



Capitol Region Watershed District

595 Aldine Street
Saint Paul, MN 55104
(651) 644-8888 • capitolregionwd.org

Community Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, October 9, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present

Gwen Willems
Michelle Ulrich
Mary Lilly
Richard Weil
Steve Duerre
Mike MacDonald
Barb Hall
Lauen Wheeler
Tori Phillipi

Others Present

Hawona Sullivan Janzen, CRWD Board Member
Maricella Xiong, CRWD Staff
Jessica Bromelkamp, CRWD Staff
Belinda Armstead, CRWD Staff
Britta Belden, CRWD Staff

CAC Members Absent:

Andrew Montain (unexcused)
Tom Elko (unexcused)
Mike Trojan (excused)
Cheryl Braun (excused)

I. Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Ms. Lilly opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Lilly asked for any announcements or updates.

Ms. Lilly announced the appointment of new CAC member Tori Phillipi, and asked for CAC members present to introduce themselves for the committee, including Board member Hawona Sullivan Janzen.

Ms. Ulrich noted the upcoming 2024 annual Minnesota Watersheds conference scheduled December 4-6, 2024 in Nisswa, Grand View Lodge, and whether CRWD would be inviting any CAC members to attend the event.

II. Public Comment for Issues Not on the Agenda



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Ms. Lilly asked for comments not on the agenda. There were none.

III. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Lilly asked for comments or corrections not on the agenda. There were none.

CAC Motion 24-: *To approve the CAC October 9, 2024 Agenda.*

Hall/Willems
Unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A) Approval of the September 11, 2024 CAC Meeting Minutes

CAC Motion 24-: *Approve the September 11, 2024 CAC Meeting Minutes.*

Ulrich/Durre
Unanimously approved.

V. CAC Observer Update

There was no CAC observer update for the September 18, 2024 or October 2, 2024 Board Meetings. Ms. Lilly advised that Bob Simonet has resigned from the CAC.

Ms. Hall will be the minutes recorder for the November 13, 2024 and December 11, 2024 CAC Meetings.

VI. Project and Program Updates

A) Adopt-a-Drain Report (Xiong)

Ms. Xiong presented an update on the District's 2023 Adopt-a-Drain residential program, K-12 school program outcomes and share plans for the 2024-2025 school years. The District since 2014 has partnered with the City of St. Paul and Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education (CGEE) to implement the Adopt-a-Drain program for neighborhoods across the District. The program encourages residents to take action to protect water quality by volunteering to keep storm drains near their home free of leaves and debris. Promotion of the program has included a presence at community events, distributing door-hangers to residential properties in target neighborhoods, social media posts and direct mail. New participants receive a welcome packet that includes additional suggestions on how to reduce runoff pollution on



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their property and a yard sign highlighting participants' commitment to clean water. Regarding the K-12 Adopt-a-Drain program, Ms. Xiong explained that through the District's partnership with GCEE the pilot program has promoted the Adopt-a-Drain curriculum to schools within the District, with a goal to serve thirty classrooms for the 2024-2025 school year (at least twenty classrooms in the District's focus area and the remaining ten located anywhere within the District's boundaries). A proposed investment of \$24,000 from the District's Clean Streets budget will continue this program in accordance with a recently approved contract between the District and CGEE.

For informational purposes only. No motion requested.

B) Como Lake Interpretive Signs (Belden/Bromelkamp)

Ms. Belden and Ms. Bromelkamp provided an overview of the District's development of new educational signage around Como Lake to enhance user experience and understanding of the lake. Since June 2023 District staff has been working with graphic design firm Background Stories to develop ten original interpretive signs to be installed around Como Lake at locations approved by the City of St. Paul. Staff presented for discussion the proposed eight individual signs and a two-paneled kiosk with their Lake Como placement locations. Added features on the signage include a multilingual QR code that will provide the user access to content in multiple spoken languages. Sign installation is anticipated for spring 2025. The CAC members commended staff on their interpretive signage work.

For information purposes only. No motion requested.

VII. District Initiatives For review, Comment, and Recommendations

There were none.

VIII. CAC Initiatives

A) CAC Reinvigoration Plan Update (Lilly/Wheeler)

Ms. Lilly and Ms. Wheeler advised they are working on finalizing the CAC Reinvigoration Plan to be presented in the future to the CAC for its review and discussion. Ms. Wheeler distributed a proposed CAC Meeting Calendar with meeting time options and meeting structure (in-person/virtual meetings). Upon discussion the CAC by consensus chose the option to change the CAC meeting time to 6:00-7:30 p.m.; and approved the meeting structure as provided on the distributed meeting calendar (December, January and February meetings virtual, March through November meetings in-person). It was agreed that the new schedule and format will go into effect 2025.



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CAC Motion 24-: *To approve the proposed 2025 CAC Meeting Calendar time change to 6:00-7:30 p.m. (with an effective date January 1, 2025).*

Hall/Phillipi
Unanimously approved.

CAC Motion 24-: *To approve as presented the proposed 2025 CAC Meeting Calendar including meeting format and schedule for 2025 (with an effective date January 1, 2025).*

Hall/Phillipi
Unanimously approved.

IX. Discussion

A) New & Old Issues

There were none.

B) CAC Observer for October 16, 2024 Board of Managers Meeting. Mr. Weill volunteered to attend the October 16, 2024 Board Meeting.

C) CAC Observer for November 6, 2024 Board of Managers Meeting. Ms. Lilly advised that Mr. Trojan volunteered to attend the November 6, 2024 Board Meeting.

D) CAC Observer for November 20, 2024 Board of Managers Meeting. Mr. Durre volunteered to attend the November 20, 2024 Board Meeting.

X. Adjourn

CAC Motion 24-: *To adjourn the October 9, 2024 CAC Meeting.*

Weill/Hall
Unanimously approved.

The CAC Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.
Respectfully submitted, Michelle Ulrich



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