



Capitol Region Watershed District

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Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, October 11, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

Kathryn Swanson
Gwen Willems
Nicole Soderholm
Rick Sanders
Pat Cavanaugh
Mary Lilly
Steve Duerre
Bill Barton
David Arbeit
Richard Weil

Others Present:

Belinda Gardner, CRWD
Anna Eleria, CRWD
Mark Doneux, CRWD
Rick Sanders, Board of Managers
Jim Moncur, Guest
Steven Yang, Green Corps

Members absent:

Mike MacDonald, absent
w/notice
Bob Simonet, absent w/notice
Michelle Ulrich absent
w/notice

Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Ms. Willems opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Ms. Willems asked for any announcements or updates.

Public Comment for issues not on the agenda

Mr. Duerre asked for discussion/feedback on the current meeting start time of 7pm. There was much discussion around whether the start time should change. Some members thought that 6:30 pm would be a good start time, while others thought that it should remain at 7:00pm. No decision to change the start time was made.

III. Approval of Agenda

CAC 17-030 Motion: *To approve the CAC October 11, 2017 agenda with additions*

Barton/Duerre
Unanimously approved

IV. Approval of Minutes

A) September 13, 2017 CAC Meeting Minutes

CAC 17-031 Motion: *To approve the September 13, 2017 minutes with minor edits.*

Duerre/Swanson
Unanimously approved

V. District Initiatives for Review, Comment, and Recommendations

A) 2017 Hamline-Midway Boulevard Rain gardens (Novak)

Mr. Novak provided a review on the Hamline-Midway Boulevard Rain Gardens. He started with providing background information on the partnership with CRWD and the Hamline Coalition who found 45 additional interested citizens. In 2017, they secured 10 additional residents and an effective coordination with St. Paul Forestry. Effective volume and pollution reduction by 550,000 gallons, total phosphorus 2.4 lbs and total sediment 1600 lbs. Ms. Swanson commented on the project and Ms. Soderholm asked about educating residents. Mr. Duerre commented on feedback to residents who receive grants. Mr. Barton had a question about cost and recommends marketing the program. Mr. Arbeit commented on the cost effectiveness and treating phosphorus. He had questions about the cost effectiveness. Mr. Doneux recommended mapping to identify neighborhoods that can be targeted. Ms. Willems replied that she likes the residents being educated. Ms. Lilly asked about contractors the challenges with contractors doing the work. Mr. Novak replied that it might be because the margins are higher for the contractor. Ms. Lilly recommended Water Stewards going out and educating the residents. Mr. Doneux commented on a project CRWD did with Rick Sanders. The benefit is to help residents who do not have to go through the process alone.

VI. CAC Initiatives

A) Student Learner Update (Swanson)

Ms. Swanson reported that there is a new student learner. The student learner did a tour with the CRWD office. The student will focus on climate adaption work. Ms. Swanson will introduce the student for the November meeting and presenting in December. Ms. Eleria commented that CRWD created a climate adaptation committee. The need is to do the research on member cities, partnered agencies, and the impacts of water resources and how they address the impacts and implementing plans.

VII. Project and Program Updates

A) 2017 Watershed Steward Awards (Doneux)

Mr. Doneux provided an update on the 2017 Watershed Steward Awards. CRWD began promoting the awards in early September. The nominations are due 10/31/17. The event is scheduled for 1/18/18. Staff are seeking two volunteers from the CAC for the Award's Committee. The Committee will meet the week of November 13-17. A new category, Watershed Outreach Program Award, was added this year. Mr. Doneux encouraged the CAC to consider nominating an individual or organization who is doing outstanding

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work to help protect and improve our water resources. Two CAC members volunteered, Mr. Arbeit and Ms. Lilly for the Watershed Steward Awards committee.

B) Website Update (Gardner)

Ms. Gardner provided an update on the CRWD website. Ms. Eleria added that functionality and ability to use on multiple devices will be an important feature. Also, the structure and an up to date and fresh and current site that will help us tell our story. The website can be served as another “staff person” that can highlight what we do. Mr. Arbeit asked about the decision to go with an out of state firm. Mr. Doneux replied that Ms. Bromelkamp and the committee selected a firm based on customer service. Mr. Arbeit asked about bidding and scoring. Mr. Doneux commented that the company will need to do a great job with the initial discovery phase. Ms. Willems asked about maintenance of the site. Ms. Gardner replied that was one of the reasons the firm was selected based on maintenance program.

C) Victoria Park Stormwater Study Update (Doneux)

Mr. Doneux reviewed the Victoria Park Stormwater Study map and schematic of the water flow. He mentioned that the Entry Plaza gives a sense of scale. Featured the Nature play area and Interactive open water feature. And discussed how the planning process integrates residents. Discussed next steps.

D) MN Green Corps Member Update (Eleria)

Ms. Eleria introduced Steven Yang. He will be involved in grants program and creating a database with past stewardship grantees. Mr. Yang will also input data in BMP database. As a Greencorps Member Mr. Yang has an opportunity to develop professionally. Mr. Yang will attend trainings and review projects in the field.

E) Adopt a Drain

Mr. Doneux reviewed the Adopt a Drain program. 690 households and 1,098 drains; about 4% have been adopted in Saint Paul to date. 347 of those adoptions occurred in 2017. Staff, partners at the City and Center for Global Environmental Education at Hamline hope to have 550 sign ups by the end of the year. The program is branching into Roseville. The City sent letters to CRWD residents notifying them of this new program. CRWD is working with the City to promote the program via Facebook this fall. This approach was so successful last spring that we met our 2017 goal and therefore decided to increase our annual goal. Mr. and Mrs. Sanders were instrumental in promoting the program. Ms. Lilly commented that the drain she adopted is always full and wondered if there was a reason her drain is more used than the other drains surrounding area. Mr. Doneux asked her to send pictures.

F) 1410 Energy Park Drive Raingardens

Mr. Doneux reviewed the Energy Park Rain gardens. He reviewed the catch basin that will be installed. Mr. Doneux reported that the utility locator found fiber optic in the area and the design will be adjusted. Mr. Doneux commented that it's estimated 464,000 gallons of volume reduction and 670 pounds of sediment.

G) Pierce Butler

Mr. Doneux reviewed and updated the CAC on the Pierce Butler site. He showed photos of the plants growing taller and change is happening.

H) Snelling Midway

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Ms. Eleria commented and reviewed Snelling Midway. She reviewed the existing plan. Mr. Arbeit thanked the District for their work on this project.

VIII. CAC Observer Update

Mr. Sanders commented that there were discussions about permits, Como Park Feasibility Study, Ford Site, and Victoria Park.

IX. Discussion

- a. New & Old Issues
- b. CAC observer for October 18, 2017 and November 1, 2017 Board of Managers Meeting
- c. Upcoming CRWD Events

A) New & Old issues

None

B) CAC Observer for the Board of Managers Meetings October 18, 2017 and November 1, 2017

Ms. Cavanaugh will attend on October 18th.

C) Upcoming CRWD events

X. Adjourn

CAC 17-032 Motion: *To adjourn the October 11, 2017 CAC Meeting.*

Barton/Duerre

Unanimously approved

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Belinda Gardner