

Draft Regular Meeting Minutes – June 19, 2024 RPBCWD Citizen Advisory Committee Monthly Meeting  
Location: RPBCWD Office

#### ATTENDANCE

Present: Andrew Aller, Bonnie Nelson, Dave Paulson, Jim Boettcher, Marilyn Torkelson, Sharon McCotter, Manage Ziegler, Eleanor, Liz, Rachel (presentation only)

Excused: Andrew Peterson, Michelle Frost, Terry Jorgenson

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

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

1. The CAC is interested in **supporting water conservation efforts** both through the Watershed District and in partnership with cities or other groups. Ideas discussed include supporting a Residential Water Conservation Audit similar to an energy audit, education on why water conservation is part of the common good.
2. The CAC discussed that we should make use of the **Key Discussion Items** section at the top of our meeting minutes, to highlight areas of discussion and provide direction for the CAC representative presentation at the Manager's Meetings. We plan to discuss a process for this at our next meeting.

#### I. Opening (5 min)

A. Meeting called to order by Andrew Aller at 6:00 p.m.

B. Manager David Ziegler attended on behalf of the BOM

C. Matters of general public interest. No one from general public was present

D. Approval of the agenda.

1. Andrew Aller moved to amend agenda to provide the correct date for the CAC meeting of June 17, 2024. Sharon McCotter seconded.

2. After group discussion, Andrew Aller moved to amend agenda to add section V.D.i "continue water conservation discussion"

3. Amended agenda approved by unanimous consent.

E. Designate timekeeper – Andrew Aller agreed to be timekeeper.

F. Previous CAC meeting minutes approved by unanimous consent.

#### **II. Learning Presentation** – Rachel Whittington – GreenCorps/RPBCWD project.

- Provided an overview of GreenCorps, which is an AmeriCorps program coordinated by the MPCA.
- Discussed her workplan
  - o Data collection for the Soil Health Study,
  - o Database Administration – improved existing soils database and reporting functions.

Recorded

### III. Board Meeting Recap and Discussion – Report by Andrew Aller

- A. Highlights from most recent BOM meeting; recording on YouTube channel
  - 1. Many items were pulled out of the consent agenda to make points that were previously made.
  - 2. Outdoor courts approved
  - 3. Variance for Enclave at Manor Road from Rule J rate
  - 4. City of Chanhassen Civic Campus and Regional Stormwater Reuse variance from Rule J for low-floor elevation and stormwater management implementation timing.
  - 5. No change to insurance provider, price went down
  - 6. BOM went into closed session to discuss court case “Larry Koch vs. RPBCWD”, at which point Andrew left meeting
- B. No CAC recommendations to Board at their last meeting
- C. No New Advisory Topics from the Board
- D. CAC members: Please sign up to attend a Board meeting [July-Dec is OPEN]

### IV. Program and Project Updates

- A. General (Liz)
  - 1. Stewardship grant program has stopped accepting applications because the funding is used up by the applications already received.
  - 2. Changes to next year’s grant program are being considered. Will bring to CAC, BOM in July
    - a. want to physically align with shoreland health program
    - b. next year considering offering specific incentives to improve shoreline health to individual property owner, and beachlots.
    - c. Finalizing Score the Shore website page, need to do this first
  - 3. Manager appointments – Carver County will be appointing June 18, Hennepin County next week
  - 4. Did not get another Green Corps member for next round.
  - 5. Administrator Jeffrey will provide updates to the CAC in September, including the EHAP.
- B. E&O updates (Eleanor)
  - 1. I table at the Minnetonka Farmer’s Market on Tuesday every other week from 2-6. (Ridgedale Commons). Helpers appreciated.
  - 2. Will have a table at Chanhassen 4<sup>th</sup> of July from 4-6 p.m. Don’t need a helper, but stop by.
  - 3. Creek Week was fun. We’ll keep it in the spring. Allowed us to coordinate with garlic mustard pulls and the rainbarrel workshop.

## V. CAC Process and Function

### D. Opportunity for discussion items/motions from CAC members

#### i. Continue water conservation discussion

- Dave Paulson will write up a discussion item for the next agenda about educating folks why restrictions on common-use resources, like water, is important. For example, explaining the basis for the city's water restrictions.

- Manager Ziegler suggested that folks could consider using lake water for shoreland buffer irrigation or more. 4 folks do this at Duck Lake. Discussion followed

- How would this be impacted by water levels? Or during drought conditions
- Are there any laws about water appropriation?
- Minnetonka registers wells
- DNR water appropriation levels are high

- Marilyn Torkelson opened discussion on water conservation opportunities.

1. Implementing or partnering with cities to support a Water Conservation Audit. Similar to 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=IwAR2TngETB4PENKr2HpggVFvpV9Y4T9RcAmrR54EieHsqOrLgohoWHKRJVMU&npage=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=IwAR2TngETB4PENKr2HpggVFvpV9Y4T9RcAmrR54EieHsqOrLgohoWHKRJVMU&npage=16&arch=1))

- *2"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.](#))"*

**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.

3. **Business Water Audits and/or Training** for maintenance departments that manage plumbing systems, irrigation etc. Similar to Smart Salt training, we could certify businesses that have gone through water conservation audits and/or training.

4. **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.)
- The group discussed that we should have **Key Discussion Items** identified at the top of our meeting minutes for presentation at the Manager's Meetings. Bonnie Nelson will submit an agenda item for next meeting to discuss a process to identify KEY DISCUSSION ITEMS in the Minutes.

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

No change

D. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm by quorum.

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From May minutes: Marilyn to review list of motions to revisit the springs/seeps motion back to CAC for discussion and review. Reminder in case you want to add to next Agenda.