



Capitol Region Watershed District

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Approved

Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, February 13, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

Steve Duerre
Gwen Willems
Bob Simonet
David Arbeit
Cheryl Braun
Pat Cavanaugh
Mary Lilly
Mike MacDonald
Kathryn Swanson
Richard Weil
Tom Elko
Carol Zierman
Nicole Soderholm
Michelle Ulrich
William Barton

Others Present:

Bob Fossum, CRWD
Belinda Gardner, CRWD
Lindsay Schwantes, CRWD
Mark Houle, CRWD
Sarah Wein, CRWD
Joe Collins, Board of Managers
Julie Marckel, Master Water Stewards
Anthony Swichtenberg, Master Water Stewards
Cara Donovan, Master Water Stewards
Sean Campbell, Master Water Stewards
Nathaniel Kolasa-Lenarz, Service Learning Student

Members absent:

Richard Weil, w/notice

Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Mr. Duerre opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Duerre asked for any announcements or updates and introductions.

III. Approval of Agenda

CAC 18-004 Motion: *To approve the CAC February 13, 2019 agenda.*

MacDonald/Willems
Unanimously approved

IV. Approval of Minutes

A) January 9, 2019 CAC Meeting Minutes

CAC 18-005 Motion: *To approve the January 9, 2019 minutes.*

Arbeit/Ulrich
Unanimously approved

V. District Initiatives for Review, Comment, and Recommendations

A) McCarrons Sediment Coring Report (Houle)

Mr. Houle provided a presentation on McCarrons Sediment Coring Report. In October 2004, an alum treatment was applied to Lake McCarrons to minimize algae blooms and maintain water quality. In 2015, Wenck Associates took six sediment cores to determine the phosphorus release rates in Lake McCarrons and evaluate the effectiveness of the alum treatment. This report expands upon that analysis with additional coring taken in February 2017 and evaluates sediment characteristics and alum distributions.

Mr. Duerre commented that the Alum is covered by sediment and traps phosphorus below the alum. Mr. Houle confirmed that it will interact with Alum and bind to it.

Mr. Arbeit asked about life span. Mr. Fossum replied that the background data will feed the Management Plan. Mr. Arbeit asked if there is a reason the lake wouldn't have to be treated. Mr. Fossum replied yes there could be a scenario.

Mr. Elko asked about coverage. Mr. Fossum replied that there are new technologies and climate conditions. Mr. Barton asked about dragging the lake and mixing it back up again is that something we would do to stir the Alum. Mr. Fossum replied that you would do more damage and cause more issues. Mr. Barton inquired about the sulphate levels in the water. Mr. Houle replied that the levels are not of concern. Mr. Arbeit asked if there's evidence in the samples that Como had an Alum treatment. Mr. Fossum replied that there hasn't been an Alum treatment in Como.

B) 2018 Lakes Summary (Wein)

Ms. Wein presented the 2018 Lake Summary. There are five lakes within the boundaries of CRWD: Como Lake, Crosby Lake, Little Crosby Lake, and Loeb Lake in St. Paul, and Lake McCarrons in Roseville. Each lake is collaboratively monitored by Ramsey County Public Works (RCPW), the Ramsey County Soil and Water Conservation Division, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and CRWD to evaluate overall health, assess compliance with water quality standards, and determine if each lake supports its designated uses for swimming, fishing, and/or aesthetics. Data has been collected annually on each lake for varying periods of record, with the Como Lake dataset being the longest, dating back to 1984.

Mr. Arbeit clarified the historical average. Mr. Barton commented about the Mississippi River. Mr. Barton replied that we need to know the river and we need data on the river. Ms. Wein replied that the District monitors the Districts contribution and the data is available. Mr. Duerre asked about the bottom vegetation. Ms. Wein replied that the vegetation can change on a regular basis. Mr. Fossum replied that it doesn't impact the growth.

VI. CAC Initiatives

A) Service-Learning Student Update (Lilly)

Ms. Lilly introduced Nathaniel Kolasa-Lenarz, who has a lot of experience in landscaping. He was selected to participate in the Service-Learning Student program. He identified three projects that are of interest to him and the District. He heard about the Service-Learning program through Ms. Lilly who presented to his Ethics and Natural Resource class at the University of MN.

Ms. Lilly will communicate with Ms. Bromelkamp and the Communications and Engagement Division to finalize a plan. Ms. Gardner will help facilitate future meetings.

VII. Project and Program Updates

A) Master Water Stewards

Ms. Schwantes introduced the Master Water Stewards and they presented their projects. The first project they installed a rain garden, the second project they created a website story map of the Master Water Stewards program featuring projects. The third project the stewards installed two raingardens. Ms. Cavanaugh asked about number of participants. Ms. Schwantes replied that its best to have 4-6 stewards. She mentioned that we will see what the Board recommends for 2019. Total number of Stewards is 13. Mr. Simonet commented that the program is improving and asked about plant or animal species projects and nature studies of rain gardens. The stewards replied Bluethumb does a lot of that work.

B) 2018 Watershed Awards (Gardner)

Ms. Gardner provided a follow up response on behalf of Ms. Bromelkamp. She thanked everyone for their help making the awards ceremony a success again this year. She extended a special thank you to Mary and David for hosting, Gwen for helping with registration and Bob and Mike for greeting our guests. Staff requested CAC feedback about the event.

Ms. Gardner stated that the District continues to make improvements every year based on feedback. It is a wonderful celebration of the work our residents and partners do to protect and improve water so again, thank you.

VIII. CAC Observer Update

Mr. Weil emailed his CAC observation document to be read at the CAC meeting by Ms. Gardner. The review included approval of permits, an update on the Watershed Management Plan and the Pocket Park.

Ms. Cavanaugh provided an update on the January 16, 2019 Board Meeting. The Board discussed the daylighting project. And mentioned the partners that are involved but it is expensive. Ms. Cavanaugh also mentioned Mr. Zwonitzer provided an update on a green roof project. The board authorized new staff position with revised position descriptions. Hiring managers also had implicit bias training.

President Collins thanked the Master Water Stewards for their work in the community and work with the Science Museum.

IX. Discussion

- a. New & Old Issues
- b. CAC observer for February 27, 2019 and March 6, 2019 Board of Managers Meeting

A) New & Old issues

B) CAC Observer for the Board of Managers Meetings February 27, 2019 and March 6, 2019

Ms. Lilly volunteered for March 6 meeting.

X. Adjourn

CAC 18-006 Motion: *To adjourn the February 13, 2019, CAC Meeting.*

Soderholm/Swanson
Unanimously approved

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Belinda Gardner

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