



Capitol Region Watershed District

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Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, November 08, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

Kathryn Swanson
Gwen Willems
Pat Cavanaugh
Mary Lilly
Steve Duerre
Bill Barton
David Arbeit
Bob Simonet
Mike MacDonald
Michelle Ulrich

Others Present:

Belinda Gardner, CRWD
Anna Eleria, CRWD
Mark Doneux, CRWD
Nate Zwonitzer, CRWD
Shirley Reider, Board of
Managers
Kevin Shearen, U of MN Student
Learning Student
Abiel Gebrekristos – Concordia
Matthew Soller - Concordia

Members absent:

Nicole Soderholm, w/notice
Richard Weil w/o notice

Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Mr. MacDonald opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Mr. MacDonald asked for any announcements, updates and introductions.

Mr. Arbeit announced an opportunity to meet with undergraduate students at the U of MN about Watershed Management.

Mrs. Reider commented on how unique the CAC organization is and the diversity it brings to the watershed community. Mr. Arbeit commented that most watershed districts don't have a CAC and that we are grateful for our active CAC. Ms. Willems commented that other CAC are not as active as CRWDs CAC.

Public Comment for issues not on the agenda

Mr. Barton commented on the ongoing Adopt a Drain conversation. Mr. Barton mentioned that he was unclear about the rules. Mr. Doneux mentioned that there are only a few areas that allow citizens to rake their leaves into the street. Ms. Reider suggested that the District get involved in educating the community on where its allowable to move leaves into the street. Mr. MacDonald commented that the District will have a new strategic plan in less than two years.

III. Approval of Agenda

CAC 17-033 Motion: *To approve the CAC November 8, 2017 agenda*

Willems/Duerre
Unanimously approved

IV. Approval of Minutes

A) October 11, 2017 CAC Meeting Minutes

CAC 17-034 Motion: *To approve the October 11, 2017 minutes with minor edits.*

Barton/Duerre
Unanimously approved

V. District Initiatives for Review, Comment, and Recommendations

None

VI. CAC Initiatives

A) Student Learner Update (Swanson)

Ms. Swanson reported that there is a new student learner. The student learners name is Kevin Shearen from the University of MN. Ms. Swanson commented that his project consisted of Mr. Shearen will provide summaries. The final presentation will be in December.

VII. Project and Program Updates

A) Master Water Stewards (Gardner)

Ms. Gardner provided a Master Water Stewards Update. Four of the seven students have completed their capstone projects to date. Ms. Gardner encouraged the group to read the capstone work on the poster boards. The 2018 Master Water Stewards program is underway with six Stewards in training and three teachers from Saint Paul Academy. Ms. Bromelkamp and Mr. Novak are working together to manage the program in Ms. Schwantes absence.

B) History Study Update (Cavanaugh)

Ms. Cavanaugh provided an update on her work on the twenty oral interviews for the History Study. The oral tapes will go to transcription services. Mr. Arbeit asked about the final product and where the project will be stored. Mr. Doneux mentioned that there will be word documents to be used as a reference. A document will coincide with CRWD 20th anniversary. Mrs. Cavanaugh commented that the next step will be to archive everything.

C) Willow Reserve Update (Zwonitzer)

Mr. Zwonitzer provided an update on Willow Reserve Ecological Restoration site. He identified the main entrance that is being converted into a prairie. He discussed the proposed plant communities, and the removal of debris and trash and invasive species management, woodchips were used for the new trails. The decrease of dumping has been significant. Mr. Zwonitzer showed pics of the new trail. Next steps include fall and winter install erosion control and continued buckthorn management. In spring 2018, the District will evaluate seeding/planting areas of successful invasive species control. Mr. Barton commented that dead trees offer diversity. Ms. Reider asked about the trails. The project will maintain through 2019. Mr. Arbeit commented that this project should be on the tour. Mrs. Cavanaugh asked about the pond and bird species. Mr. Zwonitzer commented that there are records of species. Ms. Lilly asked about the water quality. Mr. Zwonitzer mentioned that it's not great. The CAC thanked Mr. Zwonitzer for his presentation.

D) Como High School Stormwater Project Update (Zwonitzer)

Mr. Zwonitzer provided an update on Como Park Senior High and partnership with City of Saint Paul. Mr. Zwonitzer reviewed the Cooperative Construction Agreement with the school district and the City of Saint Paul. The city agreed to 30 years maintenance. Mrs. Cavanaugh asked about removing contaminated soil. Zwonitzer replied that it is possible. Mr. Simonet commented on the bike path. Zwonitzer reviewed the project cost and partner contribution. Next steps include signage, educational opportunities, reporting to BWSR for targeted watershed grant and ongoing maintenance. Mr. Arbeit asked Zwonitzer to explain the credits the City and the School received. Mr. Duerre asked about the school incorporating educational opportunities. The CAC thanked Mr. Zwonitzer for his presentation.

E) Building Update (Doneux)

Administrator Doneux provided an update on the new building. Presented the exterior and interior views to the CAC.

F) Regulatory Program Update

Postponed to next meeting.

G) MAWD Update

Administrator Doneux provided an update on MAWD. Administrator Doneux commented on the organizations role and what's new coming in 2018. The Annual meeting will take place November 30-December 2.

H) Como Lake Projects

Postponed to next meeting.

VIII. CAC Observer Update

Ms. Cavanaugh commented on the October 18 meeting. Permits, building discussion on fire suppression system. Interesting discussion regarding maintenance for Snelling Midway project and the soccer stadium. CRWD might maintain the green infrastructure, but would not maintain standard sewer system.

IX. Discussion

- a. New & Old Issues
- b. CAC observer for November 15, 2017 and December 6, 2017 Board of Managers Meeting

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

c. Upcoming CRWD Events

A) New & Old issues

None

B) CAC Observer for the Board of Managers Meetings November 15, 2017 and December 6, 2017

Ms. Cavanaugh will attend on the November 15 meeting.

C) Upcoming CRWD events

The CAC would like to see the agenda planner. The Watershed Steward awards is scheduled 1/18/18.

X. Adjourn

CAC 17-035 Motion: *To adjourn the November 8, 2017 CAC Meeting.*

Barton/Duerre

Unanimously approved

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Belinda Gardner