



## Capitol Region Watershed District

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### **Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, March 8, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.**

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

Steve Duerre  
Kathryn Swanson  
Gwen Willems  
Bob Simonet  
Michelle Ulrich  
Claudia Hochstein  
Nicole Soderholm  
David Arbeit  
Richard Weil  
Rick Sanders  
Pat Cavanaugh  
Bill Barton, w/notice  
Michael MacDonald  
Mary Lilly

#### **Others Present:**

Mark Doneux, CRWD  
Belinda Gardner, CRWD  
Bob Fossum, CRWD  
Sara Wein, CRWD  
Shirley Reider, Board of  
Managers  
Lindsay Schwantes, CRWD

#### **Members absent:**

David Arbeit, w/notice

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

Ms. Willems opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Willems asked for any announcements or updates.

Mr. Doneux announced that the District has closed on the 595 Aldine building. Ms. Willems asked about the timeline for moving. Mr. Doneux will announce a concrete timeline in June.

Ms. Cavanaugh announced that The City of S. Paul is starting the public climate action process. There will be an open online forum.

Ms. Willems asked for member introduction for the the newest CAC member Mary Lilly.

Ms. Cavanaugh announced that there is an Aquatic and Invasive Species event on May 30, 2017 at 1:00-3:00 pm.

#### **Public Comment**

No public comment

### **III. Approval of Agenda**

No changes.

**CAC 17-007 Motion:** *To approve the CAC March 8, 2017 agenda.*

Soderholm/Duerre  
Unanimously approved

### **IV. Approval of Minutes**

One minor edit to the January 11, 2016 meeting minutes

#### **A) February 08, 2017 CAC Meeting Minutes**

**CAC 17-008 Motion:** *To approve the February 8, 2017 minutes as amended.*

Duerre/Sanders  
Unanimously approved

### **V. District Initiatives for Review, Comment, and Recommendations**

#### **A) 2016 Lakes Monitoring Report**

Ms. Wein reviewed the 2016 Lakes Monitoring Report. There are five lakes within the boundaries of CRWD: Como Lake, Crosby Lake, Little Crosby Lake, and Loeb Lake in St. Paul, and Lake McCarrons in Roseville. 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 determine if each lake supports its designated uses for swimming, fishing, and/or aesthetics.

In 2016, CRWD in partnership with RCPW, RCD, and the DNR, collected chemical, physical, and biological data from all five District lakes. Data collected included: dissolved oxygen, total phosphorus, chlorophyll-a, temperature, Secchi depth, phytoplankton, zooplankton, macrophyte samples, biovolume surveys, fish community surveys, and continuous water level data. Cumulatively, all of the lakes data collected in 2016 has been analyzed and reported in the 2016 Lakes Monitoring Report.

Ms. Wein reviewed the 2016 Lake Standard Comparison and provided an overview and concluded that Como was considered impaired. Crosby met the standard for two out of three parameters and the other lakes met all parameters. Ms. Wein reviewed the 2017 recommendations and initiatives highlighting initiatives that CRWD would like to report such as all lakes data in CRWD's online data analysis and Reporting Tool (DART). Ms. Wein opened it up for discussion and asked the following questions. What piece of this report do you think is of most interest to citizens of the District? What do you think is the best way to disseminate or distribute this information to citizens of the District?

Ms. Cavanaugh asked if it would make sense to have regular distribution through the district councils, such as long-term practice to district councils. Ms. Hochstein recommended a special event with an open space

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and Ms. Schwantes replied that the district is working with a partner to bring the information to the public. Ms. Lilly offered comment that there are things that we can do to connect with the public.

Mr. Simonet asked about any other studies other than fish? Mr. Simonet commented that there are more dynamics of the body of water and that should be explained. Mr. Simonet suggested that the presentation of the 2016 Lakes report fit the audience in the terminology. Mr. MacDonald stated that people would like to know more about the fish. Mr. Barton replied that we need to offer a way to relate the data.

Ms. Willems commented that people care about the lake in their neighborhood. One great way to distribute information is neighborhood newspapers. Mr. Simonet commented that one great way to disseminate information use the lake grading system to highlight the info in the report. Mr. Duerre replied that most citizens are interested in fish and clarity you can use those as a hook and then the District can turn their focus on the main issues and then tie it all together. The Committee thanked Ms. Wein for her report.

## **VI. CAC Initiatives**

### **A) Student Learner Update**

Ms. Hochstein provided an update on the Student Learner Ms. Ebersole. They narrowed down the list of Facebook topics and she has 12 hours left for her program with CRWD. The topics include stewardship grants, well sealing, lawn care tips, promoting adopt a drain program and asking for pictures of ice on their favorite lake. The deliverables include seasonal facebook posts, content, attend 2 CAC meetings. Her presentation will be in April or May with a 5-minute presentation. Ms. Hochstein commented that she's on track.

### **B) Watershed Steward Awards Update**

The Awards Committee met on February 1, 2017 to debrief about the 2016 Watershed Steward Awards and review staff, board, and CAC feedback. The committee discussed streamlining the decision-making process for the Watershed Steward Awards. The consensus was that it may no longer be necessary to bring decisions to the full board since two representatives of the board are on the Awards Committee. The Board of Managers reviewed the committee's recommendation and has delegated decision-making authority to the CAC for the Watershed Stewardship Awards. The Board approved the CAC managing the Watershed Stewards Awards program. Mr. Doneux reviewed the program and commented that it was recommended to move the event to late January, establish a new program category and develop nominations criteria. The requested action is to approve the Awards Committee's recommendations to move the event to mid to late January and establish a Watershed Education and Outreach Program of the Year Award.

