



PRIOR LAKE SPRING LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

CAC Meeting **Minutes**

Thursday, May 27, 2021

6:30-8:00 PM

Virtual Meeting - Join via <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/443971413>

Attendees:

CAC Members:

6 of 9 members present = 66%

- ☒ Christian Morkeberg (Chair) present
- ☐ *Woody Spitzmueller* absent
- ☐ *Christopher Crowhurst* absent
- ☒ Matt Newman present
- ☒ Jim Weninger present
- ☒ Ben Burnett present
- ☐ *Matt Tofanelli* absent
- ☒ Loren Hanson present
- ☒ Maureen Reeder present

Staff: Joni Giese District Administrator
Kathryn Keller-Miller Outreach Specialist

Board members:

Bruce Loney

Guests:

Lisa Quinn

- I. Convene meeting – 6:33 pm – Welcome — Chair Christian Morkeberg
- II. Minutes & Agenda
 - a. April Minutes approved Motioned: Jim W.; Seconded: Loren; passed
 - b. May Agenda
 1. Added: 12/17 wetland update to agenda – Jim Weninger
 2. Added: subcommittee name/task discussions – Matt
 3. Motion to approve amended agenda: Maureen; Seconded: Matt; passed
- III. CAC Business
 - a. Welcomed new CAC member
 1. Maureen Reeder
 - b. June meeting location: move to in person or keep virtual?
 1. Most wanted in-person, and are comfortable following mask guidelines
 2. Is there a hybrid option? – was tried early on, didn't work well, may be a potential option in future.
 3. Christian motioned to go back to in-person and follow city mask guidance
 4. Voted and passed – in-person meetings starting in June
 - c. Subcommittee membership review
 1. Christian outlined some thoughts/goals Matt N had e-mailed to group.
 2. Matt suggested re-aligning subcommittee structure to cover both short-term projects and long-term goals in four groups

- a) Revamp committees so have a broader topic focus instead of more narrow project focus
- b) Current subcommittees, goals, and proposed realignment

Current CAC Subcommittees	PLSLWD goals	Proposed CAC Subcommittees
1) Shoreline Restoration 2) Muck digesters 3) AIS/Signage 4) Fish Stocking 5) Storage Assessment, Plans and Wetland Banking	1) Water quality 2) AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) 3) Flooding	1) Shoreline restoration 2) Lake life health 3) Regulations 4) Water storage

- c) Further description of proposed new potential subcommittees:
 - (1) **Shoreline restoration** – both sides of water's edge - focus on ecology-based management (vegetation management by beach, erosion of shoreline, riprap/sand blanket, planting, muck in water).
 - (2) **Lake life health** – fish health (e.g., carp numbers, fishery stock, etc.), water clarity, aquatic vegetation (quantity, type, and health), algae, mussel health, invertebrate/phytoplankton numbers and AIS inspections.
 - (3) **Regulations** – enforcement/responsibility (I-LIDS, zebra mussel inspection enforcement [not the management of the inspections]), business compliance attached to lakes (e.g., dock usage, numbers, etc.).
 - (4) **Water storage** – upstream storage, water contamination from outside sources (stormwater runoff/fields), wetland banking, flooding, etc.

3. Discussion:

- a) Ben – agreed with realignment idea – should be in-line with Watershed District (WD) goals
- b) Jim – remind CAC we have a statutory position, we are the advisory/ review group, we have some limitations on how much we can “do”
- c) Maureen – needs to be coordinated with the board
- d) Bruce – subcommittees need to tie back to WD goals
- e) Loren – agree
- f) Joni – agree, broader subcommittees, but should match with WD goals
 - (1) Clarification: CAC is an advisory body, and has been doing this well for the Upper Watershed Blueprint and other recent projects

4. Asked Bruce, Joni, and Kathryn: what would WD prefer CAC do?

- a) More heads, to review and improve plans and ideas, trying to find the “best bang for the buck” for projects and benefits
 - (1) Want more involvement and farmer input dealing with Ditch 13 plans
 - (2) Want CAC to continue with plan reviews
 - (3) Help getting more farmer input

5. No Motion was made, tabled until next meeting.

d. Planning joint CAC and Board of Managers meeting for July

- 1. Current budgeting process will kick off in June, as part of that and to help communicate results with CAC, Joni and Bruce are working to schedule a joint CAC and Board of Managers meeting for July.
 - a) Board is having budget retreat June 19, talking about 5 year plan
 - b) Joint meeting would provide opportunity to better coordinate Board and CAC

- c) CAC would invite board to July CAC meeting
- d) Having joint meeting after budgeting process has started will allow board to present top 3-4 projects over next 5 years, so CAC can review/advise/etc. – after budgeting
- 2. It was suggested the joint meeting should be an annual event.
 - a) Always July? Should it be before/after budgeting?

