



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 Wednesday, October 14, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

Nicole Soderholm, remote
Bob Simonet, remote
Cheryl Braun, remote
Mike MacDonald, remote
Michelle Ulrich, remote
Gwen Willems, remote
Richard Weil, remote
Tom Elko, remote

Others Present:

Mark Doneux, CRWD
Rick Sanders, CRWD, remote
Chris Kucek, CRWD, remote
Belinda Gardner, CRWD, remote
Lindsay Schwantes, CRWD, remote
Chris Kucek, CRWD, remote
Britta Belden, CRWD, remote

CAC Members Absent:

Steve Duerre, excused
Mary Lilly, excused
David Arbeit, excused
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

Ms. Willems asked for comments not on the agenda. Mr. Doneux commented that the District's watershed management plan will be presented next week for consideration by the BWSR Board, with subsequent adoption by the District Board of Managers at its November regular meeting.

III. Approval of Agenda

CAC 20-30 Motion: *To approve the CAC October 14, 2020 agenda*

Unanimously approved

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. September 9, 2020 CAC Meeting Minutes

CAC 20-31 Motion: *To approve the September 9, 2020 CAC Meeting Minutes.*

Soderholm/Ulrich
Unanimously approved

V. District Initiatives for Review, Comment and Recommendations

A. Citizen Science (Kucek)

Mr. Kucek, CRWD Water Resource Technician, presented on the District's Trash Data Project. This is a volunteer monitoring program, which encourages the public to gather and report data on trash within the District. The District is currently in a testing phase of this project, and Mr. Kucek asks the CAC to review and provide feedback on the project's implementation.

B. Thomas Building Update (Doneux)

Mr. Doneux gave an update on the 1736 Thomas Avenue Building, which was included in the District's office building property purchase. The building is basically vacant now, but the District will need to consider its options in dealing with this parcel in the future, i.e., selling, or repair/refurbish the building.

VI. CAC Initiatives

No initiatives presented.

VII. Project and Program Updates

A. Diversity Plan Update (Gardner)

Ms. Gardner provided an update on the District's 2020-2025 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan, adopted by the Board of Managers at its September 16, 2020 meeting. The Board has assigned Ms. Gardner as the District's Diversity Coordinator. Ms. Gardner will track and report progress on the Plan, and intends to present the Diversity Plan at the upcoming MAWD convention.

B. CRWD Public Art Program (Schwantes)

Ms. Schwantes provided an update on the District's Public Art Program Guiding Principles, facilitated by the District's Watershed Artist in Residence, Christine Baeumler. Ms. Schwantes asked the CAC to provide its feedback on the Program's Guiding Principles and implementation.

C. Clean Streets Outreach Update (Schwantes)

Ms. Schwantes in her update explained that the Clean Streets Outreach is a catch-all category that includes the District's Adopt-a-Drain program, street sweeping, and other programs aimed at protecting area lakes, rivers and wetlands.

D. Minnesota Water Stewards Program (Schwantes)

Ms. Schwantes provided a review of the Minnesota Water Stewards Program, which trains, certifies and supports community leaders to install pollution prevention projects that educate community members and reduce polluted runoff. Because of COVID-19 considerations training under this Program will be held fully on-line, with the training curriculum schedule running from January – May 2021.

E. District Recognitions (Doneux)

Mr. Doneux provided a review of recent recognitions received by the District. CRWD was awarded the 2020 Phase II MS4 Award, with the highest overall score. CRWD also received the 2020 Utility of the Future Today award, for recovery and engagement in community. Mr. Doneux thanked Ms. Eleria and Ms. Gardner for their assistance in applying for these awards.

VIII. CAC Observer Update

Mr. Simonet reported on his attending the October 7, 2020 Board of Managers meeting. Mr. Simonet noted that Ms. Hawona Sullivan Janzen was sworn in as the new Manager replacing Manager Seitu Jones. Mr. Simonet also pointed out the Board at its meeting considered a number of permit applications and program updates.

IX. Discussion

A. New & Old Issues

Mr. Doneux addressed the District's annual Recognition and Awards ceremony, noting that because of the pandemic situation the District will not be having an on-line recognition ceremony at the January 2021 meeting. Mr. Doneux added that the District still would like to have some postings of award winners, and will be considering options for acknowledging those individuals and organizations demonstrating a commitment to protecting the District's natural resources. Mr. Doneux will report back to the CAC on this topic.

B. CAC Observer for October 21, 2020 and November 4, 2020 Board of Managers Meetings

Mr. Weil volunteered to attend the Board's October 21, 2020 meeting; Mr. Simonet volunteered to attend the Board's November 4, 2020 meeting.

X. Adjourn

CAC 20-32 Motion: *To adjourn the October 14, 2020 CAC Meeting.*

Weil/MacDonald
Unanimously approved

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.
Respectfully submitted, Michelle Ulrich

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