



Capitol Region Watershed District

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October 9, 2024
Community Advisory Committee
Meeting
APPROVED

Community Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, September 11, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

Barb Hall
Richard Weil
Mary Lilly
Steve Duerre
Bob Simonet
Michelle Ulrich
Lauren Wheeler

Others Present:

Hawona Sullivan Janzen, CRWD Board
Lindsay Schwantes, CRWD Staff
Jessica Bromelkamp, CRWD Staff
Anna Eleria, CRWD Staff

CAC Members Absent:

Andrew Montain (unexcused)
Tom Elko (unexcused)
Mike McDonald (excused)
Gwen Willems (excused)

I. Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

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

III. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Wheeler asked for comments or corrections to the agenda. The Adopt-a-Drain Report will be postponed to a future meeting, and the Watershed Artist report will move ahead with the CAC Reinvigoration Plan on the agenda.

CAC Motion 24-025: *To approve the CAC September 11, 2024, Agenda.*

Simonet/Duerre
Unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A) Approval of the *August 14, 2024, CAC Meeting Minutes*

CAC Motion 24-026: *Approve the August 14, 2024, CAC Meeting Minutes.*

Lilly/Ulrich
Unanimously approved.

V. District Initiatives for Review, Comment, and Recommendations

A) Partner Grant Program Review Update (Schwantes)

Ms. Schwantes reported on the Partner Grant Program Review. CRWD Partner Grants support programs and projects led by community organizations that share our mission to protect, manage, and improve water resources in the District. CRWD has been funding Partner Grants since 2007. It was determined that a review of the program would be beneficial, and at the Board Meeting on April 17, 2024, a review was approved. Staff developed surveys for internal and external audiences. Survey feedback was reviewed, and possible program changes were developed and presented at the September 4, 2024, Board Meeting. Recommended changes include applicants must be non-profits, projects can span two years, applicants can receive up to \$40,000, applicants would be eligible for all or no funding, new and returning applicants would qualify for the same grant amounts, and there would be 50% upfront payment and quarterly invoicing. The review results will return to the Board in early October for final recommendations.

For informational purposes only. No motion was requested.

VI. Project and Program Updates

A) Adopt a Drain Report (Xiong)

This item was postponed.

B) Watershed Artist in Residence Request for Qualifications (Bromelkamp)

Ms. Bromelkamp announced the Watershed Artist in Residence Request for Qualifications. The Artist in Residence position helps CRWD's projects and programs by providing an artistic perspective. Professor Christine Baeumler with the University of Minnesota was the previous Artist in Residence. An open house for the Artist in Residence Request for Qualifications will be held on September 26, 2024 at the CRWD offices, and more information is available on the CRWD website. The deadline for submittals is October 18, 2024.

For informational purposes only. No motion was requested.

VII. CAC Initiatives

A) CAC Reinvigoration Project Update (Wheeler and Lilly)

Ms. Lilly and Ms. Wheeler led a discussion on reinvigorating the Community Advisory Committee (CAC). They divided the Committee into two brainstorming groups to discuss participation expectations and ways to increase membership and attendance at CAC meetings. A lot of the discussion centered around CAC meetings and improving attendance. Some of the format changes discussed included moving the time of the meeting up earlier in the evening or late afternoon to accommodate people with jobs, children, or night driving issues and to make it easier on staff who have already been there all day, making the meetings shorter and possibly holding hybrid meetings with in-person and remote options. There was also some discussion on how and where to recruit new members, but time ran short. To be continued.

For informational purposes only. No motion was requested.

VIII. CAC Observer Update

Mr. Simonet attended the Board Meeting on September 4, 2024, but we ran out of time for his report.

IX. Discussion

A) New & Old Issues

There were none.

- B) CAC Observer for September 18, 2024, Board of Managers Meeting
No one signed up to attend. Go if you can.
- C) CAC Observer for October 2, 2024. Board of Managers Meeting.
- D) The CAC minutes recorder for Oct 9, 2024, will be Ms. Ulrich.

X. Adjourn

CAC Motion 24-027: *To adjourn the September 11, 2024, CAC Meeting.*

Hall/Lilly
Unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.
Respectfully submitted, Steve Duerre