



Capitol Region Watershed District

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Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, August 12, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

Mike McDonald, remote
Bob Simonet, remote
Cheryl Braun, remote
Steve Duerre, remote
David Arbeit, remote
Gwen Willems, remote
Richard Weil, remote

Others Present:

Mark Doneux, CRWD remote
Anna Eleria, CRWD, remote
Joe Collins, CRWD, remote
Bob Fossum, CRWD, remote

CAC Members Absent:

Mary Lilly, excused
Nicole Soderholm, excused
Michelle Ulrich, excused
Tom Elko, unexcused
Pat Cavanaugh, excused

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. There were none.

II. Public Comment for Issues Not on the Agenda

None.

III. Approval of Agenda

CAC 20-23 Motion: *To approve the CAC September 9, 2020 agenda*

Duerre/Arbeit

Unanimously approved

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. July 15, 2020 CAC Meeting Minutes

CAC 20-24 Motion: *To approve the July 15, 2020 CAC Meeting Minutes with a few minor edits.*

Simonet/Duerre

Unanimously approved

V. District Initiatives for Review, Comment and Recommendations

A. Responses to comments on the draft Watershed Management Plan (Eleria)

Ms. Eleria presented the responses to comments on the draft Watershed Management Plan. In mid-May 2020, the District's Board of Managers approved the draft 2021-2030 Watershed Management Plan and authorized a formal, 60-day comment period. The draft WMP was distributed to plan review agencies, District cities, Ramsey County, other government partners, CAC, community organizations, past WMP meeting attendees and survey respondents, and many others. The plan was also posted on the District's website and promoted through our social media channels. Two community meetings were held in June to present the draft WMP, answer questions and receive comments.

The District received over 160 comments on the draft WMP including over 90 from the CAC. The most significant comments were the following:

- Add more measurability to plan goals to assess progress towards meeting goals
- Provide clarity in the District's theme of community equity and engaging underrepresented groups
- Provide a discussion on fiscal management and health.

The CAC reviewed two comment and response tables for Board review and approval. The first table includes comments from the technical advisory committee (TAC) and community members and proposed responses to comments. The other table has the CAC comments and proposed responses. Ms. Eleria discussed the main comments and proposed responses to comments, she answered questions and received CAC feedback on the District responses.

The CAC thanked Ms. Eleria for her presentation.

B. Review and Comment on the Preliminary 2021 Budget and Levy (Doneux)

Administrator Doneux presented the preliminary 2021 Budget and Levy for review and comment. Each year the Board of Managers must establish a plan of work for the upcoming year, establish a budget based upon the work plan, and establish a levy for the budget. The Board of Managers discussed the current 2020 budget and revenue at the May 6th and 21st Board meetings. The also reviewed the preliminary 2021 Work Plan along with the budget and levy at Board workshop on June 3rd and July 8th as well as at Board Meetings on June 17th and July 22nd, 2020. The Board approved the Preliminary 2021 budget and levy for Public Comment and set the Public Hearing date for August 19, 2020 at 6:00 PM. As part of the public review and comment process the Board is seeking comment from the CAC. Administrator Doneux reviewed the draft 2021 budget and levy with

the CAC and solicited comments. The preliminary 2021 budget is \$9,077,610. The proposed 2021 tax levy is \$8,277,699. The CAC inquired about how the budget and levy has changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Administrator Doneux responded by saying the 2021 budget was essentially the same as 2020 and there was no increase in the tax levy. Administrator Doneux also reviewed how the commitments to the Ford Site and other major CIP are affected by the budget.

CAC 20-25 Motion: *To support the proposed preliminary 2021 Budget and Levy as presented.*

Arbeit/Duerre
Unanimously Approved

VI. CAC Initiatives

A) Diversity and Inclusion

Administrator Doneux stated that the District staff are working on the Diversity Implementation plan and will present a draft Implementation plan at a future CAC meeting.

Administrator Doneux mentioned that Mr. Seitu's last Board meeting will be September 16, 2020 and there was much discussion about sending Mr. Seitu off with a certificate or plaque of service.

VII. Project and Program Updates

A) Ford Site Redevelopment Update (Fossum)

Mr. Fossum provided a brief update on the Ford Site Redevelopment. The CAC thanked Mr. Fossum for his update.

B) Public Art Program Update (Schwantes)

Ms. Schwantes provided a brief update on the Public Art Program. The CAC thanked Ms. Schwantes for her update.

C) Master Water Stewards Update (Schwantes)

Ms. Schwantes provided a brief update on the Master Water Stewards Program. The CAC thanked Ms. Schwantes for her update.

VIII. CAC Observer Update

Ms. Willems Attended the August Board meeting and provided an update. Mr. Collins thanked the CAC for their comments to the Watershed Management Plan.

IX. Discussion

A. New & Old Issues
None.

B. CAC Observer for August 19, 2020 and September 2, 2020 Board of Managers Meetings
Mr. Simonet volunteered for September 2, 2020

X. Adjourn

CAC 20-26 Motion: *To adjourn the August 12, 2020 CAC Meeting.*

Braun/Arbeit

Unanimously approved

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Belinda Gardner

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