



Capitol Region Watershed District

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Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD)

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) February 11, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Meeting Type: Regular CAC Meeting

Format: Virtual (Zoom/Teams)

Attendees:

Anna Eleria (CRWD)

Nate Zwonitzer (CRWD)

Hawona Sullivan Janzen (BOM)

Mary Lilly

Mike Trojan

Barbara Hall

Andy Mountain

Gwen Willems

Lauren Wheeler

Richard Weil

Excused Absence: Michelle Ulrich (broken wrist!)

Unexcused Absence: Nick Carmichael

Tori Philippi

I.

The meeting was called to order by Mary.

II.

Andy shared information about a local community water-focused event (drinking water quality discussion). Discussion included the value of attending community events and reporting back key observations and public concerns. Staff encouraged use of CRWD outreach materials when attending public events.

III.

CAC Motion 26-001: *Approval of the February 11, 2026 agenda.* Agenda was reviewed and approved by motion (Gwen motion, Mike second).

IV.

[Our mission is to protect, manage and improve the water resources of Capitol Region Watershed District.](#)

Minutes were not approved. January meeting minutes were tabled due to access issues with the meeting transcription. Barbara will submit the minutes in March.

V.

January CAC Observer Report

- Mike provided a detailed summary of the January Board of Managers meeting, including:
 - Approval of multiple permits.
 - Sediment removal project approvals.
 - Discussion of the Ford Site cleanup approach and MPCA coordination.
 - Chloride pollution reduction efforts and potential regulatory strategies.
 - Capital improvement projects and watershed maintenance activities.

Key Discussion Themes

- Importance of sediment pond maintenance and long-term costs.
- Growing concern about chloride pollution and legislative challenges.
- Interest in guest speakers and public education events related to water quality.

VI

McMurray Fields Stormwater Project Presentation

Presenter: Nate Zwonitzer (CRWD)

Project Overview

The McMurray Fields Stormwater Project, targeting one of the largest remaining untreated drainage areas to Como Lake, involves the installation of underground stormwater storage, both surface and subsurface infiltration systems, irrigation reuse, and smart management technology. The project is being coordinated with the City of St. Paul Parks & Recreation's redesign, which may include an artificial turf field as well as parking and restroom facilities, pending budget outcomes. The updated stormwater treatment goal is set to the MIDS standard of 1.1 inches, and the total estimated cost is around \$11 million, funded by CRWD through levies and grants from BWSR and the MPCA Stormwater Resiliency Program.

CRWD will oversee bidding and construction, with 90% design completion expected in March, bidding in April, construction commencement after Labor Day, and final restoration in Spring 2027 following winter construction. Key discussion points included the use of smart controls to meet a 48-hour drawdown requirement, concerns regarding artificial turf materials (specifically PFAS and microplastics), and clarification that some park amenities may be excluded due to City budget limitations.

VII

CAC Subcommittee Updates

Annual Calendar

- Need to update and redistribute the upcoming events calendar.
- Coordination with CRWD on spring and summer events planned.

Orientation Committee

- Draft CAC Orientation Guide reviewed.
- Noted formatting issues and content updates needed:
 - Clarify co-chair structure
 - Correct role titles
 - Simplify and consolidate CAC roles and responsibilities
- Committee will revise and circulate an updated version.

Outreach & Communications

- No formal update.
- Discussion emphasized improving **internal communication**, including:
 - Better documentation of CAC outreach activities
 - Possible creation of a shared log, spreadsheet, or discussion forum to capture observations, notes, and reflections from events.

6. We Are Water Exhibit (CRWD Update)

- CRWD will host the **We Are Water** traveling exhibit from **April 23 – June 14**.
- Opening reception planned for **April 23**.
- CAC members encouraged to:
 - Assist with promotion
 - Serve as docents
 - Support exhibit events
- Training will be provided for volunteers and CAC members.

7. Board Meeting Observer Assignments

- **February 18 Board Meeting:** Mike (tentative)
- **March 4 Board Meeting:** Mary Lilly
- **March 11 CAC Meeting Minutes:** Andy Mountain
- **March 18 Board Meeting:** Observer still needed

8. Announcements

- Watershed Steward Awards Ceremony rescheduled to **March 25**.
- RSVP requested for attendance and volunteering.
- Upcoming CAC meeting will be **in person**.

9. Adjournment

CAC Motion 26-002: *Adjournment of the February 11, 2026 CAC meeting.*

- Motion to adjourn was made by Mike and seconded by Andy.
- Meeting adjourned by **Mary Lilly**.