



Capitol Region Watershed District

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Community Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, April 14, 2021 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

Nicole Soderholm, remote
Bob Simonet, remote
David Arbeit, remote
Mary Lilly, remote
Mike MacDonald, remote
Richard Weil, remote
Cheryl Braun, remote
Steve Duerre, remote
Gwen Willems, remote
Michelle Ulrich, remote
Devin Driscoll, call-in
Lauren Wheeler, remote

Others Present:

Mark Doneux, CRWD
Rick Sanders, CRWD Manager, remote
Jessica Bromelkamp, CRWD, remote
Mark Houle, CRWD, remote
Britta Belden, CRWD, remote
Belinda Gardner, CRWD, remote
Chris Kucek, CRWD, remote
Mary Van Sant, CRWD, remote
Carrie Magnuson, Ramsey Washington
Metro Watershed District, remote
U of M student observers, remote

CAC Members Absent:

Pat Cavanaugh, excused
Tom Elko, unexcused

I. Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Ms. Willems opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. by videoconference. Ms. Willems asked for any announcements or updates. University of Minnesota student observer gave a brief introduction of the University program and overview of the student observers' program course work.

II. Public Comment for Issues Not on the Agenda

Ms. Willems asked for comments not on the agenda. It was agreed that Mr. Arbeit's discussion item regarding a recent ALJ's decision recommending MPCA's adoption of proposed surface water standards will be addressed later in the agenda as part of the Discussion items.

III. Approval of Agenda

CAC 21-012 Motion: *To approve the CAC April 14, 2021 agenda*

Duerre/Arbeit
Unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. March 10, 2021 CAC Meeting Minutes

CAC 21-013 Motion: *To approve the March 10, 2021 CAC Meeting Minutes.*

Unanimously approved.

V. District Initiatives for Review, Comment and Recommendations

A) CAC Tour (Doneux)

Mr. Doneux introduced the topic of an in-person CAC tour of the District, with members driving individually and following COVID protective guidelines. The CAC supported an in-person tour but suggested the tour take place in the fall, when more people will have an opportunity to be fully vaccinated.

B) CRWD Annual Report (Van Sant)

Ms. Van Sant presented the District's draft Annual Report for review and comment. The CAC commended staff for preparing a well-drafted summary of the District's remarkable progress and accomplishments. Ms. Van Sant added the draft Report will go to the Board for approval at its next regular meeting, and then forwarded to BWSR for filing.

VI. CAC Initiatives

A. CAC Recruiting Update (Willems)

Ms. Willems provided an update on the recruiting process, explaining she is working with Ms. Gardener in providing letters of recruitment to six watershed district affiliates.

VII. Project and Program Updates

A) Como Lake Curly Leaf Pondweed Management Update (Belden)

Ms. Belden presented an update on the Como Lake Curly Leaf Pondweed Management project, explaining that on March 31, 2021 the herbicide Fluridone was applied to the entire are of Como Lake to target curly-leaf pondweed, an invasive aquatic plant. There are no contact restrictions with Fluridone, and monitoring will occur throughout the treatment period and following months to maintain safe concentrations. The District had great success last year with its treatment plan, seeing significant reduction in plant growth.

B) Como Lake Angler Survey Update (Houle)

Mr. Houle provided an update on the District's Como Lake Angling Survey Work Plan, asking for volunteers from the CAC to take part in the survey, interviewing anglers around Como Lake. Staff will provide volunteers training on interview techniques, how to use the survey software on a smartphone or other device to record and upload data. CAC members provided staff suggested clarifying language for the survey itself.

C) Trash Data Project Update (Kucek)

Mr. Kucek addressed the District's trash data project, providing background and goals of the project. Mr. Kucek explained how this initiative uses a mobile application that allows volunteers to collect data on trash they find and to build a database of trash location and type. The App will be used in the City of St. Paul's April 24th city-wide clean-up.

VIII. CAC Observer Update

CAC Observer

Mr. Doneux provided the CAC a brief summary of the Board's March 17, 2021 regular meeting, noting the Board acted on five permits, considered a special report on the Ford Site Redevelopment and appointed Andrew Montain to serve on the CAC.

Mr. Simonet reported on the Board's April 7, 2021 regular and workshop meetings, highlighting the Board's consideration of four permit items, the Trout Brook Interceptor MS4 Permit and SWPPP application, and staff update on the Ford Site Redevelopment project.

IX. Discussion

A. New & Old Issues

Mr. Arbeit addressed the April 9, 2021 Star Tribune article reporting on the Minnesota ALJ's recommendation that MPCA/EPA adopt rule revisions proposed by the MPCA concerning water quality standards, replacing certain concrete numeric standards with narrative descriptions. Mr. MacDonald noted that the rule comment period is now closed. Mr. Doneux provided information on the rule process, noting that the District is aware of the rule revisions, but did not provide public comment on them since the proposed changes do not pertain to the class of water bodies within the watershed district. Mr. Doneux added that staff will follow up on the rule amendment status.

B. CAC Observer for April 21, 2021 and May 5, 2021 Board of Managers Meetings.

Ms. Wheeler volunteered to attend the Board's April 21, 2021 meeting.

X. Adjourn

CAC 21-014 Motion: *To adjourn the April 14, 2021 CAC Meeting.*

Simonet/Soderholm
Unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.
Respectfully submitted, Michelle Ulrich

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