

Minutes: Monday April 17, 2017

RPBCWD Citizen’s Advisory Committee Monthly Meeting
Location: RPBCWD new offices: 18681 Lake Street, Chanhassen

CAC MEMBERS		Peter Iverson	P	Joan Palmquist	P
Jim Boettcher	E	Matt Lindon	P	Dorothy Pedersen	P
Paul Bulger	P	Judy McClellan	E	Dennis Yockers	P
Anne Deuring	P	Sharon McCotter	P	David Ziegler	P

Others

Michelle Jordan	District Liaison	P
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Summary of key actions/motions for the Board of Managers:

- 1. Storm Drain Program:** Manager Bisek sent information on this to Dorothy, asking if the CAC might be interested in creating/running a storm drain project. There was considerable interest and McCotter and Lindon agreed to look into it and report back to the group, coordinating with District Liaison Jordan.

Meeting

- 1. Call to Order:** President Pedersen called the April 17 meeting of the CAC to order at 6:32 p.m. Attendance noted above.
- 2. Approval of the Agenda:** Agenda updated to reflect the amended statement of general public interest passed last month, and to add discussion on salt in lakes, as point “d” under new business. Motion was made (Bulger/McCotter) and approved 9:0.
- 3. Approval of meeting minutes from March 2017:** Motion to approve minutes, as drafted without amendments, made by Ziegler/McCotter and passed unanimously.
- 4. Matters of general public interest:** None, no petitioners present.
Welcome to the RPBCW CAC regular meeting. Anyone may address the committee on any matter of interest in the watershed. Speakers will be acknowledged by the President; please step forward, state your name and address for the record. Please limit your comments to no more than three minutes. Additional comments may be submitted in writing. Generally, the Citizen Advisory Council will not take official action on items discussed at this time, but may refer the matter to CAC Officers for a future report or direct that the matter be scheduled on a future agenda.
- 5. March Board of Managers meeting, if any questions (Dorothy):**
 Pedersen talked with Manager Forster on 4/17 and reported we are following the communication process set up last year. Also, a new person, Terry Jefferies, *who has considerable experience with the City of Chanhassen*, has been hired to work on permits. Dorothy asked about the status of the ten-year plan, but there was nothing new to report. Yockers reported that minutes from last month’s board meeting were viewable online but not printable and reported problems accessing the board packet. Michelle confirmed website problems occurred due to size of the packet.

6. Old Business

- a. **Change “Matters of Public Interest” clause** to encourage attendance. Bulger read his recommended additions. Ziegler made a motion and Iverson seconded it to accept the additional language, (underlined below) and the motion passed unanimously. The complete statement (as amended last month with addition this month) is as follows:

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- b. **Subcommittees:** general discussion/decision to form/volunteers (Paul/All)
Bulger created a starting structure for subcommittee categories and topics. There are many topics, some are quite broad, and this was designed to get us started. Thank you, Paul.

Discussion points:

- Suggestions on Subcommittee Guidelines were starting points. The number of meetings, length, duration, and reporting back will ebb and flow; and will depend on the breadth of the topics, as well as urgency and number of people involved.
- Yockers asked what work will happen at monthly meetings and whether we have added another, possibly unnecessary, layer? Pedersen suggested if there is a hot topic we need to talk about, she needs to be alerted and will put it on the agenda. Then, the subcommittee will bring the information and we will discuss it as a group.
- Yockers asked, as an example, if the information that Jordan is providing on outreach and education should go to subcommittee or if it is important for us to discuss as a group.
- Citizen science monitoring keeps coming up as a topic, and seems important. Ziegler suggested this is a good example for a subcommittee to work on and bring forward recommendations to the broader group.
- Lindon asked whether subcommittees will be making decisions, or bringing focused information to the group, with a recommendation. There was agreement that having smaller groups do research and assimilate information for the group would be helpful, and acknowledgment that historically it has been hard for the CAC to work on things in meetings. We agreed again, that use of subcommittees is a way to get more done. Iverson suggested we try it for a few months and evaluate. Pederson acknowledged that, as volunteers, we have different levels of expertise on topics, and use of small groups should make us more efficient.

