

**Draft Regular Meeting Minutes – February 21, 2022  
RPBCWD Citizens’ Advisory Committee Monthly Meeting  
Location: Virtual via Zoom**

**ATTENDANCE**

Status: P=Present, E=Excused, A=Absent without notification

**CAC Members**

Andrew Aller	P
Rodey Batiza	P
Jim Boettcher	P
Sam Griffin	P

Heidi Groven	P
Michelle Frost	P
Peter Iverson	A
Terry Jorgenson	E

Sharon McCotter	E
Marilynn Torkelson	P
Jeff Weiss	P
Jessica Willey	A

Mike Sorensen	P

**Others**

Terry Jeffery	RPBCWD Staff	E
Liz Forbes	RPBCWD Staff	P
Eleanor Mahon	RPBCWD Staff	P
Scott Sobiech	RPBCWD Staff	P

Manager — Jill Crafton	BOM	P
Manager Dorothy Pederson	BOM	P

**CAC MOTIONS for the Board of Managers:**

**1. The CAC suggests to the BOM that a study be implemented to list all ecologically valuable and/or fragile areas in the watershed for protection and preservation from development for the education of the general public, including developers, homeowners, and individuals.**

**Key CAC discussion items for the Board of Managers:**

**1. None**

**I. Opening – 6:00 – 6:15**

**A. Call CAC Meeting to Order**

Jim, acting as Chair, called meeting to order at 6:06

**B. Attendance- as noted above**

**C. Staff, Manager, and new CAC member introductions**

New CAC member Mike Sorensen introduced himself. He has lived on the north side of Eden Prairie since 2019. He works at the Minnesota Parks and Recreation Board in invasive species, so has a strong connection to the work of the Watershed District. Previously he worked as a Water Resources Intern (2010) with the Pelican River WD and as Program Assistant (2016-18) for Forest Lake-Comfort Lake WD.

**D. Matters of general public interest- none**

- E. Approval of the Agenda- motion- President Aller, Marilyn -second, passed unanimously.
- F. Designate timekeeper - President Aller volunteered to act as timekeeper.
- G. Approval of previous CAC meeting minutes - motion - Marilyn, Jim- second, passed unanimously.

**II. Board Meeting Recap and Discussion – 6:15-6:25 (Marilyn)**

- A. Highlights from the Board of Managers meeting- Marilyn reported what was covered during the BOM meeting. First, there was discussion lead by Friends of Frederick Miller Spring, who oppose development near the spring. Several spoke during this discussion and Marilyn has their names. Apparently, the planned development fell through, even though the WD had reluctantly approved the permit for development. One question is whether the rules should be altered so that approved permits do not stay out there, perhaps to be used by other developers.

Mike Sorensen was approved as a new CAC member. Terry Jeffrey is on leave until March 7. Scott Sobeich appointed as interim Administrator. There was discussion with lawyers regarding suits that had been filed by Friends of F. Miller Spring. There was discussion of the wake boat study- these boats are very Erosive. Study was done by Saint Anthony Falls Lab. Dorothy Pederson is part of The Human Resources committee and will be helping to find a new, permanent District Administrator. Eleanor did some very popular activities at Lake Ann for Kids, involving snow shoes- very popular! There was discussion about a cost Share project with Bard Engineering at Purgatory Creek- Purgatory Park. Manager Koch asked about the Riley Creek Restoration Strategy for Riley Creek.

Jill Crafton discussed learning that the Wake Boat research project that was conducted by the St. Anthony Falls Lab (SAFL) did not provide the deliverables expected. When the MN Assoc of Watershed Districts (MAWD) discussed the resolution that RPBCWD submitted regarding the damage from Wake Boats to shorelines, the resolution passed, but it was decided not to take action on it until the SAFL research results were completed. Our District contributed \$10,000 to this research, and the deliverables were understood to include information on the waves created, the impact to the shoreline and the depth impact for lakes. The latter is especially important where alum treatments have been applied at a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars and force from the waves can disrupt the outcomes to contain Phosphorus in the lake bottom.

