

Minutes: Monday, February 25, 2019
RPBCWD Citizen's Advisory Committee Monthly Meeting
Location: RPBCWD offices: 18681 Lake Street, Chanhassen

CAC Members

Jim Boettcher	P	Peter Iverson	E	Sharon McCotter	P	Samir Penkar	E
Scott Bryan	P	Daryl Kirt	P	Jan Neville	E	Lori Tritz	P
Anne Deuring	P	Denny Kopfmann	E	Joan Palmquist	P	Ali Tuttle	E
Barry Hofer	P	Matt Lindon	P	Marilynn Torkelson	P		

Michelle Jordan	RPBCWD staff	P
Jill Crafton	RPBCWD Board Member	P
Claire Bleser	RPBCWD Administrator	P

Summary of key actions/motions for the Board of Managers:

1. **Motion:** None

I. Opening

- A. Call CAC meeting to Order:** President Lori Tritz called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.
- B. Attendance:** As noted above.
- C. Matters of general public interest:** None
- D. Approval of Agenda:** Scott moved and Jim seconded to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
- E. Approval of January 28, 2019 CAC Meeting Minutes:** The meeting calendar should be corrected to say Monday rather than Thursday. Sharon moved and Joan seconded that the minutes be approved as corrected. Motion carried.

II. CAC Goals and Direction

- A. Role of CAC:** Lori streamlined the role of the CAC into three words:
 1. Advise: Be the ears and eyes of the District out in the community; actively attend CAC and Board of Managers meetings, form relationships with other groups, cities, lake associations, neighborhoods, etc. An example: On April 13 various City Conservation Commissions are hosting a conference. This is a good opportunity to form connections. Lori will provide more details.
 2. Act: There are many ways to act – active advising, projects, subcommittees, event volunteering – whatever suits your interests and abilities.
 3. Learn: Attend speaker events, share your expertise, buddy-up with another CAC member, tours.
- B. Subcommittee formation:** Lori distributed a matrix of subcommittees. Subcommittees are a way for CAC members to focus on areas of interest and get hands dirty if they wish. She is proposing 4 engagement subcommittees:
 1. Education/presentation/partnerships (Joan, Lori, Ali, Barry)
 2. Lakes and streams (Matt, Denny, Scott, Jim)
 3. Stormwater management (Daryl, Sharon, Anne, Matt?)
 4. Landscaping for water quality and conservation (Lori, Marilyn, Joan, Jan)
 and two education subcommittees:
 1. Groundwater (Daryl, Matt)
 2. Wetlands (Daryl?)

Let Lori know what subcommittee you are interested in. Joan feels there is an opportunity to engage more with lake associations and thinks we should have somebody that spearheads that. Scott felt there could be good synergy with work the staff is doing but wanted to avoid overlap. Michelle concurred that the staff does not need technical help but does like to hear new ideas from the CAC. We also want to be leaders in our community; possibly creating project templates and sharing with other watershed districts and cities.

Matt suggested that each subcommittee have a charter with a plan, goals and projects. One example could be to present the information we garnered from last year's wetland tour for the new members and others that couldn't be there. Subcommittees can meet ahead of the CAC meeting, or over coffee, phone or email. As team comes to fruition the goals may form. Examples of charters will be distributed to us (Sharon – storm drains; Joan – speakers bureau). Please try to meet before the next meeting. We will take time in our next meeting to develop our charters.

III. Staff Report:

- A. Staff Profile:** Claire Bleser, District Administrator, walked us through the organizational structure of the District. She also gave an overview of her responsibilities: Claire works to make sure we implement the 10 year plan projects, follow the law, works with legal, accountant, plan amendments, provide updates to communities and associations, works with state agencies (MPCA, etc), works with researchers from U of M, writes and administers cooperative agreements with city, school, private property owners (the district doesn't own land), applies for grants to fund special water quality benefitting projects like water reuse systems and wetland restoration. The District is the fiscal agent for the Hennepin County Chloride Initiative. The lower MN watershed districts in Hennepin Co. are teaming up on cooperative projects. There is a wide breadth of projects. Claire encouraged the CAC to share items of concern with her.
- B. Cost Share draft #2:** Michelle reported that the Board of Managers is in favor of moving ahead with the Cost Share revamp. Two changes since we last saw it:
1. Conservation topic was removed as a sole goal, which effectively removes irrigation sensors as an eligible project. Carver WMO is developing a targeted rain sensor data collection which Michelle will be watching carefully.
 2. Funding is allowed for incremental projects, funding only the difference between the cost of the effort to improve the water quality and the cost of a project that has no water quality value or negative value. For example, we might fund the difference between the cost of pervious paving and the cost of impervious paving. We wouldn't fund the entire cost of new pervious paving because it doesn't provide an improvement in water quality.