- Iverson wanted to make sure the subcommittees have the authority to call on others and tap into their experience.
- Previously, we agreed that we need to spend enough time on the ten-year plan and this was affirmed.
- Lindon suggested that we could break up subcommittees to align with topics/chapters in the ten-year plan. It's hard to know if this will work, until we see that plan, which will happen next month.
- Yockers: Communication could cross many topics (e.g. website, marketing, and communication), with overlap which could be overwhelming for one committee.
- Lindon: If we only have one person, they can be the lead, we don't have to have a subcommittee.
- Pedersen: Do we put subcommittees on the agenda each month? We agreed to have them on the agenda so we have time allocated, if there are things to cover. Subcommittees will report only when they have updates to share.
- Palmquist suggested that what we decide not to do is just as important as what we will do. In response, Pedersen said we don't need to worry about Water Stewards, or Cost Share this year.
- The question was asked whether we should more actively market cost sharing to get more participants. This might be something a marketing/communication group gets involved with. Ziegler mentioned that 9 Mile Creek went door-to-door soliciting involvement in a rain garden. Yockers asked how people hear about the cost sharing, and Jordan said it is publicized on website and at events. We do more projects each year, with variation in when they come in. It is a good idea to keep talking about how people come into the program.
- Yockers asked about MN lake associations and who works with them to develop associations. Lindon shared there is a published association of lake associations but there is not a governmental agency that is responsible for this in MN. Interest in lake associations seems twofold: 1) Setting them up (Ziegler and Pedersen) and 2) How to best work with them to achieve goals and objectives.
- Also note, we don't have anyone interested in budgeting specifically. We will be involved with this at a big picture level, as part of review of the ten-year plan, however. A lot of effort was spent on this in the past, to understand how the watershed is budgeting, are they budgeting accurately, how is the reporting, etc. We may not need a subcommittee this year, and so will designate this as inactive, but leave the topic on the list for the future.
- Also, no one volunteered for AIS, but there will be an emergency plan for this coming to the board. AIS is a continuous broader topic and will be addressed, even if we have no subcommittee for other invasives or aquatics.

CAC members indicated the following areas of interest:

Dorothy: Groundwater, wetlands, climate change and lake associations.

Dave: Lake association, also project/permit review (e.g. draft UAA). The permit reviews presented to the board are in depth and technical. These may need more attention from the CAC, especially if we are making a recommendation. Sometimes recommendations are made before we see the reviews and the TAC is not involved. Dave is interested in becoming more involved in these reviews.

Matt: Lake matrix, define that to lakes, creeks and river (water quality review), the lake water quality restoration efforts, and groundwater. He is also the CAC TAC representative.

Dennis: Education and outreach, wetlands and sports fishing and wildlife. Dennis also commented if a subcommittee doesn't think there is enough budget allocated to get the necessary work done, we will need to prioritize, or push back to ask for larger budget, as budgets can be modified.

Anne: Ten-year plan, and volunteerism, citizen monitoring, climate change and groundwater. She is particularly interested in storm drains and has an idea for a silk sock to provide 24/7 storm drain hygiene. She is developing a prototype, and working to address public traffic concerns, aesthetic concerns, issues with cities and plows etc. as well as the need to keep them clean, etc. She would like to work on that as a special project.

Paul: Groundwater and major reports, and website.

Pete: Wide interest in many of these including, groundwater, also lake associations and hopes that other things can be added downstream.

Joan: Interest in speaker's bureau, volunteerism, and marketing issues (which cross many of the outreach/education and volunteerism topics and the website, etc.)

Sharon: Volunteerism, and would like us to do an Earth Day clean up every year. Would also be interested in Anne's silk sock project.

- c. **Update on ten-year plan process (Michelle)(INFORM):** The first three chapters of the plan will be presented to CAC at the May meeting and they will be made available to us beforehand, if possible. The remaining chapters will be available in July. At this point, we are not sure what the first three chapters will be, but anticipate they may include the prioritization system. Jordan will ask Bleser to also include an outline of the entire plan (e.g. table of contents), if possible. Meanwhile, goals and strategies have been identified, as have audiences. Detailed Education and Outreach is an attachment to the plan.

Michelle distributed and talked the CAC through the summary of the Watershed Outreach Workshop and Teacher Summary. The objectives were to identify topics of interest, methods of accessing water resource information, and desired method of delivery. The teacher summary concluded that they have limited time and are looking for outdoor activities, hands on opportunities and guest speakers.

There was a question about if/how staff is tracking impact. Jordan reported they track contacts at events, as well as counts of materials that go out, volunteer hours, etc. and are doing more of this. The adopt-a-drain.org pilot has trackable links.