IV. May Board Meeting

- a. CAC Member Report – Maureen
 - 1. No public comments
 - 2. Staff update: water level discussion; video on outlet structure, new cameras;
 - 3. Boat inspection updates – on all public boat accesses – weekends and some random weekdays
 - a) I-LIDS updates – Spring Lake, automated AIS video inspection
 - b) Discussion of rules/laws and if I-LIDS could be used in “legal action”
Led to other questions, such as ways to measure/monitor/enforce
 - c) No prosecution plans yet
 - 4. Education and outreach plan discussed
 - 5. Approve new CAC member – Maureen Reeder
 - 6. Fish stocking discussion – bluegill effects on carp, on walleye, etc.
 - 7. Weed treatment updates
 - 8. Consent agenda – annual report released
- b. June Board Meeting Attendee – June 8
 - 1. Workshop (optional): 4:00 – 6:00 PM
 - 2. Meeting: 6:00 – 8:00 PM Maureen

V. Staff Project Updates

- a. Stabilize your shoreline workshop – June 9 at 6:30 pm (webinar)
- b. Native prairie workshop – July 14th – hosted by SWCD
- c. Stocking updates – permits just came in (5/27/21)
 - 1. 2000 bluegill to Geis wetland
 - 2. 700 bluegill – SW side of Spring Lake
 - 3. 700 bluegill – Northwoods pond
- d. Hike the Watershed – guided hikes – continuing from last year (all Wednesdays during day) 9:30 am
 - 1. June 16 (Jeffers Pond), July 14 (Lakefront Park), Aug 18 (Spring Lake Regional/Arctic Lake)
- e. From Jim:
 - 1. Recently a citizen living on Spring Lake stopped Jim and asked him to say thanks for helping control the curlyleaf pondweed
 - 2. Another friend on Spring Lake: the water control structure gate on wetlands near intersection of 12 & 17 isn't doing what it was supposed to do, seems broken and may need attention – staff are aware and working on this
 - 3. Spring Lake residents getting notices that they need flood insurance (discussion of whether this was just an insurance company marketing effort)

VI. Board Liaison Updates & Requests to CAC – Bruce

- a. Voted in Maureen to CAC
- b. See all Board Meeting notes above
- c. Retreat June 19, will be about 3 hrs

- d. Report of presentation to Finance and Commerce about sustainability of carp prevention projects
 - 1. Doing well, working to do better
- VII. CAC Subcommittee Reports – working on goals for 2021 & now realignment
 - a. Shoreline Restoration (Christopher, Matt, Ben, Loren, Maureen) possible areas of focus:
 - 1. Review city ordinances (rules, regulations, guidelines)
 - a) Townships? Do they match cities? What people can do and can't
 - b) Decipher different jurisdictions and guideline consistency
 - c) Build a clear "who to call for questions"
 - 2. PR, communication and guidelines – better DNR interpretations (there is a spectrum of wild to landscaped, DNR tends to push more "wild", need better more pragmatic & practical guidelines, that look nice
 - a) People need to be able to store boats, equipment, etc. Landscapers and DNR often don't want this and ignore to discourage. Need practical guides
 - b) Need clear objectives – not everyone can hire a designer or landscaper, need some "canned" practical guidelines
 - (1) Buildings, shade/sunny options, docks/structures
 - (2) Shoreline along creeks, outlets (through Shakopee), etc.
 - c) New CRP updates, Maureen will send some information to Joni
 - d) Create "Practical" guides/brochures, or manuals and share/communicate, maybe even advertise.
 - (1) Guides and advertising will help inform people about the WD, it's purpose, It's needs, and help everyone take better care of lakes/water
 - (2) Prior Lake Assoc. (and other groups) have e-mail lists for distribution to start
 - b. Muck digesters (Christopher, Matt) - *progressing*
 - c. AIS/Signage (Christian, Ben) - *progressing*
 - d. Fish Stocking (Christian, Loren) - *progressing*
 - e. Upper WD Storage Assessment, Plans and Wetland Banking (Christopher, Woody, Jim, Maureen)
 - 1. Current & Potential Projects:
 - a) Upper watershed plans to help reduce flooding and control runoff.
 - b) Blueprint plans have reviewed
 - c) Sutton Lake project – mostly done
 - d) Spring Lake project – mostly done
 - e) Buck Lake
 - f) Next: Sutton Lake IESF (Iron-Enhanced Sand Filters)
 - 2. Looking to future projects/ideas
 - f. New member packet (Loren, Ben, w/ Kathryn)
 - 1. Building list of members, contact info, and biographies
 - 2. Building list of acronyms and abbreviations
 - 3. Ideas:
 - a) How many jurisdictions are covered in the entire WD – make sure website has lists, maps, etc. and add pointers to this info in new-member info.
 - b) How do regulations across jurisdictions compare? Are they in line with the WD goals? (Shoreline Restoration committee task?)
 - 4. Work is progressing

VIII. Other Topics

- a. None

IX. Goals & Topics for Next Meeting

- a. Subcommittee realignments
- b. WD, Board and CAC need to define and document budget timeline/process (including relation between board and CAC, diagrams, flowcharts, etc.)

X. Staff & Other Announcements

- a. None

XI. Adjourn

- a. Motioned: Loren; Seconded; Passed

XII. Upcoming Meetings:

- a. Board Meeting: Tues, June 8, 6:00 pm
- b. CAC Meeting: Thurs, June 24, 6:30 pm