWD Board of Managers awarded the City of St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department a \$60,000 grant award for the Hidden Falls Regional Park Water Resource Development Feasibility Study. The stream within Hidden Falls Park has consistently been a challenge for the City in terms of channel stability and maintenance. Further, the stream has very poor habitat and is in need of restoration. In the early 1900's, retaining walls were built near the Hidden Falls. These retaining walls are considered historical and will not be removed or reconstructed. At the base of the falls a cement shoot was constructed in the 1970's. This is the first feasibility study to be done on this area. In 1972 the first master plan was developed and has never been updated. Mr. Fossum stated that the former Ford plant site needs to be stabilized before any work would be done at the Hidden Falls area. Mr. Fossum reviewed the full report including recommendations for channel restoration and flow rates from the contributing watershed.

**CAC 13-067 Motion:** *CAC endorse the plans on the Hidden Falls Water Resource Feasibility Study.*

Duerre/Willems

Unanimously approved

B) Como Lake Regional Park Stormwater Master Plan (Fossum)

Mr. Fossum reviewed that the City of St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department, City of St. Paul Public Works and Capitol Region Watershed District share goals of intentional management of stormwater as a resource, and protection of the water resources within Como Park. CRWD has a capital improvement program, education program, grant program, and permitting process to help achieve their goals. The City utilizes stormwater management requirements of Chapter 52 Legislative Code and the Sustainable Building Policy to guide development on sites over 10,000 sq. ft. to achieve their goals. In addition, both the City and CRWD have US EPA. – MS4 permits, which include planned actions to improve water quality in Lake Como. Some of the actions extend beyond the park into the larger watershed area of the lake.

In 2010, the Citizen Advisory Committee of CRWD requested that the Board of Managers recommend to the City that it develop a comprehensive stormwater management plan for Como Regional Park. Such a plan could improve efficiency for design and implementation of stormwater management improvements within the park, coordinate interdepartmental efforts such as maintenance and operation of stormwater facilities, and more effectively achieve our mutual goal of improved water quality in Como Lake.

Discussions have occurred among St. Paul Parks & Recreation, Public Works, and CRWD staff following the CAC request. The shared goal of improving water quality in Como Lake is easily agreed upon. The concept of developing a stormwater management master plan for the park is agreed to be an undertaking worth pursuing, and will require each organization to contribute their unique expertise. It is understood that the Como Regional Park Stormwater Master Plan would require significant efforts to complete.

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Staff have worked off and on over the past couple of years to develop a MOU for a Stormwater Management Master Plan for Como Regional Park.

**CAC 13-068 Motion:** *CAC Approve the Como Regional Park Stormwater Master Plan.*

Barton/Arbeit

**CAC 13-069 Motion:** *CAC recommends the Board of Managers support the MOU for the Como Regional Park Stormwater Master Plan and request that the City develop policy and budgetary actions to support the MOU and similar projects. CAC members request to be included with these discussions.*

Arbeit/Duerre

C) 2014 Awards Program

Mr. MacDonald reviewed a draft of the 2014 watershed awards. The categories included: Watershed Citizen Award, Watershed Partner Award, Young Naturalist Award and Lifetime Stewardship Award. Mr. MacDonald requested feedback. After some discussion the group was very pleased with the categories and the definitions of each category. Administrator Doneux reviewed the nomination form and the time line:

- October 31<sup>st</sup>, Nominations due
- November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Sub committee to meet 1<sup>st</sup> week of Nov. to review applications
- November 12<sup>th</sup>, CAC Recommends winners to Board
- November 19<sup>th</sup>, Board of Managers award winners
- December 17<sup>th</sup>, Annual Meeting – Award Ceremony

Ms. Lindsay VanPatten will post on the CRWD website with a fillable PDF form. The nomination form will be launched on September 12<sup>th</sup>. The Award Committee should consists of 2 CAC members, 2 Board of Manager, 1 CRWD staff member.

**CAC 13-070 Motion:** *CAC to adopt the 2014 Awards Program.*

Arbeit/Weil

Unanimously approved

## **CAC Initiatives**

A) CAC Recruitment – Next Steps – CAC Subcommittee

The committee consisting of: Michelle Ulrich, Steve Duerre, and Gwen Willems. Ms. Willems drafted a flyer for the CAC to use as a handout at CRWD events. Members of the CAC discussed the draft and agreed to remove the star lower right corner of the map.

- B) Discuss the September 18<sup>th</sup> Event with Freshwater Society, Dr. Jay Famiglietti, Dwindling Groundwater Reserves as Viewed from Space.

Administrator Doneux reviewed the event planned for September 18, 2014. CRWD will partner with Freshwater Society. Barr Engineering will also be co-sponsoring the event. Administrator Doneux stated that CRWD will have two tables at the event. One of the tables will be for the CAC to use for recruitment from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm. The other table will be for CRWD educational displays. A reception starts at 5:30 pm. Ms. Kathryn Swanson, Mr. Bill Barton and Ms. Willems plan to attend the event and manage the recruitment table.

### **Project and Program Updates**

Mr. Fossum gave an update on the Curtiss Pond Improvement Project. In the northeast corner some questionable soil was found. The soil is being tested to determine the proper way to handle. A utility line was found in the pond and caused a slight delay.

Administrator Doneux provided an update on the Highland Ravine Stabilization project. The project is scheduled to begin on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

### **CAC Observer Update**

No update was given.

### **Discussion –**

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

Mr. Duerre thanked everyone for the sympathy card.

#### **B)Identify CAC Observer for the September 17<sup>th</sup> and October 1st Board of Managers Meetings.**

No members were identified.

#### **C)October 8th CAC Agenda Overview**

Administrator Doneux reviewed the October 8, 2014 meeting agenda.

RSVP Program Update

Overview of BMP

Awards Program

CAC Recruitment

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

**Adjourn –**

**CAC 14-071 Motion:** *To adjourn.*

Willems/Arbeit

Unanimously approved

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Sylvander

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