**CAC 17-009 Motion:** *To approve the awards committee's recommendation to move the event to mid to late January and establish a watershed education and outreach program of the year.*

Weil/Macdonald  
Unanimously approved

## **VII. Project and Program Updates**

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#### A) TBI Repairs 0+00-28+49 Update

Mr. Doneux commented that the repairs are winding down and a video of the tunnel will be presented to the CAC next meeting. Ms. Cavanaugh asked about the numbering 0+00-28+49 and Mr. Doneux replied that is how sewer systems like Trout Brook are measured. The repair work is done with no surprises or change orders.

#### B) Willow Reserve Restoration Project

Mr. Doneux provided an overview of the Willow Reserve restoration project and reviewed the timeline for the reserve implementation. Mr. Doneux also reviewed the plan, access points and tree removal for safety and clearance. The schematic also illustrates the native plants and where they will be placed. Mr. Doneux discussed next steps include continuing with tree removal, spring community event, and invasive species removal and one of the big removals will be the cattails.

Mr. Duerre asked about the island and Mr. Doneux replied that the City is maintaining the property. Ms. Willems clarified the wood chips came from the trees that came down. Mark replied that Mr. Jones wants to keep some of the logs for creative purpose for the new building. Mr. MacDonald recommended using the materials for plaques for next year's awards program.

#### C) Hamline Midway Boulevard Rain Garden Project

Mr. Doneux reviewed boulevard curb cut rain gardens and discussed the challenges that homeowners have in putting in the curb cut rain gardens. Due to the high volume of requests and the overall benefits, the District decided to collaborate with homeowners and the City to manage the construction of the projects. This will allow for efficiency and cost savings.

Ms. Soderholm asked about the average cost per homeowner and Mr. Doneux replied it's about \$500 per home. Ms. Reider commented that the District has better control and Mr. Doneux replied that the homeowner has more involvement. Mr. Simonet asked about the right of way and commented that it should be the responsibility of the City Mr. Doneux replied that the City pays for street reconstruction projects, but not curb cut projects.

Mr. Doneux also reviewed potential sites for the Clean Streets project with the City of Roseville.

#### D) Adopt a Drain

Ms. Schwantes provided an update and a review of the Adopt a Drain program in collaboration with the City of St Paul Public Works and Hamline University. She provided the results for the past 2 years with 340 residents signing up. Approximately 561 storm drains have been adopted with over 10,000 lbs. of debris from storm drains have been removed. Ms. Schwantes discussed how the District promotes the program. The next program will be piloted around Mccarrons. The City is involved and working on a collaborative plan with CRWD.

Ms. Cavanaugh asked about the total number storm drains. Ms. Schwantes replied that there are an estimated 30,000 storm drains.

Mr. Barton commented that his experience with the trees in his neighborhood is that they drop all their leaves at once. Ms. Schwantes replied that the City has challenges changing their street sweeping schedule based on the leaf fall. Ms. Lilly commented that the barriers to proactively cleaning up is having to bag it and haul it to compost site. It would help if the City can make arrangements with residents who are willing to bag and pick up. Ms. Schwantes will bring it up with the City, but mentioned that there is a group of neighbors who organize clean ups for two months and provide large bags. Ms. Willems asked about cleaning other drains. She asked about cleaning neighbor drains. Ms. Schwantes stated that she just cleans them. Ms. Schwantes replied to use your judgement based on your neighbor but the drain is in a public space.

E) Pierce Butler Route

Ms. Schwantes reviewed the Pierce Butler Route Basin Enhanced Landscaping project and offered the timeline for the project. Ms. Schwantes replied that the District is working with MnDOT on the enhancement plan and the District is also working with community groups and schools to design the space for an outdoor learning area. Mr. Simonet asked about requirements for fencing for the pond. Ms. Schwantes replied that the District doesn't require it and its shallow. Mr. Barton commented on bike safety and access.

**VIII. CAC Observer Update**

Ms. Soderholm provided an update and highlighted the permit extension for Snelling Midway and stormwater feature, well sealing grants reimbursed amounts were increased and Mike Thienes announced his retirement.

Ms. Reider provided an update from the last Board of Managers meeting. The Board selected a consultant for the Targeted Watershed program, the District hired an Architect to design the new building.

**IX. Discussion**

- a. New & Old Issues
- b. CAC observer for April 19, 2017 and May 3, 2017 Board of Managers Meeting
- c. 2017 Meeting Schedule

**A) New & Old issues**

None

**B) CAC Observer for the Board of Managers Meetings April 19, 2017 and May 3, 2016**

No volunteers

**C) Board and CAC Agenda Planner**

Mr. Doneux commented that the Agenda Planner tool will highlight reportable projects and programs.

**X. Adjourn**

**CAC 17-010 Motion:** *To adjourn the March 8, 2017 CAC Meeting.*

Duerre/Swanson

Unanimously approved

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The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 PM.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Belinda Gardner

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