



Capitol Region Watershed District

595 Aldine Street • Saint Paul, MN 55104

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

Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Tuesday, November 10, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Mark Doneux, CRWD
Shawn Murphy, CRWD, remote
Anna Eleria, CRWD, remote

CAC Members Absent:

Pat Cavanaugh, excused
Tom Elko, unexcused
Michelle Ulrich, excused

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. There were none.

II. Public Comment for Issues Not on the Agenda

Ms. Soderholm asked for comments not on the agenda. Ms. Soderholm requested that consideration of the current Committees name be added to the agenda

III. Approval of Agenda

CAC 20-33 Motion: *To approve the CAC November 10, 2020 agenda*

Simonet/Arbeit
Unanimously approved

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. October 14, 2020 CAC Meeting Minutes

CAC 20-34 Motion: *To approve the October 14, 2020 CAC Meeting Minutes.*

Willems/Simonet
Unanimously approved

V. District Initiatives for Review, Comment and Recommendations

A. COVID – 19 Response and Preparedness Plan (Doneux)

Administrator Doneux presented on the Capitol Region Watershed District COVID – 19 Response and Preparedness Plan. The District is following the Minnesota Department of Health's (MDH) guidance to slow the spread of COVID-19 and reduce impacts to health and safety as well as complying with the Governor's declaration of a peacetime state of emergency. CRWD's office was closed to the public starting on Tuesday, March 17, 2020. Staff have been working remotely, except for essential services, and will be available via phone or email. On April 1, 2020, the Board adopted COVID-19 Response Plan and a list of Essential Services consistent with the Governors Emergency Executive Order 20-20. The Board also affirmed that CRWD Board meetings will be conducted electronically. Staff will review our current COVID-19 Response and Preparedness Plan and discuss possible future updates with the CAC.

Mr. Simonet commented that the District is now prepared with a plan and a blueprint for any future Response and Preparedness needs. Mr. Arbeit congratulated the District for its forward thinking and preparedness plan. He asked about the impact on field operations, outreach, and cash flow. Administrator Doneux responded that public events have been suspended and virtual meetings have impacted operations, it has slowed the process down. Monitoring crews got a late start but got caught up and are now back to normal. Inspections are normal and construction projects are moving forward. Field work, for the most part, is on track. Regarding cash flow, the District has had very little impact, but our Partners have been more negatively impacted. Ms. Soderholm asked about staff engagement. Administrator Doneux replied that District Divisions are having ongoing meetings. We have virtual monthly staff meetings, birthday meetings, and staff-initiated DEI 'Groupers' meetings.

The CAC thanked Administrator Doneux for his presentation.

VI. CAC Initiatives

A) Citizen Advisory Committee Name

Ms. Soderholm commented on the name “Citizen Advisory Committee” and that it may not apply to everyone and asked the group about recommending a name change. One name that was suggested is Community Advisory Committee. With the DEI Plan, it might be an opportunity to expand outreach. Ms. Willems asked about the Legislative Statute. Administrator Doneux will research the Statute. Administrator Doneux will notify the Board that the CAC is considering a name change and will continue the conversation at their next meeting.

VII. Project and Program Updates

A. Seminary Pond Project Update (Eleria)

Ms. Eleria provided a presentation update on Seminary Pond. She presented on the historical context, issues and a summary of the costs for Seminary Pond.

B. Watershed Management Plan Update (Eleria)

Ms. Eleria provided an update on the Watershed Management Plan (WMP). Ms. Eleria announced that the WMP was adopted by the Board. She highlighted some of the items from the Plan and thanked the CAC for their comments on the Plan. Ms. Willems asked about BWSR comments. Ms. Eleria replied that there were no edits from BWSR. The CAC gave Ms. Eleria a “virtual” round of applause. Mr. Arbeit commented that Ms. Eleria deserves a great amount of credit for her hard work on the WMP.

C. Midway Peace Park Update (Eleria)

Ms. Eleria presented on Midway Peace Park. She provided on the history, issues and a summary of the existing and proposed conditions, pictures of the rain garden and artistic signage. The CAC thanked Ms. Eleria for her presentation.

D. Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts 2020 Virtual Annual Meeting (Doneux)

Administrator Doneux provided an update on the MAWD Annual Conference.

VIII. CAC Observer Update

IX. Discussion

A. New & Old Issues

None

B. CAC Observer October 7, 2020 and November 4, 2020 Board of Managers Meetings

Mr. Weil provided an update on the October 7, 2020 Board meeting and Mr. Simonet provided an update on the Board's November 4, 2020 meeting.

X. Adjourn

CAC 20-35 Motion: *To adjourn the November 10, 2020 CAC Meeting.*

Simonet/Duerre

Unanimously approved

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Belinda Gardner

W:\05 Citizen Advisory Committee\Minutes\2020\November 10, 2020.doc