

# **CLFLWD CAC Meeting**

**July 18, 2017**

## **Meeting Summary**

**5:00 – 6:30 PM**

Attending: Jerry Grundtner, Mike Sorensen, Mike Kinney, Sam Hathaway, Jack MacKenzie, Curt Sparks, Bruce Anderson

- Update on WSD activities
  - The meeting started with a discussion about the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) One Watershed One Plan program. Mike S. and Mike K. introduced the topic to the group and provided informational handouts that were prepared by BWSR. They noted that the CLFLWD is part of the Lower St. Croix Watershed, which was recently awarded a planning grant that will cover some of the cost of collaborating between government organizations to create a watershed-wide implementation plan. There was additional discussion about how the current Clean Water Fund grants may change under One Watershed One Plan.
  - The District's watercraft inspection program is currently in week 9 of 22 for the 2017 season. So far this year, 3,143 inspections have occurred over 1,557 hours. In the whole 2016 season, 4,033 inspections were performed over 3,077.5 hours.
  - The Washington Conservation District received a 2017 Clean Water Fund grant from BWSR to extend the Freshwater Society's Master Water Stewards program into Washington County. This program involves a certification process similar to the Master Gardeners program. After completing the coursework and gaining certification, the Stewards will be required to complete 30 hours per year of volunteer work to keep their certification. Angie Hong from the Washington Conservation District is currently seeking two CLFLWD residents who are interested in starting the program in 2018 and two more who are interested in starting in 2019. Interested individuals should contact Angie directly: [AHong@mnwcd.org](mailto:AHong@mnwcd.org).

- Updates from Jack MacKenzie
  - Welcome coolers
    - Jack noted that he has completed teaching his Turf Talk classes and was relatively discouraged by the low turnout. He said that he wants to offer the courses again next spring and start earlier in the spring. Mike K. suggested that Jack work with District staff later this summer to do door knocking of new District lake residents. The new residents could be educated about lake stewardship and given a cooler full of informational handouts.
  - Trails, Parks and Lakes commission updates
    - Jack did not have any commission updates.
  
- Updates on other activities
  - Storm Sewer Stenciling
    - Jerry G. told the group that Melanie has not been able to proceed with her storm stenciling capstone project due to a number of unforeseen circumstances. The group agreed that they would like to move forward with the project, but likely not until 2018.
  - Comments on EMWREP's Annual report
    - The group did not have comments, questions, or suggestions for the 2016 EMWREP Annual Report yet, so it will be added to the September CAC meeting agenda. Angie Hong will be attending the September meeting and plans to discuss the Annual Report with the group.
  
- Review 2018 CLFLWSD Budget
  - Mike K. introduced the draft 2018 budget and noted that it had already been presented to the Board of Managers for initial big-picture discussion at their July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. He then highlighted how the District has dramatically increased its activity at a staff-level and project implementation-level in the last few years and that is reflected in the budget.
  - The current draft of the budget has total expenses of \$1,972,645, compared to a projected yearend of \$2,014,324 in 2017 and actual yearend of \$1,751,039 in 2016. Approximately half of the proposed budget will be spent on capital improvement projects such as the Shields Lake Stormwater Harvest project, while the other half will be spent on administration and programs such as the watercraft inspection program and monitoring program.
  - As the District Board of Managers considers their 2018 budget, they would like to ensure that at least 50% over the overall budget is available in reserves going into 2018 and future years.

- Staff salaries and benefits are broken up among the administration, programs, and projects sections of the budget to roughly reflect the amount of time that is worked in each section.
  - Mike K. mentioned that initial cuts to the budget were made to remove project effectiveness monitoring and lake studies of some of the District's smallest lakes, among other things. Some of the small lake study work can be completed with staff time alone.
  - Jerry mentioned that the budget includes some grants, such as the Washington County AIS Prevention Aid grants, that are not guaranteed. There was discussion about whether or not those sources of income should be included in the budget.
  - Curt said that he had an idea for improving the watercraft inspection program where boats that come off of District lakes like Forest Lake at a public access are required to pay a small fee that covers the cost of a mandatory watercraft decontamination. He said that this approach would ensure that every boat leaving a public access will be clean and hopefully unable to bring aquatic invasive species into new lakes. There was follow-up discussion about the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' historical stance on closing public lake accesses.
  - Curt requested that additional funding be used to chemically treat the purple loosestrife around Sylvan Lake. He said that the invasive plant has continued to fill in the shoreline of the lake and is becoming a nuisance. Mike S. mentioned that the District is currently using biological control of the purple loosestrife but chemical control could be considered as well. Mike K. said that staff would look into chemical control options.
  - Currently, \$4,000 is budgeted for CAC projects in 2018. This money could be used to fund a storm sewer stenciling project or some other project.
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- Additional activities that CAC can undertake in 2017 not yet identified
    - There was no time to discuss this item
  - Discussion on Watershed Steward Award for 2017
    - The group agreed that they are still interested in starting a District Watershed Steward of the Year Award but did not have time to discuss it. The topic will be added to the August CAC meeting agenda. Curt mentioned that the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts has annual awards that could be used as a template for a CLFLWD award.