

Minutes: Monday, July 20, 2020
RPBCWD Citizen's Advisory Committee Monthly Meeting
Location: VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM OR TELEPHONE

CAC Members (By each name, put a P=Present, E=Excused, not present but with notification or A=Absent with no notification)

Jim Boettcher	P	Barry Hofer	E	Sharon McCotter	P	Marilynn Torkelson	P
Kim Behrens	P	Peter Iverson	E	Jan Neville	A	Lori Tritz	P
Michelle Frost	P	Terry Jorgenson	P	Vanessa Nordstrom	E		
Heidi Groven	P	Matt Lindon	E	Joan Palmquist	P		

Claire Bleser	RPBCWD Administrator	E
B Lauer	RPBCWD staff	P
David Ziegler	Board of Managers	A

Key MOTIONS for the Board of Managers:

Motion 1: Joan formulated the motion and Marilynn seconded it; motion approved.

The rain garden owner's manual should be finished and made available to anyone doing a project like this.

Motion 2: Joan formulated the motion and Jim seconded it; motion approved.

The CAC requests regular, work direction from the board on specific topics they would like CAC input on. (We understand many government agencies i.e. The Chanhassen Parks and Rec Commission, the DNR AIS committee, Carver County Water Management Organization and the Carver County Parks Department have their agendas set by the managing bodies with input from the CAC. That process ensures the CAC is providing input on relevant topics and that members achieve satisfaction from their contribution.)

Key CONSENSUS ITEMS: On July 27th the Board of Managers is having a special meeting to hear the first pass of the 2021 budget. The CAC would like to have the materials presented to the managers on the 27th, sent to the CAC right after that meeting, to allow time for us to review the presentation before it is formally given to us by Claire at our August 17th meeting. This would be particularly useful for new members who are new to this process.

Key DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Continued discussion on how the CAC can support the managers through action and input. CAC members want their input to be requested and valued and to feel like they are accomplishing something and not wasting time or creating work just to be deemed valuable.

I. Opening

- A. Call CAC meeting to Order:** President Lori Tritz called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.
- B. Attendance:** As noted above.
- C. Matters of general public interest:** None
- D. Changes in agenda structure.** Times were assigned to the agenda per the CAC request from our June meeting. Joan is our timekeeper.

- E. **Approval of Agenda:** Claire was unavailable due to a family emergency. In lieu of her presentation, B offered an alternative learning presentation. Joan made a motion and Marilyn seconded to approve showing the video in lieu of the learning presentation. Motion carried. No other changes to the agenda were offered. Marilyn moved and Joan seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.
- F. **Approval of June 15, 2020 CAC Meeting Minutes:** Joan moved and Marilyn seconded to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried.

II. **Learning Presentation:** During Covid, the watershed Education and Outreach team is creating short videos as a way to share information and keep people connected. B shared a video entitled, Our Gravel Bed Nursery. Unfortunately the audio did not work via Zoom so B shared the link with us to view sometime in the future on our own.

<https://youtu.be/tKsLFsOsfvQ>

III. **Board Meeting Recap and Discussion (Marilynn):**

- Request for a Riley Marsh Lake water quality study was made. Biggest impact to the lake is from downtown Chanhassen, specifically with all of its hard surfaces. Multiple options were offered with the Kracken Filter being the most cost-effective/effective. An 11-point criteria was used in the decision-making process. Next steps will be a public hearing.
- Excellent Healthy Soils presentation done by Fred. The top 12 inches of healthy soil can store up to 3 inches of water. Fred recommends the district do a district wide study on its soil health.
- At prior meetings, the CAC made two requests/recommendations. One was for a standard water stewardship reporting form that recipients can use each year (including those who have received the award in the past) and a story map that would detail where BMP's are located, building on awards from the past. Managers Ward and Koch have asked staff for their input on these requests.
- The Covid return to work action plans were approved and discussed. They are posted on the district website.
- Significant discussion on Core Trust Bank (7 & 101) request for variances. The building was built in the 90's. The 30-car parking lot has sunk down so much now it's floodplain storage. Two variances required are with storage and buffer width. One manager noted the 10-year plan has 0 tolerance for variations. The votes were close and demonstrated a diversity in perspectives. Vote was 3-2 in favor of giving the permit if they can store the excess water on site. The vote was also 3-2 to approve the permit if they can compensate for the lost floodplain storage on site. The buffer variance was approved because it will continue to meet the average required buffer width.
- B is now a permanent employee. Yippee!
- Manager Koch shared a rip rap project on the SW corner of Lotus Lake that is happening without a permit. A reminder for all of us to be the eyes and ears of the district; see something, say something.
- Several resolutions were suggested for MAWD this year:
 - o Groundwater conservation proposal – no sprinklers from 7 AM to 7 PM. (Concerns were raised by the CAC that watering after 7 could accelerate mold growth on some plants/grasses and that this proposal seems to penalize people without an automated sprinkler system.
 - o Wakeboarding
 - o Pesticide use
- Manager Crafton followed up on the Soil Health Resolution the CAC submitted in February. Claire will find a partner to work with.

