



# LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

## Minutes

Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

Tuesday, February 1, 2021

Teleconference via WebEx

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by President Diederichs. The following members were present: Judy Berglund, Craig Diederichs, Greg Genz, and Jenny Karkowski. The following individuals also joined the meeting: Linda Loomis (Naiad Consulting LLC and Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Administrator); Della Young, Katy Thompson, Lan Tornes, and Jen Dullum (representing Young Environmental Consulting Group LLC); and Brooke Asleson (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Department of Natural Resource [MPCA]).

### 2. Approval of the Agenda

Berglund moved to approve the January agenda, and Diederichs seconded the motion. In a roll-call vote, the following individuals voted in favor of the motion: Berglund, Diederichs, Genz, and Karkowski. The following voted against it: none.

### 3. Approval of the December Minutes

Diederichs moved to approve the December minutes, and Berglund seconded the motion. In a roll-call vote, the following individuals voted in favor of the motion: Berglund, Diederichs, Genz, and Karkowski. The following voted against it: none.

### 4. Citizen Input on Non-Agenda Items

There was no input.

### 5. New Business

Brooke Asleson, MPCA

Asleson, the chloride program coordinator with the MPCA, gave a presentation on the MPCA's chloride reduction program. The presentation is attached.

Genz asked if highway departments have been advancing their equipment technology. Asleson responded that new technology is being used. Some communities and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) have been accessing mini weather stations to predict weather conditions more accurately. This helps determine the products to be used, application rates, and areas of concern. She noted that technology is expensive, but it is being implemented over time, as are new products such as different plow blades. Asleson also mentioned that MNDOT has a salt sustainability coordinator who works on such issues.

Genz also asked about municipal water softening. The MPCA is working with the Minnesota Department of Health on this topic. Some local communities have been given a limit on the amount of chloride that can be discharged from their wastewater facilities. This has led some communities to determine that central softeners used to reduce hardness are necessary to meet their chloride limits. There has been some pushback from private industry on this move away from private in-home water softeners; however, state, local, and private interests continue to work together on this issue.

6. Old Business

Dullum mentioned that a rain barrel handout has finished an editorial review and will be sent to the CAC members for final review.

7. Communications

Diederichs brought up in-person meetings and meeting locations. The group thought that the March meeting should remain virtual, but in-person meetings could take place outdoors in spring through fall. Loomis and Dullum will provide a list of potential meeting locations, speakers, tours, etc., for the CAC to discuss at the March meeting.

8. Adjournment

Berglund moved to adjourn the meeting, and Diederichs seconded the motion. In a roll-call vote, the following individuals voted in favor of the motion: Berglund, Diederichs, Genz, and Karkowski. The following voted against it: none.