



Capitol Region Watershed District

595 Aldine Street • Saint Paul, MN 55104
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March 15, 2023, Board Meeting
APPROVED

Board Workshop of the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) Board of Managers, for **Wednesday, March 1, 2023, 5:00 p.m.** (Board Workshop)

CRWD has returned to in-person Board of Managers meetings. The public is invited to attend in-person as well. Currently a virtual attendance option is not available.

Please visit www.capitolregionwd.org to get additional CRWD COVID-19 information.

BOARD WORKSHOP MINUTES

I. A) Call to Order of Board Workshop (*President Joe Collins*)

Managers

Joe Collins
Shawn Murphy
Rick Sanders
Hawona Sullivan Janzen
Mary Texer

Staff Present

Mark Doneux, CRWD
Anna Eleria, CRWD
Bob Fossum, CRWD
Alexandra Morrison, CRWD

Public Attendees

Bob Simonet, CRWD CAC Member

B) Review, Amendments and Approval of the Agenda.

Motion 23-023: *Approve the Workshop Agenda of March 1, 2023, with no changes.*

Murphy/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

II. Watershed Management Plan- Biennial Review

CRWD staff presented the results of the WMP biennial review and the areas of focus over the next two years and beyond.

CRWD staff have completed the first biennial review of the WMP covering work from 2021 and 2022. Staff from each division have evaluated their implementation activities, which includes programs and projects, and determined the progress in achieving measurable outputs for each activity. These results are then correlated to the WMP goals.

A few highlights of the goals that CRWD has successfully achieved include:

- Water Quality Goal #12 – Monitor water quality and quantity to document baseline conditions, identify trends and target areas for reducing pollution.
- Regulatory Goal #1 – Achieve 1.1” volume reduction standard
- Communications and Engagement Goal #2 – Increase community understanding of, and connection, to natural resources especially through goal CE2c – hosting or supporting events
- Built Environment Goal #5 – Support the voluntary implementation of green infrastructure practices through Stewardship Grant Program
- Infrastructure Management Goal #1 – Achieve desired performance of District-owned and funded stormwater infrastructure
- Organization #5 – Maintain and enhance the capacity of the District to achieve water and natural resource management goals

Manager Sullivan Janzen commented that she is concerned that the level of effort is not captured in the biennial review results. Staff acknowledged that some projects do take years to complete and early planning efforts may not always be captured in this type of review while other projects may include planning or studies as measurable outcomes.

Manager Mazanec asked if the work that we have completed to date would have happened without CRWD involvement. Staff responded that it is likely that much of our work would not be done if not for our organization.

Staff reviewed the next steps that include preparing a written summary of the biennial review to submit to BWSR. As part of that process, the District will seek concurrence that we are on track and confirm that plan amendment is not required.

III. Adjourn Board Workshop

Motion 23-024: *Adjournment of the March 1, 2023, Board Workshop at 6:00 P.M.*

Murphy/Sanders
Unanimously Approved

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Eleria



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March 15, 2023, Board Meeting
V. Action Item A) Approve Minutes of
March 1, 2023
Board Workshop & Regular Meeting
(Eleria)

Regular Board Meeting of the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) Board of Managers, for **Wednesday, March 1, 2023, 6:00 p.m.** (Regular Meeting) at the office of CRWD, 595 Aldine Street, St. Paul, Minnesota.

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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

I. A) Call to Order of Regular Meeting (*President Joe Collins*)

Managers

Joe Collins
Hawona Sullivan Janzen
Shawn Murphy
Rick Sanders
Mary Texer

Staff Present

Mark Doneux, CRWD
Anna Eleria, CRWD
Bob Fossum, CRWD
Nate Zwonitzer, CRWD
James Mogen, Ramsey County Attorney
Elizabeth Hosch, CRWD
Rachel Funke, CRWD
Sarah Wein, CRWD

Public Attendees

Nigel Pickering, Resident/Consultant
Bob Simonet, CRWD CAC Member

B) Review, Amendments and Approval of the Agenda.

Administrator Doneux requested that agenda item V.D) move to after IV.A).

Motion 23-025: *Approve the Agenda of March 1, 2023*

Sanders/Murphy
Unanimously Approved

II. Public Comment

- A) Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda (*Please observe a limit of three minutes per person.*)
No public comment.

III. Permit Applications and Program Updates

(Permit Process: 1) Staff Review/Recommendation, 2) Applicant Response, 3) Public Comment, and 4) Board Discussion and Action.)

A) 2023 Rule Revision-Informal Review

Following the last rule revision in 2019, staff have focused on providing more frequent rule updates for routine edits and to provide smaller, more manageable increases to the cost cap and Stormwater Impact Fund amounts. The Joint Rules Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) received informal notice of watershed rule updates on February 8, 2023. Staff have offered individual meetings upon request instead of a larger TAC meeting based on the nature of rule revisions and ease of scheduling.

