

**DRAFT AGENDA**  
Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) Meeting  
**6:00-8:00 pm, Monday, July 15, 2024, RPBCWD office**

ADVISE \* ACT \* LEARN \* LEAD

**AGENDA**

**I. Opening (5 min)**

- A. Call CAC Meeting to Order
- B. Attendance – **Manager Duevel** to attend on behalf of the BOM
- C. Matters of general public interest

Welcome to the RPBCWD 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 CAC will not take official action on items discussed at this time but may refer the matter to CAC Officers for a future report or direct that the matter be scheduled on a further agenda. Members of the public are welcome to attend the CAC meeting to observe and keep informed of committee activities. The CAC request after the “public interest” comment period is completed, any feedback be held and provided in writing to the CAC chairperson for future consideration.

- D. Approval of the agenda
- E. Designate timekeeper
- F. Approval of previous CAC meeting minutes

**II. Learning Presentation – Andy Forbes, USFWS – Minnesota bird ecology (45 min)**

**III. Board Meeting Recap and Discussion (10 min) – Report by Marilynn**

- A. Highlights from most recent BOM meeting; recording on [YouTube channel](#)
- B. Response on CAC recommendations to Board at their latest meeting
- C. New Advisory Topics from the Board (*if any*)
- D. CAC members: [Please sign up to attend a Board meeting](#) [Sep-Dec is OPEN]

**What to expect:** Attend entire BOM meeting. Give highlights from most recent CAC meeting (~3 minutes); usually [item 7 on the meeting agenda](#). Answer questions from managers about CAC activities (staff also available to assist).

**IV. Program and Project Updates (20 min)**

- A. General (Liz)
- B. E&O updates (Eleanor)

**V. CAC Process and Function (15 min)**

*Please review [latest available board packet](#) prior to meeting. Come prepared to share your thoughts & questions, and to raise motions or consensus items.*

- A. Discussion items [SEE ATTACHMENT]
  - i. Google Drive and motions spreadsheet: Updates to spreadsheet with added tabs; need for CAC member to manage; Drive file maintenance
  - ii. Need for process to identify key discussion items
  - iii. Continue water conservation discussion
- B. Community projects/events of note
- C. Committee/project interest/ideas (leadership needed)

**VI. Running list of PENDING priority motions/key discussion item to share with BOM**

Date brought forward	Motion from CAC to BOM; Key Discussion Items	Action type requested	Status	Notes
9/1/21	Recommend collaboration with other Metro watershed districts on rulemaking efforts.	Direction by BOM; Staff time	Ongoing via EHAP and 10-year plan update.	
11/1/2022	Recommend revisiting definition of steep slopes due to impacts from climate change.	Direction by BOM; Staff time		

**VII. Running List for Potential Future Presentations (5 min) – Suggestions? Contacts?**

- 9/16/2024: Terry Jeffery/Administrator Update
- 11/19/2024: Habitat restoration in Eden Prairie – Karli Wittner, City of EP Forestry & Natural Resources Supervisor
- Importance of native plants; resilient landscaping
- Climate change & watershed impacts

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

- [CAC Meeting](#) – August 19
- [BOM Regular Meetings](#) (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays @ 7 pm): August 7
- [BOM Workshops](#) (quarterly @ 7 pm): July 19

**TENTATIVE** – Upcoming BOM Work Session Topics (anyone may attend)

Date	Topic #1	Topic #2	Topic #3
July 19 2024	Draft budget	MAWD resolutions	

View District calendar at [rpbcwd.org/calendar](http://rpbcwd.org/calendar)

## Proposed Agenda Items – JULY CAC

1. Key Discussion Items – Bonnie Nelson. Discuss a process to identify KEY DISCUSSION ITEMS in the Minutes, and a method to create the Key Discussion Items. Not fair to expect the Minutes Taker to do this.
2. Continued topics on Water Conservation – Marilyn Torkelson
  - a. **Water consumption scoring:** Just like the **Score Your Shore**, we could have homeowners rated as to their water consumption month by month. How does it compare to water consumption in the area? If the number of people per household is available we could compare households of a similar size. No one wants an F, and it may serve as a wake up call.
  - b. Here is the **excellent article** from Outdoor America, We're Running Out of Clean Water: consumption, Contamination, Costs:  
<https://www.iwla.org/publications/outdoor-america/issue/outdoor-america-2024-issue-2>
  - c. According to the article, "One household can leak as much as 10,000 gallons per year, and **10 percent of households have leaks of 90 gallons per day**. Typically, the water is lost through problems that are easy to fix, like dripping faucets."

During our CAC meetings 5/20 and 6/17, we discussed:

- d. **Water Conservation Audits.** Implementing or partnering with cities to support a Water Conservation Audit. Similar to a energy audits such as this one provided at a discount by the City of Eden Prairie to its residents, the watershed can work with cities to offer water conservation audits:

[https://www.edenprairie.org/Home/Components/News/News/7291/28?utm\\_medium=push\\_notification&utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_campaign=rss\\_VWO+Engage&notification\\_source=pushcrew\\_rss&fbclid=IwAR2TngETB4PENKr2HpqgVFvpV9Y4T9RcAmrR54EieHsqOrLgohoWHKRJVMU&npag=16&arch=1](https://www.edenprairie.org/Home/Components/News/News/7291/28?utm_medium=push_notification&utm_source=rss&utm_campaign=rss_VWO+Engage&notification_source=pushcrew_rss&fbclid=IwAR2TngETB4PENKr2HpqgVFvpV9Y4T9RcAmrR54EieHsqOrLgohoWHKRJVMU&npag=16&arch=1) ("Home Energy Audit

Save money on energy bills by scheduling a [Home Energy Squad](#) visit. The first 200 homeowners who sign up beginning April 1 receive a \$50 discount. During the visit, **trusted energy consultants install energy-saving materials, perform diagnostic tests and help residents develop a customized plan for saving energy.** Visits normally cost \$100 and are valued at more than \$600. [Find out more about how you can save on energy costs with a Home Energy Audit.](#))"

- i. **Residential Water Conservation Audits could include:**
  - Fix leaky faucets and check toilets for leaks.
  - Install low flow valves on faucets and showerheads.
  - Check for leaks in irrigation systems if in use. Check that they are not watering impermeable surfaces such as sidewalks, driveways and streets. Install Smart Watering sensors.

- Not discussed but also possible is to check for leaks outside in hose faucets and couplings
- Educate that low flow toilets are much more effective now than when first introduced. (I researched adding a brick to toilet tank to conserve water. Brick is not recommended because they shed particulates. A Glass jar filled with water is better but might affect function). In lower income areas toilet replacements could be offered at a greatly subsidized cost.
- Not discussed but a possibility: Water consumption scoring: Just like the **Score Your Shore**, we could have homeowners rated as to their water consumption month by month. How does it compare to water consumption in the area? If the number of people per household is available we could compare households of a similar size. As Andrew says, no one wants an F, and it may serve as a wake up call.

ii. **Business Water Audits and/or Training for maintenance departments that manage plumbing systems, irrigation etc...**

Similar to smart deicing training, we could certify businesses that have gone through water conservation audits and/or training.

- e. **Plant native landscapes to replace turf:** In May we discussed how an established native planting does not need supplemental watering (not discussed- in extreme drought it might be recommended to help provide nectar for pollinators better to have bees that pollinate 30-40 percent of our food survive than turfgrass.)

3. **“The Commons” concept** by Dave Paulson. My idea is that many if not most citizens have only a vague notion of why the laws and regulations for preserving water quality are appropriate, both morally and legally. Therefore, they are less inclined to accept those legal and moral authorities when their personal behavior is impacted. The same holds when considering the basis of these rules from a political or “gut reaction” level. So, teaching them the simple concept of “the commons”, in law and everyday life, would be useful to advance the cause of protecting our common resource. As one example: The legitimacy of RPBCWD.

