



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Minutes

Citizen Advisory Committee

Tuesday, July 6, 2021

Videoconference via WebEx by Cisco

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Chair Diederichs. Roll call was taken. The following members were present: Judy Berglund, Craig Diederichs, Theresa Kuplic, and Greg Genz. It should be noted that Judy Berglund's microphone was not working; however, she added to the discussion by holding written text up to the camera and raising her hand for votes.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the June Minutes

Kuplic moved to approve the June minutes, seconded by Diederichs. The following voted in favor of the motion: Diederichs, Kuplic, Genz, and Berglund. No one voted against.

3. Citizen Input on Non-Agenda Items

There was no input.

4. New Business

Tabling events

Jen Dullum introduced the idea of tabling at local events. Craig Diederichs asked if there was a calendar of events the CAC could look at. Linda Loomis said that there is not a calendar, but she mentioned that many times we partner with other watershed districts at local partner events. Jen Dullum noted that she was reaching out to partner cities to get an idea of events for next spring. Both Theresa Kuplic and Craig Diederichs were interested in volunteering.

Craig Diederichs asked about handouts. Jen Dullum thought information on cost-share grants would be of interest to residents. Craig Diederichs noted that informational items such as what goes into the storm sewer would be valuable. Theresa Kuplic felt that residents want to know what the issues are and want to be educated on how to minimize water pollution issues. She felt that starting with the basics, such as what a watershed is,

would be a good place to start. Teresa also mentioned sharing success stories by highlighting special areas within the District, such as Seminary Fen. Judy Berglund noted that rain gardens, native plantings, salt control, and rain barrels are good topics for citizens. Linda Loomis hopes for input on handout design from the CAC.

Linda Loomis noted that the salt symposium is slated for August and suggested a CAC member attend to report back to the committee. Theresa Kuplic volunteered.

5. Old Business

a) LMRWD Website Review

Jen Dullum thanked the CAC for comments on the District website. She noted that comments can be submitted anytime. Jen will present the compiled comments to Linda Loomis. Craig Diederichs stated that he will work on the website review. Theresa Kuplic asked if there was a way to link to the District's Facebook page from the website. Linda Loomis will investigate that. Linda also asked the CAC to report any wrong information or broken links that they find on the website to her.

b) Priority Discussion—Hold the Water Back

Jen Dullum mentioned that the CAC was going to bring back information on what types of resources they felt residents of the District would be interested in. She noted that this is a similar discussion to 5a above.

Judy Berglund inquired about speaking to city councils. Linda Loomis has given presentations to both city councils and county boards; however, this usually occurs by invitation. She has made presentations about the District and its role and function. She noted that the board of managers is appointed by county boards and that many times those appointees make presentations on the activities of the District to the boards that appointed them. Linda has also made presentations to the Minnesota River Congress. The Minnesota River Congress has not been meeting during the COVID-19 pandemic, and she does not know if or when it will reconvene. Craig Diederichs wondered if any of those presentations could go on the website. Linda Loomis will investigate what is appropriate for the website. Linda also mentioned that the 60-year anniversary video highlighting the District is on the District website.

Greg Genz reported that the Board of Water and Soil Resources received \$1 million in funding for water storage. This project will start in the Minnesota River Watershed. Greg has also met with Betty McCollum's staff to discuss legislation regarding the Mississippi River. In this legislation, Greg hopes to ensure that tributaries of the Mississippi River are addressed. Linda Loomis noted that this legislation includes more study on the Mississippi River. She is hoping more funds will be allocated for project implementation. Implementation includes wetland creation on private land to hold the water back so it can either infiltrate or gradually release. Those practices take acreages out of production, and funding is necessary to pay for that acreage to better manage water.

Jen Dullum will create a list of topics that the CAC can narrow down for better focus. Craig Diederichs hopes to have a robust list of water quality resources on the website for resident

education and information. Jen Dullum asked the CAC to share other websites that the CAC feels provide good information that could potentially be shared on the District website.

6. Communications

Linda Loomis shared the plans for the district bus tour. The CAC is invited to attend. The tour will take place in September. The sites include the District's East Chaska Creek project, a project in Shakopee that protects a Native American burial site, a cost-share project in Savage, and the dredge site. It is likely that the tour will start from the government center in Chaska.

The August 3, 2021, CAC meeting will take place at Judy Berglund's home at 9:00 a.m. The CAC will tour a cost-share project.

7. Adjournment

Kuplic moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Diederichs. The following voted in favor of the motion: Diederichs, Kuplic, Genz, and Berglund. No one voted against.

The next meeting will be August 3, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.