

# CAC Meeting

February 6, 2018

## Meeting Summary

**Committee Attendees:** Jerry Grundtner (Chair), Randy Schumacher, Bruce Anderson

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

- Update on WSD activities
  1. General
    - Mike S. recently attended a two-day certification course for volunteer leadership. He has many new ideas for how the CLFLWD can work with volunteers in coming years.
    - Manager Anderson noted that she has been engaging in conversations with Steve McComas (Blue Water Science) and staff about the District's 2018 aquatic invasive species (AIS) activities. She highlighted Eurasian watermilfoil management, in particular, as an item that has occurred in previous years, but is not currently funded in the 2018 budget. She said that the District's Watershed Management Plan calls for an aggressive approach toward AIS management, so she plans to discuss Eurasian watermilfoil management with the other Managers in coming weeks. Innovative Eurasian watermilfoil management strategies could be utilized under the District's pilot program framework. A successful pilot program could be written down and formalized, then transferred to other lakes.
    - There was discussion about the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Clean Water Partnership Program. This Program offers 0% interest loans to local units of government to aid in the implementation of nonpoint source best management practices and other water quality protection activities. District Managers have considered this program as a way to supplement the tax levy in funding projects and programs outlined in the Watershed Management Plan.
  2. Administrator's Report
    - The January 25<sup>th</sup> Administrator's Report was handed out.

- The next regular meeting of the CLFLWD Board of Managers will take place on Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm at Forest Lake City Hall. The agenda of this meeting is yet to be decided.
  
- Watershed Champion Award
  1. The CAC members were interested in finalizing an awards program framework that can be brought to the District Board of Managers at their February 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Some topics that still needed to be decided include: the name of the program, the application review timeline, the type of award that is given, etc.
  2. Mike S. reported that he contacted the St. Croix River Association about their awards program. He asked whether they have multiple different awards (resident, business, community, etc.) or if they give out multiple of the same award. He found out that they typically give out multiple of the same award, so they can adapt to however many nominations they receive in a given year. That way, for example, they are not forced to give out a business award if they do not have any businesses nominated.
  3. Manager Anderson shared a sheet of notes that she had prepared regarding feedback for the draft awards program framework.
    - She proposed that there be six awards given out each year:
      1. Residential Best Management Practice (BMP)
      2. Agricultural BMP
      3. Commercial/Business BMP
      4. Community BMP
      5. District-Wide Watershed Service Award
      6. Junior District-Wide Watershed Service Award (Ages 19 and Under)
    - Manager Anderson said that the application could be used to nominate projects for awards #1-4 above and that the Board of Managers, staff, consultants, and the CAC could give out awards #5 and 6. Applications would not be accepted for awards 5 and 6.
    - Jerry G. mentioned that he has hesitations about there being six different awards because he worries that there may not be enough nominations each year to fit into each category. Manager Anderson reminded him that staff and managers can nominate individuals for the awards as well, so that will help increase participation in the program.
    - Manager Anderson proposed that nominations can be accepted for projects from any period in the past, not just the last two years.
    - Manager Anderson liked the current award criteria that described how the projects must have demonstrated “observable and achievable results” and also must “promote stewardship of the water resources within the Comfort

Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District". She noted that valid projects could include groundwater as well as surface water projects and could also include education-related activities.

- There was discussion about when and where the awards would be given out. Manager Anderson liked the idea of having an annual award program at a venue other than the District office. Some possible locations include: Stella's, Vanelli's, the VFW, American Legion, etc. That event could also include presentations by staff or consultants and display booths for our partners (Blue Water Science, Emmons and Olivier Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, cities, counties, lake associations, etc.). Jerry G. suggested "State of the Watershed" as a name for this event. The event could take place in early-April.
  - The group decided to add "Nearest affected waterbody:" onto the nomination form so we can keep track of the subwatershed where each project takes place.
  - Manager Anderson presented her brainstorming list of names for the awards program. These included:
    1. Watershed Ambassador Awards
    2. Watershed Legacy Awards
    3. Watershed Guardian Awards
    4. Watershed Champion Awards
    5. Watershed Advocate Awards
    6. Watershed Hero Awards
    7. Watershed Defender Awards
    8. Watershed Leader Awards
    9. Watershed Protector Awards
    10. Watershed Crusader Awards
  - After some discussion, the group decided that their favorite two names from the list were Watershed Legacy Awards and Watershed Champion Awards. The whole Board of Managers can discuss these name ideas at their February 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.
4. Discussion continued to include the award itself. At the January CAC meeting, compost bins, bird houses, plaques, gift cards, and public bench or tree dedications were discussed as potential gifts.
- Manager Anderson suggested that we could give the recipients a CLFLWD jacket or shirt. Mike S. mentioned that the District made "I love my watershed" shirts last year and that those were well-received.

- Jerry mentioned that he still likes the idea of recognition in a public space such as a city park. There was agreement with this. This type of recognition would require coordination with the local cities.
  - The group agreed that a plaque, a t-shirt, and some kind of public recognition would be a good start as an award. Manager Anderson suggested that one of the coolers for Jack MaKenzie's Turf Talks could be included as well.
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- Other activities in 2018
    1. The group is interested in coordinating a storm drain stenciling program again in 2018 with Jack MacKenzie's help. Mike S. said that staff can help support Jack with the planning of this effort as needed and that Jack is very helpful in hosting the event itself. Jerry said that he would email Jack and try to identify some dates for the stenciling program in 2018.
    2. Mike Miron at Forest Lake High School is unable to provide greenhouse space for the native planting collaboration project this year, so it will not occur. The newly-built greenhouse should be ready to resume the program next schoolyear.
    3. Angie Hong is attempting to work with U of M Extension to organize a Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) event for Forest Lake this summer. This event could include a boat ride on Forest Lake where the municipal officials could have a chance to learn about the lake by seeing it in person. Manager Anderson said there would be value in expanding this program to other area lakes if it is a success.