

CLFLWD CAC Meeting

May 2, 2017

Meeting Summary

5:00 – 6:30 PM

Attending: Jerry Grundtner, Mike Sorensen, Bruce Anderson, Jack MacKenzie, Sam Hathaway, Chris Mann, Curt Sparks, Steve Schmaltz

- Jerry G. introduced Steve Schmaltz, who is the Treasurer on the District Board of Managers. Manager Schmaltz had previously met some of the CAC members, but not all of them. Manager Schmaltz thanked the group for volunteering their time to help forward the goals of the District.

- Update on WSD activities
 - Mike S. encouraged the CAC members to read through the District's draft Annual Report and draft Progress Report, which were both presented to the Board of Managers at their April 27th meeting. He showed the CAC members how to access online copies of the reports on the District website.
 - Mike S. told the group that he was recently contacted by a landowner near Birch Lake who said that the stormwater pond near their yard was completely full of goldfish. He contacted the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and was told that this is unfortunately a common occurrence statewide. In this particular instance, it is Chisago City's decision of whether they would like to drain the stormwater pond to kill the goldfish or not. Under flooding conditions there is a chance that the pond could overflow into Birch Lake. Mike S. encouraged the CAC to help spread awareness that dumping unwanted pets into ponds is not a good idea.
 - District and EMWREP staff are holding an aquatic invasive species (AIS) identification workshop in Forest Lake on June 19th from 6:30-7:45 pm. The event is free and open to the public. Attendees will learn to identify aquatic invasive species using live specimens that will be collected from Forest Lake.
 - CAC member Sam Hathaway recently completed the University of Minnesota's new AIS Detectors training. He told the group that the training involved several

hours of online coursework followed by a day-long training that took place in Andover, MN.

○ Updates from Jack MacKenzie

- Turf classes and welcome coolers
 - Jack has now hosted three evening turf classes: two at the District office and one at the Scandia Community Center. The program, which is Jack's Master Watershed Stewards capstone project, is focused on environmentally-friendly turf management practices. In all, 26 individuals have attended the programs and each attendee was given a cooler full of related information. He will offer two more introductory courses on May 3rd and May 9th and then two continuation courses about soil tests and fertilizer use on the 23rd and 24th of May.
- Parks, Lakes, and Trails Commission meetings
 - Jack was not able to attend the last meeting of the Commission, but he reported that they are working to have Pickleball courts built in Forest Lake. The next meeting on the Commission is in June.
 - Jack reported that the City of Forest Lake has a Comprehensive Plan Task Force that is meeting on Tuesday, May 23rd from 6:30-8:30 pm. The group agreed that it would be a good idea for the CLFLWD to have representation at that meeting.

○ Upcoming activities

- Forest Lake High School Native Planting Field Trip
 - Jerry G. reminded the group that the District purchased native plant seeds over the winter that are currently being grown by local high school students. A field trip has been planned for Thursday, March 25th where the students will plant the native plants at three different sites near downtown Forest Lake: the District office, the 2nd Ave. NE dead end street, and the 4th Ave. NE dead end street. All three of these sites have existing planting projects that will be improved by the students.
 - The field trip will take place from 12:50-2:30 pm on March 25th. CAC members may be asked to volunteer to help run the field trip.
 - Jeff West, the Manager of a local native plant retailer called Prairie Restorations, plans to volunteer his time to attend the field trip and teach the students about native planting projects.
- Forest Lake Storm Drain Stenciling

- Melanie is still planning on moving forward with her storm drain stenciling Master Watershed Stewards capstone project. She still needs to work through a number of details, including: which organizations will be involved in the stenciling effort, which of the City of Forest Lake's more than 1,500 storm drain inlets will be stenciled, and when the event will take place. Mike S. and Jerry G. plan to help Melanie organize these remaining details if needed.
- Upcoming CLFLWD water quality project tour
 - The District will be hosting a bus tour of water quality projects this Saturday, May 6th, from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. The tour is free and open to CAC members and the general public. The tour will stop at six projects including, among others, the recently completed projects at Hilo Lane, 3rd Lake Pond, and Moody Lake wetlands. District staff, engineers, and Managers will be attending the tour.
- Chris Mann update on conference attended
 - Chris M. reported that she recently attended the Freshwater Society's Moos Family Lecture Series at the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus on Tuesday, April 25th. The lecture was led by Dan Egan, a Pulitzer Prize finalist author who recently published a book called "The Death and Life of the Great Lakes". Chris mentioned that the lecture addressed a number of topics, including the history, science, and economics of the Great Lakes. She found the discussion related to ship ballast water and invasive species transport especially interesting. The lecture can be viewed in its entirety here: <https://freshwater.org/moos-family-lecture-series/>
- CAC involvement in reviewing 2018 CLFLWD budget
 - Jerry mentioned that the District's 2018 budget will be drafted this summer and that input is appreciated from the CAC. Manager Schmaltz continued on to say that the District budget depends heavily on grants and that if the District does not successfully obtain grants in any particular year, the budget will look very different. He also mentioned that the District may be reevaluating some of its water quality goals for lakes.
- Other 2017 CAC activities
 - "Open Yard" Meetings
 - The Brown's Creek Watershed District CAC, in coordination with EMWREP, is currently hosting an "Open Yard Series", where

presentations about different conservation practices (buckthorn removal, native plant identification, etc.) are occurring at landowner's homes in the evening. The events are presumably free open to the public. The CLFLWD CAC expressed interest in pursuing a similar program, either in 2017 or 2018.

- Mike S. mentioned that EMWREP could help plan and/or host the events.
- Jerry G. said that he would draft a list of potential Open Yard Meeting topics and dates for July and August of this year and bring it to the next CAC meeting for input.

○ New business

- Curt S. mentioned that the culvert near his property that serves as the outlet to Sylvan Lake collapsed over the winter. He replaced the culvert with a smooth bore double walled polyethylene pipe that will hopefully not be prone to plugging from beavers. There is a history of beaver activity in that area.