

# Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting

December 5, 2017

## Meeting Summary

**Committee Attendees:** Jerry Grundtner (Chair), Sam Hathaway, Jack MacKenzie, Randy Schumacher

**Other Attendees:** Mike Sorensen (CLFLWD Program Assistant), Jackie Anderson (CLFLWD Board President)

- Update on Watershed District activities
  1. General
    - Mike S. reminded the group that District staff maintain a Facebook page for the District. He encouraged the group to visit the page periodically, even if they do not have Facebook profiles themselves, to see updates related to District activities.
    - Mike S. shared a few slides from the watercraft inspection program presentation that he gave at the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) annual conference in Alexandria last week.
    - Manager Anderson reported that the CLFLWD Board of Managers recently held a joint meeting with City of Forest Lake council and staff. She noted that the meeting covered the CLFLWD's rule visions and identifying opportunities future collaboration.
  2. Administrator Report
    - The November Administrator's Report was distributed. The next regular meeting of the CLFLWD Board of Managers will occur at Forest Lake City Hall at 6:30 pm on Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Updates from Jack MacKenzie
  1. Parks, Lakes, and Trails Commission updates
    - The Commission is currently working on a project to reevaluate the way that the fields at Fenway Park in the Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) portion of Forest Lake are being managed.
    - The Commission still continues to discuss the possibility of working with the CLFLWD and RCWD to use currently-unused park space for water quality improvement projects. Such an effort may entail the City formally giving the parcels of land to the respective watershed district, but this has

not been discussed in detail by the any of the involved organizations. Manager Anderson encouraged Jack or someone else from the Commission to bring this idea to the CLFLWD Board of Managers at one of their upcoming winter meetings.

2. Distribution of remaining coolers
  - Jack still has more than 100 welcome coolers to distribute as a continued education effort for District residents. He plans to offer his Turf Talk classes this coming spring. The Turf Talks will be very similar to those that were given last spring.
  
- 2018 Projects
  1. Native wildflower plantings
    - The CAC wants to continue last year's project of engaging local high school students and working with them on native planting projects around the District. Unfortunately, the high school's landscaping class that worked on the project last year is not being taught in spring of 2018 and the teacher indicated that he will not have students available for this effort.
    - The group discussed potentially using other volunteer groups to complete the native plantings. A number of details still need to be figured out including: the dates, the sites, the source and quantity of plant material. The Forest Lake Lake Association has some funding available for this program and may have volunteers available as well. Manager Anderson suggested the Master Gardeners, the University of Minnesota, and the Lakes Area Youth Service Bureau as potential sources of additional volunteers.
    - Jerry plans to reach out to Prairie Restorations to see if they would be interested in partnering with the CLFLWD on this project again this year.
    - Jack mentioned that we could either create new plantings or improve existing plantings at the City of Forest Lake-owned dead end streets that are next to the lake. He said that neighborhoods of residents who live close to each dead end street could volunteer to help install the planting and maintain it after installation.
  2. Storm Drain Stenciling
    - The District now has storm drain stenciling kits available that can be checked out by volunteer groups. The CAC is interested to see how the current stencils that were installed earlier this year last through the

winter. Some of the stencils in high-traffic areas of the District appear to be fading away already. District staff plan to research other types of paint to see which type provides the longest-lasting stencil and is still safe for the environment.

- Jack is interested in scheduling a large-scale stenciling day, similar to the one he held earlier this year, and suggested a Saturday in May as an initial time for the event. He will decide on a set date sometime in future months.

### 3. Other types of community outreach

- Manager Anderson encouraged the group to consider the idea of starting a youth committee for the CLFLWD. This group could work on volunteer projects and advise the Board of Managers in a similar way to how the youth committee at the Lake Area Youth Service Bureau advises their board.
- Manager Anderson mentioned that she would like the District to have a recurring column in the Forest Lake Times newspaper. She said that the CAC could help staff with this effort and that we should contact the newspaper soon, since they have recently gone through a restructuring and are likely looking for additional material. Manager Anderson said that she would reach out to the newspaper and inquire about starting a column.

### 4. Boat rides with elected officials

- The CAC discussed the value in bringing local elected officials out onto Forest Lake or another area lake to see the issues and challenges that the District is working to address firsthand. This event could take place alongside a University of Minnesota Extension NEMO (Nonpoint Education for Municipal Official) workshop. Jerry indicated that he would ask Angie Hong (EMWREP) if it would be possible to schedule an event like this for summer 2018. The last NEMO event in the CLFLWD took place on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

### 5. Watershed Champion Award

- The CAC is interested in starting some kind of annual service award for District residents, businesses, or organizations. The first step is to identify the criteria, the nomination process, etc. and draft a formal description of the program that can be brought before the District Board of Managers to solicit their feedback. This discussion started with a brief review of other awards programs, including:
  - Minnehaha Creek Watershed District – Watershed Heroes

- Capitol Region Watershed District – H<sub>2</sub>O Heroes
- Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District – Landscape Ecology Awards Program (LEAP)
- Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts – Outstanding Conservationists
- St. Croix River Association – Watershed Stewardship Awards
- After reviewing handouts and websites for these programs, the group decided that they liked the structure of the St. Croix River Association (SCRA) awards program the best, as it was relatively open-ended and would allow for recipients to be individual landowners, businesses, organizations, or communities. The SCRA's criteria and nomination flyer will be used as a template for drafting the CLFLWD's flyer. Mike S. said that he would start this process and it can be finished at the with CAC input at the January CAC meeting. The draft flyer could then be brought to the District Board of Managers at their January or February meeting. The first awards could be given out in January or February of 2019.
- Manager Anderson said that this type of program would be an excellent way to highlight the purpose of the CLFLWD and honor the many great volunteers that help move the organization forward.

#### 6. Other

- The next CAC meeting will be Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>.