

Minutes: Monday March 21, 2017

RPBCWD Citizen's Advisory Committee Monthly Meeting

Location: RPBCWD new offices: 18681 Lake Street, Chanhassen

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

Others

Jill Crafton	RPBCWD Board of Managers	
Michelle Jordan	District Liaison	

Summary of key actions/motions for the Board of Managers:

1. Rain Barrel Decorating Contest

The Board asked the CAC to consider a rain barrel decorating contest, in conjunction with the sale at the office in early May. Due to set up and types of barrels being sold, the CAC decided instead to do a photo contest of installed barrels, using social media for and our Facebook page.

2. Lake Susan Park Pond project

The Board requested CAC input (thank you!) on which option we would recommend for the Lake Susan Park Pond project. A motion was made (McCotter/Bulger) and passed unanimously that 4a and 4b be pursued and that 4b is recommended if Emerson is willing to be a financial partner and pay the difference between the costs of reuse on ballfields only vs. ballfields and the Emerson property.

3. Bluff Creek

A motion was made (Ziegler/Palmquist) and carried to support this amendment.

Meeting:

4. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:32 by chair Dorothy Pedersen.

Attendance noted above.

5. Approval of the Agenda: Approved agenda with no modifications: Ziegler/Bulger, passed unanimously.

6. Approval of meeting minutes, February 2017: Motion to approve minutes as amended made by Boettcher/Ziegler and passed unanimously.

Discussion: Dennis felt there was not enough detail in the notes on teacher feedback (Old Business, 10-year Plan). He agreed to summarize his points and submit these additional notes to the recorder, for inclusion in the final, amended minutes. In the future, the recorder will capture main points, and if members think something is missing, they can suggest additions, as amendments.

7. 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 staff for a future report or direct that the matter be scheduled on a future agenda.

8. March Board of Managers meeting, if any questions (Sharon): None expressed.

9. Education: The RPBCWD Cost share process (Michelle/Inform):

Liaison Jordan provided an overview of the cost sharing program, its purpose and operation. Staff is now doing site visits for technical assistance earlier in the process, so potential applicants get estimates of costs sooner. Also, they use a site visit screening form to roughly score the inquiries before full designs are done, to use resources appropriately. Michelle explained that when the CAC sees them, she has already made her assessment.

McCotter made a motion (Ziegler seconded) recommending we maintain the process as designed and do the consent agenda for approval this year, pulling out the applications that we feel need to be discussed individually. This addressed a concern Yockers had to ensure the process was understood, and it was not a done deal before comments are considered so we could provide feedback like suggestions for different items to plant, etc. A subcommittee might be established to deal with cost share applications. The motion passed unanimously. Point of information: The Minnehaha CAC, only does cost sharing and uses a point system to determine who is funded. Currently prioritizing is not a problem for us but may be in the future, as we encourage more applications.

10. Old Business

a. Civility Clause: Vote on proposed wording (Dorothy)

Every member will act with courtesy, civility, and respect in all interactions as a member of the Citizen's Advisory Council, maintaining an open mind, and participating in open communication; members should refrain from abusive conduct, personal charges or verbal attacks upon the character or motives of other members, staff, or any member of the public.

Motion to approve clause, as written above by McCotter, seconded by Palmquist, and passed unanimously.

- b. **Modification of general public interest motion:** “staff” to “CAC Officers” (Dorothy)
A new motion was made (McCotter/Ziegler) to modify the general public interest wording which was approved last month, to change the words “staff” to “CAC Officers”. The motion carried, unanimously.

Discussion: We want to encourage the public to attend CAC meetings and give them an opportunity to speak at the beginning of the meeting. If comments or a letter, etc. are submitted from non-CAC members, our group will see them as part of our minutes. However, if non-members attend, they should not be allowed to comment throughout the meeting, or be disruptive. The Chairperson will control the discussion, and we may or may not choose to take action, or have the authority to do so. The officers could choose to add the topic to the agenda for the next meeting, or report to the board from our meeting.

Paul suggested we add a sentence to indicate the CAC meetings are open for the public to attend. He will draft wording and distribute it for consideration next month.

- c. **Review of 2017 CAC Calendar (Dorothy/All)**

Dorothy and several Board Members attended a Climate Change workshop recently and she believes we should start talking about climate change. Specifically, she suggested bringing in a guest speaker (Fred Rusmalski from BARR Engineering) to talk about what climate change is doing in our district. Dennis asked if we should bring this to the board, as it would be of interest to them, too. It was suggested that this might be something that the CAC takes on, and that we start with a speaker, invite the board to attend, and then decide what our involvement will be.

Dennis asked that we give ourselves enough time to work with the 10-year plan so things like education and outreach are properly funded. Water conservation, as an example, is an aspect of education and outreach that we can work through and bring our thoughts and concerns back to the Board. We need to be ready with our thoughts and recommendations. We will get the first three chapters in May, and the final three chapters in July. We will build this into our calendar, and spend much of the June meeting talking about the 10-year plan. We were reminded that the

calendar is a guideline, not static, and that we should all speak up on what we feel needs attention.

Ziegler stated that there is a gap in information on wetlands; we don't have the information on them that we have on lakes and creeks. This is a good topic for a guest speaker and to determine what information we should be gathering, etc., — potentially in combination with holding ponds. It is unclear how much information is available about wetlands, if the work cities are doing is being shared, and how they relate to the Watershed. The Board recognizes this information gap.

- d. **Subcommittees:** general discussion/decision to form/volunteers (Dorothy/All)
We agreed we should create subcommittees to do deeper dives into topics, and more efficiently use our time together. In addition, they will allow us to focus on topics we are more interested in and get more done. Furthermore, we agreed that each would be a standing item on the agenda and if there is no update that would be fine. If there is something to discuss, those materials must be distributed in advance with other meeting materials (Friday before CAC meeting).

