

CAC Meeting

October 4, 2016

Agenda

5:00 – 6:30 PM

- Update on WSD activities
 - Mike K. was recently approached by two local entrepreneurs who are developing a stationary console that uses compressed air to remove invasive species from boats. This console will be considerably cheaper than a traditional hot water boat cleaning station and can be operated by the boaters themselves, rather than hired summer interns. Mike K. mentioned that Lakeside Park in Forest Lake may serve as a pilot site for one of these new consoles.
 - The District's ten year Watershed Management Plan, which was initially published in 2012, will be updated during winter 2016-2017. District staff plan to seek input from the CAC over the next few meetings.
 - Mike S. hosted an activity about aquatic invasive species at the Chisago County Children's Water Festival on September 29th. He said that he had a great time at the event and encouraged the CAC members to volunteer for the event next year.

- Update on Water Quality Monitoring Education Program
 - District staff and volunteers hosted a field trip at Lakeside Park in Forest Lake for local high school students on September 27th. The field trip was attended by a 30 person Natural Resources class that is open to 10th-12th graders. First, Matt Downing, a Water Resources Specialist from Washington County, gave a presentation about what his job entails. Then, the students broke up into small groups led by volunteers and learned about lake water quality monitoring. The students had a chance to measure secchi clarity, water temperature, chlorophyll A concentration, and other variables. The event was a success, despite the cold, blustery weather, and was attended by two local newspapers.

- Next steps with Mike Miron – A number of other collaborative opportunities have been discussed with the high school teacher Mike Miron for this school year and beyond.
- Mike S. reminded everyone that the District keeps a Facebook page that is an excellent source of news about what District staff are up to, especially regarding education and outreach. The Facebook page can be accessed here, even if the viewer does not have a Facebook account for themselves:
<https://www.facebook.com/CLFLWD/>.
- Update on Welcome Coolers for new lake residents
 - Jack’s cooler project continues to progress. He has been financially supported by the Forest Lake Chamber of Commerce as well as all three local lake associations, and plans to start by making and distributing 140 coolers with the help of volunteers. He has a list of all the lake homes that have been sold in the last two years and plans to start contacting those new homeowners. The coolers will contain a variety of lake stewardship education materials, including a “tools and rules” handbook developed by District staff. Jack hopes to use the District as a fiscal host for this project.
- Decide on Next Action steps for CAC for 2017
 - Subcommittee to look at what other CAC’s do.
 - Mike S. informed the group that Chris M. has already started researching this topic. Many of the other District CACs do not have much information online. Mike S. plans to contact staff from other Districts and inquire about their CAC group activities.
 - Chris mentioned that the Vadnais Lake Area Watershed Management Organization (VLAWMO) citizen action group has been creating water-friendly landscaping videos for each of the four seasons. Jack mentioned that he would be happy to help out if we wanted to create similar videos.
- Additional CAC members
 - How do we recruit
 - The group agreed that they would be interested in recruiting one or two motivated high school students from Mike Miron’s class.
 - Mike S. plans to create an informational handout that can be distributed to prospective CAC members. The handout will summarize District activities and the role of the CAC.

- Makeup of committee
 - The CAC committee makeup was discussed, particularly highlighting the need to engage members of the agricultural community or other communities who are not typically represented in District activities.

- Nicole M. mentioned that she would be interested in starting new programs or projects to engage the community. Mike S. encouraged her to come up with some general ideas and contact him and Jerry G. to start moving the ideas forward.

- Upcoming WSD board meetings and attendance
 - October 27, 2016 – Regular Board Meeting at Forest Lake City Hall at 6:30 pm