

CAC Meeting

January 5, 2016

6:00 – 7:30 PM

Minutes

Attending: Curt Sparks, Jerry Grundtner, Chris Mann, Sam Hathaway, Nicole Meis, Jack MacKenzie, Mike Kinney, Laura Jester, Angie Hong

- Update on CAC information presented to Board at December 17th meeting
 - Board would like to schedule special workshops to discuss changes to AIS and shoreline cost-share programs

- Update on CLFLWD activities
 - Bixby Project bid accepted and project will happen over the winter
 - Another project moving forward on district owned tax forfeiture property – degraded wetland on North Shore Trail on the west side of the lake
 - BWSR just announced grant awards for 2016. CLFLWD received two grants. One for the Moody Lake Wetland Rehabilitation (\$429,284) and another project moving forward on tax forfeiture property improving a degraded wetland on North Shore Trail on the east side of the lake: Forest Lake Wetland Treatment Basin Implementation (\$162,000).
 - CLFLWD will be submitting an RFP to Washington County for AIS support in 2016 for boat launch inspections and flowering rush treatment
 - District is interviewing applicants for program assistant
 - County will be appointing a new board member to replace Dick Damchik
 - Feb. 2 special workshop with BCWD and CMSCWD at Warner Nature Center

- Additional action items for CAC to consider working on.
 - Jack talked about the Master Water Steward Program – could a program like that work in CLFLWD?
 - Angie described how the program works – it has been piloted in Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and is now expanding to 9 new watersheds in the metro this year.

- Stewards are highly trained volunteers that complete 50 hours of training and a capstone project. They then do 30hrs per year of volunteer work & outreach in their community.
 - Watershed Districts sponsor the volunteers - \$2500 per steward
 - Kris asked if the district is looking for opportunities to do curb-cut raingardens or ditch retrofits
 - Mike Kinney said they worked with WCD to complete subwatershed analyses of south and north watersheds draining to Forest Lake to identify locations for a variety of BMPs, including curb-cut raingardens. They are also working with the city to increase the number of stormwater projects they are doing.
 - Curt asked that when the Forest lake Diagnostic Study is done consideration of the wetland restoration project once proposed for the Timm's Marina area be considered.
 - Next action items to work on:
 - Education
 - Communication
 - Who are the target audiences?
 - Curt – not interested in the CAC getting involved in programs educating city staff or elected officials. Highest priority is educating kids. Jerry also interested in educating kids as a way to reach the parents.
 - Angie – EMWREP is currently providing education to homeowners (to build raingardens and shoreline projects); articles for local papers; 2-3 technical trainings for city staff/contractors per year; education for local elected officials (did a special workshop with Forest Lake this year); some AIS workshops
 - Laura – West Metro Water Alliance hired two professional educators to do education in the elementary schools
 - There are other examples – H2O for Life, RWMWD, CMSCWD – where non-profits or watershed districts hire educators to teach in the schools
 - How could nature centers adapt their programming to include a more local focus and talk about water & their local watershed
 - Program at Wild Mountain several years ago on watershed management was mentioned. Question about whether it is still going.
 - Nicole – district could do education outside the schools too – informal community education on weekends and evenings; offer summer programming for kids through the rec dept. and school district

- There was discussion about whether we could get in on the St Croix watershed grant for environmental education.
 - Forest Lake High has a very large FFA program that CLFLWD could be working with. It was suggested that the School District staff for FFA be contacted to discuss eco-education.
 - Nicole suggested inviting a student from the group to come to a future meeting at CLFLWD
 - CLFLWD has talked with the city and school district about how stormwater retrofits could be included in new school construction planned
 - Dakota SWCD has an annual field day for 5th graders. Chisago County does too.
 - RCWD used to have a program called Resource Subs where they would train substitute teachers so that they could go into classrooms with environmental education lessons
 - Homework: research and bring back a list of water education curriculum
 - Nicole suggested looking for funding through the Initiative Foundation – lots of funding for Chisago, Pine and Isanti Counties
- Upcoming WSD board meetings and attendance
 - Next CAC meeting Jan. 26, 6-8pm