

## CAC Meeting Minutes

Date: 9/30/21 6:30-8:00 PM

### Attendees:

#### CAC Members:

- ☒ Christian Morkeberg (Chair)
- ☒ Christopher Crowhurst
- ☒ Jim Weninger
- ☒ Matt Tofanelli
- ☐ ~~Maureen Reeder~~

7 of 10 members present = 70%

- ☒ Woody Spitzmueller
- ☐ ~~Matt Newman~~
- ☒ Ben Burnett
- ☐ ~~Loren Hanson~~
- ☒ David Hagen

---

Staff: ☒ Joni Giese (District Administrator)

#### Board members:

- ☒ Bruce Loney (CAC rep)      ☒ Curt Hennes

#### Guests:

- Adam Proehl (PLA)
- Wes Steffan (SLA)
- Steve McComas (BWS)

I. Meeting convened at 6:32 pm by Chair Christian Morkeberg

### II. Minutes & Agenda

- a. October Minutes approved      Motioned: Woody; Seconded: Jim; passed
- b. September Agenda      Motioned: Chis; Seconded: Dave; passed
  - 1. Change: Loren out, will present next month
  - 2. Corrected Steve McComas's name in

### III. Water Quality Presentation - Blue Water Science – Steve McComas

- a. **See Attachment #1 below for slide content, additional information, and discussion**
- b. Key take-aways:
  - 1. Primary solutions and goals: Reduce phosphorous and carp
  - 2. Solutions have 3 legs:
    - Economic/cost
    - Technology – is it possible, can it be done?
    - Social/political – will people/politicians do it?

### IV. CAC Business

- o Christian brought up the suggestion of creating a new position of “Subcommittee Facilitator” and suggested Christopher for the position, discussion followed, then formally motioned by Jim, seconded by Chris, passed. Chris will begin immediately.
- o Christian suggested Subcommittees meet 15 minutes before CAC monthly meeting (6:15-6:30), discussion followed, then formally motioned by Ben, seconded by Woody, passed. This will start next month (October 2021).
- o Delayed: New Member Orientation Packet Update (Loren)

### V. Staff Project Updates

- o Lake Vegetation Improvement
  - Goal is 40% for self-sustaining lake health
  - Spring (2021): 29.1% (26% improvement from 2020)
  - Upper Prior (2021): 51.6% (115% increase from 23.9% in 2020)
  - Lower Prior (2021): 45.6% (stable)
  - NOTE: Lake levels are VERY low, and this may be affecting (increasing) Vegetation level numbers
  - Future Ideas:

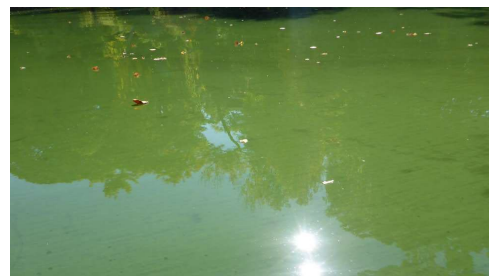
- Rent a rake/harvester for a yearly “mowing” and removal of weeds in specific areas – this could be counterproductive for 40% coverage, Use in limited areas
  - PR idea: encourage residents to limit the amount of weeds they clear for personal recreation areas, only clear beaches and paths in/out
- Budget Process Update – moving forward
  - Submitted a 3% increase for the Levy for 2022
- Hike the Outlet Channel Tour: October 4, 1 – 4:30 PM
- VI. September Board Meeting – attendee: Ben
  - a. CAC Member Report, See **Attachment #2 PLSLWD 9/14/21 Workshop and Board Meeting notes**
  - b. October Board Meeting – attendee: Jim
    - 1. See Attachment #3 for other future meetings and CAC Attendees
- VII. Board Liaison Updates & Requests to CAC – Bruce
  - Discussed feasibility reports, easements, staffing, etc.
- VIII. CAC Subcommittee Reports
  - a. Fish stocking update:
    - 1. Walleye stocking this fall
    - 2. Any fish that eat zebra mussels? – yes, explore this.... also other wildlife
  - b. No other reports, next month need to discuss subcommittee structures and re-alignment, and work on goals for 2021
  - c. Potential re-alignment: (need to sort out duplicates and overlap)
    - Shoreline Restoration (Loren, David, Jim)
      - PR, pamphlets, community education
    - Lake-Life and Water Quality (Christopher, Matt N, Maureen, Matt T)
      - Muck digesters (Christopher, Matt N)
      - AIS/Signage (Christian, Ben)
      - Fish Stocking (Christian, Loren, Matt T)
    - Storage Assessment, Plans and Wetland Banking (Woody, Jim, Maureen)
      - flooding [and drought]
- IX. Goals & Topics for Next Meeting
  - a. Subcommittee re-alignment
  - b. Projects and Prioritizing
  - c. Stocking follow-up – start to explore now, to get DNR commitments for next year.
  - d. Fish Survey, what’s next?
- X. Staff & Other Announcements
  - a. none
- XI. Adjourn
  - a. Motioned: Woody; Seconded: Chris; passed
  - b. Adjourned at 8:05 pm
- XII. Upcoming Meetings:
  - a. Board Meeting: Tues, October 12<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm
  - b. CAC Meeting: Thurs, October 28<sup>th</sup>
    - 1. Subcommittee Meetings: 6:15 pm
    - 2. Meeting: 6:30 pm

