

PRIOR LAKE – SPRING LAKE

WATERSHED DISTRICT

Citizen Advisory Committee

Thursday, March 28, 2019

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Prior Lake City Hall

4646 Dakota Street SE Prior Lake, MN 55372

Attendees:

- **CAC Members present:** Steve P., Kim S., Larry R., Elizabeth S., Marianne B, Jody S, Jerry M.
- **Others present:** Board Member: Curt H.; Kathryn Keller-Miller, Water Resources Outreach Specialist; Jeff Anderson, Water Resources Technician

- I. Call meeting to order 6:33 pm – President Steve Pany
- II. Agenda-additions-Approval of Agenda & October meeting minutes.
 - a. Approved minutes.
 - b. Approved agenda.
- III. Watershed District Projects update / Discussion topics:
 - a. Welcome packet for new CAC members
 - i. What does the CAC members want in a welcome packet?
 - ii. Links to the Watershed, projects, hierarchy of how the CAC fits in to the overall
 - iii. Assign a mentor to the new member – Jody had this in a past experience and it helped welcome the new member.
 - iv. Include the board members etc., names and emails to help the new member
 - v. Include the dates of all the monthly meetings, both CAC and the board.
 - vi. Checklist of who, what and where in a one sheet format.
 - vii. Marianne will lead and bring draft to next month's meeting.
 - b. Carp seining update.
 - i. Carp were by Knotty Oar in a different area than previously seined, but there were rocks in the area.
 - ii. Watershed hired Bio-Base company to re-analyze data we had of where rocks are on the bottom of the lake.
 - iii. Steve provided a recommendation to try and scare them out- however, this was not viable.
 - iv. Jeff went out and physically tamped the bottom that were harder than typically good for seining. A road was plowed on the ice to prepare for the sein, and that spooked the fish out of the area.
 - v. This year the commercial seiners have not had much success. And not willing to take on a lot of risk for low return.
 - vi. Will look forward to a possible summer sein.
 - vii. Who makes the call to scare or not scare the fish? Sometimes not feasible, everyone involved typically weighs in.
 - viii. What if they school in the same area next winter? We need to provision for this earlier. Can the Watershed understand what the perfect sein would be?

PRIOR LAKE – SPRING LAKE

WATERSHED DISTRICT

- ix. Can the commercial seiners sein in a small area? Should we know the area circumference and depth prior to winter months and be prepared? Should Mud Bay/Crystal Cove be looked at again as an area to sein?
- x. Shocking the fish (as this goes down 5 feet) is not a preferable method for removal of the carp. And prepping for the shocking can actually scare the carp away.
- xi. It's not the depth, it's the proximity to where they can drop the nets for a successful sein. This winter the nets could not be dropped far enough away to not spook the fish.
- xii. Legislation updates- singleton bills are not common, so they hooked the carp bill on another water bill for bi-partisan support. And doesn't involved money so likely to pass.
- xiii. DNR ideas to assist in carp seining? Kathryn provided insight that they have been talking to other districts and the U of M study. There is nothing that is a 'silver bullet' that works.
- xiv. Curt pointed out that industry wide, it is more of a carp management not a carp eradication.
- xv. The previous and successful efforts on Spring Lake has paid off as natural vegetation is coming back.
- xvi. Stocking with game fish will help eat the carp minnows.
- c. Outlet channel stream bank repair update
 - i. FEMA funding – work finished on Jeffers pond, Pike Lake areas. Weather is getting too warm and water too high. And then work needs to cease until June 15 for fish spawning. 20% of work is done, the rest will continue summer and fall. Extension to the end of 2019.
 - ii. Good place to see is at the Quarry lake where Shakopee park fishing dock, the outlet channel runs next to it...and is flowing.
 - iii. Any new damage with this spring's thaw? – Jeff said a couple spots that may have a slight erosion. Maxed out a couple of culverts – not flooding but maxed.
 - iv. Since the lower weir has been opened, Jeff has been visiting and removing debris.
 - v. Can the CAC be provided a map of areas that its members can visually observe and put extra eyes on it? – Jeff can provide locations for members to conduct observations.
 - 1. Culvert under county 42 looks like it might need attention. Jeff will look at it and bring it to the county's attention as they own it and are good at maintaining.
 - vi. Would it be useful for a CAC volunteer go with Jeff? Most times it is scheduling that prevents this partnership.
 - vii. What about the water quality from street runoff? Should it be measured or tested?
 - viii. Once a leaf is in water, how fast does it dissolve its phosphorous? Is it right away or over time as it decays? It is likely that the phosphorous is released at certain levels until the leaf is decayed.
 - ix. Street sweeping – city will likely start when it dries out. – call to the city would be needed to confirm. Michael Plant is the new city manager.
 - x. There is a metro-wide 'adopt-a-drain' – so anyone can do this if interested and keep the drains clean!
- d. 2019 Education and outreach plan
 - i. A review of what is in the plan was provided by Kathryn.

