

DRAFT Minutes: Monday, April 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	P	Sharon McCotter	P	Marilynn Torkelson	P
Kim Behrens	P	Peter Iverson	E	Jan Neville	P	Lori Tritz	P
Michelle Frost	P	Terry Jorgenson	P	Vanessa Nordstrom	A		
Heidi Groven	A	Matt Lindon	P	Joan Palmquist	P		

Claire Bleser	RPBCWD Administrator	P
B Lauer	RPBCWD staff	P
President Ward	Board of Managers	P

Key MOTIONS for the Board of Managers: The CAC passed a motion to encourage the watershed staff to develop and post educational videos, including the upcoming Education Series Webinars, if feasible. The videos would be available for viewing by CAC members and the general public. Marilynn made the motion, Jan seconded. The motion carried.

Key CONSENSUS ITEMS: None

Key discussion items:

1. The CAC discussed ways they can continue to assist the RPBCWD during the COVID19 crisis.

I. Opening

- Call CAC meeting to Order:** President Lori Tritz called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.
- Attendance:** As noted above.
- Matters of general public interest:** None
- Approval of Agenda:** Sharon moved and Jim seconded to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
- Approval of March 16, 2020 CAC Meeting Minutes:** Jan moved and Sharon seconded to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried.

II. Learning Presentation: Healthy Soil (Lori) Lori gave a thorough presentation on the causes of soil degradation and the resulting water quality problems. She also outlined how restoring healthy soil reduces water pollution and erosion while increasing water retention, benefiting soil microbial life and sequestering carbon. Claire commented that the education series planned for this summer, includes one on soil health that will be presented by a U of MN faculty member and another presentation on economy of ecosystem services. Claire also noted that the district now has less than 2% agriculture lands, the remainder being urban or suburban environment. Claire also noted that there are now requirements to reduce compaction from heavy equipment after a construction project.

III. Program and Project Updates:

- A. **High level recap from April board of managers meeting (Sharon)**
- a) There were two public hearings: The 1st public hearing was on the Middle Riley Creek Restoration Project. The watershed is working with BearPath to slow down the creek and remenader it. Initially two managers voted against the proposal due to the extent of impact. After clarification by Claire, when voting occurred later in the meeting, the vote passed 4-1. The 2nd public hearing was on the Pioneer Trail Restoration. The neighboring residents have indicated that the hydrology has changed. Terry will have face to face meeting post lockdown with residents to learn more. The less expensive option for restoration was chosen by the BOM. It will have less habitat diversity since there will be no deep excavation to form pond.
 - b) The Lower Riley Creek Restoration project is 90% complete.
 - c) Scott Sobiech recommended a completion date of not later than October 15th for the rain gardens on Duck Lake project. (Claire, did you offer this info? I don't recall it.) Scott presented several options for stabilizing and improving the roadway connecting two parts of Duck Lake. Post lockdown, there will be a public gathering to get more feedback due to the significant cost and offerings available.
- B. **Covid19 update:** Board defined essential services. Claire will be going in to check on mail and offices. Riley Creek survey work to be completed to stay with timeline. They are ordering masks for staff. E&O- B, Maya and Amy are developing virtual presentations.
- C. **Specific program/project updates from April Board meeting (Claire)**
- a) **Duck Lake Subwatershed Projects (Claire)** Reengaging with residents for update. Twelve planters were ordered (10 by contracts plus a couple of extra in case there is further demand) to arrive and will be installed end of May or early June. Rain Gardens also to be installed in late May or early June. One rain garden site will also have pervious paver driveway installed since they have exceptional drainage at their property.
 - b) **St. Hubert's (Claire)** Claire to meet with them next week to reengage regarding their habitat restoration, tree trenches, capture and reuse projects expected to be implemented next year. Currently in design phase.
 - c) **Alum for Lake Riley (Claire)** Second dose to happen in May to prevent excess phosphorus from being released from sediment bottom. Invasive curly-leaf pondweed treatment will happen concurrently. Iron filing treatments can be applied in winter and are also used to treat excess phosphorus in the sediment.
 - d) **Middle Riley Restoration (Claire)** While Bearpath Golf Course is a private company, it is within a residential community that includes 300 residences + 190 members that live outside Bearpath. They also host charity events bringing the total community involvement to about 5,000 residents and visitors per year. Project is in design phase currently. Implementation will be the fall and winter of this year.
 - e) **Wetlands at Pioneer Trail (Claire)** See update in item A.
 - f) **Staring Lake Outdoor Center/Capture and Reuse (Claire)** On hold due to the Covid19 slowdown. Waiting for update from city of Eden Prairie.
 - g) **Education Series (Claire)** Dates have not been set yet. They will be held as Webinar. Lori asked about a You Tube channel to post the webinars and Matt supported the option to post various training videos. After discussion, the CAC passed a motion to encourage the watershed staff to develop and post educational videos, including the upcoming Education Series Webinars, if feasible. The videos would be available for viewing by CAC members and the general public. Marilyn made the motion, Jan seconded. The motion carried.
 - h) **Preserve Update** Jan asked for an update on the Preserve Home Owners Association project in Eden Prairie. There have been 3 applications submitted for Cost Share

