



Capitol Region Watershed District

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Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, May 13, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

Nicole Soderholm, remote
Bob Simonet, remote
Cheryl Braun, remote
Mike MacDonald, remote
Steve Duerre, remote
Mary Lilly, remote
Michelle Ulrich, remote
David Arbeit, remote
Gwen Willems, remote

Members absent:

Richard Weil w/notice

Others Present:

Mark Doneux, CRWD
Anna Eleria, CRWD, remote
Rick Saunders, CRWD, remote
Lindsay Schwantes, CRWD, remote
Britta Belden, CRWD, remote
Asha Shoffner, St. Paul Parks &
Recreation, remote

I. Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Mr. Duerre opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. by videoconference. Mr. Duerre asked for any announcements or updates. Mr. Doneux explained the procedure for conducting meetings by videoconferencing, with Mr. Duerre confirming that votes by CAC members will be taken by rollcall.

II. Public Comment for Issues Not on the Agenda

Mr. Duerre asked for comments not on the agenda. There were no comments.

III. Approval of Agenda

CAC 20-013 Motion: *To approve the CAC May 13, 2020 agenda.*

Simonet/Willems
Unanimously approved

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. March 11, 2020 CAC Meeting Minutes

CAC 20-014 Motion: *To approve the March 11, 2020 CAC Meeting Minutes.*

Soderholm/Lilly
Unanimously approved

V. District Initiatives for Review, Comment, and Recommendations

A. 2020 Watershed Management Plan (Eleria)

Ms. Eleria presented a review of the District's draft 2020 Watershed Management Plan. Ms. Eleria explained the major updates to the draft Plan covering the statutorily required Plan elements. Ms. Eleria reviewed notable stakeholder comments on the draft Plan. The City of St. Paul commented that the direction the District is taking regarding equity and increasing engagement in underserved areas is in line with Mayor Carter's vision for St. Paul. St. Paul affirmed its intent to explore watershed governance in the West St. Paul area, with input from the District, other governmental units and the public. Ramsey County is also in full support of the District's facility management goals. BWSR commented that the District must ensure in its Plan that its water management goals are measurable. Ms. Eleria highlighted the Plan's resource theme of restoring the natural water cycle and bringing water back to the surface. The CAC applauded Ms. Eleria and staff in delivering such a comprehensive Plan. The CAC appointed a subgroup comprised of Mr. Arbeit, Ms. Soderholm, Ms. Lilly and Ms. Willems to review and provide comments on the draft Plan.

VI. CAC Initiatives

A. CAC Officer Elections (Doneux)

Mr. Doneux explained the requirement for annual election of CAC officers. The CAC by unanimous consent elected Ms. Soderholm and Ms. Willems to the offices of Co-Chair; Ms. Ulrich to the office of Secretary.

B. Alternative CAC Tour Options (Doneux)

Mr. Doneux explained the upcoming District tour will be conducted by video, highlighting several District projects. Specific tour details will be provided in the future.

VII. Project and Program Updates

A. Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Parks Ambassadors Program – Partner Grant Program Update (Asha Shoffner)

Asha Shoffner presented an overview of the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Ambassador Program, initiated in 2016 to connect the community residents to nature, with the goal of engaging under-represented communities to use our public park systems. Asha recognized the support and funding the District has provided to this Program, as well as other partners including St. Paul Public Housing, CommonBond Communities, MORE Empowerment and St. Paul Parks and Recreation. Program ambassadors go into the community to provide its

members organized outings for fishing, birding, nature photography, helping them connect with our natural resources. Asha noted that of the 2019 Program participants, 80% were new park users, and 90% found they learned something new about the natural resources and parks available in the community. Challenges for 2020 were discussed, including transportation, weather, staffing capacity and the pandemic situation.

B. Communications and Engagement Program Updates (Schwantes)

In the Program Updates Ms. Schwantes provided a review of a number of District initiatives including the Adopt a Drain Program (over 10,000 participants in St. Paul, reaches 10,000 drains), the Clean Street Initiatives, and the Artist in Residence initiative (Christine Baeumler).

C. Como Lake – Spring 2020 Treatments Update (Belden)

Ms. Belden provided an update on the April 13, 2020 Como Lake herbicide treatment which was applied to curtail curly-leaf pondweed, an invasive aquatic plant in the lake. Ms. Belden anticipates the District will be applying this treatment annually in the next few years. Ms. Belden also discussed the alum treatment for lake phosphorous, which will be applied in Como Lake May 18-22, 2020. Ms. Belden noted the alum dosing was designed specifically for Como Lake.

D. Project Round Up (Doneux)

Mr. Doneux provided information on the District’s COVID-19 Response Plan, noting that the District closed its office on March 17, 2020 to the public, and has adopted a “Preparedness Plan.” The District will be following Governor Waltz’s Orders, including the “Stay Safe Minnesota Order” effective May 18, 2020.

VIII. CAC Observer Update

No observer update.

IX. Discussion

A. New & Old Issues

No issues presented.

B. CAC Observer for May 20, 2020 and June 3, 2020 Board of Managers Meetings

Mr. Doneux explained that CAC members may attend upcoming Board meetings by going online and participating electronically.

X. Adjourn

CAC 20-015 Motion: *To adjourn the May 13, 2020, CAC Meeting.*

Soderholm/Simonet
Unanimously approved

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.
Respectfully submitted, Michelle Ulrich

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