Michelle ran some test scoring projects. She found that projects with education components always scored high, but good water quality projects without an education component scored low. Michelle specifically asked for feedback on this issue. Should education be a necessary part of the cost share project? Yes, but maybe it could be low key, as in photos as opposed to a busload of people touring. We're trying to shift cultural norms, but our main goal is to improve water quality. Maybe the scoring could be weighted somehow to improve scores of solid water quality projects.

Joan suggested that the native/nonnative plant requirements are confusing. Marilynn wondered why Hot Lips turtle head is included on the list when we have perfectly good native turtle head that performs even better. Michelle explained that allowing non-natives in a rain garden can make the difference in an acceptable project for some people. Joan also wondered if the native plant information that she and Marilynn produced could be a resource for Cost Share program applicants? Michelle will get it on the website.

Lori asked about the deadlines and the ability to reapply with the same project. Michelle explained that if the applicant could change the project to an acceptable level they could reapply, such as bringing the cost down if it was originally considered not cost effective.

The application will likely be a form that will need to be completed in one session. It is too expensive to have an all online application with individual logins and passwords. Matt wondered if the form could be smart enough to know if it is complete? Could we upload additional documents? The company creating our permitting software is adding a component for tracking cost share projects, but it won't be ready until summer.

Michelle will still take feedback on the overall cost share program.

- C. **Website:** Michelle walked us through the website structure of all three grants types. She would like feedback once its launched.
- D. **Update on Duck Lake project:** This was originally a pollution reduction project in the 10-year plan. The original project didn't happen, so it morphed into a raingarden project. Everyone in the Duck Lake watershed received a letter asking for participation in either a rain garden, tree, rain barrel, or downspout planter. With a goal of 25% participation we currently 18% (63 individuals) response with a deadline of February 28. We have 6 individuals interested in raingardens (goal = 10 raingardens in the ground). Staff will make site visits. The hope is to implement this year or next spring at the latest. This was our first targeted neighborhood project. This is a project a subcommittee could piggy back on.

IV. Old Business

- A. February Board Meeting: Lori attended the meeting and reported that the only major topic we had not already covered in our meeting was the widening of Preserve Boulevard that would affect wetlands. The solution involved pumping water. ☹️ It was approved. The Duck Lake project and the cost share program were additional major topics discussed at the board meeting.

V. New Business

- A. Benefits of Native Plants for water quality: Marilyn gave an excellent and beautiful power point presentation on the topic.
- B. Personal Silt Sock: Anne had distributed a history of the evolution of the Personal Silt Sock by email prior to the meeting. She displayed a model Personal Silt Sock and answered questions. She added that the success of the Personal Silt Sock would rely on neighbor to neighbor conversations. If you would like to pilot a Personal Silt Sock and help work out any kinks, please email Anne with your house number (adeuring@comcast.net).
- C. Exit interviews from past members update: The final iteration of the exit interview questions was distributed before the meeting. We thought it well done and ready to go. Sharon to send to Curt K. this week for his input.

VI. Upcoming Events

- A. RPBCWD Board of Managers meeting Friday, March 1, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm, 18681 Lake Drive East
A difficult time for us. Matt might be able to attend. We will make sure are minutes get there.
- B. RPBCWD CAC meeting March 18 at 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm, 18681 Lake Drive East
 - 1. Speakers Bureau Training 5:00 pm

VII. Topics for next month

- A. Terry Jeffery will describe his staff role as District Projects Manager and Permit Coordinator
- B. Update on Cost Share Revamp
- C. Update on Duck Lake project
- D. Update on website
- E. Subcommittee charter development
- F. Wetlands Overview - Joan
- G. Adopt a Water Body - Sharon for April
- H. Excess Salt Use Response – Sharon for April
- I. Citizen Lake Monitoring - Sharon for April
- J. Vote on Bylaws

- VIII. **Adjourn CAC meeting:** Joan moved and Jim seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:30.