

# CAC Meeting

March 7, 2016

## Agenda

6:00 – 7:30 PM

- Update on CLFLWD activities
  - Introduction of Mike Sorensen
  - Bixby Park project is DONE!
    - Extra berm was installed with lightweight aggregate
  - Hilo Lane project going out for bid
    - CLFLWD pursuing a stepped approach to protect against washouts if there is a big rain event
    - EMWREP to help do some community outreach in the surrounding neighborhood this summer once the project is done
  - Contracts for 3<sup>rd</sup> Lake pond and Moody Lk grant projects will be signed by the end of the week
  - Shields, Comfort and Moody Lk diagnostic studies underway
    - Preliminary data coming in the fall from sediment cores collected by the St. Croix Watershed Research Station
  - CLFLWD has a Facebook page now
  - Moody Lake aerator is now functioning – about ½ acre of open water. Will stay running until full open water. The lake is subject to low oxygen levels and the aerator will help to prevent fish kills. In the future, CLFLWD will turn it on whenever oxygen levels drop below 4 milligrams/L.
- Upcoming workshop with CLFLWD board on AIS and Native Shoreline Plantings (March 9, 2016)
- Brian Johnson (Metropolitan Council) – Presentation on Elementary education on water quality.
  - Brian couldn't come but may in April

- Master Water Stewards – Update
  - Freshwater Society has an existing Master Water Steward program that they have recently expanded to 9 metro-area counties. CLFLWD and other area watersheds have discussed bringing the program to the east metro in 2017. The cost is \$2500 per steward for a host organization. Volunteer stewards go through 50-60hrs of training, complete a capstone project, and then provide ongoing volunteer support for their host watershed district.
  - St Croix Valley Foundation recently received an EPA education grant to develop a similar program in the St. Croix Valley – MN and WI. Jack McKenzie applied and was accepted into this program. It will follow a slightly different curriculum but will still give volunteers in-depth training about water resources issues in the area.
  - Angie has been facilitating conversations between the two groups in the hopes of bringing them together. Ideally, EPA funds could be used to train St. Croix stewards now but Freshwater Society could adopt the St. Croix chapter in 2018 when the EPA grant runs out.
  
- Update on next action items to work on:
  - Education
    - Angie talked about how the EMWREP education plan was developed in 2006
      - Partners listed the types of activities they wanted to see happen and then the group used sticky dots to prioritize and select the activities to work on together. Currently:
        - Public education – attending community events, newspaper articles, collaborating with local community and civic groups
        - EMWREP decided not to do K-12 education in the schools because it requires a lot of staff time to deliver lessons in multiple districts across the county
      - If K-12 education is a priority for CLFLWD, it will be important to determine how to deliver this education
        - There are many high-quality curriculum and teaching tools for water education but it requires staff and/or volunteers to deliver
        - Options:
          - Hire a full or part-time staff person to do K-12 water education

- Use a model like RCWD Resource Teachers or Master Water Stewards to get a pool of qualified volunteers or contract staff to do occasional programs
  - Work with an existing organization already doing k-12 education to enhance their programming
- CLFLWD, CMSCWD and BCWD have been talking to Warner Nature Center about helping to pay for bussing to bring area kids to the nature center and to adapt their existing programs. They would be working with 5th graders.
- Angie brought along a copy of the new K-12 Watershed Game, developed by MN Extension & Sea Grant for use with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. They are training teachers and informal educators how to use and EMWREP has a copy to loan out.
- Angie also talked about teacher training through MN Project WET and Hamline River's Institute. In the past EMWREP has worked with MDNR to offer Project WET trainings for local teachers & Watershed Districts have paid for teachers from their districts to attend. Teachers from Forest Lake ISD may have attended some of these trainings in the past.
  - Jerry will ask the admin. at Forest Lake if they have a list of teachers who have attended these types of trainings
  - Angie will provide a list of teachers from Washington County that are Project WET certified
- Communication
- Are there other gaps in education not currently being met by EMWREP or the communications contract?
  - Need for education of zoning officials in local communities & awareness/enforcement of erosion control
  - EMWREP is planning to work with St. Croix River Association to develop a one-day workshop for realtors selling lake and riverfront properties. Topics might include: shoreland and watershed rules and ordinances; lakeshore landscaping; septic systems; cost-share programs; flood elevations; variances and redevelopment; etc.
- Upcoming WD board meetings and attendance
  - March 9, 3pm special workshop with CAC and CLFLWD board on AIS and native shoreline plantings

- Discussing a graduated cost-share program that would offer different levels of funding for different projects, depending on if they include emergent plants or just upland plantings. Also a native plant grant for smaller scale projects.
- Other discussion topics
  - **Next meeting April 5, 6pm**
  - Need to be planning ahead for the 2017 CLFLWD budget
  - Mike S. is interested in developing a paper & e-newsletter to regularly communicate district info.