



Capitol Region Watershed District

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January 10, 2024
Community Advisory
Committee
APPROVED

Community Advisory Committee Meeting **Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 7:00 p.m.**

CAC Members Present:

Gwen Willems
Cheryl Braun
Mary Lilly
Bob Simonet
Steve Duerre
Mike MacDonald
Barbara Hall
Michelle Ulrich

Others Present:

Mark Doneux, CRWD Staff
Mary Texer, CRWD Board
Lindsay Schwantes, CRWD Staff
Jessica Bromelkamp, CRWD Staff

CAC Members Absent:

Lauren Wheeler, (excused)
Andrew Montain, (excused)
Tom Elko, (unexcused)
Richard Weil, (excused)
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. Ms. Lilly asked about dredging in the Mississippi River and whether CRWD gets involved in that. Mr. Doneux stated that generally, CRWD has little to no involvement with dredging activities on the Mississippi River.

III. Approval of Agenda

CAC Motion 23-032: *To approve the CAC December 13, 2023, Agenda.*

Braun/Simonet
Unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes

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

CAC Motion 23-033: *Approve the November 8, 2023, CAC Meeting Minutes.*

Duerre/MacDonald
Unanimously approved.

V. District Initiatives for Review, Comment, and Recommendations

- A) Reappointment of CAC members for 2024 (Doneux)

Mr. Doneux led a discussion on reappointing CAC members for 2024. CAC members are appointed by the Board every year. The CAC recommended that all the current CAC members be reappointed for 2024.

Recommend reappointing the following CAC members through December 2024:

Steven Duerre
Michael MacDonald
Michelle Ulrich
Richard Weil
Gwen Willems
Bob Simonet
Mary Lilly
Tom Elko
Cheryl Braun
Andrew Montain
Barbara Hall
Mike Trojan
Lauren Wheeler

CAC Motion 23-034: *Recommend the CRWD Board reappoint all the current CAC members for 2024.*

Ulrich/MacDonald
Unanimously approved.

VI. CAC Initiatives

- A) Approve the 2023 Watershed Steward Awards (Bromelkamp)

Ms. Bromelkamp presented the Awards Committee recommendations for winners of the 2023 Watershed Steward Awards. There are seven categories for Awards. The Awards Committee reviews nominations and recommends winners for each category. The Awards will be presented at the Annual Recognition and Awards Ceremony on February 1, 2024, at the CRWD Offices. The recommended winners for each category are as follows:

- Watershed Citizen: Melvin Giles, Urban Farm and Garden Alliance
- Watershed Partner: Ramsey County Master Gardeners
- Watershed Outreach Program: Freshwater Society's Minnesota Water Stewards Program
- Young Watershed Stewards: Moua Yang, Urban Roots
- Watershed Project: Midway Peace Park, St. Paul Department of Parks and Recreation, Trust for Public Land, and Friends of Midway Peace Park
- Environmental Leadership in Construction: Paul Anderson, Frana Companies
- Lifetime Achievement: Mike Hahm, St. Paul Parks and Recreation (retired)

CAC Motion 23-035: *Recommend Approval of the 2023 Watershed Steward Awards Winners*

Braun/Lilly
Unanimously approved.

VII. Project and Program Updates

A) 2024 Partner Grants Update (Schwantes)

Ms. Schwantes presented an update on the 2024 Partner Grants Program. Partner Grants support organizations in CRWD that support CRWD's mission of protecting, managing, and improving water resources. Twenty proposals for 2024 Partner Grants were received which totaled \$311,037. The Partner Grants budget is \$165,000. The Partner Grant Review Committee reviewed the proposals and recommendations from staff and came up with recommendations that totaled \$161,087. These recommendations will be brought to the December 20, 2023 Board meeting for approval.

For informational purposes only. No motion was requested.

B) Low Salt No Salt Minnesota Pilot Project (Schwantes)

Ms. Schwantes introduced the new Low Salt No Salt Minnesota campaign. This includes presentations and flyers to encourage the safe and responsible use of salt on streets and sidewalks during the winter. Melting snow and ice carries salt into storm drains and eventually rivers, lakes, and wetlands where it is very hard to remove. Some of the goals of this campaign are to train water stewards, discuss liability issues, encourage applicators to become Smart Salt certified, and encourage homeowners to use crushed granite instead of salt.

For informational purposes only. No motion was requested.

C) Como Lake Signage Project Update (Bromelkamp)

Ms. Bromelkamp presented an update on the Como Lake Signage Project. Como Lake gets 4.3 million visitors each year and the signage and kiosks around the lake are old, faded, outdated, and in need of a facelift. CRWD has received an \$85,000 grant to help with this project. New signage will include the history of the lake, lakeshore improvements, and fishing information. Background Designs will be developing the new signage and should have the new signage by early 2024.

For informational purposes only. No motion was requested.

VIII. CAC Observer Update

Mr. Simonet attended the 12/6/2023 CRWD Board Meeting. Mr. Simonet reported on a permit for the Minnesota United Sculpture Garden and the 2024 Budget.

IX. Discussion

A) New & Old Issues
There were none.

B) CAC Observer for December 20, 2023, Board of Managers Meeting

Mr. MacDonald volunteered to attend the December 20 meeting.

C) CAC Observer for January 3, 2024. Board of Managers Meeting.

Mr. Simonet volunteered to attend the January 3 meeting.

X. Adjourn

CAC Motion 23-036: *To adjourn the December 13, 2023, CAC Meeting.*

Simonet/Duerre
Unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.
Respectfully submitted, Steven Duerre