CRWD and RWMWD distributed documents to the TAC on February 8, 2023, and requested preliminary comment on the draft rule revisions by March 8, 2023. Staff will review comments received with the Board at a meeting in April. Comments will be incorporated into the final draft of the proposed revisions as appropriate in anticipation of request for the Board to authorize 45-day review period at a meeting later in the spring.

Elizabeth Hosch, CRWD Regulatory Program Manager, presented a summary of the proposed changes to CRWD Rules, which are smaller in scope compared to previous rule updates. The 2023 Rule Revision summary is below:

1. Miscellaneous clarifications to language and definitions, including remove bridge exemption from Rule C. (specific feedback requested)
2. Cost cap increase from \$75K/acre to \$94K/acre.
3. Stormwater Impact Fund contribution increase from \$100K/acre to \$125K/acre.
4. CRWDs Soil Compaction and Runoff guidance document.
5. CRWDs Perforated Pipe/Underdrain guidance document.

Two comments have been received so far. Manager Mazanec inquired if and how the proposed rule change may affect the proposed I-94 Landbridge. Ms. Hosch responded stated that we are serving on an advisory committee for the I-94 Landbridge but had not considered how the elimination of the bridge exemption could impact this project. She will look into it and discuss with staff and the I-94 Landbridge consultants.

IV. Special Reports

A) 2022 Lakes Report

In 2022, CRWD, in partnership with RCPW and the Ramsey County Soil and Water Conservation Division, collected chemical, physical, and biological data from all five District lakes. Data collected included: dissolved oxygen, total phosphorus, chlorophyll-a, temperature, Secchi depth, phytoplankton, zooplankton, macrophyte samples, biovolume surveys of vegetation, and continuous water level data. All the lakes data collected in 2022 have been analyzed and summarized.

Sarah Wein, CRWD Monitoring Coordinator, presented a summary of the lake health in 2022. At Como Lake, internal loading remained low, aquatic plant enclosures thrived, and carp were removed. No river

flooding in Crosby and Little Crosby Lakes. At Loeb Lake, buckthorn removal was widespread. No beach closures in 2022 in Lake McCarrons. Water quality declined in 2022 and lake grades decreased. One major impact to lake health in 2022 was very hot summer and below average annual precipitation. The next steps for monitoring in 2023 include:

- Continue monitoring physical, chemical, and biological parameters in all CRWD lakes
- **Como**– CLP harvest (hand-pulling), carp removal (e-fishing), plant transplanting
- **McCarrons**– enhanced Zebra Mussel assessment; evaluation of lake outlet
- **Crosbys and Loeb**— no current plans

B) Willow Reserve Bioindicator Report

In 2022, CRWD hired a consultant to replicate the wildlife surveys that were completed pre-restoration. They also conducted a new sitewide vegetation survey to establish a baseline for future comparisons. The consultants reviewed wildlife, vegetation, and macroinvertebrate survey data and compared pre- and post-restoration results. Staff will provide a summary of the report's findings and recommend the Board's acceptance of the report. Additionally, Staff will highlight some of the activities that took place at Willow Reserve this year including maintenance activities and restoration work completed by partner organization interns. CRWD also partnered with NENO and the City of Saint Paul to develop interpretative signage including a large kiosk (design enclosed) which will be installed this spring at the intersection of Maryland Avenue and Virginia Street.

Motion 23-026: *Accept Willow Reserve 2022 Bioindicator Progress and Baseline Report.*

Manager Mazanec shared 15 years of data from the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District. He pointed out that their treatments kill mosquito larvae, which are food for other insects including midges and dragonflies, so this may be affecting the insect survey results.

Sanders/Murphy
Unanimously Approved

V. Action Items

- A) Approve Minutes of the February 22, 2023, Regular Meeting (Doneux)

Motion 23-027: *Approve the Minutes of the February 22, 2023, Regular Board Meeting.*

Sanders/Murphy
Unanimously Approved

- B) Authorize Requests for Qualifications for 2023-2024 Consultant Pools
(Zwonitzer/Bromelkamp)

Staff have prepared two Requests for Qualifications (RFQs) for professional services and creative and information services for 2023-2024. Some of the professional services include water resource/watershed management planning, design and engineering, watershed permitting, landscape architecture, storm sewer inspection, maintenance and repair and soil/geotechnical surveying. Service areas for the creative and information consultant pool include graphic design, content writing, videography, photography, community engagement, artist engagement, public relations, and translations.

