

PRIOR LAKE - SPRING LAKE

WATERSHED DISTRICT

Citizen Advisory Committee

Thursday June 27, 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., Elizabeth S., Jody S., Jim W., Woody S., Adam F.
- **Others present:** Water Resources Outreach Specialist: Kathryn K-M, District Board President: Mike M., Board Member: Curt H., Board Secretary: Bruce L.

- I. Call meeting to order 6:34 pm – President Steve Pany
- II. Agenda-additions-Approval of Agenda & April meeting minutes.
 - a. Approved minutes. (Noted a correction: Sunfish eat the eggs, not the baby carp)
 - b. Approved agenda.
- III. Watershed District Projects update / Discussion topics
 - a. Welcome packet for new CAC members update.
 - i. Handed out a draft and asked for feedback at the next meeting. The draft will be emailed to everyone.
 - b. Carp control methods - thinking out of the box.
 - i. Spring Lake population has come back somewhat
 - ii. Lake Volney in the early 70's had a gate into a bay that carp could go through but couldn't get back out. Kathryn said such a device was under discussion this week. It is a trap door they go through and are then penned until they can be removed.
 - iii. Noted that we are learning quite a bit about carp habits in our chain of lakes that should help us improve our methods for eradication.
 - c. Sutton Lake Project update (upper watershed storage)
 - i. The project is in the DNR permitting stage. A plan was submitted but the DNR asked for the plan to include how wildlife in the surrounding area would be affected.
 - ii. Can Sutton Lake be reclassified as a wetland, like Dean Lake? Yes but it may not have much effect on the permitting.
 - iii. The board will discuss what water level is most beneficial.
 - d. Thinking out of the box on water levels in general (thoughts from Kim)
 - i. Should we be opening the gates in fall as well as spring? Maybe get the fall level to be at 901.5 if it isn't by September.
 - ii. It's in the guidelines to be able to open the gates in fall but it exposes us to the risk of a dry winter and later low levels.
 - iii. There seems to be a single point of failure in that Upper Prior has one outlet to remove water when the lake levels are high, but there are multiple inlets of water on Spring and Lower Prior
 1. Could we have multiple options to let water out of both lakes, i.e.,:
 - a. Other controlled outlets on Spring such as a swamp or low lying area that can accommodate being filled to take some of the overage.

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- b. Is there any land mining that is potentially going to occur on nearby land that can create a lake for storage
 - c. Can Arctic Lake take on additional water?
 - d. Can an outlet be put in that takes water off of Spring and transports it miles away?
- e. Adopt a Storm Drain program and Master Water Steward Program suggestions:
 - i. Adopt a storm drain project is something to consider doing with the CEC (City Engagement Committee)
 - ii. Provide a map or bring tablet for sign ups at Lakefront Days with the locations of storm drains for adoption as well as the website where they can be found.
 - iii. Master Water Steward Program – this maybe better promoted at the manager’s meeting to reach the public via cable TV. This program requires 50 hours in a year.
- f. Suggestions for the WD 50th year anniversary next year:
 - i. Have a watershed float in the parade (stationary this year) (Steve)
 - ii. Teddy Bear Band (a big draw, especially for families) event (like at the library) to celebrate the anniversary and promote the watershed. (Adam)
 - iii. Display of invasive species – actual species. Could possibly partner with the library on this project. (Adam).
 - iv. Partner with the local brew pub, The Boathouse Brothers Brewery, to create a Watershed 50th Anniversary beer complete with a watershed coaster to promote watershed work awareness. (Liz)
 - v. Story corps idea presented at the last meeting of interviewing members with prepared questions to capture their memories of the watershed challenges and accomplishments. Could also combine it with a collection of watershed materials in a time capsule. (Liz)
 - vi. Sponsor a Junior Water Stewardship badges for Girl Scouts/Boy Scouts during the anniversary year (could continue if successful). (Jodi)
 - vii. Have a public information event with a water clean-up event showing what was removed (big clean-up like Minnehaha Creek). Possibly tie in with the ‘Dive the Lake’ event that is going to take place next year with the Knotty Oar. (Jodi)
 - viii. Geocaching event with prizes (Mike)
 - ix. Brochure showing the watershed historical timeline. (Bruce)
 - x. Put an article in the local papers in Dec/Jan with the anniversary calendar of events. (Jodi)
- g. Lakefront Days booth. Bring 2 questions for visitors.
 - i. Submit questions to Kathryn. Multiple choice questions are good.
- h. Aquatic plant harvesters hired by citizens causing outlet to plug up? More citizen outreach?
 - i. The harvesters haven’t been seen this year. Could be because of the zebra mussels in the lake and the lack of a proper place to dump the infected weeds. Also they were warned last year that they need permits and many don’t want to go through the permitting process.
 - ii. People on the lake are cutting weeds on their own this time of year.
 - iii. There are people selling chemicals to kill lake weeds and these are not approved.
 - iv. Aqua thrusters were used to clear weeds last year and these are against DNR regulations when used at levels below the water surface. It went to court and those using water thrusters lost. Noted that water thrusters can be used on the water surface just not at deep levels where they kill all plants.
 - v. Do we want to look into an extensive harvest of invasive lake weeds with proper disposal? This is not currently on the board’s agenda. Currently we have Steve McComas of Blue

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Water Science inventory and spot treat invasive weed locations identified during inventory with chemicals. Members agreed it was a good idea to investigate weed harvesting.

- i. List of projects and accomplishments by CAC
 - i. Steve provided a list of projects and accomplishments.
 - j. CAC goals for 2019. (These should coincide with watershed district goals)
 - i. Education about shoreline management and possibly have incentives to do so. (Shoreline ordinances are a city responsibility, but the results affect the water quality). Maybe work with CEC (Citizen Engagement Committee) of the city of Prior Lake. Possibly ordinances regarding boats that do damage? Again a city responsibility.
 - ii. Identify the best brochure available on shoreline stabilization that we can publish everywhere (possibly from the shoreline restoration seminars that SWCD puts on)
 - k. 2020 budget for classes and events for CAC members (\$500 in 2019)
 - i. The CAC will make a 2020 budget proposal. Will include the annual MAWD meeting (1st weekend in Dec in Alexandria), etc.
 - l. Upcoming project tours.
 - i. Tours being planned now and may include a bus for transportation.
 - m. Lakefront Days booth volunteers.
 - i. Will be only one day this year - August 10.
 - ii. Will need volunteers.
 - n. Next CAC meeting: July 25. (will not meet in August)
 - i. Set aside a half hour for Marianne to summarize the MAWD Summer Tour
 - ii. New member Christian M.
- IV. Comments, suggestions, questions.
- a. CAC would like to ask the DNR to present their information about fish inventory including their northern pike nurseries at a CAC meeting. (Could open that meeting to the public for education.) Staff will check on who contacts the DNR.
- V. Adjourned 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.