

Minutes: Monday, November 19, 2018
RPBCWD Citizen’s Advisory Committee Monthly Meeting
Location: RPBCWD offices: 18681 Lake Street, Chanhassen

CAC Members

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

Others

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|-----------------|---------------------|---|
| Michelle Jordan | RPBCWD staff | P |
| Dick Ward | RPBCWD Board Member | P |

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. Curt has resigned because his life is too busy. A subcommittee to organize an exit interview will be discussed at the December meeting.
- C. Matters of general public interest:** None
- D. Approval of Agenda:** Sharon moved and Lori seconded to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
- E. Approval of October 15, 2018 CAC Meeting Minutes:** Lori moved and Sharon seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

II. Staff Report: Michelle Jordan reported CAC applications are due Dec. 20. Appointments will be made in January with an orientation also in January. Reapplicants may submit a previous year’s application by just letting Michelle know. The application is now on the website. A volunteer appreciation gathering will be held on Dec 13 at Staring Lake Outdoor Center with bonfire and an owl. The web site has been getting some feedback. Continue to send feedback to Michelle. The Adopt-a-Drain is finally happening in the spring. An information session on zebra mussels is on Dec. 12 from 6:30 – 7:30 with the DNR, U of M, and various Cities represented.

III. Old Business

- A.** Updates from subcommittees as available.
 - 1. Sharon provided excellent notes on the Chanhassen fall cleanup including tips for next year.
- B.** Board Meeting of November 7, 2018: Paul reported the Board of Managers discussed CAC applications and decided to keep it at 12 members. The quorum requirement is actually not a requirement for the CAC however our bylaws have the language. If we don’t want to have the quorum as a requirement, we would need to amend our bylaws.
- C.** Jim mentioned the RPBCWD made the National Geographic, specifically the Lotus Lake Alum treatment. Jim also mentioned how dock service providers are notorious for spreading aquatic invasives, despite their professional training.

IV. New Business

- A. Cost Share Program –** Restructure and update guidelines. Michelle led a discussion based on materials that had been emailed to us ahead of time
 - 1. **Proposed Timeline –** The hope is to open cost share applications in February. Realistically it may be March with deadlines in April and June. Discussion included: the sense that it was a very ambitious timeline given the scope of what we would like to do, but we don’t want to hold up projects. We would like to encourage properties to implement phased projects: starting with simple projects and building to full site projects, but developing an application and supporting information would take more time.

We added some tasks to the timeline: a list of tools and resources to help with application process, i.e. site plan drawing app, plant lists, cost calculator, designers who specialize in water

resource projects, self-evaluation tool, tools families can do together. Michelle asked us to send her tools and resources that we like.

Board requested a workshop before January meeting.

2. Responses to “What is the need”

a. We felt Michelle accurately reflected our responses with the 4 themes 1) Demonstration projects, 2) Water quality/quantity improvement, 3) Change mindset/habits, and 4) Education/awareness. Discussion included: Shouldn't water quality be an even higher goal? Changing mindsets will result in water quality. Changing mindsets is hard; we need to engineer clean water. Paying for projects could be the carrot that gets the minds changed.

3. Responses to “Fullest potential”

a. Again, Michelle accurately categorized our responses into 4 themes: 1) a community of action, 2) behaviors are normalized, 3) easy/user friendly, 4) quantifiable results. Discussion included: Concerned about fair, equitable distribution of funds.

4. Responses to “Important projects”

a. Michelle found 6 themes in our responses: 1) maintenance, 2) turf related, 3) Infiltration practices, 4) Restoration, 5) Beyond individuals, 6) Re-use. Discussion included: hope that reuse doesn't get lost because it scored lower than the others. Often it is larger organizations than can implement reuse projects, but homeowners can install rain barrels. Overall objective: projects that merge education/awareness with cost share program. A good example is the Sustainable Eden Prairie program which educates and saves money. <https://www.edenprairie.org/community/sustainable-eden-prairie>. It is very important that when we are listing eligible projects that we leave space for innovation.

5. How does the existing cost share program synch up with the 10-year plan?

a. Quite well but it is missing chloride reduction projects (S12), habitat protection (S3), bioengineering shorelines (S7). And for some reason, at this point, we talked about encouraging young people becoming involved in projects: Challenge grants for scouts, Destination Imagination (We have ideas for real projects), and senior capstone projects. Michelle added that we are hoping to do communications better, i.e. a website map that pinpoints all projects and is interactive.

6. Existing program

- a. **What is getting in the way?** Calculating phosphorous is laborious; not knowing how to maintain projects; timing; slow, transparency; insufficient expert guidance
- b. **What do we want to know?** Gathering stories of the myriad approaches, e.g. Matt's Story, Sharon's Story, etc.
- c. **What is missing?** Cost share for maintenance; live chat? Add pictures of eligible projects; cost calculator
- d. We like online application as opposed to paper. There is an opportunity for clicking on definitions and resources. Give opportunity to print paper copy prior to filling in online.

7. **Draft survey questions:** Michelle will email us draft questions for survey.

8. **Cost Share Programs in Other Watershed Districts:** We will review on our own and send ideas to Michelle.

9. Send Michelle all thoughts on anything.

V. Upcoming Events

- A. RPBCWD Board of Managers meeting December 5 at 7:00 pm, 18681 Lake Drive East
- B. Zebra Mussel info meeting December 12 from 6:30 – 7:30
- C. Volunteer gathering Dec 13 at Staring Lake Outdoor Center 6:30-7:30
- D. RPBCWD CAC meeting December 17 at 6:00 pm, 18681 Lake Drive East

- E. District is closed on November 23, 2018
- F. Minnesota Association of Watershed District Annual Meeting, November 29 – December 1, Alexandria, MN (Marilyn and Joanne representing the CAC)

VI. Topics for next month

- A. Exit interviews from past members
- B. MAWD recap
- C. Cost share (big chunk; Michelle will share her frustrations/aggravations with existing program so we can make sure to address in revised program)
- D. CAC topic calendar – resurrection
- E. Lori mentioned the EP Conservation district is likely picking the theme of “water” for next year, would like to possibly do joint projects with RPBCWD.

VII. Adjourn CAC meeting: Motion to adjourn by Sharon with second by Jim. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.