



Capitol Region Watershed District

595 Aldine Street • Saint Paul, MN 55104

T: 651-644-8888 • F: 651-644-8894 • capitolregionwd.org

Community Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, March 10, 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, remote
Lauren Wheeler, remote

Others Present:

Mark Doneux, CRWD
Shawn Murphy, remote
Jessica Bromelkamp, CRWD, remote
Mark Houle, CRWD, remote
Britta Belden, CRWD, remote
Belinda Gardner, CRWD, remote

CAC Members Absent:

Pat Cavanaugh, excused
Tom Elko, unexcused

I. Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Ms. Soderholm opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. by videoconference. Ms. Soderholm asked for any announcements or updates. Administrator Doneux mentioned that another CAC application will be going to the next Board meeting for approval. Ms. Braun asked how people are finding the CAC. Ms. Wheeler mentioned that she found the CAC on the District's website. Mr. Arbeit announced that Ms. Belden has requested that anyone living near Como Lake look out for ice out and contact him or Ms. Belden.

II. Public Comment for Issues Not on the Agenda

Ms. Soderholm asked for comments not on the agenda. There were none.

III. Approval of Agenda

CAC 21-009 Motion: *To approve the CAC March 10, 2021 agenda*

Administrator Doneux asked to add Como Lake Herbicide Update to the agenda.

Duerre/Arbeit

Unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. February 10, 2021 CAC Meeting Minutes

CAC 21-010 Motion: *To approve the February 10, 2021 CAC Meeting Minutes.*

Duerre/Arbeit

Unanimously approved.

V. District Initiatives for Review, Comment and Recommendations

A) Como Lake Fishery Management Plan (Houle)

Mr. Houle provided a general overview of The Como Lake Management Plan (CLMP). It was adopted by the Board of Managers on May 15, 2019 and outlines an adaptive management plan for achieving water quality goals for Como Lake over the next 20 years. As part of the CLMP, actions for fisheries management (Actions L8 and L9) were recommended to assist in meeting the objectives of Goal 1, to manage Como Lake as an ecologically healthy shallow lake: L8. Develop long-term targets for a balanced fishery. Develop and implement a “Como Lake Fishery Management Plan” that defines long-term targets for a diverse, ecologically balanced fishery that can also support and sustain recreational fishing for the community. L9. Conduct fish surveys. Complete regular fish surveys every 2-3 years or as needed to determine species abundance and diversity, and to measure progress of efforts to meet and sustain long-term targets for a balanced fishery. Actions L8 and L9 were recommended in the CLMP because of the current imbalance between predatory fish and planktivorous fish (e.g. sunfish). Como Lake has few predatory fish to keep the planktivorous fish in check, which can cause a trophic cascade of effects that can influence lake water quality.

The Como Lake Fishery Management Plan was developed by CRWD and Wenck Associates in collaboration with the Minnesota DNR. The overall goal of the plan is to manage the Como Lake’s fish community to complement water quality improvement efforts and aquatic plant initiatives while enhancing the lake’s value as an urban recreational fishery. The plan sets forth an adaptive management framework for shifting the lake to a largemouth bass fishery over time. Increasing the abundance of the largemouth bass population in Como Lake would have multiple benefits, including improving recreational fishing opportunities and improving trophic balance through predator control. In the plan, improving the largemouth bass population is viewed as a long-term goal, with shorter-term goals set forth as part of the adaptive management approach (i.e. water quality improvements, restoration of the vegetation community, evaluation and removal of excess rough fish). Management tools are provided in the plan to achieve both short-term and long-term goals. The plan also provides guidance for routine monitoring of the fish populations so the data can inform decision making.

Ms. Lilly asked if the plan needs to be approved by the DNR. Mr. Houle replied that the DNR does not require formal approval but the DNR was involved in guidance and feasibility and are on board with the plan. Administrator Doneux asked Mr. Houle to explain Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (S.A.V.). Mr. Arbeit asked about the 10-year survey results for chart 2-3 and its expected findings. Ms. Belden replied that the DNR only does surveys every 5 years. Mr. Arbeit noted the analysis explaining the chart in the report.

B) Herbicide Application Update (Belden)

The District is moving forward to do a repeat of the Curly Leaf treatment for Como Lake. Ms. Belden mentioned that public notice will be provided.

VI. CAC Initiatives

A. CAC Recruiting (Gardner)

Ms. Gardner provided a brief update on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Initiatives for CAC recruiting, Best Hiring Practices, and Procurement. Ms. Soderholm asked for clarification on procurement. Ms. Gardner replied that procurement is the process to retain service providers. The CAC thanked Ms. Gardner for her update.

B. 2020 Watershed Steward Awards Program Debrief (Bromelkamp)

Ms. Bromelkamp provided time for the CAC to debrief on the Awards program. The CAC provided overall positive feedback about the program.

VII. Project and Program Updates

A) Communications and Engagement Update (Bromelkamp)

Ms. Bromelkamp provided a Communications and Engagement presentation highlighting Virtual Community Engagement, Self-Guided Engagement (CRWD Led and Supported), Volunteer Engagement and Digital Engagement. Ms. Van Sant provided a presentation on an accessibility audit that the District will be doing this spring. The CAC thanked Ms. Bromelkamp and Ms. Van Sant for their presentations.

VIII. CAC Observer Update

CAC Observer

Ms. Lilly provided an update on the February 17 Board Meeting. She highlighted the Enclave Development Project and the community members that were present to provide comment about the housing disparities and income disparities for the area. The community members were concerned about racial equity and disparities regarding this project. Ms. Lilly mentioned that CRWD is limited to specific permitting policies. Ms. Lilly commented that she would like CRWD to be a leader by having more conversations surrounding this concern.

Mr. Duerre provided a short update on March 3 Board Meeting.

IX. Discussion

A. New & Old Issues

None

B. CAC Observer for March 17, 2021 and April 7, 2021 Board of Managers Meetings.

X. Adjourn

CAC 21-011 Motion: *To adjourn the March 10, 2021 CAC Meeting.*

Weil/Duerre

Unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Belinda Gardner

W:\05 Citizen Advisory Committee\Minutes\2020\March 14, 2021.doc