PRIOR LAKE – SPRING LAKE

WATERSHED DISTRICT

- ii. MS4 – municipal + the 4 ‘s’ – sewer, storm water system etc...most MS4 are cities.
- iii. Most PLOC outreach is with the FEMA work being done with the farm and land owners along the banks.
- iv. Rain garden workshop on April 18
- v. Prairie workshops, cost share program
- vi. Some partnering with the local schools
- vii. Clean water clean-up – April 28th at Fish Point park.
- viii. Working on designing a new logo – will use new logo for “now entering the watershed” area signage to the Watershed.
- ix. What about doing an inventory of landowners on the larger of the lakes in the watershed to see if there are opportunities to help water quality? If the landowner has interest, but cannot take on the work completely, maybe we can form a volunteer group to help. Jeff suggested targeting subwatershed areas that have higher pollutant loading.
- e. Planning the WD 50th year anniversary next year.
 - i. Might be fun to do events around this
 - ii. Other districts have done this and brainstorming with those events in mind are happening.
 - 1. Wildlife walks, fishing events are some ideas.
 - 2. Does the CAC have any ideas? If so, shoot Kathryn an email.
 - a. Ice cream social
 - b. What about at Lakefront days?
 - c. What about the Lakefront days parade? What about the entry fee? Get a sponsorship from a boat company or use a personal boat?
 - d. Decals for volunteers at lake cleanup days or business cards that identify who we are and what we do...or a sticker “proud volunteer...”
 - e. Watershed district should have jackets the same color to identify who they are...
 - f. What about a ‘geo-caching’ type activity that is self-led?
 - g. Or a few medallions placed around the area. Or a stamp/stickers that you get in a booklet as you go along.
 - h. Or hook up with events that are already scheduled like SLA Annual Picnic.
 - i. Minnow races, give away t-shirts, caps or jackets
- f. Jeff Anderson: Water level outlook. High water levels
 - i. Insights, updates and what he does was provided.
 - ii. Request put in to turn on ferric chloride plant.
 - 1. Hwy 13 project should not affect the ferric chloride delivery line.
 - iii. Can the ducks unlimited area on Spring Lake be dredged for water quality purposes?
- g. Priority items – review and share your thoughts. These can be adjusted.
 - i. Should we bump up against the management plan meeting items that were captured?
 - ii. Current CAC Priority Items list:
 - 1. Water Levels**
 - a. Outlet channel maintenance, water flow level measurements reported on website

PRIOR LAKE – SPRING LAKE

WATERSHED DISTRICT

- b. Flood control master plan
- c. Efforts to slow water flow in the upper watershed, rain gardens home owners

2. Water Quality

- a. Water quality: Sediment -erosion reduction
- b. Carp removal, carp gates, carp reduction projects
- c. Water quality analysis: phosphorous level analysis for lakes in the watershed, monitoring
- d. Future alum treatments

3. Aquatic Plants AIS

- a. Invasive aquatic plant control, prevent AIS from entering lakes. Restore native plants

4. Agriculture

- a. Farm Lead Council, agriculture soil testing program cover crops

5. Projects

- a. Community outreach. Newspaper articles, clean water cleanup events, Lakefront Days booth
- b. Property, project permitting, easement enforcement
- c. Projects, Sand Point Beach Park, Raymond Park, Spring Lake shore restoration, 12/17 wetland, signage

- I. Next meeting date: April 25, 2019
- II. Water Resources Management Plan update. April 25, 2019 CAC meeting.
- III. Comments, suggestions, questions.
 - 1. Low flow gate – Can only be open in March and April – can it be extended to January or February – not without DNR permission. CAC members had some thoughts that DNR passed control to watershed that they have control over the gate. Or is there a procedure that is followed – there is a date restriction. Can be opened Mar 1st through April without calling DNR. Can the board update the procedure to allow low gate flow in the fall? Yes already is in plan.
 - 2. City citizens engagement committee wants a joint session with the CAC
- IV. Adjourn 8:00pm

PLSLWD: 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.

CAC: 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

Projects: ferric chloride treatment facility, alum treatments, carp seining, carp management program, carp mapping, carp contests, carp barriers, easement enforcement, permits, 12/17 wetland, Lower Prior Lake protection program, outlet channel, outlet channel repair, invasive aquatic plant control, NW Spring Lake shore project, lake and stream water monitoring, flood reduction plan, Farm Led-Council, partnerships with other agencies, workshops, project cost share, Water Quality Improvement Award, Fish Point Park, Raymond Park, Indian Ridge Park, Sand Point Beach Project, Watzl's Beach shoreline restoration.