The professional services RFQ will be distributed to approximately 160 firms and over 50 of them have a DBE certification (MBE, WBE, SBE). The creative and information services RFQ will be distributed to 107 firms and 77 of them have a DBE certification.

Manager Janzen asked if the dates have been established for the RFQ meetings. Nate Zwonitzer, CRWD Division Manager, responded that March 20th is the date for the professional services RFQ meeting and the meeting for the creative services RFQ will be held on March 17th.

Motion 23-028: *Authorize solicitation of qualifications for 2023-2024 professional and creative and information services.*

Sanders/Murphy
Unanimously Approved

C) Authorize Application to the Priority Project List for the McMurray Field Project

At the April 20, 2022, Board Meeting, the Managers approved a contract with Houston Engineering to complete an updated feasibility study for the McMurray Field Project. CRWD and City staff have worked with Houston Engineering, Inc. to complete an updated feasibility study and preliminary cost-benefit analysis for the site. The study was completed in 2022 and was the basis of a successful Clean Water Fund grant application in the amount of \$950,000.

The District has also been planning to apply for funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for the McMurray Field Project. These funds are distributed by the Public Facilities Authority (PFA) through the MPCA's Point Source Implementation Grant Program (PSIG). The first step in being eligible to receive these funds is to apply for placement on the Priority Project List. Staff will review this program and funding process with the Managers and request authorization to submit an application to the MPCA's Priority Project List.

Manager Texer submitted a few corrections to the application to Bob Fossum, CRWD Division Manager, in advance of the meeting. Mr. Fossum outlined the timeline for the application. Belinda will insert the timeline from Bob's slide. While the timeline for receiving funds from this source goes to 2025.

Mr. Fossum has had conversations with PFA staff who indicated that this project will likely score well. They will fund 80% of the project up to \$7 million.

Manager Janzen asked how we estimate the cost of the McMurray Project when it's anticipated to be constructed in 2025. Mr. Fossum said that the preliminary engineering cost estimate includes a 25% contingency.

Motion 23-029: *Authorize staff to submit application to MPCA's Project Priority List for the McMurray Field Project.*

Sanders/Murphy
Unanimously Approved

D) Approve the 2023 Lake Monitoring Agreement with Ramsey County

With assistance from the Ramsey County Attorney, RCPW has developed an annual cooperative agreement for all services related to CRWD Lake monitoring. This annual contract from RCPW is being proposed for all 2023 lake water quality sampling and requires approval. In 2023, RCPW is again coordinating some of the lab analysis with RMB Environmental Labs, Inc. to complete sample chemistry analysis. Therefore, the estimated costs for 2023 Baseline and Extended Baseline sampling conducted by RCPW is \$19,522.67. The cost estimate provided for sample analysis conducted by RMB Environmental Labs, Inc. is \$28,855.40. The total estimated costs for 2023 lake monitoring, therefore, are \$48,378.07. This total amount has increased compared to 2022 and is mainly due to lab analysis price increases.

Motion 23-030: *Approve 2023 Lake Monitoring and authorize Administrator to execute service agreement with Ramsey County.*

Sanders/Murphy
Unanimously Approved

VI. Unfinished Business

A) Legislative Update (Eleria)

On February 15 - 16, 2023, MN Watersheds, a non-profit organization that supports and advocates for local watershed management organizations, held the 2023 Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol. The purpose of the meeting was to highlight the top legislative priorities for MN Watersheds and offer strategies for communicating and working with the Legislature and State Environmental Agencies on watershed priorities.

CRWD Board of Managers and staff attended the MN Watersheds Legislative Briefing on Feb. 15th. MN Watersheds staff and State environmental agencies staff presented their top legislative priorities for 2023. The top priorities from MN Watersheds includes legislation to increase the general fund levy limit for primarily rural watershed districts, appropriating general funds to Soil and Water Conservation Districts instead of utilizing Clean Water Funds, and establishing a certified salt applicator program and limiting applicator liability.

VII. General Information

- A) Board of Managers' Updates
 - a. Manager Sanders attended the Rice-Larpenteur Alliance event and received the Community Champion award on behalf of CRWD for the partner grant for the artist designed utility boxes.
- B) Administrator's Update
 - a. CRWD will be meeting in person next week on March 8, 2023.
 - b. Its audit and annual report season.

VIII. Next Meetings

- A) Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 7:00 PM – CAC Meeting (In-Person)
 - a. Manager Texer will attend.
- B) Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 6:00 PM – Regular Board Meeting
- C) C&C Committee – TBD

IX. Adjournment

Motion 23-031: *Adjournment of the March 1, 2023, Regular Board Meeting at 8:00 P.M.*

Sanders/Murphy
Unanimously Approved

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Eleria