



Capitol Region Watershed District

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Community Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

Gwen Willems
Lauren Wheeler
Mary Lilly
Bob Simonet
David Arbeit
Steve Duerre
Mike MacDonald
Richard Weil

Others Present:

Mark Doneux, CRWD Manager
Mary Texer, CRWD Board
Belinda Armstead, CRWD Staff
Mary Van Sant, CRWD Staff

CAC Members Absent:

Andrew Montain (unexcused)
Cheryl Braun (excused)
Michelle Ulrich (excused)
Tom Elko (unexcused)

I. Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Ms. Willems opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. 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. There were none.

III. Approval of Agenda

CAC **Motion:** *To approve the CAC April 12, 2023 Agenda.*
Weil/McDonald
Unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes

- A) Approval of the *March 8, 2023 CAC Meeting Minutes*

CAC Motion: *Approve the March 8, 2023 CAC Meeting Minutes.*
Arbeit/Lilly
Unanimously approved.

V. District Initiatives for Review, Comment, and Recommendations

- A) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Mid-Plan Review (Armstead)

Ms. Armstead gave a mid-plan review of the 2020-2025 DEI Plan. Ms. Armstead reported on accomplishments during the first three years of the plan. Highlights included organizing a small watershed group to help them develop a DEI plan and improving the way CRWD works with communities of color and youth. Ms. Armstead also discussed anticipated activities during the remainder of the plan.

For informational purposes only. No motion requested.

- B) Review 2022 Annual Report (Van Sant)

Ms. Van Sant presented a draft of the 2022 Annual Report, which is a CWRD activity and financial report required to be submitted to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). Ms. Van Sant asked for feedback from the CAC before the report is finalized. A few minor suggestions on content and formatting were given but overall, the CAC gave high marks on the readability and mix of text and visuals. Good Job. The draft will be presented to the Board of Managers for approval on April 19, 2023.

For review and comment only. No motion requested

VI. CAC Initiatives

- A) CAC History Report Presentation. (Arbeit)

Mr. Arbeit presented a history of Como Lake and CRWD. Mr. Arbeit chronicled Como Lake going back to the 1800's, progressing from an agricultural area to a resort area to a municipal park and the resulting water quality issues along the way. He described the issues with stormwater, geese and the lake being loved to death that led to such a degradation that neighbors around the lake petitioned to form a watershed district and resulted in the formation of CRWD.

Mr. Arbeit then highlighted actions taken by CRWD and partners to greatly improve the situation around Como Lake.

For informational purposes only. No motion requested

B) CAC Tour Update (Doneux)

Mr. Doneux gave an update on the annual CAC Watershed Tour. The tour will be held on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 from 5:15 PM to 8:45 PM. A bus will be provided and will be leaving CRWD offices at 5:30 PM. The tour will include the construction site at Ramsey County 46/ Cleveland Avenue, Como Lake Subwatershed, Springboard for the Arts and Allianz Field.

C) CAC Officer Elections

The annual election of CAC officers was conducted. Ms. Lilly and Ms. Willems were reelected as Co-Chairs and Mr. Duerre was reelected as Secretary. Ms. Wheeler volunteered to serve as Co-Secretary with Mr. Duerre.

VII. Project and Program Updates

None

VIII. CAC Observer Update

Ms. Wheeler attended the 3/15/2023 CRWD Board Meeting and reported on the Teacher in Residence Program.

Mr. Simonet attended the 4/5/2023 CRWD Board Meeting and reported on the McCarrons Water Treatment Plant pond closure, Swede Hollow Creek daylighting and a contract amendment for the Thomas building.

IX. Discussion

A) New & Old Issues

None

B) CAC Observer for April 19, 2023 and May 3, 2023 Board of Managers Meetings.

Mr. McDonald volunteered to attend the April 19 meeting.

Mr. Simonet volunteered to attend the May 3 meeting.

X. Adjourn

CAC Motion: *To adjourn the March 8, 2023 CAC Meeting.*

Simonet/Weil

Unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted, Steven Duerre