Discussion: Many of the topics may overlap, and so defining scope will be important. McCotter suggested that the participants in each subcommittee should write their own statement of purpose, and determine their scope, based on who and how many are involved, and how much time they have, and where they can provide the most value.

We generated a list of possible subgroups. After the meeting, Bulger will group and summarize them, and provide an update for the next meeting. Each of us should think about where we want to be involved. His list is attached as Appendix A.

- e. **Water Conservation initiative (Dorothy/All)**
This topic was a carry-over from last month's agenda. Please see the letter, distributed earlier, that Bulger drafted. The request was for a district to draft a position to have holistic policies between cities regarding water conservation and specifically watering, with the District taking a leadership position, perhaps supplementing with education.

Pedersen investigated existing studies and found no conclusive information that odd/even watering has a big impact, and shared that probes too don't work that well, concluding that technology has not caught up with needs.

McCotter loves the idea of endorsing something, but expressed desire for some measurable, concrete benefits, e.g. something that could show that an average resident would save this amount if they took these actions.

There was general agreement that it makes no sense to use so much water for watering grass, and the desire to figure out a way to address this. Yockers pointed out a lot of developments are still putting in lawns, and it's not just relevant to individuals, but also school districts, large property owners. He suggested we put money towards encouraging low-mow nor no-mow grass. Deuring reminded us that grass is very resilient and can go for long periods with little or no watering. Our challenge is to re-educate people.

We were reminded that there are experts like US Geological Services, U of M, EPA which have many technical publications, and cities in our community that already advocate and have guidelines. No need to reinvent the wheel.

- f. **Update on 10-year plan process** (Michelle)(INFORM)
As stated earlier, the first three chapters will be available to us in May, and the final three chapters in July.

11. New Business

- a. **Website update concept/feedback** (Michelle/All)
The original website has been tweaked and modified and it is time to create a new one, especially since it needs to work on mobile devices. The platform is not changing, and our current consultant continues to work on the details, but loading content remains the district's responsibility. Liaison Jordan led us through an exercise to provide feedback on drafts of the new website. Her handouts were designed not as final renderings, but to generate discussion about what we want and don't want as part of the new site. Jordan is summarizing our discussion and will submit her recap, separately.

- b. **Board request: Rain barrel contest** (Michelle/All)
The Board asked the CAC to consider a rain barrel decorating contest, in conjunction with the sale at the office in early May. Administrator Bleser was involved in a contest previously, but the circumstances were quite different in that they were repurposing unattractive (okay, ugly) barrels, so decoration made sense. Our new barrels are plastic, which won't lend themselves to decorations. In lieu of this, the CAC recommended using our Facebook site to publicize the event and ask people who buy barrels to take a picture of them/their families when the

rain barrel is installed. We will post these on Facebook and have a contest for best picture. Jordan will come up with something to offer as a prize. Flyers will be distributed at Public Library, and we will promote in our newsletter, at events, etc. Instructions on how to install them will be obtained from the Master Water Stewards and Pederson will bring some “low-mow” grass to the sale. Several CAC members volunteered to be at the office, during the distribution. Jordan asked that anything related to rain barrels that we see in the next few weeks be sent to her, for use in promotion.

c. Lake Susan Park Pond project (Michelle/INFORM)

The Board requested CAC input (thank you!) on which option we would recommend for the Lake Susan Park Pond project. CAC agreed that 4a or 4B were the best alternatives, and that the reuse of water is a tremendous benefit of this plan. It could provide a demonstration project and example of best practices.

Discussion centered around whether the Watershed should be subsidizing Emerson, by providing the watering of their property. A motion was made (McCotter/Bulger) and passed unanimously that 4a and 4b be pursued and that 4b is recommended if Emerson is willing to be a financial partner and pay the difference between the costs of reuse on ballfields only vs. ballfields and the Emerson property.

d. Bluff Creek (Michelle/INFORM):

It will go to public hearing at the next board meeting. A motion was made (Ziegler/Palmquist) and carried to support this amendment.

Upcoming Events

Board Workshop, Wednesday, April 5, 5:30 pm District Office

Regular Board Meeting, Wednesday, April 5, 7:00 pm, District Office

Animal Open House at Outdoor Center: April 08, 2017 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

First deadline for Cost Share applications: April 10

Next CAC meeting: April 17, 2017, District Office, 6:30 pm

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by McCotter at 9:49, seconded by Ziegler, and passed unanimously.

Topics for next meeting:

Subcommittees, second draft web site, change to the clause on matters of public interest, discussion of what areas each of us are interested in.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan E. Palmquist, recorder

Attachment A: Possible Subcommittees: Generated 3-20-17 by CAC

Education and Outreach

- a. Education – various subcategories
- b. Outreach – various subcategories
- c. Cost share
- d. Water stewards
- e. RPBCWS website - communication / future vision
- f. Lake Associations -
- g. Speakers bureau –
- h. Volunteerism – citizen monitoring

Vision / Planning

- a. Climate change - education
- b. Lake Matrix – prior draft, capture characteristics, historical projects
- c. Budget – tracking by project, watershed, annual forecast

Technical Topics

- a. Lake Water Quality Restoration – alum, phosphorus removal, TSS, tec.
- b. Aquatic Invasive Species – monitoring, treatment, short term response
- c. Other Invasive Species – carp, buckthorn
- d. Groundwater – water conservation, protection, RPBCWS leadership
- e. Wetlands – mapping, health, habitat benefit, floodplain management, regulations
- f. TAC – updates – interface
- g. Major reports - review and comments, feedback to Board
- h. Topic specific – Board directed - i.e. rain barrel social media