Minutes submitted by: Ben Burnett

## **Attachment #1 - Water Quality Presentation**

***slide content with additional info, questions, and discussion***

- Steve McComas - Blue Water Science
  - Authored 2 books
    - Lake and Pond Management Guidebook -  
<https://smile.amazon.com/Lake-Management-Guidebook-Steve-McComas/dp/1566706300/>
    - Lake Smarts: The First Lake Maintenance Handbook -  
<https://smile.amazon.com/Lake-Smarts-First-Maintenance-Handbook/dp/9994363271/>
- Lake Management Ideas for Prior Lake/Spring Lake Watershed District Lakes
  - Steve McComas Blue Water Science
  - September 2021
- In-Lake Management Topics
  - Algae
  - Weeds
  - Fish
  - Muck
  - Recreation
- Algae Challenges
  - Floating Filamentous (stringy algae)
  - Planktonic (open water algae)
- Filamentous Algae
  - 60-80 day life cycle
  - Starts growing on lake bottom
  - 1 or 2 crops a year
  - Almost always green algal family and is non-toxic (mostly)
  - Copper compounds knock it down
  - Forms resting cells when it dies back (***so harvesting & removal works best to control***)
- Open Water Algae
  - Blue-green algae are really cyanobacteria
  - Non-cyanobacteria are desired
  - Cyanobacteria form resting cells and sit on the lake sediments
  - Resting cells can last for years
  - Not all cyanobacteria are toxic
- Cyanobacteria Management
  - If you control blue-greens, you reduce water column phosphorus and chlorophyll
    1. Reduce watershed phosphorus loading
    2. Reduce in-lake phosphorus
    3. Inhibit cyanobacteria growth (***also: harvesting & removal***)
- Watershed Projects
  - Ag BMPs



- Buffer strips
- Stormwater ponds
- Other BMPs
- In-Lake Phosphorus Reduction
  - Fish Management for Phosphorus Reduction
  - Carp removal
    - Carp are bentivore, bottom feeders - stir up the locked phosphorous in bottom muck
    - Carp: \$0.07/lb. in 1917
    - Carp: \$0.11/lb. in 2020
    - Bottleneck is lack of a good market
    - **Target is to reduce Carp to 100 lbs./acre of lake**
  - Goldfish – not a big factor, omnivores, they don't stir up the bottom (locked phosphorous) unless no other food source available
  - Sediment Treatments
    - Aluminum (alum) – most efficient, most stable, but affects only 1 phosphorous component (several others exist)
    - Calcium – carbonate or oxalate – need a lot
    - Iron – not as good in deep water (greater than 15 ft)
    - Above 3 are positive charged ions(?), so attract negative phosphorous and lock it away
    - Some other additives exist, but less effective
  - Cyanobacterial Control
    - Prokaryotes vs eukaryotes
    - Selective control of just cyanobacteria
    - Control cyanos - good things happen (look at Lower Prior Lake)
- Muck Reduction Challenges
  - Muck = soil (sand, clay, etc.) + organic compounds
  - Silt, clay, sand are not going to be reduced
  - Organic compounds are highly variable in decomposition potential
  - 3 classes of organic decomposition
    - Hours
    - Days - leaves
    - Years – most of lake muck now
- Aeration + Additives for Muck Reduction
  - Aeration is good, but select applications carefully
    - Aeration doesn't help in most cases
  - Do additives reduce muck? (Additives don't hurt the lake)
    - Hit or miss
    - Don't hurt the lake – often don't help either
    - Many options exist he had several products, but the documentation, research and evidence are dubious....
- Aquatic Plants
  - Natives and non-natives
    - Some non-natives may be ok, not all are AIS
  - Manage invasive species (but not all)
- Typical Lake Products that Don't Work
  - Some Muck digesters and reducers
    - Bacteria
    - Oxidizers

