

Minutes: Monday, October 15, 2018
RPBCWD Citizen's Advisory Committee Monthly Meeting
Location: RPBCWD offices: 18681 Lake Street, Chanhassen

CAC Members

Jim Boettcher	P	Curt Kobilarcsik	E	Marilynn Torkelson	P
Paul Bulger	P	Matt Lindon	E	Lori Tritz	P
Anne Deuring	P	Sharon McCotter	P		
Peter Iverson	P	Joan Palmquist	P		

Others

Michelle Jordan	RPBCWD staff	P
David Zeigler	RPBCWD Board Member	P

Summary of key actions/motions for the Board of Managers: none

I. Opening

- A. Call CAC meeting to Order:** President Paul Bulger called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
- B. Attendance:** As noted above
- C. Matters of general public interest:** None
- D. Approval of Agenda:** Joan moved and Sharon seconded to approve the October 15 agenda.
- E. Approval of September 17, 2018 CAC Meeting Minutes:** Joan moved and Sharon seconded to approve the minutes of September 17 CAC meeting. Motion carried.

II. Staff Report: Michelle Jordan has been back from maternity leave for three weeks and is "getting up to speed." Maya Swope is doing very good work. Website has been launched. It is not perfect but will be tweaked as we go along. Michelle encouraged us to explore and suggest improvements, particularly the font size. We are still working on library so be patient. We are organizing an informal volunteer gathering maybe at Starring Lake outdoor center. We will move our January 2019 meeting to the 4th Monday due to the MLK holiday.

III. Old Business

A. Updates from subcommittees

- 1. Pollinator Summit:** Marilyn reported on the Pollinator Summit. Noteworthy takeaways:
 - a. Roadside testing is still finding lead and heavy metals in the soil after years of the contaminants being banned, at levels that could make a bee sick. Within 10 feet of roadway. Plants were taking in toxins, not necessarily nectar.
 - b. Pesticide can drift 1 mile. (this prompted Michelle to call up a recent study on the effect of glysohate on bee gut microbes).
 - c. When a specific host plant was reintroduced, the specific butterfly reappeared.
- 2. Speakers bureau:** Joan reported that the speakers bureau is progressing.
- 3. Storm Drains:** Sharon reported the Chanhassen fall cleanup is on for October 27. 8 people are signed up. Signs will be posted at the sites ahead of time to encourage passer-by interest.

B. Recent events

- 1. Cycle the Creek:** This event went well. 18 people rsvped and 10 showed up, some of whom were brand new to the workings of the District.
- 2. Tree Planting at Scenic Heights:** was awesome. 38 people came including scouts, students and master water stewards. There will be a spring planting opportunity at the same site. The only criticism was that the shovels broke too easily.
- 3. Eden Prairie mayor debate:** Mayoral candidates Brad Aho and Ron Case debated on business and conservation. It was well attended - standing room only. Lori Tritz reported that the debate tended more toward conservation. While Brad is pragmatic, Ron is more of a global visionary. Both candidates are good, well-meaning people. We're in good hands either way the election goes.

B. Adopt a Water/Creek/Lake update: Sharon has been investigating possible opportunities and reported we have a couple of options. Jo Collieran suggested Purgatory Creek Park which has a dog waste problem. Minnetonka held a "pick up dog waste" campaign in March 2015 in the park complete

with dog freebies and information and found it to be a very productive time of year. It would be a one time thing. We could also pick a site without City sponsorship and do it on our own. Sharon polled the group and found enough interest in both ideas. Keep your eyes open for a good spot to pick up trash. Would be good to be able to cover both on foot and by boat. Possibly Starring Lake Park or Rice Marsh Lake.

- C. **Board of Managers Meeting of October 3, 2018:** Paul attended the meeting and reported on the Duck Lake Road project: The City wants to improve the road that is built on rip rap through the middle of Duck Lake, widening it to include a boardwalk which would involve filling the a portion of the lake west of the road. The Watershed District would like water enhancing improvements, as previously identified in the UAA. Barr Engineering is going to do additional studies.
- D. **Native Plant Resolution:** The CAC's recommendation to include a statement about the use of native plants in cost share applications was tabled because the whole cost share program is being revamped.
- E. **Oak Point Opportunity Project:** The Board did not comment on the CAC's request that the Oak Point School permit be revisited as an Opportunity project.

IV. New Business

A. Cost Share Program – Restructure and update guidelines

The Board of managers voted to suspend the cost share program and asked the staff to work with the CAC and TAC to revamp it to be ready by next spring.

Michelle proposed a timeline:

- October meeting (tonight): discuss what is the community need?
- November meeting: Discern pros and cons of an inventory of how other watershed districts are administering and evaluating their cost share programs. Michelle has already requested info from other districts.
- December meeting: Prepare a rough draft for the Board's January meeting.

Using sticky notes, Michelle led a discussion beginning with the definition of cost share in 10-year plan which will guide us:

“The Cost Share Program provides funding and technical assistance for projects that protect and conserve water resources and increases public awareness of the vulnerability of these resources and solutions to improve them. The program seeks to decrease barriers to - and incentivize the implementation of - best management practices, and shift cultural norms toward making these practices common-place. The Cost Share Program supports several of the District's Goals and Strategies as listed in Table 9-5.”

Michelle asked us to respond to three questions:

1. What is the need in the community that this program addresses?
2. If this program lived up to its fullest potential, what would that look like?
3. What are the most important projects you could imagine being supported by the program?

Michelle will type up, summarize, and send the results back to us. She will also pass on other Watershed district cost share programs to us as they come in. She asked us to look at our existing program and guidelines and determine how it is or isn't serving us. We will reserve the entirety of our next meeting for only this topic.

- B. **Ground water conservation:** To date, we have not focused on ground water because it is a regional issue rather than a district issue. Should it be a cost share category or have a separate program? Barr Engineering and Claire Bleser will likely start developing an approach to this topic.

V. Upcoming Events

- A. RPBCWD Board of Managers meeting November 7 at 7:00 pm, 18681 Lake Drive East
- B. RPBCWD CAC meeting November 19 at 6:00 pm, 18681 Lake Drive East
- C. Chanhassen Leaf clean up October 27 with October 28 as rain date www.ci.chanhassen.mn.us/cleanup

- VI. **Adjourn CAC meeting:** Sharon moved and Pete seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.