



## Capitol Region Watershed District

595 Aldine Street • Saint Paul, MN 55104

T: 651-644-8888 • F: 651-644-8894 • [capitolregionwd.org](http://capitolregionwd.org)

### **Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, September 9, 2020, 7:00 p.m.**

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#### **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  
Richard Weil, remote  
Pat Cavanaugh, remote  
Tom Elko, remote

#### **Others Present:**

Mark Doneux, CRWD  
Shawn Murphy, CRWD, remote  
Bob Fossum, CRWD, remote  
Belinda Gardner, CRWD, remote  
Lindsay Schwantes, CRWD, remote

#### **I. Welcome, Announcements, and Updates**

Ms. Soderholm opened the meeting at 7:02 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.

#### **III. Approval of Agenda**

**CAC 20-27 Motion:** *To approve the CAC September 9, 2020 agenda*

Simonet/MacDonald  
Unanimously approved

#### **IV. Approval of Minutes**

A. August 12, 2020 CAC Meeting Minutes

**CAC 20-28 Motion:** *To approve the August 12, 2020 CAC Meeting Minutes.*

Duerre/Willems

Unanimously approved

## **V. District Initiatives for Review, Comment and Recommendations**

### **A. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan (Gardner)**

Ms. Gardner presented the 2020-2025 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan for CAC review. Ms. Gardner gave a brief history of the Plan's origins, highlighting some of the newer implementation tasks. Ms. Gardner noted the Implementation Task for Priority #1 (designating a staff coordinator to lead and coordinate implementation of the District's Diversity Strategic Plan) will be accomplished in 2020. Mr. Doneux added that the Plan is generating interest and discussion from other watershed districts and colleagues of the CRWD. Staff will present the updated Plan to the District Board on September 16, 2020 for its adoption.

## **VI. CAC Initiatives**

Mr. Doneux addressed the District's award ceremony which traditionally is held in person in the upcoming year (January 2021), but because of the pandemic situation, may be postponed to the following year for consideration. The CAC will provide input regarding the option of postponing the ceremony for a later time.

## **VII. Project and Program Updates**

### **A. Lake McCarrons Update (Fossum)**

Mr. Fossum provided a brief update on the condition of Lake McCarrons, explaining that samples taken in the latter part of June 2020 indicated that Lake McCarrons tested above the bacterial limit. However since implementing the District's geese removal program in that area the lake's bacterial levels have dropped significantly. The \$2,500 removal program cost was split evenly between the District and Ramsey County. Mr. Fossum added that the District will be conducting a socially distancing public meeting in October 2020 at the Lake's beach area to present information on the District's Lake McCarrons Management Plan.

### **B. Partner Grant Program Update (Schwantes)**

Ms. Schwantes presented an update on the District's Partner Grant Program, referencing the memorandum and guidance documents included in the CAC's September 9, 2020 meeting materials. Ms. Schwantes noted the District has allocated \$135,000 in its budget for proposals in 2021. In response to Ms. Schwantes' request for program volunteers, Ms. Lilly and Mr. Arbeit volunteered to be on the review committee, with Mr. Duerre agreeing to serve as committee alternate.

### **C. Manager Seitu Jones Board Retirement**

Mr. Doneux advised the CAC that Manager Seitu Jones did not apply for reappointment to the CRWD Board of Managers. The Ramsey County Board at its September 30, 2020 Board meeting will appoint Mr. Jones' replacement. Mr. Doneux and the CAC expressed their appreciation for Manager Jones' many years of outstanding service on the Board.

### **VIII. CAC Observer Update**

Mr. Simonet reported on his attending the September 2, 2020 workshop and regular meeting of the Board of Managers. Mr. Simonet noted the Board at its meeting approved the District's 2021 budget and preliminary levy for pay '21 taxes, as well as considering a number of permit applications involving various projects in the District.

### **IX. Discussion**

#### **A. New & Old Issues**

No issues presented.

#### **B. CAC Observer for September 16, 2020 and October 7, 2020 Board of Managers Meetings**

Mr. Doneux explained he will send out a go-to-meeting link for the upcoming Board meetings. Mr. Simonet volunteered to attend the Board's October 7, 2020 meeting.

### **X. Adjourn**

**CAC 20-29 Motion:** *To adjourn the September 9, 2020 CAC Meeting.*

Duerre/Lilly

Unanimously approved

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Ulrich

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