

**DRAFT Minutes: Monday, June 15, 2020**  
**RPBCWD Citizen’s Advisory Committee Monthly Meeting**  
**Location: VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM OR TELEPHONE**

**CAC Members** (By each name, put a P=Present, E=Excused, not present but with notification or A=Absent with no notification)

Jim Boettcher	P	Barry Hofer	P	Sharon McCotter	P	Marilynn Torkelson	P
Kim Behrens	P	Peter Iverson	A	Jan Neville	P	Lori Tritz	P
Michelle Frost	P	Terry Jorgenson	P	Vanessa Nordstrom	A		
Heidi Groven	A	Matt Lindon	E	Joan Palmquist	P		

Claire Bleser	RPBCWD Administrator	P
B Lauer	RPBCWD staff	P
David Ziegler	Board of Managers	P

**Key MOTIONS for the Board of Managers:**

1. Sharon made a motion to support revisiting cost share/WSG recipient sites to determine effectiveness of completed projects. The motion also asks for a reporting form for the yearly progress reports (what information would the watershed like specifically) and a yearly reminder email to be sent out by RPBCWD for the progress reports. Finally Sharon suggests using former recipients to collaborate on refining the reporting process. Jan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
2. Jan made a motion to support B’s idea of creating a story map that details past cost share/WSG recipients projects, Sharon seconds the motion. Motion carried.

**Key CONSENSUS ITEMS:**

1. Sharon made a motion to designate 5 minutes per meeting so interested CAC members could share 60 second nuggets of acquired wisdom pertinent to the watershed at the monthly meetings, Joan seconded. Motion carried . (CAC should communicate their desire to share prior to the meeting to ensure time is allotted.) Additionally, it was mentioned that CAC could email their nuggets in lieu of using meeting time if that makes sense for the situation.
2. Joan made motion and Jim seconded to use a timed agenda for the next CAC meeting for the purpose of efficiency and to limit the meeting length to 2 hours or 2.5 hours if there is a learning presentation included. Joan volunteers to be the timekeeper during next month’s meeting.

**Key DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

How watersheds ensure benefits from water quality improvement projects are realized by diverse stakeholders. (Michelle) The CAC discussed the desire to ensure that improvement projects occur where lower income people live or visit within our district. New immigrants and people new to the concept of watershed LGU would not necessarily be strong advocates for identifying and asking for help to fix problems in their neighborhoods or where they go for recreation.

**I. Opening**

- A. **Call CAC meeting to Order:** President Lori Tritz called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.
- B. **Attendance:** As noted above.
- C. **Matters of general public interest:** None
- D. **Changes in agenda structure.** (Lori)
- E. **Approval of Agenda:** Added agenda item to review meeting start time given the Zoom presentation. Claire noted that the learning presentation has to be postponed. Sharon moved and Jan seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried
- F. **Approval of May 15, 2020 CAC Meeting Minutes:** Sharon moved and Joan seconded to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried.

## II. Learning Presentation: Regulations and Jurisdiction POSTPONED

## III. Board Meeting Recap and Discussion (Lori):

- A. **Shoreline erosion on Lotus Lake-Citizens seeking permit to act quickly.** Staff has been working with them since March to collect necessary information before approving permit. Lori wanted to know if controversial wake surfing has contributed to the erosion problem? Claire says No, erosion can't be definitively linked to wakeboarding. The causes for the erosion must be studied further. Another factor that might be is the absence of a proper native plant buffer. It is the DNR's job to define acceptable recreation on each lake. Lori also asked, "How effective is rip rap?" And for the new members, "What is rip rap?" Rip Rap is basically boulders on top of boulders used in areas with high impact of water due to wind or current. Often vegetation can be used to stabilize shoreline instead.
- B. **Duck Lake Road Project(Claire)** A non-binding agreement has been reached between Eden Prairie and the watershed to pay 25% of the \$4.7 million longer span bridge project cost over 5 years. Claire reviewed benefits to the watershed numerous benefits which were outlined for the Board and listed in the board meeting minutes.
- C. **Modification to Permit 2018-011 Avienda Plaza variance-** This project will fill in 60 acres of a 100-acre wetland. There was negative reaction by board members towards this wetland destruction. BOM concluded that since previous permits allowed wetland destruction for this project, it is a little late to reverse decision now. History of the project: The RPBCWD in mid 2000 ceded the implementation of the Wetland Conservation Act to cities. This project was started before 2015 when RPBCWD returned to being a regulatory authority. The Wetland Bank Program was discussed. High, Medium and Low quality wetlands would require different compensation through wetland banking. The remaining 5% agriculture within the district is being gradually converted to developed land. Pioneer Trail wetland restoration project will not be banked. Jan asked if we could refuse to renew the Avienda Plaza variance if it expires before the project is started. Claire said she'd need to discuss with Scott.

## IV. Program and Project Updates

- A. Additional specific program/project updates from June board meeting not discussed in section III (Claire): Sharon asked whether the Tree Trenches at St. Hubert's were planned for this year. They are scheduled for installation in 2021.
- B. CAC questions from their review of the board packet: Lori asked about whether the grant extension on the Pioneer Trail Wetland Project would possibly allow extra money to be budgeted for the project. Claire responded No since board has already approved the project as previously designated.

