

### Spring Lake Watershed District

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#### Citizen Advisory Committee

Thursday January 25, 2018

6:30 p.m.

Prior Lake City Hall

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Our mission is to manage and preserve the water resources of the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District to the best of our ability using input from our communities, sound engineering practices, and our ability to efficiently fund beneficial projects which transcend political jurisdictions.

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The Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) consists of residents who provide input and recommendations to the Board on projects, reports, prioritization and act as the primary interface for the Board to address the current issues of concern of the local citizens

**CAC Members present:** Steve Pany, Roger Wahl, Jim Goodchild, Jodi See, Liz Schramm and Adam Fitzpatrick

**Others present:** Curt Hennes, District Manager; Kathryn Keller-Miller, Water Resources Assistant

- I. Meeting called to order 6:33 PM – Chair Steve Pany
- II. Agenda-additions-Approval of Agenda & Sept. meeting minutes.
- III. Watershed District Projects update / Discussion topics:
  1. 2018 Officers for CAC. Consensus was to keep the same officers as 2017
  2. Contractors/Consultants for the watershed - services and RFP processes
    - i. The process to hire contractors and consultants is to send out RFPs, respondents send back their information, Diane and the board review them and interview if needed.
    - ii. The watershed typically hires 4 consultant groups every two years:
      1. Attorney (only Smith Partners applied)
      2. Accounting firm (2)(Stayed with Messerli and Schadow)
      3. Auditing (interviewed 3 and stayed with Abdo, Eick & Meyers)
      4. Engineering firm (9)(Stayed with EOR)
    - iii. There also is a pool of about 10 engineering firms used for various work with different expertise the District can rely upon.
    - iv. In addition, WSB & Associates is the district's carp management consultant.
    - v. Other companies are hired as needed for specific project work-- as the FEMA sediment and bank erosion project. Great River Greening was hired for the work done on two restoration projects.
    - vi. Most of the billing is hourly with the exception of the auditing project. All bills are reviewed by Diane and the board. District staff gives input on the EOR bills with regard to what project the work went towards as well as for Smith Partners.
  3. Seining results Arctic Lake
    - i. Tony of WSB estimated that 3,730 pounds or 3000 carp were removed from Arctic Lake representing 85% of the population. Many were on the smaller side, 146 were in the large (greater than 16 inches) category the rest were 10-16 inches.
    - ii. Arctic Lake is believed to be a carp nursery. Currently there is a carp barrier preventing movement between Arctic and Crystal (Mud) Bay on Upper Prior Lake.
  4. Seining results Upper Prior
    - i. January 18<sup>th</sup> WSB coordinated the efforts by Geyer Commercial Fishing to seine 35,000 pounds (17 tons) of carp in Upper Prior Lake near the Knotty Oar Marina. Approximately 3,000 carp were removed, estimated to be just under 20% of the population; an estimated 17,000 carp (approximately 200,000 lbs.) are still in the lake.

- ii. Two semi-trucks outfitted with water tanks to keep them alive took the carp to fish markets: one in New York and then game lakes in the southern states where carp are prized by fishermen.
  - iii. Four radio-tagged carp were caught and two more were implanted with tags. All six were returned to Upper Prior for continued monitoring. The battery life of the radio tags is about 2-3 years. Some of the 20 that were tagged previously are no longer functioning or the carp died.
  - iv. If the carp group together again later this winter, another seine will be conducted on Upper Prior in the continued effort to reach a manageable level (100 KG per hectare).
  - v. Some game fish were caught and released but we don't have the figures on those.
  - vi. For more information, visit the Carp Management page on the district website and Facebook page.
- 5. Seining in additional locations in Upper Prior
  - i. To conduct seining in additional locations in Upper Prior Lake, the floor of the lake must be mapped to locate obstacles. The DNR is responsible for this.
  - ii. In previous years a "Dive the Lake" event was held in early June with divers removing objects. Could this be done again or is it possible the Lake Association or volunteers would remove obstacles from the lake to facilitate additional seining? Curt will ask Woody to talk to the Lake Association.
  - iii. Kathryn was asked if we are doing carp management on other bodies of water. She said the grants we have are for Spring and Prior Lakes only. These grants are terminating in June and we are applying for others.
- 6. GreenStep Cities membership for City of Prior Lake, reply from City of PL
  - i. We received an email with this information but couldn't recall the details. We will review the email and discuss this in our February meeting.
  - ii. Note, after the meeting I found the email and the contents are follows:  
*From Casey McCabe Community Development Director for the city of Prior Lake. "The City has discussed the program. The City of PL identified this in the 2040 Vision & Strategic Plan as a Natural Resources goal, which was, "Evaluate grant opportunities and position the City to be the most competitive including evaluation of the GreenStep Cities program." That said, the city has not taken any official action to become a GreenStep City. Although Prior Lake may already be meeting many of the recommended best practices, I think the city would need to understand the ongoing staffing needs for monitoring and reporting."*
  - iii. It was reported that the Lave Savers recommendation for lake aeration is not effective on larger bodies of water
- 7. 12/17 wetland pond study results.
  - i. The experiment studied the effect of blue gill sunfish on carp. The sunfish are thought to eat carp eggs.
  - ii. Josh finished gathering the data but is still tabulating it. Anecdotally, it looks like the blue gills do impact/eat carp eggs. The intent is to get to the point where we can say what blue gill stocking levels are necessary to manage carp levels.
- 8. Flood prevention with regard to water retention.
  - i. Looked at the watershed map for possible storage areas: Sutton Lake area; Swamp Lake, south side of Spring Lake. Noted that the flood study information can be found on the website.
- 9. State of Water Conference in April 2018. Who can attend? It is being held at Breezy Point this year. Steve will send a link. Let him know if you want to attend.
- 10. Citizen engagement going forward. Kathryn Keller-Miller.
  - i. Kathryn said the district is continuing much of the same promotional communication about the District's efforts as in 2017: having District project updates published in the newspapers, on the website and on the Facebook page. She said they are working on getting a regular column in the paper. In addition there are the workshops for

raingardens, native plantings, and shoreline restoration. She said to take this a step further would be to get a neighborhood to do a workshop or project together to really engage them as a group in water conservation efforts.

- ii. Steve is looking for design and content ideas for a CAC business card. The card would be handed out to encourage new members to join.
- iii. 501C organizations, such as a lake association, can raise money for projects. Curt will contact Woody to bring it up at the Prior Lake Association. Contact for more information can be found at [mnfundraising@delewarenorth.com](mailto:mnfundraising@delewarenorth.com) or phone number 612-659-3983.

11. Water Quality Improvement Award

- i. The award presentation event was published on the District website and on Twitter.

12. CAC to advise/comment with feedback on the future district management plan

13. Comments:

- i. Curt was asked about interviews for open watershed district manager positions and he said they had 5 interviews for Marianne's position. The district manager term length is two years.
- ii. Feb. 28/March 1 Aquatic Invaders Summit III at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota, is a Best Management Practice towards preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species in Minnesota's waters. \$259 total for a group of 3 or more. Adam suggested signing up for 3 or more attendees for streaming it online in one of the meeting rooms at City Hall. CAC members, district managers and employees could attend parts or all of it.
- iii. Adam is attending the Road Salt Symposium on February 8, 2018 |
- iv. The managers meeting minutes through December 2017 are on the website.
- v. The District's phone answering system was updated and is more user friendly.
- vi. Steve promoted the 4 day Polar Palapalooza being sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and the city of Prior Lake.
- vii. The alum treatment on Spring Lake is planned for the end of April or early May.

14. Next meeting is February 22

IV. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM