

Draft Regular Meeting Minutes –December 18, 2023
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
Arne Bjork	E
Bonnie Nelson	P
Dave Paulson	E

Jeff Weiss	P
Jim Boettcher	P
Louise Ludford	E

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

Others

Liz Forbes	<i>RPBCWD Staff</i>	P
Eleanor Mahon	<i>RPBCWD Staff</i>	P

Manager Tom Duevel	<i>BOM</i>	P

CAC MOTIONS for the Board of Managers:

1. None

Key CAC discussion items for the Board of Managers:

1. The CAC is overwhelmingly in support of the development of a template for lake management plans consistent with the discussion of Item 5 at the December 13th board meeting. Bonnie to follow up with Manager Pederson, and review meeting the recording to inform the CAC so that we can develop a resolution that would help this effort move forward .

I. Opening – 5 minutes

- A.** Call CAC Meeting to Order: Andrew called meeting to order at 6:00pm
- B.** Attendance: *As noted above*
- C.** Director Jeffery: One of the BOM has filed a lawsuit in Hennepin County Court against both the Watershed District and Administrator Jeffries alleging that the WD is exceeding its legal authority by attempting to make an unlawful land purchase (the Spring Road purchase). Court hearing at 10am Dec. 21.
- D.** Matters of the public: none
- E.** Approval of the Agenda: adopted with one change (Sharon requests no regularly scheduled report on Friends of RPBCWD).
- F.** Designate timekeeper: Andrew
- G.** Approval of previous CAC meeting minutes: adopted without objection

II. Learning Presentation - None

III. Board Meeting Recap and Discussion - Report by Terry Jorgenson

- A.** Highlights from the most recent BOM meeting; Duck Lake Association representatives spoke to the BOM. The WD had requested Barr develop a bid for creation of a Lake Management Plan for Duck Lake. Joe Bischoff of Barr Engineering presented their vision for a holistic lake management plan, the cost is estimated to be \$156,000. The association is concerned that the cost will preclude the WD addressing their concerns in the near future. Low lake levels are a primary concern and result in high levels of winter kill. Fish management has been halted as a result. MN Watersheds has hired a new lobbyist firm. They will start in February 2024. There was a proposal for a groundwater workshop for the BOM. Bluff Creek Restoration and Habitat Enhancement Plan is moving forward. Managers are moving to hybrid meetings starting January 10th indefinitely.
- B.** New Advisory Topics from the Board: none
- C.** CAC members: Sharon has signed up to attend the January 10th BOM meeting. CAC representatives can attend by Zoom or in person.

IV. Program and Project Updates

A. General (Liz): Project & program updates –

- Manager Koch is suing the district. Court date is set for December 21.
- Annual Report Draft is in progress. Waiting for data on some of the lakes. Chloride monitoring data has been added this year. Also, Josh has assigned a grade for each of the lakes and creeks A-F based on data and Met councils scoring guidelines.
- Andrew Hartman has been hired as a water resource technician. As the new GreenCorps member, Rachel is taking over Alaina's work on soil.
- It may be possible to develop templates for portions of lake management plans. It might reduce the time and cost of the plans (since data is collected by the WD and cities anyway). The CAC is overwhelmingly in support of the development of a template for lake management plans consistent with the discussion at the December 13 board meeting Item 5 at 23 minutes into the YouTube video of the BOM meeting. Bonnie to follow up with Manager Pederson.

B. E&O updates: Eleanor recruiting for student CAC member. 6-12th grade STEM teachers will be invited to attend a new program called STEM on Tap. To be held at local breweries, the teachers will be able to learn from/connect with professionals and network with other educators. Lori Haak (Eden Prairie Water Resources Manager) will present on how to get your students more hands on with water in January. Sharon suggests homeschooling teachers be invited. There will be a cost of \$20 to attend to help pay for reservation of the brewery. Chanhassen February Fest is on the 3rd- volunteers will be needed. WD will be there if the weather cooperates.

V. CAC Process and Function

- A. CAC meetings in January & February moved to 4th Monday due to holidays.
- B. Committee/project interest/ideas (leadership needed) Bird, plant, soil health, insect surveys/monitoring before and after.
- C. Motions by CAC members: None

VI. Running List for guest speakers for Future Meetings

- Mat Nicklay (RPBCWD) – overview of permitting and inspections program [Jan. 22nd]
- Zach Dickhausen (RPBCWD) – overview of wetland program [Feb. 26th]
- Josh Maxwell (RPBCWD) – water quality update [March 18th]
- Rachel Whittington (RPBCWD GreenCorps) – soil study update [spring/summer]
- City of Bloomington natural areas restoration
- Importance of native plants; resilient landscaping
- Climate change & watershed impacts
- 10 Year Plan Update: Overview/requirements
- CAC/community education approach (idea: soil health study)

VII. Upcoming Events and Adjournment (5 min)

- A. CAC Meeting – January 22, 2024, at 6:00 PM
- B. TAC meeting – as needed
- C. View District calendar at rpbcd.com/calendar
- D. BOM Regular Meetings (1st Wednesdays @ 7 pm): January 10th
- E. BOM Workshops (3rd Thursdays @ 7 pm) Workshop schedule TBD
- F. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm by general consent. Marilyn will be absent for the Feb 22nd meeting and would like to resign as secretary. Andrew Peterson of Eden Prairie has applied and will be reviewed at the January 10th BOM meeting.