Capitol Region Watershed District
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May 13, 2026
Community Advisory Committee Meeting -
Minutes Reviewed

Community Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

CAC Members Present:
Mary Lilly (Co-chair)
Tori Philippi
Barbara Hall
Gwen Willems
Andrew Montain
Mike Trojan
Richard Weil

CAC Members Absent:
Nick Carmichael (unexcused)
Lauren Wheeler (excused)
Michelle Ulrich (excused)

Staff/Board Present:
Anna Eleria
Acadia Stephan
Rachele Krivichi
Mary Texer

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I. Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

CAC Co-chair Lauren Wheeler opened the meeting at 5:30 PM. CRWD Staff member Matt Lundberg, the new Projects & Grants Specialist, introduced himself. CRWD Staff member Acadia Stephan, Regulatory Specialist, introduced herself as well. Barbara Hall mentioned a contact of hers who is interested in joining the CAC.

II. Public Comment for Issues Not on the Agenda

None

III. Approval of Agenda

CAC Motion 26-006: *To approve the CAC April 8, 2026, Agenda.*

Trojan/Ulrich
Unanimously approved

IV. Approval of Minutes

A) Approval of March 11, 2026, CAC Meeting Minutes

CAC Motion 26-007: *Approve the March 11, 2026, CAC Meeting Minutes.*

Trojan/Willems
Unanimously approved

V. CAC Observer Update

A) March 18, 2026 Board Meeting – Mike Trojan

- The 2025 Stormwater Report – June had significant phosphorous loading due to high rainfall.
- Some data gets reported as loads and some as concentrations. If anyone would like to learn more about loads, they can reach out to Mike.
- There were only 2 inches of rain in November, but the phosphorous load was high, leading to believe that since it hadn't rained for a while, the buildup of sediment in the street contributed.
- It will cost an estimated $12.5 million over the next ten years for future repair work for Trout Brook Storm Sewer Interceptor. CRWD taxpayers pay for this.
- Construction on Como Lake Access path will start in April.
- Curly Leaf pondweed management continues on Como Lake.
- There are currently 1,200 stamps to date in the Public Arts Saint Paul Sidewalk Poetry Project. CRWD is partnering with PASP for developing water-themed sidewalk poetry this year. Water poetry will be provided in multiple languages and a QR code to translate some of the poetry to English.

B) April 1, 2026, Board Meeting:

- There was no observer.
- It was a very light agenda that covered approval of a contract study for Gottfried's Pit (located off of Larpenteur Ave).
- It was the Board's first hybrid meeting. The Board will be offering hybrid meetings going forward. It will be an option for CAC observers to observe virtually in the future.

B) Annual Awards Ceremony

- Gwen Willems said the ceremony was beautiful, especially the tribute to Ann White Eagle. Mike Trojan wanted to acknowledge Joe Collins, who made a comment about the importance of immigration in our country. Barbara Hall said the food was good and the atmosphere was great and it was nice to have our Commissioner Garrison McMurtrey there with his baby. It was formal but it was also very community focused, which was very nice, and a good opportunity for people to come together.

VI. Project and Program Updates

A) Permitted Sites Maintenance Program (Stephan)

Starting in 2006, CRWD adopted Rules and a permitting program to implement the Rules. Since then, CRWD has invested significant time and resources in reviewing, overseeing construction, and confirming function of permitted stormwater management projects. Annual inspection, maintenance, and repair of these stormwater treatment facilities are key to preserving function and protecting this

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investment. However, staff have documented a low rate of compliance with annual reporting requirements and predicted maintenance was being deferred.

The 2021-2030 Watershed Management Plan (WMP) identified the proper maintenance of stormwater infrastructure as a primary watershed issue. The associated WMP goal is the development and implementation of a program for inspection of District-permitted and other privately owned stormwater infrastructure.

Barbara Hall asked some follow-up questions regarding MOUs and trainings for installers.

VII. CAC Initiatives

A) CAC Co-Chair Election

- The Community Advisory Committee annually elects officers. The officer positions include two co-chairs and a secretary. Officers are elected for a one-year term. Elections are held during the regular Community Advisory Committee meeting in April. Candidates for office must have been a Community Advisory Committee member for at least three months prior to the election. Officers have included two co-chairs and a secretary.
- Mary Lilly and Lauren Wheeler are the current CAC Co-Chairs and Tori Philippi is the current Secretary. Their terms expire after this meeting.
- For the 2026/2027 term, Ms. Lilly and Ms. Wheeler will not run for reelection and they propose not filling the Secretary position because CRWD staff prepare the meeting minutes and maintenance of CAC files is handled by staff and co-chairs.

Tori Philippi put her name forward but does not want to do it by herself. Mike Trojan said he would be willing to help but does not want to be the lead person. Andrew Montain said he is interested but is starting a new job and does not think he has the bandwidth. Mary Lilly said perhaps Andrew and Mike could take turns being the other half.

There are also some gaps in recruitment in the CAC, and there was discussion of how to fill these gaps. Andrew Montain said he sees some opportunities to chat with people while at upcoming We Are Water Events, and there was discussion of how to accomplish this using signs and other outreach materials like buttons. There is a map of distribution of CAC members which CRWD can share so the CAC can get a sense of where there are gaps.

Administrator Eleria mentioned that CRWD staff are here to help guide and assist the CAC all year-long with planning, agendas, and other ways.

CAC Motion 26-008: *To elect Mike Trojan, and Tori Philippi as co-chairs, and Andrew Montain as an alternative.*

Hall/Willems
Unanimously Approved

B) CAC Subcommittees

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- Community Engagement and Outreach – Andrew Montain will be doing more with this committee.
- Technology Committee – This committee is still working on whether to implement a Discord channel for CAC members. Tori Philippi and Mike Trojan will be joining this committee.
- Technical Committee will be combined with the Technology Committee.

VIII. District Initiatives for Review, Comment, and Recommendations

A) We Are Water Exhibit – April 24, 2026 to June 14, 2026

Administrator Eleria said thank you to everyone who has signed up to volunteer for the events the District will be having and for those who have signed up to be here during our open hours on Tuesday evenings. Ramsey County Commissioner Mai Chong Xiong will be attending and giving remarks, and Senator Klobuchar's office reached out and wanted to know more about the event.

CAC Motion 26-009: *To extend the meeting for eight minutes.*

Trojan/Willems
Unanimously Approved

IX. Discussion

A) New & Old Issues
- A staff member at Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District reached out and wanted to attend our May CAC meeting because they want to see how other CACs operate.

B) CAC Board of Managers Meeting Observer

C) CAC Observer for April 15, 2026 Board of Managers Meeting
- Tori Philippi will observe

D) CAC Observer for May 6, 2026 Board of Managers Meeting
- Andrew Montain will observe

X. Adjourn

CAC Motion 26-010: *To adjourn the April 8, 2026, CAC Meeting at 7:08 PM.*

Philippi/Trojan
Unanimously Approved

Respectfully submitted
Rachele Krivichi

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