- a. I offer draft wording, and some back-up downloads, as follows:

*Our air and water basically are owned by everyone, or as economists and regulators say, they are part of “the commons”. There are other things held to be owned in common, but our air and water are the most precious. We all know that pollution can degrade their quality, with effects ranging from mild to severe. This is why it is an accepted norm in civilized society that the group can prevent, with laws regulations and norms of society, harmful pollution of the commons. Exactly how this is best accomplished is always up for debate, but not fact that it is important to protect our shared essential resources.*

*Watershed districts were developed to help further this cause for our water resources, and runoff management ultimately helps protect nearly every water resource we have.*

*REFERENCES (I forgot to copy the URLs)*

A **common resource** or "commons" is any resource, such as water or land, that provides users with tangible benefits but which nobody has an exclusive claim. The tragedy of the commons is an economic problem where the individual consumes or despoils a resource at the expense of society.

- b. Preventing commons problems involves strategies to manage shared resources sustainably. Here are some approaches:
- i. **Regulation and Governance:** Establish rules, regulations, and institutions to oversee resource use. Examples include fishing quotas, water management boards, and protected areas.
  - ii. **Property Rights:** Assign property rights to individuals or communities. This encourages responsible stewardship. For instance, tradable fishing permits allocate rights to specific fishermen.
  - iii. **Cooperation and Communication:** Encourage collaboration among users. Collective decision-making and communication help prevent overuse. Community-based management models work well.
  - iv. **Monitoring and Enforcement:** Regularly monitor resource conditions and enforce rules. Satellite technology, patrols, and community surveillance can deter violations.
  - v. **Incentives and Penalties:** Reward sustainable practices (e.g., subsidies for eco-friendly farming) and penalize overuse (fines for illegal logging).
  - vi. **Education and Awareness:** Educate users about the importance of commons and sustainable practices. Awareness campaigns foster responsible behavior.

Remember, successful commons management requires a balance between individual interests and collective well-being. 🌱 🤝

- c. Commons refer to shared resources that provide benefits to a group of people. **Here are some examples:**
- i. **Forests:** Forests are traditional commons where people share access to timber, wildlife, and other natural resources.
  - ii. **Fisheries:** Fishermen rely on shared fishing grounds, which can become overexploited if not managed sustainably. Before the 1960s, the Grand Banks fishery off the coast of Newfoundland was abundant with codfish because the fishery supported all the cod fishing they could do with existing fishing technology while reproducing itself each year through the natural spawning cycle. However, advancements in fishing technology made it so fisherfolk could catch massive amounts of codfish unsupportable with natural replenishment. With no framework of property rights or institutional common regulation, the entire industry collapsed by 1990.5
  - iii. **Groundwater Resources:** Aquifers and wells are common water sources for communities.
  - iv. **Knowledge Commons:** This includes open-source software, scientific research, and educational materials.

- v. **Digital Commons:** Internet bandwidth, open-access content, and collaborative platforms fall into this category.
- vi. **Urban Commons:** Public parks, streets, and community gardens are shared spaces.
- vii. **Health Commons:** Vaccination programs, public health infrastructure, and disease prevention efforts.
- viii. **Cultural Commons:** Museums, libraries, and historical sites accessible to the public.

**d. Regulatory Solutions**

- i. Top-down government regulation or direct control of a common-pool resource can reduce over-consumption, and government investment in the conservation and renewal of the resource can help prevent its depletion. Government regulation can limit how many cattle may graze on government lands or issue fish catch quotas.
- ii. Assigning private property rights over resources to individuals can convert a common-pool resource into a [private good](#). Technologically it may mean developing a way to identify, measure, and mark units or parcels of the common pool resource into private holdings, such as branding cattle.
- iii. William Forster Lloyd argued for this around the time of the English Parliament's Enclosure Acts, which stripped traditional common property arrangements to grazing lands and fields and divided the land into private holdings.<sup>2</sup>

**e. Collective Solutions**

- i. Economists led by Nobelist [Elinor Ostrom](#) touted customary arrangements among rural villagers and aristocratic lords, including common access to most grazing and farmlands and managing their use and conservation.<sup>3</sup> Practices such as crop rotation, seasonal grazing, and enforceable sanctions against overuse and abuse of the resource meant collective action arrangements readily overcame the tragedy of the commons.
- ii. *Elinor Ostrom was the first woman, and one of just two women, to win the Nobel prize in economics.<sup>3</sup>*
- iii. [Collective action is used](#) where technical or natural physical challenges prevent the division of a common-pool resource into small private parcels by instead relying on measures to address the good's rivalry in consumption by regulating consumption.