



## Capitol Region Watershed District

1410 Energy Park Drive, Suite 4 • Saint Paul, MN 55108  
T: (651) 644-8888 • F: (651) 644-8894 • capitolregionwd.org

Approved October 14, 2015

### Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, September 9, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

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

Bill Barton  
Steve Duerre  
Mike MacDonald  
Ted McCaslin  
Rick Sanders  
Nicole Soderholm  
Michelle Ulrich  
Richard Weil  
Gwen Willems

#### **Others Present:**

Mark Doneux, CRWD  
Michelle Sylvander, CRWD  
Elizabeth Beckman, CRWD  
Britta Suppes, CRWD  
Joe Collins, CRWD President  
Shirley Reider, CRWD Board  
Member  
Deirdre Coleman, Freshwater  
Society

#### **Members absent:**

David Arbeit, w/notice  
Kathryn Swanson, w/notice

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

Ms. Willems opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Willems requested any announcements. Manager Reider shared that Mississippi Watershed Management Organization will be having an open house on Sat., September 19, 2015.

#### **Approval of Agenda**

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

**CAC 15-033 Motion:** *To approve the CAC September 9, 2015, agenda.*

Duerre/MacDonald  
Unanimously approved

#### **Approval of the August 12, 2015 Minutes**

No changes or corrections were noted.

**CAC 15-034 Motion:** *To approve the August 12, 2015 Minutes.*

Soderholm/Sanders  
Unanimously approved

## District Initiatives

### A) Master Water Stewards

Deirdre Coleman from Freshwater Society presented the Master Water Stewards program. Master Water Stewards complete a twelve-week curriculum with classes beginning January 19, 2016 held every other Tuesday from 6-8 pm through July 12, 2016. Following the coursework, the Stewards complete a capstone project that includes a best management practice such as rain gardens, rain barrels, permeable pavement or cisterns through our stewardship grants program each with an accompanying outreach campaign to spread the word to neighbors and other community members about how and why to participate in stormwater pollution prevention practices. Stewards will commit 50 volunteer hours for the first year and 25 hours each subsequent year. CAC members are invited to enroll in the Master Water Stewards program. These hours would be in addition to a role on CRWD's CAC. The Master Water Stewards (MWS) program was started in 2012, when the Freshwater Society (FWS) and Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) received a Clean Water Land and Legacy grant. MWS program is modeled after University of Minnesota Extension's Master Gardener certification program. The MWS program is now in its third pilot year of training community leaders.

Ms. Beckman shared that CRWD staff hopes to work with Master Water Stewards to fill existing programming gaps such as follow-up and mentoring of Stewardship Grant recipients, developing a maintenance education program with Inspiring Communities Program homeowners, building relationships with new target audiences, citizen science monitoring and illicit discharge reporting and education program delivery. CRWD will recruit a minimum of eight candidates for the 2016 program year at a cost of \$2,500 per Steward. FWS will organize the classes, hire instructors, assist with recruitment of potential Stewards, track and report Stewards' activities and provide ongoing continuing education opportunities for Stewards. Ms. Beckman invited members of the CAC to attend the information session on Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The information session will be held at the Wilder Foundation.

### B) 2014 Lake and Stormwater Reports, Britta Suppes

Ms. Suppes reviewed the 2014 Lake and Stormwater Reports. Since 2005, CRWD has been collecting and analyzing water quality data through the District Monitoring Program. During the 2014 monitoring period (January-December), stormwater monitoring sites located throughout seven of the sixteen major subwatersheds were monitored for flow and water quality. Water quality samples were analyzed for a variety of parameters including nutrients, solids, metals, bacteria, and chloride. Conclusions and recommendations from 2014 will help guide monitoring performed in 2015. Findings from 2014 stormwater monitoring work is summarized in the *2014 Stormwater Monitoring Report*.

CRWD also monitors the five lakes within the boundaries of the District: Como Lake, Crosby Lake, Little Crosby Lake, Loeb Lake, and Lake McCarrons. Each lake is collaboratively monitored by Ramsey County Public Works (RCPW), Ramsey Conservation District (RCD), the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and CRWD to assess overall health, compliance with water quality standards, and to determine if each lake supports its designated uses for swimming, fishing, and/or aesthetics.

Ms. Suppes explained that expanded monitoring efforts including initiating annual fisheries surveys in 2014 on each CRWD lake, increasing the frequency of macrophyte data collection during the growing season,

performing additional spring and fall water quality sampling, and continuously monitoring water level from April-November.

Ms. Suppes presented the *2014 Lakes Monitoring Report* and *2014 Stormwater Monitoring reports* to CRWD’s Board in June for approval. Full copies of the reports can be found on the Reports page of the CRWD website.

### 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.

Staff and the Student Worker Committee have developed two draft student worker position description for a Communications Assistant and a Policy Assistant. Students will begin applying for the positions and the Student Worker subcommittee will review the applicants to make a decision by the end of September.

#### 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.

#### 2015 CRWD Watershed Steward Awards Program Timeline:

Date	Task
September 2015	Start promoting nominations
October 16, 2015	Nominations due
October 31, 2015	Send out invitations to awards
November 12, 2015	CAC Recommendation for Board
November 18, 2015	Board Approval of winners
November 25, 2015	RSVP for Awards Ceremony Due
December 16, 2015	Watershed Steward Awards Ceremony

Mr. MacDonald indicated he would like to continue and serve on the 2015 Awards Committee. Administrator Doneux will follow up with Mr. Arbeit on his interest on participating in 2015.

#### C) Fall Freshwater Society Moos Family Lecture Series update

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

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 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.

## **Project and Program Updates**

### **A) 2016 Budget Update**

Administrator Doneux thanked the CAC for their discussion on the 2016 budget. Administrator Doneux presented the recommendations the CAC had to the Board of Managers.

President Collins and Manager Reider both shared how they feel about the budget increases. Manager Reider stressed the impact in the quality of work the watershed is providing and has an obligation to continue that level of service. Manager Reider noted that there is very little that can be cut out of the 2016 budget. CRWD’s increased budget would equal \$4.00/per household. The Ramsey County’s 4.5% increase equals \$41.00 increase per household. Administrator Doneux stated that the budget is very conservative with an end of year fund balance. Administrator Doneux noted that the CAC could make recommendations to the final budget before it is adopted the December 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.

## **CAC Observer Update**

Steve Duerre attended the August 19, 2015 Board of Managers meeting. The managers discussed the 2016 budget plan. Mr. Duerre enjoyed the presentations from the monitoring staff. CRWD staff gave the managers an update on new remote monitoring in Trout Brook, new database software, and fish survey.

## **Discussion –**

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

Administrator Doneux updated the CAC members on the Curtis Field project. The project is just waiting for power to be installed. The system has been tested with a generator and works as planned.

Administrator Doneux requested two CAC members help to review the Partner Grants and Special Grants. Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Duerre volunteered to help review the Partner Grants. Mr. Barton volunteered to help with the Special Grants.

### **B)Identify CAC Observer for the September 16<sup>th</sup> and October 7<sup>th</sup> Board of Managers Meetings.**

Richard Weil volunteered to attend the October 7<sup>th</sup> Board of Managers meeting.

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

October meeting: Partner Grants, Ford Site, Awards Program, Monitoring Staff presentation, Master Stewards, Student Worker, 2016 Budget

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

**Adjourn –**

**CAC 15-035 Motion:** *To adjourn the September 9, 2015 CAC Meeting.*

Duerre/MacDonald

Unanimously approved

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Sylvander

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