



## Capitol Region Watershed District

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### **Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, September 11, 2019, 2019, 7:00 p.m.**

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

Pat Cavanaugh  
Mary Lilly  
David Arbeit  
Bob Simonet  
Richard Weil  
Cheryl Braun  
Nicole Soderholm  
Gwen Willems  
Tom Elko

#### **Others Present:**

Anna Eleria, CRWD  
Nate Zwonitzer, CRWD  
Jessica Bromelkamp, CRWD  
Shirley Reider, Board Manager

#### **Members absent:**

Mike MacDonald, excused  
Michelle Ulrich, excused  
Steve Duerre, excused

#### **I. Welcome, Announcements, and Updates**

Ms. Willems opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. Ms. Willems asked for any announcements or updates. None were given.

#### **II. Public Comment for Issues Not on the Agenda**

Mr. Arbeit asked about the turnout for the recent Como Lake tour. Ms. Bromelkamp replied that ten people attended, possibly due to rainy weather, but participants were engaged and interested. Ms. Bromelkamp announced there is a 2<sup>nd</sup> Como Lake tour planned on Sep 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in addition to a Willow Reserve tour. Ms. Eleria commented that after the tour, people approached Britta with good feedback and also followed up via e-mail. Ms. Willems shared that she is disappointed to see the news about AIS in Lake McCarrons. Mr. Zwonitzer commented that there will be two tours of Willow Reserve, Saturday at 10am and Sep 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm. He explained that CRWD is not hosting the tour, but they are partnering with the North End Neighborhood Organization. North End will provide a history of the site, and Mr. Zwonitzer and a consultant will lead a walk-through to discuss the restoration. There is no need to RSVP, just show up if interested. CRWD has done some promotion for the tours.

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

Simonet/Weil  
Unanimously approved

**CAC 19-020 Motion:** *To approve the CAC September 11, 2019 agenda with changes.*

Arbeit/Soderhom  
Unanimously approved

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

A. *August 14, 2019 CAC Meeting Minutes*

Ms. Willems commented that Item IV.A should be ‘June 12, 2019 CAC Meeting Minutes’ instead of ‘May 8, 2019 CAC Meeting Minutes.’ In addition, CAC 19-017 Motion would read: “To approve the June 12, 2019 meeting minutes.’

Arbeit/Lilly  
Unanimously approved

**CAC 19-021 Motion:** *To approve the August 14, 2019 CAC Meeting Minutes.*

Soderholm/Arbeit  
Unanimously approved

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

A. *2020 Watershed Management Plan (Eleria)*

Ms. Eleria presented on the 2020 Watershed Management Plan (WMP) stakeholder engagement process: CRWD developed a stakeholder engagement plan earlier this year in order to engage a number of different audiences/groups. The process began with formulating a Technical Advisory Group/Committee (TAC). CRWD solicited input from an initial notification letter back in Feb and held a workshop in May to receive ideas and engage in an interactive exercise with approx. 25 members of the TAC. CRWD held a workshop with the CAC in June to get ideas and feedback. CRWD held a workshop for staff in June to get their input, and a workshop with the Board of Managers in early August to share with the board all the input received so far. The approach for soliciting input used the 2010 WMP structure. Issues, goals, and objectives were organized in 8 different categories:

1. Education/outreach
2. Urban stormwater management
3. Monitoring and data
4. Future trends
5. Funding and organization
6. Regulation and enforcement
7. Ecosystem health

Posters were displayed for each category, and participants used Post-It notes for new ideas/issues under those broad categories. Staff received comments from different stakeholder groups, then voted on the top 10 issues across all categories.

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Community engagement took place through 4 watershed community events, 3 Saint Paul District Council meetings, 6 face-to-face meetings, 8 community events, and an online survey. Ms. Eleria will be meeting with the Macalaster-Groveland Council in October. To date, staff have received comments from over 200 people.

