



## Capitol Region Watershed District

595 Aldine Street • Saint Paul, MN 55104  
T: 651-644-8888 • F: 651-644-8894 • capitolregionwd.org

**November 8, 2023**  
**CAC Meeting**  
**APPROVED**

### **Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes** **Wednesday, October 11, 2023, 7:00 p.m.**

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#### **CAC Members Present:**

Gwen Willems  
Michelle Ulrich  
Mary Lilly  
Bob Simonet  
Steve Duerre  
Richard Weil

#### **Others Present:**

Bob Fossum, CRWD Staff  
Mary Texer, CRWD Board  
Hana Cakici, Visitor  
Mallory Prangley, Visitor

#### **CAC Members Absent:**

Lauren Wheeler, (excused)  
Andrew Montain, (excused)  
Cheryl Braun, (excused)  
Mike MacDonald, (excused)  
Tom Elko, (unexcused)  
Mike Trojan, (excused)

### **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 23-026:** *To approve the CAC October 11, 2023, Agenda.*

Lilly/Simonet  
Unanimously approved.

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

- A) Approval of the *September 13, 2023, CAC Meeting Minutes*

**CAC Motion 23-027:** *Approve the September 13, 2023, CAC Meeting Minutes.*

Duerre/Weil

Unanimously approved.

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

- A) Highland Bridge Redevelopment Update (Fossum)

Mr. Fossum gave an update on the Highland Bridge Redevelopment Project. The project is largely finished. Infrastructure is in place for all existing and future housing developments to direct stormwater into the project. Mr. Fossum discussed the Ford Parkway Groundwater Capture which directs water from an adjacent neighborhood with high groundwater into Highland Bridge and not only helps the neighborhood but also assures a constant flow of water through the Highland Bridge Project. He also talked about the Southern Stormwater Enhancements, which is the exposed streambed south of Montreal, and the Hidden Falls Regional Park Connection which extends the open channel and bike and walking path under Mississippi Blvd to Hidden Falls. This project will greatly reduce phosphorus and TSS in stormwater running off the site into the river and has garnered a lot of interest from around the country. Mr. Fossum referred to it as the project of a lifetime in a highly developed urban area.

- B) 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event Recap (Fossum)

Mr. Fossum asked for feedback on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. CAC members who attended thought it was a great success. 305 people attended and everyone seemed to be having a good time with all the activities available. Great job!

#### **VI. CAC Initiatives**

None

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

- A) Como Lake Fisheries Management Update (Fossum)

Mr. Fossum gave an update on Como Lake Fisheries Management. CRWD conducted four electrofishing events from August through October of this year to assess the presence of carp in Como Lake. Carp can hurt water quality because they root through the bottom sediment and can release phosphorus back into the water column. There appear to be way fewer carp in the lake than originally thought. However, some young carp were caught which means there is some reproduction occurring. Managing Como Lake for carp will continue with the goal of trying to stay at the 20 – 50 level.

*Our mission is to protect, manage and improve the water resources of Capitol Region Watershed District.*

*For informational purposes only. No motion was requested.*

B) Como Lake Angler Report Update (Fossum)

Mr. Fossum reported on the Como Lake Angler Survey report. In 2021 and 2022, CRWD staff and volunteers surveyed anglers at Como Lake. Based on survey results, most anglers on Como Lake fish either by themselves or with one other person for 1 – 3 hours at a time and visit Como around ten times per year. Most fish from shore. The predominant catch is sunfish and crappies. The Como Management Plan calls for Como Lake to be converted to a largemouth bass fishery to improve water quality and recreational fishing opportunities. This has met with a favorable response from most of the anglers who participated in the survey.

*For informational purposes only. No motion was requested.*

C) Upcoming C&E Events (Fossum)

Mr. Fossum discussed the Saint Paul Snow Summit to be held at the Dale Street Municipal Garage on Saturday, October 14. There will be an Alley Captain Conference followed by Snow Summit exhibits and an open house. CRWD will have a table and CAC members are invited to help staff the table. CAC members were encouraged to sign up for shifts to assist with the tabling activities.

*For informational purposes only. No motion was requested.*

## **VIII. CAC Observer Update**

Mr. Simonet attended the 10/4/2023 CRWD Board Meeting. It was a very short meeting. Mr. Simonet reported on a couple of permit approvals.

## **IX. Discussion**

A) New & Old Issues

There were none.

B) CAC Observer for October 18, 2023, Board of Managers Meeting.

No one volunteered to attend the October 18 Board Meeting. Ms. Willems will contact CAC members who didn't attend the October CAC meeting, otherwise attend if you can.

C) CAC Observer for November 1, 2023. Board of Managers Meeting.

Mr. Simonet volunteered to attend the November 1 meeting.

## **X. Adjourn**

**CAC Motion 23-028:** *To adjourn the October 11, 2023, CAC Meeting.*

Lilly/Simonet

Unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted, Steven Duerre