



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Minutes

Citizen Advisory Committee

Tuesday, June 1, 2021

Videoconference via WebEx by Cisco

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 9:04 a.m. by chair Diederichs. Roll call was taken. The following members were present: Judy Berglund, Craig Diederichs, and Theresa Kuplic. It should be noted that Judy Berglund's microphone was not working; however, she added to the discussion through the chat function and by raising her hand for votes. Greg Genz joined the meeting at 9:18 a.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda by Diederichs. Second by Kuplic. Upon a vote being taken, the following voted in favor of the motion: Diederichs, Kuplic, and Berglund. Voting against: none.

3. Approval of the May Minutes

Motion to approve the May minutes by Diederichs. Second by Kuplic. Upon a vote being taken, the following voted in favor of the motion: Diederichs, Kuplic, and Berglund. Voting against: none.

4. Citizen Input on Non-Agenda Items

There were none.

5. New Business

There was none.

6. Old Business

a. LMRWD Website Review

Jen Dullum asked the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) to submit website review comments to her. She agreed to synthesize the committee's comments and bring them back for review at the July 6 meeting. Comments would then be submitted to Linda Loomis, district administrator.

b. Review and Approve Updated Bylaws

Jen Dullum reminded the committee that at the May meeting the CAC deliberated ex-officio status. Linda Loomis reached out to legal counsel who stated there was no prohibition against voting by non-resident CAC members. The Board of Managers approved the removal of ex-officio status from the bylaws. Jen Dullum reviewed the recommended text.

Teresa Kuplic felt that Greg Genz brought helpful and educational insight on the Minnesota River to the CAC. She welcomed his vote. Craig Diederichs agreed that Greg brought knowledge to the table and did not want to discount his vote.

Administrator Linda Loomis noted that ex-officio status did not appear in the state statute, and it was up to the Board of Managers to decide if CAC members outside the District had voting authority. The Board of Managers felt that if individuals were contributing their time to the CAC, they should be voting members, so the board agreed with removing the ex-officio status from the bylaws.

Motion to approve the bylaws as amended by Diederichs. Second by Kuplic. Upon a vote being taken, the following voted in favor of the motion: Diederichs, Kuplic, and Berglund. Voting against: none.

c. Priority Discussion—Hold the Water Back

Jen Dullum opened this topic for discussion among the CAC members. Teresa Kuplic was interested to hear from Judy Berglund about the watershed grant she received from the District. She felt that this type of project could be replicated and wanted more information.

Greg Genz joined the meeting.

Theresa Kuplic mentioned sharing success stories and homeowner-scale project resources on the website. She noted that testimonials could be placed on the front page of the website in the circles. She also noted that there should be clear information about how individuals could become more involved in the watershed. Craig Diederichs noted that he would like to see before-and-after project how-to guidance with photos on the website. Judy Berglund wrote in the chat that she would be happy to talk about watershed grants and provide a site visit of the project she worked on at any time.

Both Theresa Kuplic and Craig Diederichs reflected on how homeowner-scale projects, however small, could add up and affect our environment, whether the actions were positive or negative.

Linda Loomis suggested that the CAC plan to meet in person. The meeting site could be wherever the CAC decided but should be open to the public. Linda planned to ask the Board of Managers about their interest in a watershed district tour. The tour would visit cost-share projects with Judy Berglund's site on the list. The CAC would be invited on the tour.

Greg Genz noted that the CAC should keep in mind the current legislation being proposed

regarding the Minnesota River Valley. Linda Loomis discussed the legislation in more detail and will send out a link to the CAC for their information. Greg would also provide a PowerPoint presentation of the Le Sueur River basin for the CAC's information.

Greg Genz asked whether there was a program to educate landscape companies on best management practices. Jen Dullum noted that there was a certification training program available that could be further discussed if the CAC and the District chose to sponsor the training within the District.

Jen Dullum asked each CAC member to develop a list of resources for the July meeting that they would like to see provided to District residents or businesses.

7. Communications

Jen Dullum reminded the CAC to fill out the short bio survey. This information would be used in social media posts to introduce the CAC to our watershed followers.

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Diederichs. Second by Kuplic. Upon a vote being taken the following voted in favor of the motion: Diederichs, Kuplic, Berglund, and Genz. Voting against: none.

The next meeting will be July 6, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. via WebEx.