The top comments/issues from the TAC: water quality, ecosystem health. The most voted issue was coordination on regulatory issues. The top comments/issues from the CAC: education and outreach, ecosystem health, and funding and organization. The most voted issue was coordination on regulatory issues. The top comments/issues from CRWD staff: education and outreach, water quality, water quantity, and funding and organization. The most voted issue was regulating sites less than 1 acre. The top comments/issues from the community conversations: ecosystem health, quality of life/recreation. The top comments/issues from the District planning councils: ecosystem health, water quality.

Feedback from the community organizations: green space is important, CRWD grant programs are valuable, many community members don't know what they can do individually to address water issues, a lack of resources to adopting BMPs/behaviors is a barrier, government is perceived to be challenging to work with, there could be additional education/engagement opportunities like water education at community celebrations, increased public signage, and continued implementation of green infrastructure projects.

Survey responses indicated that parks, water, and lakes are most valued among participants. Participants also indicated they are most concerned with Como Lake and the Mississippi River. Top issues are invasive plants/wildlife, trash in water bodies, and pollutants (road salt, dirt, fertilizer).

Staff aggregated hundreds of comments to review, categorize, and sort. Top 10 conclusions:

1. The issues addressed in the 2010 CRWD Plan remain relevant in 2019.
2. Community audiences emphasized issues related to quality of life and recreation.
3. CRWD-affiliated stakeholders highlighted regulatory and maintenance issues.
4. Strong emphasis on/concern for green space, vegetation, ecosystem health.
5. Strong emphasis on water quality, though specific concerns vary.
6. TAC-specific concerns about flooding
7. Focus on inclusive engagement and community action
8. Climate change and climate resilience are over-arching issues affecting all CRWD activity
9. Assessment of progress
10. Opportunities for partnership

The gathered input will inform the development of issue statements for prioritization and goals for the upcoming plan. Ms. Eleria will come back to the CAC with a draft list of issues, goals, and objectives in Oct. Ms. Eleria asked for questions/comments.

Ms. Willems asked if there was any surprising feedback. Ms. Eleria replied that the emphasis on trash was surprising. Ms. Eleria added that she heard from the TAC a desire for CRWD to have a more defined role in natural resource mgmt./restoration.

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Ms. Bromelkamp shared that people mentioned connections to parks/green spaces and the health benefits associated with them. It was a good reminder that people connect with our work for different reasons.

Mr. Arbeit commented that it's helpful to consider those surprising issues/comments received. There appeared to be a marked difference in the ranking of issues between groups close to or within the organization vs. the community groups that were engaged. Collectively we should be asking these groups: Looking back 10 years since the last plan, what have you perceived has changed? Has there been enough improvement? Should we be more active? Mr. Arbeit added that he still hears residents complaining about algae in Lake Como.

Ms. Bromelkamp added that the face-to-face meetings were very telling and often represented new relationships for CRWD. It is clear that there is a lot of room to grow with these audiences, and the conversations gave insight about where we need to be looking to reach new people.

Ms. Eleria replied that she will reflect on specific comments to figure out what may be missing from this engagement process and if there's anything else we should be considering. Ms. Eleria reminded that this is 10-year plan so we must prioritize and be able to give rationale for our selected priorities.

Ms. Cavanagh asked if staff have a good idea of where flooding issues are. Ms. Eleria responded that the hydrologic model for the Trout Brook subwatershed has been updated, and CRWD prioritizes flooding locations in those drainage areas. The goal is to evaluate high priority areas and implement solutions in the next 10 years. Ms. Eleria added that cities have identified specific areas to be looking at, and solutions can be technically complicated. Ms. Cavanagh responded that with climate change, this is a new condition with mega rainfalls. It will be interesting to see over time if flood control becomes more of an issue and how to decide on solutions.

Ms. Reider added that there have been two recent flooding's in Roseville and Falcon Heights that were unexpected including Curtiss Field which flooded but went down within a day due to the installation of CRWD's stormwater BMP. Ms. Reider indicated plugging in the pipes or a rising water table could have contributed to the slow drawdown. This is a good reminder that adaptive management is crucial.

