

**DRAFT Regular Meeting Minutes –October 16, 2023**  
**RPBCWD Citizens Advisory Committee Monthly Meeting**  
**Location: RPBCWD office**

**ATTENDANCE**

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

**CAC Members**

Andrew Aller	P
Arne Bjork	E
Bonnie Nelson	P
Dave Paulson	P

Jeff Weiss	P
Jim Boettcher	E
Louise Ludford	E

Marilynn Torkelson	P
Michelle Frost	E
Savanna Larson	E
Sharon McCotter	P
Terry Jorgenson	P

**Others**

Liz Forbes	RPBCWD Staff	P
Terry Jeffery	RPBCWD Staff	P

Manager Jill Crafton	BOM	P

**CAC MOTIONS for the Board of Managers: None**

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

1. Bonnie and Jeff expressed interest in assisting WD staff with reviewing regulations of cities within the district to identify and summarize existing regulations that impact the health of the WD. Administrator Jeffries will provide more specifics about the regulation review to Bonnie and Jeff. This effort could inform future WD rule changes and identify regulations that conflict with the WD best recommendations to preserve ecological health.

**I. Opening – 5 minutes**

- A.** Call CAC Meeting to Order: Andrew called meeting to order at 6:20pm The delay was to wait for a quorum.
- B.** Attendance: *As noted above*
- C.** Matters of public interest: none
- D.** Approval of the Agenda: adopted w/o objection
- E.** Designate timekeeper: Andrew
- F.** Approval of previous CAC meeting minutes: adopted with a name correction

**II. Learning Presentation** - Administrator Terry Jeffrey presented an update about development of the Ecosystem Health Action Plan (EHAP). Some points of discussion:

- Can we align RPBCWD and city wetland health criteria? Or at least, if a city has multiple watershed organizations, then the city should require the developer to use the most restrictive requirements.

- Parking requirements have not been updated since the 1950s formula, resulting in excess impermeable service area.
- Education of the city councils and decision makers is key.
- Need to transition from *encouraging* low impact development to *requiring* low impact development.
- How do we protect vulnerable areas indefinitely, not just during construction?
- Build UP instead of out which reduces impermeable rooftop square footage. Get city building height restrictions changed to allow for taller buildings.
- City Operations and Maintenance (O&M) plan: The watershed could help pay for maintaining areas in city-owned property that have replaced turfgrass or impermeable surface with native plantings.
- In the January/February timeframe, the Watershed District will be looking for CAC input on EHAP findings.
- Bonnie and Jeff expressed interest in assisting WD staff with reviewing regulations of cities within the district to identify and summarize existing regulations that impact the health of the WD. Administrator Jeffries will provide more specifics about the regulation review to Bonnie and Jeff. This effort could inform future WD rule changes and identify regulations that conflict with the WD best recommendations to preserve ecological health. Possible CAC subcommittee to be formed in the future. This might include tree preservation, especially on steep slopes near creek and lake shores.
- Before buying homes on a lake, creekshore or steep slopes, homeowners should be helped to evaluate the question “Does this lot suit your needs?” For example, if you want a pool, is this site suitable? If you want a lakeview, what are the rules and advisability regarding cutting down trees in the buffer or on a slope?

### III. **Board Meeting Recap and Discussion** Report by Andrew

- A. Highlights from most recent BOM meeting: Goal is to close on the Frederick Miller Spring property by January 31st. Christine Mauer Hennepin County to help develop a restoration plan. MN Land Trust is helping with the funding. Hackamore Brewery Stewardship Grant was approved.
- B. New Advisory Topics from the Board: none
- C. CAC members:

### IV. **Program and Project Updates – 20 minutes**

- A. General (Liz): Project & program updates nothing further to report
- B. E&O updates (Liz)
  - i. Creek Week ([rpbcwd.org/creekweek](http://rpbcwd.org/creekweek)) events wrapup. Cycle the Creek great weather, attendance and food.
  - ii. Passport Adventure continues through October
  - iii. CAC members vote for photo contest entries.

### V. **CAC Process and Function 15 minutes**

- A. Committee/project interest/ideas
- B. Update from CAC Friends Subcommittee: Sharon will update Liz on events, mostly buckthorn removal, in or near the watershed.
- C. Marilyn and Tom are leading two buckthorn Removal Events at Riley Creek Conservation Area at Cedarcrest Drive entrance (next to [17131 Cedarcrest Drive](#)) Only hand tools allowed. Some available for use. 10-noon Wed Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> and Sat Oct 28 from 1 – 3 pm.

**VI. Running List for guest speakers for Future Meetings – 5 minutes**

- A. TBD: Dave Hansen or Jack Distel, City of Bloomington – Natural Areas Restoration
- B. TBD: Importance of native plants
- C. TBD: Climate change & watershed impacts
- D. TBD: 10 Year Plan Update: Overview/requirements
- E. TBD CAC/community education approach

**VII. Upcoming Events and Adjournment (5 min)**

- A. CAC Meeting – November 20 6pm here at the WD
- B. TAC meeting – After January 1st.
- C. View District calendar at [rpbcwd.com/calendar](http://rpbcwd.com/calendar)
- D. BOM Regular Meetings (1st Wednesdays @ 7 pm): November 1 Marilyn to attend
- E. BOM Workshops (3rd Thursdays @ 7 pm): October 19
- F. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm by general consent