



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting
Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Agenda Item

Item 4. E. Receive and file Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting minutes May 2021

Prepared By

Linda Loomis, Administrator

Summary

The Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) held its initial meeting May 1, 2021. The approved meeting minutes are attached for the Board of Managers review.

Attachments

May 1, 2021 CAC meeting minutes

Recommended Action

Receive and file CAC May 1, 2021 meeting minutes



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Minutes

Citizen Advisory Committee

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Videoconference via WebEx by Cisco

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 9:20 a.m. by vice-chair Karkowski. Roll call was taken. The following members were present: Jenny Karkowski, Judy Berglund, Craig Diederichs, Greg Genz, and Theresa Kuplic.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Chair Diederichs took over the meeting. Motion by Judy Berglund. Second by Jenny Karkowski.

3. Approval of the April Minutes

Motion by Judy Berglund. Second by Craig Diederichs.

4. Citizen Input on Non-agenda Items

There were none.

5. New Business

a. LMRWD Website Review

Jen Dullum introduced this item. As outlined in the approved public education and outreach workplan the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) may review and evaluate the District website through a citizen's lens. It was stated at the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD) February Board meeting that the CAC would oversee the second phase of the District website review. Jen asked the CAC to review the LMRWD website on the look, functionality, and presentation of information for public consumption and bring those comments back to the June 1, 2021 CAC meeting. Jen will send the first round of website review comments to the CAC along with the website link.

b. Brainstorming Session on Priorities

Jen Dullum opened this topic. The CAC was asked to vote on their top three priorities as outlined in the 2018-2027 Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Watershed Management Plan (Plan). The top two were to protect and preserve wetlands and manage

erosion and control sediment discharge with three votes each. protect, preserve, and restore surface water quality and protect and promote groundwater quantity and quality both came in with two votes each. And endure common goals between residents and the watershed district was added as “other”.

Greg Genz recalled Utah State professor Belmont study on the Minnesota River which listed 12 factors to improve Minnesota river. The number one factor is to “hold the water”. Discussion about this concept took place noting that by holding water back, many priorities within the Plan would be accomplished; wetlands could hold the water, erosion would be reduced, flooding would be reduced, etc.

The CAC decided that holding water would be their primary goal. Some first thoughts included rain gardens and education for property owners.

This goal will be brought back at the June meeting for more thoughtful conversation on strategies.

6. Old Business

a. Approve updated bylaws (memo attached)

Jen Dullum noted at the April 21 Board of Managers meeting, Managers discussed edits to the bylaws. She went over the original text, Board recommendations, and proposed amended text.

Motion by Theresa Kuplic. Second by Jenny Karkowski.

Greg Genz began discussion stating that since he is in an ex-officio member, as described in the bylaws, he would withhold voting. Judy Berglund noted that could be an issue with a tie vote. Linda Loomis noted that it is not in state statute that Greg need be an ex-officio member. This verbiage can be amended. Linda will reach out to legal counsel for direction. A revised version of the bylaws will be brought back for review and vote at the next meeting.

7. Communications

At this time, the virtual meeting time limit expired. Jen Dullum was going to let the members know that an email will be sent soon with a short questionnaire. Answers may be on website, in social media, etc. Jen will also be requesting a photo for the same purpose.

8. Adjournment

Chair Diederichs asked for a motion via email to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Judy Berglund. Second by Craig Diederichs.