Mr. Zwonitzer confirmed the flooding events and explained that the design intended to contain water on the field in the event the pipe gallery was full. This is to allow for protection of nearby properties. Mr. Zwonitzer added that staff are expecting it to flood again tomorrow with the rain coming. It is doubtful that the pipes are plugged because of extensive pretreatment. There may be some mounding of groundwater where we've concentrated infiltration. There have also been 2-3 wetter than normal years in a row, so there is lots of water in that area. It is important to consider climate resiliency when designing these projects.

Mr. Arbeit commented that the Next-Door app posting about Curtiss Field flooding received many comments and some complaints on the thread. Mr. Arbeit noted that Forrest Kelley replied on the thread to explain the ponding is an intentional part of the design. Mr. Arbeit noted that it was good that CRWD was aware of this and could respond in a timely manner. Ms. Bromelkamp indicated that if the CAC has questions, they can feel free to reach out to staff. CRWD strives to be responsive and helpful in providing facts/information. Mr. Arbeit wondered if CRWD could get ahead of the upcoming rainfall and notify people via What's App that the flooding may happen again. Ms.

Bromelkamp indicated that CRWD will develop staff protocol for responding to public comments to ensure consistency in messaging and transparency.

Ms. Willems commented that the input around government being a barrier is interesting. Does the public perceive that CRWD is government? Ms. Cavanaugh commented that for community groups, CRWD may seem more like a nonprofit than a government agency.

Ms. Lilly commented that if the public is saying that recreation is a high priority, then CRWD's messaging should be using the public's words. We must frame CRWD's technical work and activities and relate it to how it serves quality of life and recreation for the community. Ms. Lilly added that some top issues involve infrastructure and water quantity that require outside funding. How do we accomplish our goals when funding is a huge piece of the puzzle, and the city doesn't have the resources? Ms. Reider replied that the city has been looking to CRWD for funding projects. The average resident may not know how we get our funding. Is that something we need to emphasize more for continued public support?

Ms. Eleria responded that CRWD is always looking for new and different sources of funding. It is important to establish new partnerships and leverage resources from different groups. CRWD relies heavily on public tax dollars and has been successful in getting grants, but maybe there are new sources of funding to explore. Ms. Reider added that this issue is on the radar of the board as they think about long-term planning. Some of the existing funding sources will not be contributing moving forward, so we need to look at building investment. Water in Minnesota will be the biggest issue in the future.

**CAC 19-022 Motion:** *To approve the recommendation of the 2020 Watershed Management Plan.*  
Weil/Cavanaugh

## **VI. CAC Initiatives**

### *A. Watershed Steward Awards Program (Bromelkamp)*

Ms. Bromelkamp announced that CRWD is preparing to begin promoting the nomination period for the Watershed Steward Awards and would appreciate CAC help in getting the word out and to submit nominations. There is a Watershed Steward Awards page on the website. We will need two volunteers for the Steward Awards Program Committee which will meet in Nov. Ms. Braun and Mr. Elko volunteered. Ms. Willems commented that it's becoming more difficult to come up with nominees. Staff may be aware of more projects and partners. Ms. Bromelkamp confirmed that nominations are a collective effort and that staff are also involved.

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

### *A. Partner Grant Program (Bromelkamp)*

Ms. Bromelkamp indicated CRWD is doing a big push on social media to highlight current partner grantees. We will need two volunteers this year for the Partner Grant Program Committee: Ms. Cavanaugh and Mr. Arbeit volunteered.