IV. **Program and Project Updates**

- A. Additional specific program/project updates from June board meeting not discussed in section III - None

- B. Year of the Trees update. This was a theme for the Education and Outreach team for 2020. The Covid outbreak has delayed/cancelled some of the plans. Thus far they put together the tree nursery on site which will primarily be used for Silver Lake. The additional trees will be used for other projects throughout the district. One additional tree event is a webinar on the benefits of trees. Timing - TBD
- C. CAC questions from their review of the board packet:
 - Duck Lake Rain gardens are in. One company working on downspouts has completed their work and the second company is not done yet. Questions on the status of the Duck Lake rain garden owner's manual were again posed to staff. The CAC would like to see the manual be made available to anyone with a rain garden. B will check on the status with Claire. Consensus item stated earlier on in these minutes.
 - B will get with Terry for an update on the wetlands project

V. Staff Engagement with CAC

Staff actively keeps CAC in mind when doing their project planning and discussion. Currently no action plans for us this month. There was general discussion on how to engage Master Water Stewards especially the smaller percent that are not Staff, CAC, or managers. Marilyn asked about the review of the Plant recommendations formerly completed by BARR which Marilyn hopes will include some of the benefits of native plants since they are required in shoreline and habitat restoration. Her feeling is if people know the benefits they are more likely to replace more turfgrass. The project has been paused but will be starting again. Staff is determining whether they can do this in house, send to BARR to do or possibly other solutions that might involve specific CAC sub-committees.

VI. CAC Business

- A. **CAC yearly volunteer event** –in person on hold due to Covid19. The volunteer event also has a teambuilding/social aspect. We decided it would be helpful to learn more about each other, talents, interests, etc. Those that are interested in participating will provide their address and B will put together a district map with our locations. (The form for your address and consent to put it on the map is in the CAC Google Drive. Please enter your info ASAP.) We also agreed to spend the first 10 minutes of the meeting doing roll call at which time members will answer, what water resource in our watershed do we love. Kim will facilitate. An additional role call idea by Joan, for future meetings, is to do 2 truths and a lie. We may need to do that exercise over the course of a couple of meetings to allow us the appropriate time to answer and dialogue.
- B. **Other topics** - None
- C. **Shared Nuggets** – Sharon sent a separate email prior to the meeting with the lake finder access/address provided to her by Josh. Great tool to find the location of a specific lake. Everyone is encouraged to share nuggets as they find them either at the meeting or prior in a separate email if that is appropriate.
- D. **What advice or input would the managers like from the CAC** – Significant discussion on how the CAC can serve more at the pleasure of the board. We struggle on how to add value. Members want to be more active, more involved. While Covid has imposed new limitations on all of us, this request is not a new one. Created a motion (in earlier section) to request managers provide specific work direction to the CAC.
- E. **Topics and suggestions for the next meeting** – Discussion topic with Staff about how the CAC can provide more meaningful input to the managers. We need manager direction on what areas/topics they want input on. We need specifics to be actionable and timely. We often end up “observing” the process or giving input after decisions are made. Some suggested it's possibly a timing issue of when we get and give information although we have examined that in the past. Jim shared his experience with other committees and how they accomplish work at each of their meetings. Sharon shared that other watershed CAC's don't meet as frequently and when they do, she believes the agenda is very purposeful and set by managers and/or staff with input from staff and CAC. Sharon to follow-up with 9 mile and Minnehaha CAC's to confirm. Bottom line, if the CAC's primary function is to advise the managers and

take direction from the managers, we need more specificity to do our job and feel a sense of pride and accomplishment in our membership. We need the BOM's help for the CAC to be useful!

VII. Subcommittee Reports:

- A. Education and Outreach/Speaker's Bureau:** Wild Ones Prairie Edge chapter is working with the city of Eden Prairie to present Landscaping for Water Sustainability August 5th and Rethinking Lawns: Landscaping for Climate Mitigation with Native Plants on August 19th
- B. Lakes and Streams:** None
- C. Landscaping for Water:** We're waiting for feedback on the Raingarden Maintenance manual and the revisions for the Plant Recommendations which will hopefully include the benefits of native plants.
- D. Youth Engagement in CAC:** None

VIII. Upcoming Events

1. **Native Prairie Webinar July 23rd hosted by the Scott County Soil and Water Conservation District** 6:30-8:00; register at scottswsd.org or call 952-492-5448 to register
2. **RPBCWD Board of Managers meeting** August 5, 2020 at 7pm Virtual Zoom meeting - Sharon to attend as CAC representative.
3. **RPBCWD CAC meeting** August 17, 2020 at 6:00 pm, Virtual Zoom meeting
4. Wild Ones partnership presentations through the City of Eden Prairie (for links go to Eden Prairie city FB page or website or Wild Ones Prairie Edge FB page)
 - a. Landscaping for Water Quality-August 5, 6:30pm (Lori)
 - b. Rethinking Lawns: Landscaping for Climate Mitigation with Native Plants -August 19, 6:30pm (Marilynn)
5. **On-going habitat restoration project** adjacent to 9 Mile watershed district building-contact Sharon with questions. Meeting Wednesday mornings indefinitely. Multiyear project to remove invasive plants and restore native plants.
6. B to check on funds for attending the Salt Seminar August 4 and 5

IX. Adjourn CAC meeting: Joan moved & Sharon seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.