Stewardship grants from the Preserve. Wetland site visit to occur this growing season. Green Roof had been proposed but is not an option because of concern over structural integrity of the roof, so a capture and reuse project is being planned instead. They've also requested an education series. WD waiting for in person events. Claire reported that they thought they had an invasive curly-leaf pondweed problem on Neil Lake but Claire identified the plant as native coontail which can be aggressive and detrimental to boat launches but is not technically an invasive. The DNR requires a permit to apply herbicide and then only for very specific sites such as around boat launch.

- D. **Groundwater Conservation Program (B)** 5 grant agreements sent out to 5 cities to run rebate programs. First meeting with education collaborative took place-taking a different direction because of COVID19. Gallons of water saved will be tracked. It is the hope that smart controllers and meters will prevent automatic every other day watering whether it needs or not. Cities are looking to revise ordinances because of new smart technologies. Matt wonders if we're tracking How many people get the sensor but didn't implement and if so, why? B said they would look into follow up.
- E. **Watershed Stewardship Grants (B)** 30 site visit requests have been received. Applications are being received. 6 projects to be reviewed at the next meeting of the Water Stewardship Grant Committee meeting, held the last Wednesday of each month. Marilynn and Heidi have been working with B to finalize criteria for the scoring sheets to standardize the evaluation process.
- F. **Silver Lake Green Fair** interactions will take place virtually. The watershed will be giving away 150 tree seedlings including river birch, red-osier dogwood, staghorn sumac, and swamp white oak. The seedlings will be put around the WD office in containers filled with 18000 pounds of pea gravel and given to Silver Lake subwatershed residents to promote the benefits of trees for water. Minnesota Green Corp member is working on this.

IV. Topics and Discussion

- A. How can the CAC continue providing value during the pandemic? Maya's handout on 5 ways to protect water quality while protecting yourself is on FB. Invasive plant removal is another way to help restore ecosystem function. Ways to identify garlic mustard were discussed. Claire asked that CAC members be the district's eyes and ears while out and about. Report anything interesting, unusual or problematic. Send photos with name and location. B made a folder in Google Drive where we can drop in photos. Example Claire would like Selfie of person pulling garlic mustard. Claire also asked that we walk the Purgatory Park berm in Eden Prairie and watch for carp congregating at the breach. Let Claire know immediately as they have developed a very successful method of shock and removal to control carp populations.
- B. Are there subcommittees that are actively involved with something now that could use additional hands/eyes for those initiatives? i.e. proof reading the rain garden maintenance book for Duck Lake?

V. Subcommittee Reports:

A. Education and Outreach:

1. Lori's presentation to the Rotary Club on Top 5 Actions for Water Sustainability went well. She will follow up with an email
2. Two more presentations are scheduled at the Preserve:
 - Landscaping for Water Quality June 11
 - Top 5 Actions for Water Sustainability on July 9.

As always, please refer opportunities for the Speaker's Bureau presentations throughout the community.

B. Lakes and Streams: Matt posted the subcommittee charter for this year which include goals to:

1. Grow citizen involvement and education by updating water quality information sharing.
2. Improve information availability by drafting an interactive water information webpage.

3. Work on improving sharing information sharing

Matt gave an update regarding chloride and presented a chart of increased chloride over time in groundwater and lakes.

- C. **Stormwater:** waiting for City of Chanhassen to reopen for in person meeting with Jill Sinclair and new water resources person
- D. **Landscaping for Water:** A draft of Rain Garden Owner's manual has been uploaded to the CAC Google Drive for review. WD staff will be making further additions. Matt asked about mapping WD projects. WD has mapped rain gardens and Capital Improvement Projects in GoogleMaps. They are in the process of relocating these to our GIS database.
- E. **Youth Engagement in CAC:** Look for update next month

VI. Upcoming Events

- A. RPBCWD Board of Managers meeting May 6, 2020 at 7pm 18681 Lake Drive East -Barry to attend as CAC representative.
- B. RPBCWD CAC meeting May 18, 2020 at 6:00 pm, 18681 Lake Drive East
- C. North American Lake Management Symposium November 16-20 in Minneapolis. There will be diverse selection of training workshops.

VIII. Adjourn CAC meeting: Sharon moved & Matt seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.