

FINAL Regular Meeting Minutes – March 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	Heidi Groven	P	Sharon McCotter	E	Mike Sorensen	P
Rodey Batiza	P	Michelle Frost	E	Marilynn Torkelson	P		
Jim Boettcher	P	Peter Iverson	E	Jeff Weiss	P		
Sam Griffin	E	Terry Jorgenson	P	Jessica Willey	A		

Others

Liz Forbes	RPBCWD Staff	P	Jill Crafton	RPBCWD Manager	P
Eleanor Mahon	RPBCWD Staff	E	Dorothy Pedersen	RPBCWD Manager	P
Dr. Anne Marie Journey	Presenter	P			

CAC MOTIONS for the Board of Managers:

1. CAC recommends to the BOM to develop an educational program for citizens and community to help understand and implement soil health principles and best management practices (BMP). The five soil health principles are: 1) cover, 2) minimal disturbance, 3) plant diversity, 4) maintain living roots, and 5) include herbivores (livestock, wildlife) where possible.

Key CAC discussion items for the Board of Managers:

1. None

I. Opening – 6:00 – 6:15

A. Call CAC Meeting to Order – President Aller called meeting to order at 6:03 pm

B. Attendance: As noted above

C. Staff/manager introductions as needed – none needed

D. Matters of general public interest- none

E. Approval of the Agenda- Jeff moved and Jim seconded, carried unanimously by voice vote.

F. Designate timekeeper-Liz, with President Aller as alternate.

G. Approval of previous CAC meeting minutes- Jim moved, Rodey seconded, carried unanimously by voice vote.

II. Board Meeting Recap and Discussion (Marilynn)- 6:08

A. Highlights: Marilynn noted that the BOM meeting minutes should be posted in a timely manner- minutes for several passed meetings have still not been posted apparently (Note from Liz: Typically only Regular Meeting minutes approved by the BOM are posted on website; minutes from Jan 2022 are most recent available; Feb minutes pending). Marilynn presented to the BOM the CAC motion from last meeting regarding environmentally delicate areas such as Miller Spring. The BOM agreed to put the motion on the agenda for a future meeting. New evidence was presented for the failure of saturated soil horizons near creeks.

A memo was presented showing three instances of work on shorelines without proper permits. Two were in Chanhassen, involving demo and rebuilding of a home. Another in Eden Prairie involving rip rap with no permit. As “eyes & ears” of RPBCWD, CAC can help report non-permitted projects if there was a way to see if a permit was pulled. Would it be possible for the CAC to check on whether permits are available when this sort of work is in progress? Resolution 22-022 was approved, involving sprinklers for a groundwater conservation grant for the City of Chanhassen.

New District Administrator: Mark Casey leading search for permanent District Admin and spoke March 2 BOM meeting. Final candidate for District Administrator will be presented at an open meeting of the BOM on May 26. Open meeting to make selection, then closed meeting for interviews and questions. Also, CAC will be asked for input. Candidates to submit short video presentations which could be viewed by CAC.

Dr. Ray Newman from the University of Minnesota has been studying aquatic invasive species, both plants and animals, in Lake Riley, Staring Lake, and Lake Susan. A presentation of his results was on the BOM agenda. Although this seems to duplicate WD activities, such as those of Josh Maxwell, Josh feels that these studies are valuable, and Josh is supportive of these efforts. Dr. Newman has prepared a 2021 report which was presented March 5. Manager Koch proposed a motion that Riley Creek be looked at to study erosion that is going on. The motion passed. Marilynn noted that the minutes of the meeting will eventually be posted, with links to all the documents mentioned.

B. Response on CAC recommendation to the Board: None

C. New Advisory Topics from the Board: None

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

A. Background Presentation on Advisory Topics from Board of Managers - None

B. Advisory Topics Recommendations for Board of Managers- done last time

C. District Project Updates

1. Annual Report- The District's 2021 Annual Report will be presented to the BOM at their April meeting. The report is due to BWSR at the end of April. The report is almost complete and is about 70 pages long. It is unusually complete and includes numerous very informative images and photos.
2. It was also noted that Josh intends to hire new interns to learn about and do field work this summer.

D. Learning Presentation – 6:30 pm

1. Dr. Ann Marie Journey gave a presentation entitled "The Earth (soil, dirt) Beneath our Feet". The presentation was recorded and available on the RPBCWD YouTube channel: https://youtu.be/8aUQn0_NK3I. Presentation was extremely interesting and was very well- received. The presentation was followed by about 30 minutes of questions from CAC members.

IV. CAC Process and Function

- A.** Propose action item for BOM to schedule joint BOM-CAC meeting (work session) to include discussion of BOM-CAC communication process. CAC should follow up with Terry to see if we have additional action items for BOM.
- There was also discussion about the CAC's role in making more information regarding soil health available to the community and individuals. Marilyn suggested that CAC should make the information presented by Dr. Journey available more widely. President Aller strongly concurred and proposed this sort of outreach as a major goal of his Presidency. It was noted that perhaps only ~5% of the population of the watershed district was aware of the existence of the Watershed District, its activities, and concerns about water quality.

V. Future Meetings: planning and topics

- A.** 10 Year Plan Update: Overview/requirements. Wait for the Administrator to update.
- B.** Part 2: Rules application (Terry)
- C.** CAC/community education approach- There was considerable discussion regarding an outreach program to make information on soil health more readily available to everyone. Marilyn made a motion that was seconded by Heidi: Motion: CAC recommends to the BOM to develop an educational program for citizens and community to help understand and implement soil health principles and best management practices (BMP). The five soil health principles are: 1) cover, 2) minimal disturbance, 3) plant diversity, 4) maintain living roots, and 5) include herbivores (livestock, wildlife) where possible. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

There was, in addition, a suggestion for a way to get started on this educational program, as a learning presentation for the next meeting. It was proposed that as a start, the CAC could summarize past community educational activities. What worked? What didn't? Why? This should be coordinated with WD staff. Let's look at all past reports and summaries of activities, water festivals, etc. What has previously been tried? The information on soil health should be tied to the grants program (individual education) and also to future outreach and community education activities. In particular, what could be the role of an annual water festival that celebrated water quality and soil health together? Relate to five principles of soil health. People should be able to apply what they learn to their own yard (each household could improve one square yard of their yard). All should be tied to grants program and outreach activities. What new, exciting, events, high-profile activities could be done?

VI. Upcoming Events and Adjournment

1. Next Board of Managers – April 6, 2022; 7:00 PM Regular meeting/virtual. CAC member **Jeff Weiss** to attend.
2. Next CAC Meeting – Apr 18, 2022; 6:00 PM – virtual Zoom meeting. President Aller will be away, Jim will Chair meeting. *Manager to attend: TBD*
3. 8:41 motion to adjourn- passed unanimously.