

Approved



Capitol Region Watershed District

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Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, October 9, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

Mary Lilly
David Arbeit
Bob Simonet
Cheryl Braun
Nicole Soderholm
Gwen Willems
Tom Elko
Steve Duerre
Michelle Ulrich

Others Present:

Mark Doneux, CRWD
Anna Eleria, CRWD
Rachel Funke, CRWD
Mary Van Sant, CRWD
Mary Texter, Board Manager

Members absent:

Mike MacDonald, excused

I. Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Mr. Duerre opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. Mr. Duerre asked for any announcements or updates. Mr. Doneux announced the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners has appointed Shawn Murphy to serve in Manager Reider's position on the CRWD Board of Managers. Mr. Doneux expressed appreciation for Ms. Reider's service with the District and hopes she will continue to be involved in helping the District carry out its mission and objectives in the future.

II. Public Comment for Issues Not on the Agenda

Mr. Arbeit reminded staff that the microphone system in the meeting room should be accessible for use by CAC members as well as staff presenters.

III. Approval of Agenda

Ulrich/Lilly
Unanimously approved

CAC 19-024 Motion: *To approve the CAC October 9, 2019 agenda.*

Arbeit/Soderhom
Unanimously approved

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. September 11, 2019 CAC Meeting Minutes

Ms. Willems noted that she did not move to adjourn the meeting as stated in Item X. It was agreed that the minutes in Item X should be changed to read that “the meeting was adjourned by consensus.”

Willems/Simonet
Unanimously approved

CAC 19-025 Motion: *To approve the September 11, 2019 CAC Meeting Minutes.*

Unanimously approved

V. District Initiatives for Review, Comment, and Recommendations

A. *BMP Inspection and Maintenance Update (Funke)*

Ms. Funke presented an overview and summary of CRWD inspections and results for Green Line and grant-funded BMP's in the District. The District has constructed fourteen different BMP's along seven side-streets adjacent to the Green Line to reduce pollutant loading and minimize stormwater runoff. According to CRWD's 2019 Green Line BMP Performance Analysis, these best management practices have reduced stormwater volumes and pollutant loads by over 50%. The CRWD is responsible for maintenance of these BMP's, inspecting each BMP on a monthly basis. CRWD contracts with a maintenance crew to perform frequent maintenance on a regular schedule that has varied from monthly to bi-weekly. In response to Mr. Arbeit's question concerning maintenance contracts, Ms. Funke explained the District has an annual maintenance contract with Outdoor Lab, a consultant company that has been maintaining these BMP's since their construction. The most frequent type of maintenance completed was annually contracted maintenance which includes weeding, trash, and sediment removal from the surface sumps – 72.0% of maintenance activities. Cleaning the catch basins was the next most frequent activity – 10.4%, and mulch replacement the least frequent correction – 2.4% of maintenance activities. Mr. Duerre asked about tree maintenance responsibility. Ms. Funke replied that the City of St. Paul is responsible for maintenance of the trees in the tree trenches along the Green Line. Ms. Funke noted the annual average maintenance costs for all rain gardens and stormwater planters have totaled \$18,000, less than the original estimate. Ms. Willems added she was impressed with the overall lower cost of the BMP's.

B. *Watershed Management Plan: Goals and Objectives (Eleria)*

Ms. Eleria provided a review of the draft goals and objectives for the 2020 watershed management plan. The developed goals and objectives are subdivided into 8 categories. A goal is a general condition or state that the District wants to achieve in the 10-year plan. An objective will help the District achieve its goal but will be a task or activity to help the District achieve that goal. Ms. Eleria then reviewed each of the developed goals and objectives. She recognized that these goals are carryover from the District's 2010 watershed management plan, as well as from new input. This draft will be updated, and the CAC will be reviewing a redraft in the future. Mr. Duerre commented that he thinks the draft is in good form already.

VI. CAC Initiatives

A. Service-Learning Student (Lilly)

Ms. Lilly explained the service-learning student project is on hold at this time. Ms. Lilly will touch base for spring semester potential student projects.

VII. Project and Program Updates

A. Master Water Stewards Update (Van Sant)

Ms. Van Sant advised the CAC that applications for the Master Water Stewards program have closed. The Board has approved six of the seven applications. The current class graduated October 8, 2019. Managers Texter, Murphy and Saunders attended the ceremony, as well as staff member Lindsay Schwantes.

B. Social Media Update (Van Sant)

Ms. Van Sant reviewed the District's on-line presence. She noted that new blogs are posted twice a month. Topics include District work, events, etc. Newsletter: The District re-launched its newsletter in September 2019 and is sent to 966 subscribers on the District's email list. The District has expanded its online communications by increasing Facebook posts, Twitter and Instagram. Facebook: lists community events, two-to-three posts a week. The District has more than 150 followers on Instagram.

C. Grand Opening Update (Van Sant)

Ms. Van Sant explained that the District's Grand Opening Celebration for its new office building will be held on Friday October 11, 2019 from 3:00-7:00 p.m. Ribbon-cutting ceremony to take place at 4:00 p.m. The District is looking for volunteers to attend at the registration table. A sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteer attendance.

VIII. CAC Observer Update

Ms. Soderholm attended the September 18, 2019 Board meeting. Ms. Soderholm commented that at this meeting the Board reviewed draft goals and objectives for the District's updated watershed management

plan; approved a contractor for 2019 Boulevard raingarden projects; and adopted the District's preliminary 2020 budget, for final 2020 budget adoption in December.

IX. Discussion

A. New & Old Issues

Mr. Doneux advised the CAC that the annual MAWD conference is coming up in December and that CAC members are welcome to attend (meeting held in Alexandria, Minnesota Dec. 5th – Dec. 7th. This year Mr. Doneux will be conducting a session on maintaining an active CAC. Mr. Doneux considers the CRWD CAC exemplary in the State of Minnesota and wants to highlight in this session what is working and what to do to keep it working successfully. Attending CAC members at MAWD may be asked to participate as a panelist for this session.

B. CAC Observer for October 16 and November 6, 2019 Board of Managers Meetings

Mr. Duerre volunteered to attend the Board's October 16, 2019 meeting; Ms. Lilly volunteered to attend the Board's November 6, 2019 meeting.

C. Grand Opening, October 11, 2019

The District's Grand Opening for its new office building is scheduled for Friday October 11, 2019 from 3:00-7:00 pm. The ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place at 4:00 p.m. Staff is looking for volunteers to help with the registration table. Ms. Lilly and Ms. Ulrich volunteered to help staff register and welcome attendees.

X. Adjourn

CAC 19-026 Motion: *To adjourn the October 9, 2019, CAC Meeting.*

Soderholm/Elko
Unanimously approved

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.
Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Ulrich