



Capitol Region Watershed District

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Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, February 14, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

Gwen Willems
Mary Lilly
Steve Duerre
David Arbeit
Bob Simonet
Mike MacDonald
Michelle Ulrich
Richard Weil
Tom Elko
Kathryn Swanson

Others Present:

Belinda Gardner, CRWD
Bob Fossum, CRWD
Lindsay Schwantes, CRWD
Mark Doneux, CRWD
Mary Henke-Haney, Saint Paul
Natural Resources
Joe Collins, Board of Managers
Cole Anderson, Student Learner

Members absent:

Pat Cavanaugh, w/notice
Nicole Soderholm, w/notice
Bill Barton, w/notice

Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Co-Chair Gwen Willems called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Willems asked for any announcements, updates and introductions.

Mr. Doneux presented 5-year and 10-year award plaques to Richard Weil and Michelle Ulrich.

Public Comment for issues not on the agenda

None

III. Approval of Agenda

CAC 18-004 Motion: *To approve the CAC February 14, 2018 agenda as amended.*

Duerre/Willems
Unanimously approved

IV. Approval of Minutes

A) January 10, 2018 CAC Meeting Minutes

CAC 18-005 Motion: *To approve the January 10, 2018 minutes.*

Duerre/Simonet
Unanimously approved

V. District Initiatives for Review, Comment, and Recommendations

A) Saint Paul Natural Resources Partner Grant Programs (Mary Henke-Haney)

Ms. Schwantes introduced Ms. Henke-Haney of the Saint Paul Natural Resources. Ms. Henke-Haney and her organization have worked with the District for a couple of years. The mission is to connect people to watersheds, parks and nature and provide children with academic and health benefits plus a sense of stewardship. Her program helps overcome barriers to park use and underrepresented communities. SPARK is one program Ms. Haney highlighted, an 8-week water quality program, where they rent a van and pick up kids from several organizations and provide programming, including park access each week and exploration of the parks, games and arts and crafts. The group also participated in the Hidden Falls day camp, week long summer camp.

Ms. Willems asked if there are other existing programs that are similar in nature that might have contributed to SPARK and its programming. Ms. Henke-Haney replied that Spark started in 2014 with Arlington Hills Rec Center and that help shape the program.

The CAC thanked Ms. Henke-Haney for her presentation.

VI. CAC Initiatives

A) Student Learner Presentation (Soderholm)

Ms. Swanson introduced Cole Anderson, who is the newest student learner. Mr. Anderson introduced himself and thanked the CAC for the opportunity. Ms. Swanson reminded the group that Mr. Anderson has 24 total hours to work on his project. Ms. Bromelkamp, Ms. Swanson, and Mr. Anderson created an idea that would provide a tool for the CAC that looks at the overall CAC capacity level and would include a study of the by-laws. Mr. Anderson would conduct some interviews and include outside literature with other watershed districts. Ms. Swanson mentioned that the project would reflect the CAC's desire to do more.

Mr. Simonet recommended the student learner reflect on the current work of the CAC and Ms. Swanson replied that she would like to promote the current CAC model.

Ms. Lilly asked if the District hears from other CAC groups. Mr. Doneux and Mr. Collins replied other Districts view the CRWD CAC as one of the most active groups of its kind.

The CAC thanked Mr. Anderson for sharing and are looking forward to his presentation.

B) 2017 Watershed Steward Awards Program Review

Ms. Schwantes thanked the CAC who volunteered for the watershed steward awards event. On Thursday, January 18, CRWD hosted the 2017 Recognition & Awards Ceremony at the Amherst Wilder Foundation.

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

The event was moved to January this year to avoid scheduling conflicts in December. Approximately 88 staff, Citizen Advisory Committee members, Board of Managers and partners attended the event. Plaques were presented to each of the winners and they were invited to briefly share their experiences working with the District. As always, hearing from the District's partners was one of the highlights of the evening.

The CAC provided feedback. Mr. MacDonald recommended soliciting nominations from past winners. Mr. Arbeit commented that the nominations are an area that can be improved. Ms. Willems commented that it was a great idea to include spouses and significant others. Mr. Arbeit commented that the youth were great addition. Mr. Duerre commented that having a canoe at the event was great. Mr. Elko encouraged increasing media presence after the event to increase nominations for the following year.

VII. Project and Program Updates

A) Adopt a Drain Update (Schwantes)

Ms. Schwantes reviewed the adopt a drain program's website and provided a detailed overview of the process. She reviewed participation from fall 2014 to present. In 2014 the program started with 33 participants; to present day the program has 763 participants. Ms. Schwantes reviewed the participation by neighborhood and reviewed the Roseville Pilot Program. Ms. Schwantes provided info on reporting, 135 participants reported removing 325.5 bags of debris. She summarized 2017, where the program met the goal of 300 new Saint Paul adoptions. Consequently, they raised the goal to 550 for 2018. She shared the online survey and feedback from participants and provided the online survey responses. Next steps include promoting in Frogtown and Highland, spring cleanup events, social media, lawn signs, improve reporting methods and a new website by the end of 2018.

Mr. Arbeit asked what happens with inactive drains that were once adopted but could not continue with the program. Ms. Lilly asked for clarification on the increase in participation. She questioned the removal of debris and is concerned that the disposal is challenging and believes the city should help with removal, inquiring how we can support removal of this material. Ms. Schwantes replied that there's an opportunity to explore options. Mr. Duerre asked if there's a push for renters to participate.

B) Phalen Creek Daylighting Study Update

Mr. Fossum reviewed the Phalen Creek Daylighting study, a cooperative project to look at what might be possible. The Lower Phalen Creek Project retained Inter-fluve to assess the feasibility of daylighting lower Phalen Creek, which is currently conveyed in storm sewer for much of its length between Lake Phalen and the Mississippi River. Mr. Fossum summarized the collected data and identified potential feasibility.

The CAC thanked Mr. Fossum for his update.

C) Research Program Update

Bob Fossum provided an update stating the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council approved the pilot projects which includes two research projects, looking at different material that could be added to enhance sand filters and the other is looking at best design pretreatment systems. The goal is to maximize the removal of debris at the pretreatment phase. Preliminary results will be available later this year.

Mr. Arbeit asked about the second round of research. Mr. Fossum replied that the second round is undetermined.

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D) Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary Update

Mr. Fossum provided an update on the Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary. Mr. Fossum commented that the work is currently being done.

VIII. CAC Observer Update

Mr. Collins reported. The big effort is the building and the financing of the building. Mr. Doneux commented that things are moving. Mr. Collins mentioned that the staff did a good job on the announcement. Groundbreaking event will happen late March, early April.

IX. Discussion

- a. New & Old Issues
- b. CAC observer for March 21, 2018 and April 4, 2018 Board of Managers Meeting
- c. Upcoming CRWD Events

A) New & Old issues

None

B) CAC Observer for the Board of Managers Meetings March 21, 2018 and April 4, 2018

C) 2018 Agenda Plan

Mr. Doneux commented that the agenda plan is subject to change.

X. Adjourn

CAC 18-006 Motion: *To adjourn the February 14, 2018 CAC Meeting.*

MacDonald/Duerre
Unanimously approved

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.
Respectfully submitted,
Belinda Gardner