Yockers asked about the timeline for completion of Jordan's work, and where in the process she wants assistance from the CAC. She will have a skeleton by May board meeting and needs to get Bleser's input to answer his question. Yockers volunteered to help Jordan take the current information to the next level. Michelle will talk to Claire and will get back to Dennis. This also involves a larger question of how staff wants to engage the CAC annually.

Bulgar asked if the ten-year plan is a snapshot and/or if there will be updates on an ongoing basis. Michelle expects the plan won't change, and the detailed Education and Outreach is an attachment to the ten-year plan and she will build her work plan off that each year.

- d. **Website reno/feedback Round 2** (Michelle/All): Jordan shared our comments and Bleser's with web designer, who needs more information before she can do a second round. Jordan will have a more specific update at the May meeting. She asked for input on whether to customize the site to audience or topic, as it can get complicated. We need to direct them to information, not create new content—that is available elsewhere. It would be nice to know who the users are and Jordan will ask the developer what's available.

7. New Business

- a. **Climate Change forum/education** (Michelle): This idea came from a discussion at CAC last month. The Board thought it was a good idea, and decided it should be made a community wide event. On May 31 at Nine Mile Creek district offices there will be a presentation and discussion on climate change impact on a local level. Please promote it and invite others.
- b. **Adopt a Storm Drain (Dorothy/Michelle)**: Manager Bisek sent Dorothy information on this, to see if the CAC would be interested in a similar program. Ziegler, McCotter and Lindon did some work with this on their capstone projects as Water Stewards. McCotter and Lindon volunteered to pursue this, with assistance from Jordan. Will look for ways to combine this with the Clean Water MN work: adopt a drain and community cleanup tool kit. (referenced below). One question Jordan will look into is whether the cities have a list of all the drains/culverts.

Other points;

- EP has new, more durable placards available, although the shape makes them a little harder to install them on round curbs. Lindon involved neighborhood kids in an educational event, marking drains and talking to neighbors. It worked well and didn't require a lot of work. He suggested we could also move beyond the storm drain to the culverts, depending on the shape and if there is a grate. Iverson worked with his lake association and got city kits, involving children in the process.

- McCotter liked the idea of measuring what we pull out, but acknowledged the difficulty of measuring. If the drain is cleaned regularly there is not a lot to measure, and it also depends a lot on the specific drains, as well as the neighborhood, and how they treat leaf waste (raking into street).
 - Cleanwater MN, watershed districts, cities, and counties, are universities (Hamlin) are coming together to pool resources and do programs. A new website (<http://cleanwatermn.org>), identifies what individuals can do on their property to help clean water. Information for fall leaf cleanup is being updated, and there is a rollout of adopt-a-drain.org. This site lets you sign up for a specific drain, and you get a nice sign and reporting card.
- c. **AIS action plan (Michelle update):** Emergency action plan; Administrator Bleser is pulling that all together so we have a plan as to what happens if/when an AIS is identified on a specific lake. McCotter reminded us that we hired a consultant a few years ago to identify what components had to be in a plan. Michelle will remind Claire of this, to see if she can tap into that information and if she cannot find it, she will contact McCotter.
- d. **Salt levels:** A recent Star Tribune article brought attention to rising salt levels in lakes and raises the question if we know our lake's salt levels and if they are going up or down. Liaison Jordan confirmed that the district measures chloride on a rotating basis with three years of data collection per chain (so on 3 years off 6 years). The 2016 report (covering 2013-2016 in the Riley chain) shows generally decreasing levels, below the level of concern. The next three years will focus on the Purgatory Creek Chain. Monitoring occurs in the winter, as soon as the ice is in until it is unsafe to monitor. They check chloride a couple of times in the spring, as well. They also do storm water monitoring and salt levels are a lot higher in the ponds. Jordan reported that, the district participated in MN pollution control training on salt reduction and cities are also proactive. The major challenge has been more with private companies; due to concerns over liability.

Iverson shared that the City of EP would be glad to talk to us about what they are doing to reduce salt use and Yockers suggested all cities should be invited—especially since other cities are also very proactive and we have many people in the northern part of our district.

Topics for Next Month; Ten-year plan and web update

Adjournment: The motion to adjourn was made by Iverson, seconded by Lindon, and passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:53.

Upcoming Events

I would suggest adding the rain barrel dates May 5 and 6 and the Climate Change workshop on May 31st

Board Workshop, Wednesday, May 3, 5:30 pm District Office

Regular Board Meeting, Wednesday, May 3, 7:00 pm, District Office
Next CAC meeting: May 15, 2017, District Office, 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Joan Palmquist, recorder