



Capitol Region Watershed District

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September 11, 2024

Community Advisory
Committee Meeting
APPROVED

Community Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, August 14, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

Barbara Hall
Richard Weil
Mary Lilly
Steve Duerre
Gwen Willems
Bob Simonet

Others Present:

Mary Texer, CRWD Board
Bob Fossum, CRWD Manager
Jim Rudolph, CRWD Staff
Rachel Funke, CRWD Staff
Khalid Saleh, Student Intern
Nate Zwonitzer, CRWD Staff
Alexandra Zerzan, MN Water Steward, CRWD
Jessica Bromelkamp, CRWD Staff
Greg Williams, Barr Engineering

CAC Members Absent:

Andrew Montain, (unexcused)
Tom Elko, (unexcused)
Mike Trojan, (excused)
Michelle Ulrich, (excused)
Mike MacDonald, (excused)
Lauren Wheeler, (excused)

I. Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Ms. Lilly opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and asked for any announcements or updates. There were none.

II. Public Comment for Issues Not on the Agenda

Ms. Lilly asked for comments that were not on the agenda. There were none.

III. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Lilly asked for comments or corrections to the agenda. There were none.

CAC Motion 24-022: *To approve the CAC August 14, 2024, Agenda.*

Hall/Simonet
Unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A) Approval of the *June 12, 2024*, CAC Meeting Minutes

CAC Motion 24-023: *Approve the June 12, 2024, CAC Meeting Minutes.*

Duerre/Willems

Unanimously approved.

V. District Initiatives for Review, Comment, and Recommendations

A) Right Track WaterCorps Program (Khalid Saleh, Student Intern)

Jessica Bromelkamp introduced one of two student interns who has been at CRWD for 9 weeks, spending two weeks in each division. Intern Khalid Saleh gave a presentation of his experience, complete with photos of the work and the highlights for him in each division. He concluded saying his career interests are now leaning to be an outdoor person, possibly engineering in the field of water management.

B) Draft 2025 Preliminary Budget and Levy for Public Comment (Fossum)

Bob Fossum presented details of the draft preliminary budget for 2025. More detailed numbers were in the CAC packet mailed prior to the meeting. The proposed tax levy is a 4.99% increase over last year. The levy appears on property tax statements in the “Other” category. There will be a public hearing at the Board of Managers meeting on Aug 21, 2024. Final budget and levy approval is December 30, 2024.

C) CRWD Climate Work

1. 2024 Climate/hydrological Update

Jim Rudolph, Watershed Data Specialist, provided an overview of rainfall in MN from April-July 2024. The CRWD region has experienced a 65% increase in rainy days and as of July 30, no part of the state is experiencing dry or drought conditions. CRWD has had 12” of rain. The increased precipitation has led to increased flooding and erosion and high turbidity/lots of sediment in our water resources. We can expect more of these impacts with the weather extremes brought on by climate change. Our BMPs have performed well this year but our equipment will need more maintenance.

2. Climate Resiliency Framework Development

Greg Williams, Barr Engineering, has been working with CRWD on developing a climate resiliency plan. He has looked at existing plans in other watershed districts and the state of Minnesota, where lots of attention is being given to this. Rachel Funke then presented CRWD’s plan focus and plan process: Stormwater infrastructure, water resources, and other natural resources. She led a discussion around four emerging themes and asked CAC members to consider this question: What roles could the CAC play in implementing climate resiliency actions? The four themes are:

- Address today’s impacts
- Design for the future
- Increase understanding
- Provide support, foster partnerships, and align goals

VI. CAC Initiatives

A) CAC Reinvigoration Project Update (Wheeler and Lilly)

Ms. Lilly said the reinvigoration project is in progress, but she could not provide a detailed plan description. More will be reported at the September CAC meeting.

VIII. CAC Observer Update

Bob Simonet attended the Aug 7th BOM meeting. Much of the budget was discussed. He highlighted the importance of topography and legal boundaries in defining watershed boundaries, which can lead to border disputes. Mr. Simonet commended Nate Zwonitzer in his negotiation with Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD). 68 parcels in CRWD have been transferred to RCWD, and 190 parcels were transferred to CRWD, resulting in a net gain of 122 parcels to CRWD.

IX. Discussion

A) New & Old Issues

Steve Duerre thanked CRWD for a great tour in July.

B) CAC Observer for August 21, 2024, Board of Managers Meeting

No volunteers.

C) CAC Observer for September 4, 2024. Board of Managers Meeting.

Bob Simonet will attend.

D) The CAC minutes recorder will be Steve Duerre on Sept 11, 2024

X. Adjourn

CAC Motion 24-024: *To adjourn the August 14, 2024, CAC Meeting.*

Hall/Duerre

Unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Lilly