

Minutes: Monday, February 24, 2020
RPBCWD Citizen's Advisory Committee Monthly Meeting
Location: RPBCWD offices: 18681 Lake Street, Chanhassen

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

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

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

Key MOTIONS for the Board of Managers: None

- I. **Opening**
 - A. **Call CAC meeting to Order:** President Lori Tritz called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
 - B. **Attendance:** As noted above. Samir Penkar has resigned from the CAC.
 - C. **Matters of general public interest:** None
 - D. **Approval of Agenda:** Sharon proposed and Pete seconded. Motion carried.
 - E. **Approval of January 27, 2020 CAC Meeting Minutes** Add Soil Health Resolution and Dorothy Person's attendance. Sharon made a motion to approve the minutes with those additions. Jan seconded. Motion Carried.

- II. **Learning Presentation: Claire Salt/Chloride Initiative** Hennepin Co. Collaborative
 - Includes Hennepin Co. +11 Watershed Districts working with a budget of \$112,000
 - Purpose of initiative: Increase awareness about chloride's impact to the environment. Reduce the use of chloride
 - Target Audience: Training for private applicators and those that hire private applicators . It is noted that cities and MNDOT are already doing very well at salt reduction
 - How to reduce? One method is Brining
 - Barrier: Limited Liability did not go through in 2019. Hoping 2020 is the year. SOS Stop over Salting. Can't be part of the grant.
 - Public perception: End users expect and ask for more salt; have a higher expectation for snow and ice removal
 - Build Connections, Provide a model
 - Timeline: Phase I Research audience June 2019-Jan 2020
 - Phase II Project Implementation

Matt mentioned that financial costs extend beyond the cost of salt and application but extend to corrosive damage to cars, roadway damage etc....
Survey results collected from 107 respondents
Top 3 recommendations: 1. Protected and enclosed salt storage 2. Improved mechanical removal of snow and ice before salt application 3. Selection of appropriate substance sand vs salt
Next Steps End User Ed, incentive grant
Participants were asked "What do you wish the public understood better" They were asked to Vote for one or more of the following:
How salt works
How to walk and drive safely in winter top result at 92% behavior changes
Environmental impacts of salt
What to expect of winter maintenance

Budget Updates As of 12/31/19 they've only spent \$4,828.25

Next Steps White Paper and Phase 2
proposal for future spending:
North Hennepin County training
Hands on Training
Smart Salting Coaching & Peer Support
Pete excited by idea of Heated Sand

III. Program and Project Updates:

- A. Recap of pertinent items from the February board meeting** Claire summarized the St. Hubert's School project. The resolution to order the St. Hubert's Water Quality Project Design was approved at the February meeting of the Board.
- B. Education series (Claire)** Planned topics that will be open to the general public include: Hands on RG maintenance, soil health in urban environments and water reuse. There will also be specific MWS education events.
- C. Lifetime Fitness/tennis balls (Joan)** Joan will talk to staff on March 15 regarding temporary fencing to prevent tennis balls from ending up in Purgatory wetlands.
- D. Groundwater Conservation Program (B)** Program involves awarding grants to cities to implement rebate programs. Cities need to apply for the grant money. The application period just opened, ends midMarch.
- E. Watershed Stewardship grants (B)** Applications accepted starting in March. Updated guidelines are on the website. Stewardship Grant Information Session was last week and 18 people attended. There were \$89,000 in grants awarded last in 2019 doubling the number of grant recipients. B hopes to double the 2019 numbers in 2020. B requests that CAC members let others within the watershed know about the grants. CAC individuals on NextDoor could publicize to advertise availability of RPBCWD Stewardship grants.

IV. Topics and Discussion

- A. Google Drive, CAC calendar and group email** – Any questions, comments, issues? (B) Heidi reported some problems viewing some of the presentations. Lori to remedy the problem.
- B. Discussion: Youth Members in CAC (Lori)** Are we interested? Would require application and board approval. Heidi, Matt and Michelle are willing to form a subcommittee to explore the possibilities. First step to

develop a charter then establish a timeline. Claire recommends engaging Maya. The subcommittee will report back in March with recommendations.

V. Subcommittee Reports:

A. Everything you wanted to know about CAC sub-committees... (Lori) Handout created by Sharon and Lori provided

B. Education and Outreach

a. Overview of Speakers Bureau presentations

Marilynn proposed development of a presentation on Climate Change, anticipated effects in our watershed and what we can do as individuals to mitigate the effects. Jan is interested in joining to work on this presentation.

Lori asked if anyone wants to review the presentations - those interested can meet at 5pm before next CAC meeting.

Marilynn has a Rain Garden Maintenance PowerPoint draft. Proposal to support Stewardship grant by offering a Rain Garden 101 presentation this spring. Would like to coordinate with the staff's hands-on Rain Garden training that they will offer in June.

Barry contacted Heidi regarding giving a presentation to the Boy Scouts.

Joan noted that the new senior housing residence in Eden Prairie is looking for programming.

b. CAC presentation to Chanhassen Rotary – April 8 - Lori

C. Lakes and Streams Currently inactive. Matt says the original charter included invasive species monitoring in lakes. This was difficult because it overlapped too much with what multiple groups are already doing. Matt presented a new charter that he hopes will be more achievable. "Grow citizen involvement...." Michelle, Heidi Terry are interested in joining this subcommittee.

D. Stormwater- Sharon- Subcommittee started in 2017 with the planned focus being: Winter-Salt Reduction/Education, Spring storm drain stenciling/Adopt-a-drain, Summer grass clippings, Fall leaf cleanup. Prior to the Fall leaf cleanup she plans to test the effectiveness of door hangers to let people know about the cleanup. Signage last year was not an effective way to let people know about the event. Joan and Sharon to work on salt handout for businesses.

E. Landscaping for Water – First draft of the Rain Garden Maintenance Owner's Manual has been reviewed by Clare, second draft to follow.

Preserve Homeowners Presentations are being planned

B asked for volunteers for the Stewardship Grant Review Committee. Heidi volunteered and Lori is also interested, depending on the meeting times.

Other:. Marilynn discussed and passed around the Attracting Birds to Your Garden with Native Plants booklet. RPBCWD sponsored printing and received 200 copies to be used in education.

VI. **Upcoming Events**

1. Sharon announced **the Chanhassen Rotary Club is meeting at the Chanhassen American Legion on Wed. at 7-8am on reducing plastic usage.**
2. **CAC Youth Program Orientation training – Wednesday, February 26 – 6-7:30 District Office Chanhassen**
3. **RPBCWD Board of Managers March 4, 18681 Lake Drive East 7:00 Regular board meeting**
4. **Watershed & Climate Summit 2020 Sat, Mar 7, 2020 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM CST Normandale Community College - 9700 France Avenue So**
5. **RPBCWD CAC Meeting March 16, 2020; 6:00 PM 18681 Lake Drive East**
6. Lori announced the 3rd annual **2020 Environment Commission Conference** is April 4th 9am-3pm **Hennepin Avenue Methodist Church** in Minneapolis. This conference is a grass-roots effort to bring environmental commission members from all cities across Minnesota together to meet, learn and exchange ideas. This year the focus is on Climate Change and Energy. Lori has secured an invitation for the RBPCWD CAC members. Let Lori know if interested in attending.

VII. **Adjourn CAC meeting:** Motion to adjourn by Sharon and seconded by Pete Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.