Response on CAC recommendation to the Board- none

- B. New Advisory Topics from the Board?- none

**III. Program and Project Updates – 6:25 - 7:25**

*Please review the board packet prior to the meeting and come prepared to share your thoughts and questions, and to raise motions or consensus items.*

- A. Background Presentation on Advisory Topics from Board of Managers** - already done
- B. Advisory Topics Recommendations for Board of Managers** - Marilyn's report - questions? BOM have to take action - wait for their report. Springs - important to do spring surveys as they are walked. Note springs - are there some that aren't visible from creek bed? Should Green Corps members be involved - yes, if possible. Josh Maxwell comments that springs far from the creek would be missed. We can walk about one-half creek per year - Mid-Bluff this year. Seeps noted down to the river are very hard to do because there are too many. Question - Dorothy asked about the possibility of looking at all significant areas that should be saved. What underdeveloped areas are there? Should we discuss trying to get help? Scott Sobeich noted that yes, there is a document on the website - wetlands program. Wetlands areas for preservation and renovation. How should it be addressed? Need? Heidi - things having an index of phases to be preserved is important. Ideal for Green Corps review of old documents. Is it sufficient or not should be discussed. Cities make decisions on what to preserve, not watershed districts. We need to educate ourselves and educate others. Developers can look at specific areas also. So, helpful for them to address issues. Make a motion for BOM to make a plan to assess ecologically sensitive areas - how to protect them? Beneficial for BOM to revise old 2005 study.

CAC Motion: Discussion was held concerning how the CAC could obtain information about areas in the WD that should be protected from development and the Watershed District's past reviews and studies which may reference these areas, an example of which is the [2005 Purgatory Creek UAA](#), which has been uploaded on the website. Suggestions that the WD could revise and update the older studies as needed, possibly in partnership with the BOM, the relevant cities, and other entities such as Green Corps. These Studies/reports could include such areas such as ecosystems that are rare, important for protection of surface water or aquifers, important for the protection of habitat and habitat corridors or areas that contain threatened plant or animal species with the goal of public education, including developers, homeowners, and individuals.

Upon motion by Marilyn, seconded by Heidi, the following passed unanimously by voice vote:

The CAC suggests to the BOM that a study be implemented to list all ecologically valuable and/or fragile areas in the watershed for protection and preservation from development for the education of the general public, including developers, homeowners, and individuals.

**C. District Project Updates**

1. New website update - Liz. Discussion on the website finished. More comments accepted. Comments continue to be submitted. Summer 2022, final website version. Marilyn comments - "Learn" is important; should be its own library - make very prominent how to be a good water steward. Eleanor will note.

**D. Learning Presentation**

1. Water Resources Report - Josh Maxwell (45 min). Started at 6:50. Presentation titled 2021 Water Resources Report, Summary of Report Given at BOM Meeting, February 2, 2022.  
Josh gave a very interesting report filled with data showing the beneficial effects of treatments for water quality and against aquatic invasive species. Complete report will be on the website. Important message is CDD - Clean, Drain, Dry between lakes - no water from lake to lake.

**IV. CAC Process and Function 7:25-8:00**

- A. Officer Position Description Review**
  1. Consider BOM/CAC joint meeting proposal - to follow up (BOM Work Session)
- B. 2022 Calendars**
  1. Review District calendar Board meeting & CAC dates - Liz. Done.
  2. Volunteers for Board meetings - Sign up on the liaison spreadsheet in the Calendar folder. March BOM is Heidi; April BOM is Jeff. June and July volunteers are still needed.

**V. Future Meetings: planning and topics**

- A. 10 Year Plan Update: Overview/requirements.** Wait for the Administrator to update.
- B. CAC-BOM Communication Process.** Ball in BOM's court - up to them now.
- C. Role of CAC member at BOM Meetings**
- D. Part 2: Rules application (Terry)**
- E. CAC/community education approach**

**VI. Upcoming Events and Adjournment**

1. Next Board of Managers – Mar 2, 2022; 7:00 PM Regular meeting/virtual. *CAC member to attend:* Marilyn Torkelson to attend
2. Next CAC Meeting – Mar 21, 2022; 6:00 PM – virtual Zoom meeting. *Manager to attend:* Jill Crafton