## V. Staff Engagement with CAC

- A. CAC provided Groundwater Conservation Program input last December.
- B. B mentioned she'd be seeking feedback about a handout from the Landscaping subcommittee.
- C. Jan is interested in simplifying and clarifying the Water Stewardship Grant (WSG) application process. She commented that even as a Master Water Steward and CAC member, designing a rain garden is a challenge. She wants the watershed district to consider whether they want to provide guidelines/resources for homeowners to be able to build a rain garden without having to hire a contractor or whether they always expect that a contractor will be used to install rain gardens.
- D. B mentioned that the WD will be scheduling follow-up WSG recipient site visits in the fall. They will collect applicant feedback at that time about their experience. RPBCWD has received about 50 site visit requests and 15-20 WSG applications this year so far. Sharon encouraged revisiting WSG recipients to see how restoration projects are doing. Project reports are required for 5 years after completion. Sharon asked if there was a reporting form or reminders sent out. She's not heard of anything. Claire said staff is looking at implementing a review process for past grant recipients. Sharon said she and possibly other grant recipients would be willing to help review the plan. Sharon made a motion to support revisiting cost share/WSG recipient sites to determine whether the projects are performing as anticipated and if not what can be done to fix the problem. The motion also asks for a reporting form for the yearly progress reports and a yearly reminder email to be sent out by the RPBCWD. Finally Sharon suggests using past grant recipients to collaborate on establishing a reporting process. Jan seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- E. Sharon suggests posting completed WSG recipient photos on RPBCWD Website. B mentioned WD thinking of developing a story map when time allows in the WSG off season. Sharon liked that idea even better.

## VI. CAC Business

- A. Discussed Marilyn's proposal to return meetings to 6:30pm when conducted by Zoom instead of in person. Motion did not carry. Meeting remains at 6pm. Jan made a motion to provide a maximum 2 hour meeting length. Discussion followed which resulted in a 2.5 hour length so we could continue to allow time for learning presentations.
- B. **Site visit options to replace usual in person learning opportunities.** We selected Steep Slope Vulnerability, traditional monitoring techniques, and Harmful Algae blooms.
- C. **Shared Nuggets (Sharon)** Sharon attended and highly recommends a 4 hour safe salting workshop. She shared some nuggets of information. Joan and Sharon had been going to develop short handouts (like a business card) to hand out to create over salting awareness. Sharon now realizes this is a more complicated topic than could really be addressed in a handout/card. Joan and Sharon will continue to work on the card, first by identifying the purpose of the card and second, specify the action we'd like to see happen.
- D. **CAC yearly volunteer event (Sharon)** CAC voted to YES have a volunteer event following RPBCWD's guidelines. We'll read COVID19 action plan and discuss an event at next month's meeting. All are encouraged to bring their ideas for an activity.
- E. **How watersheds ensure benefits from water quality improvement projects are realized by diverse stakeholders. (Michelle)** Claire said staff is internally having conversations on this topic. Joan suggests making sure CAC membership reflects the diversity within the district. Lori mentioned engaging people who live in apartments/condos/ areas of lots of impermeable pavements. Prioritization tool takes into account community engagement. Michelle would like to be kept this conversation alive between staff and CAC. Claire suggests we learn about our community. Claire will pull together some information that the staff has collected on who lives and visits our watershed. We believe the June 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting with Freshwater, Water Connects Us, will also be addressing this topic. Claire will check and let us know.
- F. **What are CAC members hearing from other citizens/groups?** No discussion

## VII. Subcommittee Reports:

- A. **Education and Outreach/Speaker's Bureau: The first Preserve presentation went well.**

- B. **Lakes and Streams:** no updates
- C. **Stormwater:** Sharon, committee of one, wants to disband storm drain committee. Chanhassen wants to partner again for a leaf cleanup which is scheduled for the last weekend in October. Educational door hangers will be developed in partnership with Maya. The Chanhassen Environmental Commission approached Sharon about using/creating a video and launching a large, city-wide adopt-a-drain program. Sharon has emailed Maya the request and will discuss the role the watershed would like to play in the program. More details are needed from the commission as well.
- D. **Landscaping for Water:** Met with staff and we're reexamining our goals accordingly.
- E. **Youth Engagement in CAC:** Michelle has new charter on Google Drive. Worked with Maya to develop priorities of wanting to provide opportunities for knowledge, emotional connection and leadership. Does CAC want youth member? Possibly recruit youth for large volunteer events.

#### VIII. Upcoming Events

- A. RPBCWD Board of Managers meeting July 8, 2020 at 7pm Virtual Zoom meeting -Marilynn to attend as CAC representative.
- B. RPBCWD CAC meeting July 20, 2020 at 6:00 pm, Virtual Zoom meeting
- C. Wild Ones partnership presentations through the City of Eden Prairie (for links go to Eden Prairie city FB page or website)
  - a. Landscaping for Pollinators-June 17, 6:30pm (Lori)
  - b. Landscaping for Water Quality-July 15, 6:30pm (Lori)
  - c. Landscaping for Soil Health-August 19, 6:30pm (Marilynn)
- D. On-going habitat restoration project adjacent to 9 Mile watershed district building-contact Sharon with questions. Meeting 10am-noon Wednesday indefinitely. Multi year project to remove invasive plants and restore native plants.
- E. Ecosystems Services Webinar-Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> from 7-8:30pm RPBCWD sponsored/hosted

**IX. Adjourn CAC meeting:** Sharon moved & Marilynn seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.