



## CAC Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 10, 2020  
6:30-8:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

**Attendees:** Christian, Kim, Jim, Matt, Christopher, Woody.  
Staff: Kathryn. Board members: Bruce

- I. Convene meeting – 6:33 pm
- II. Minutes & Agenda
  - a. December Agenda approved
  - b. October Agenda approved
  - c. Schedule for 2021 meetings will be sent out by Kathryn.
- III. CAC business:
  - a. November Board Meeting - CAC Member Report – Ben (could not attend)
  - b. December Board Meeting - CAC Member Report – Jim
    - i. Workshop coverage
    - ii. Staffing updates – Maggie is temp District Administrator
    - iii. New District accountant hired
    - iv. Final budget levy approved
    - v. Lake report cards - the process to create were discussed and reviewed. One observation was the phosphorus on the Buck Lake area is high. However, the clarity is very good.
    - vi. MAWD annual meeting updates from Bruce (it was all virtual)
    - vii. Discussion on carp program activities
    - viii. Drawdown on pond on Northwood road was discussed for carp kill. Is there opportunity to improve the ecology of the pond at this time?
    - ix. Carp are starting to group up; some batteries in the older radio tags are reaching the end of their lifespan so some new carp were radio tagged this fall.
    - x. Carp seining – more resources are available to us to conduct more seining opportunities.
  - c. January 12<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting Attendee – Woody S.
  - d. 2021 Board meeting attendees needed. Kathryn will send out sign up list.
- IV. Staff Project Updates:
  - a. Diane retired at the end of Nov- interim District Admin is Maggie. Applicants being solicited.
  - b. MAWD Annual Conference held last week.
    - i. This year our district won award for Program of the Year for carp management program.
    - ii. Maggie also received the award for Watershed Employee of the Year.
  - c. New carp mgmt. form for reporting carp schooling, or any other observations and mark the spot on the map. Link is on the district website: <https://carp-espionage-plslwd.hub.arcgis.com/>

- d. Workshop for homeowners that the SWCD putting on for the best use of salt mgmt. for the upcoming winter season on Dec 15- Kathryn will send us the link to sign up to attend if interested.
  - e. Truck purchased for the district's use - arriving in the near future.
  - f. Lake water quality report cards –
    - i. First report cards were done for the larger lakes a couple of years ago.
    - ii. Cadence at this time is to update report cards every 3 years.
    - iii. Grades were given to each lake and areas that are water quality indicators.
    - iv. Grades are to inform the general public, deeper analysis is done by the district looking at full data trends.
- V. Board Liaison Updates & Requests to CAC – Bruce
- a. Switching accountants to Clifton-Larson-Allen (CLA)
  - b. New bank – to Sterling Bank
  - c. Workshop – every year review of cost-sharing programs supported by the SWCD and what will be funded
  - d. Sutton Lake – work out for bid; contractor will be awarded soon so work can commence.
  - e. FEMA – final payment has been approved; payment 30-60 days out.
  - f. Budget approved. Held the tax levy the same as last year.
    - i. Budget broken down into program categories
    - ii. Allocating money aside for future alum or upper watershed projects.
  - g. District Administrator position – panel of interviewers; CAC members will be a possible panel to participate. Will be virtual process at this time.
  - h. Board retreat – coming up in January, any ideas that the CAC members would like to see discussed during this retreat, please provide to Christian to forward to the board. One topic might be the muck digesters. Or the optimization of the I-LIDs program.
- VI. Subcommittee Reports
- a. AIS/Signage: I-LIDS update – Watershed staff with board's approval are negotiating contract for system we want implemented.
  - b. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Kim) – no new updates
  - c. Fish Stocking (Christian) – no new updates
  - d. Shoreline Restoration (Christopher, Matt) – board is interested in this area for the CAC to dive into this.
  - e. Storage Assessment, Plans and Wetland Banking (Christopher, Woody, Jim) – Update on Upper Watershed Blueprint
- VII. Other Topics
- a. Update on muck digesters – Christopher/Matt
    - i. Can reduce cost of alum treatments with increase of water quality.
    - ii. Bacteria and cultures taken from lake - naturally occurring enzymes
    - iii. Organic matter on the lake bottom is natural and just can't break down fast enough.
    - iv. Stabilize the natural balance of the lake's sustainability
    - v. The muck removal takes away food for algae growth
    - vi. Most common alternative to muck digestors is dredging of the unwanted muck which is expensive.
    - vii. Muck digestors doesn't remove all muck (80-90% removed).
    - viii. There are certain areas to not use muck digesters – i.e. areas where copper sulfate would be used to kill aquatic plants like curlyleaf

- pondweed. Wait a year after algaecide/herbicide treatments before uses muck digestors; herbicides will kill the muck digester bacteria.
- ix. Biggest impact is to give homeowners the information for use.
  - x. Maybe a good use would be in Buck Lake or Geis wetland?
  - xi. Other areas on lakes within our watershed were reviewed.
  - xii. Cost of muck digesters provided in the slide deck Matt presented – mostly treat the shoreline; not entire lake. \$4,440 for 500 lbs which enough to treat 40 acres or 20 acres heavily.
  - xiii. CAC seeks staff to do a review of the muck digestors or if they have previous experience with it.
  - xiv. Bruce suggested the board should talk about this at the next retreat. Also a bit more research may be needed prior to a formal presentation to the board.
  - xv. Christopher & Matt will look a bit further into rules/regulations regarding use in MN and report back to the CAC
- b. Raymond Park buckthorn removal – Christian
    - i. Christian has been moving residual buckthorn at the park and remulched the walking path. Looks nice!
  - c. Effectiveness of Conservation Projects Implemented at Spring Lake (research project) – Christian
    - i. Two college students from St. Olaf did a nice research project that may provide value to the CAC
- VIII. Topics and Goals for Next Meeting
  - IX. Staff & Other Announcements
  - X. Adjourn: 8:08 pm

#### **Upcoming Meetings:**

- Board Meeting: Tues, January 12, 6:00 pm
- CAC Meeting: Thurs, January 28, 6:30 pm