### *B. Parkview Center School Filtration BMP (Zwonitzer)*

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Mr. Zwonitzer introduced a project that CRWD has been working on for several years, and construction is around the corner. The site in question was identified in a subwatershed study for the targeted watershed grant. Infiltration is not possible due to soil conditions. CRWD proposed an underground filtration pipe gallery with underground vault and proprietary PhosphoSorb filtration cartridges. Mr. Zwonitzer explained that the media is designed to target dissolved phosphorus. CRWD is partnering with Ramsey County, Roseville Area Schools, and City of Roseville on this project. CRWD has developed a monitoring program to verify the effectiveness of the cartridges and to monitor long-term performance. CRWD will be testing untreated stormwater at the inlet to system, at the inlet to the filter vault, and leaving the filter vault to isolate the performance of the filtration cartridges. CRWD will assess maintenance frequency needs based on monitoring. Mr. Zwonitzer highlighted the advantage of partnerships for this project which needed a Cooperative Construction Agreement. CRWD will own BMP and will be cost sharing on maintenance with the city and the school. CRWD bid the project in June and selected low bidder S.M. Hentges & Sons, Inc. Mr. Zwonitzer summarized project costs through the planning, construction, and long-term maintenance phases. Substantial completion will be Feb 2020. The sledding hill will be moved to the east to allow for continued use.

Mr. Simonet asked about failsafe mechanisms that have been incorporated into the design in the event of a deluge of water. Mr. Zwonitzer replied that there's a bypass overflow that will function like a curb cut rain garden where rain will continue to flow down County Road B in the event the system is full. There is also a valve system in place such that staff can control water levels and draw it down for maintenance, etc.

Mr. Arbeit asked if the manufacturer of the filtration cartridges guaranteed they will meet a certain pollutant removal standard. Mr. Zwonitzer replied that CRWD would have grounds to challenge the manufacturer if the cartridges do not perform. This is the first time CRWD has used these cartridges in one of their one projects, but others have used it on permit sites. Mr. Zwonitzer has high confidence that the cartridges will perform as intended but that staff will still conduct our own testing.

#### *C. 2020 Water Quality CIP Grants (Zwonitzer)*

Mr. Zwonitzer indicated that CRWD requests grant applications once a year for larger, more expensive projects. The emphasis on these projects is high visibility, innovative projects with water quality benefits. Applications are due Oct 31<sup>st</sup> and the committee will review them afterwards. One volunteer is needed for the CIP Grants Committee:

Ms. Willems volunteered. Mr. Simonet will be an alternate.

#### *D. McCarrons AIS (Fossum)*

Ms. Eleria provided an update on the zebra mussels discovered in Lake McCarrons by a trained citizen in late July. The DNR followed up with surveys and confirmed their establishment in the lake. Ramsey County and CRWD did a more extensive follow-up survey this summer. Ms. Eleria

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explained that the mussels were initially found near boat launch. There's not likely a high density, but they are widespread spatially throughout the lake. CRWD and Ramsey County will conduct follow-up monitoring to assess density. The zebra mussels have likely been in the lake for 2+ years. There is public signage at the boat launch to raise awareness. The county is increasing watercraft inspections, and there will be a community meeting mid-late Oct.

## VIII. CAC Observer Update

Ms. Cavanaugh attended the September 4<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Ms. Cavanaugh commented that it was a very short meeting. Britta gave an update on the Como Lake Management Plan. There was an update on Lake McCarrons, and the board approved the annual contribution to the MN Stormwater Research Council. Ms. Reider added that Seitu Jones and Mark Doneux are working on incorporating a land acknowledgement into the Grand Opening celebration and are requesting Native American tribal input.

## IX. Discussion

### A. *New & Old Issues*

None

### B. *CAC Observer for September 18 and October 2, 2019 Board of Managers Meetings*

Ms. Soderholm volunteered to attend the 9/18 board meeting. Ms. Cavanaugh volunteered to attend the 10/2 board meeting.

### C. *Grand Opening, October 11, 2019*

## X. Adjourn

**CAC 19-023 Motion:** *To adjourn the September 11, 2019, CAC Meeting.*

Cavanaugh/Willems  
Unanimously approved

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Nicole Soderholm

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