- Aeration
  - Algae control
    - Enzymes
    - Special formulation
  - Lake improvement
    - Aeration packages
- Recreation
  - Work to maintain and/or improve the lake experience
- Solutions
  - Reduce phosphorous and carp
  - Watershed projects – the key to improving lakes
    - Fix/clean water before it gets to lakes
    - These are slow projects, but are often the best
  - In-lake projects – often necessary
    - Faster ways to get affects, but not fixing the source of problems
  - For Invasives: Act don't overreact
  - Get to 40% plant coverage – helps in many ways to naturally clean-up phosphorous, and become self-sustaining
    - Causes some negative lake usage affects
- Discussion:
  - Could we pay farmers to use ½ as much Phosphorous and then compensate them for lower crop yields?
  - Steve's response:
    - Solutions have 3 legs (parts?):
      - Economic/cost
      - Technology – is it possible, can it be done?
      - Social/political – will people/politicians do it?

## **Attachment #2 - PLSLWD 9/14/21 Workshop and Board Meeting notes**

Notes from PLSLWD Board Workshop and Meeting 9/14/2021 – Ben Burnett

### Workshop:

- Arrived late
- PLSLWD Committees Appreciation (Mike Myser)
  - Discussed \$50 gift card for FLC
- Staffing Update and Staff Organization Chart (Joni Giese)
  - Updated titles for 2 existing positions to match tasks and make more similar to other Watershed districts in the Metro area.
  - Updated Org chart
  - 2 positions open, received 26 applications so far
- Carp Program: Consultants vs. Staff Efforts (Curt Hennes)
  - Using WSB to “augment” staff capabilities
  - Trying to “ween” off of using WSB, it was requested to try to reduce our dependence
- District Records: Inventory and Management (Steve Pany)
  - Covid helped to push more digital records,
  - Lots of 30 yr old paper records, need to organize and digitize
  - Suggested outsourcing... This task is “on the list” but lower priority
- Fish Lake Impaired Water Delisting (Curt Hennes)
  - Discussed a TMDL (Total maximum daily load) study/analysis for Fish Lake
  - Curt thought a “cheaper” option existed, discussed options, will report back next Month
- Lake Vegetation Policy and AIS Rapid Response Plan Status (Joni Giese)
  - Goal is to present draft AIS rapid response plan & lake vegetation policy to Managers in December 2021
- Discussed PLOC tour for Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>
- Discussed lease of Prior Lake City Hall space

### Board Meeting:

- Announced Levy request
  - 3% increase, total \$1.8 million
  - No increase for 3 years, this is first in 4 years
  - Includes banking money for future projects including alum treatments, upper watershed water quality projects, etc.
- Intern Presentation/report
- Programs & Projects Updates
  - 9/25/21 – stenciling on storm drains
  - Carp removal updates
  - Stocking – verified with DNR, 7500 total in 3 lakes; permits pending; delivery late Oct./ early Nov.
  - Hike the Watershed Tours – done for year, went well
  - 457 boat inspections in Aug. at public accesses
  - I-LIDS – 160 launches videoed, Video shows people looking for AIS and reading signage
  - AIS – Eurasian watermilfoil discussed
  - Vegetation updates: goal is 40% for self-sustaining lake health
    - Spring (2021): 29.1% (26% improvement from 2020)

- Upper Prior (2021): 51.6% (115% increase from 23.9% in 2020)
  - Lower Prior (2021): 45.6% (stable)
  - NOTE: Lake levels are VERY low, and this may be affecting (increasing) Vegetation level numbers
- Discussed use of “Poison Corn Bait” – Jeff said this was not approved for use
  - Also asked about Carp viruses that could be used to control Carp
- 2021 - 2022 Integrated Pest Management Plan - passed
- Wise Addition Development Agreement - passed
- Mesenbrink Parcel Development Agreement - passed
- Announced that Steve McComas of Blue Water Science will be at next CAC meeting 9/30
- Passed Consent Agenda

## **Attachment #3 - 2021 Board Meeting Assignments**

### **2021 Board Meeting Assignments**

*Held the second Tuesday of the month*

**Board meetings:** 6 pm in Prior Lake Council Chambers

**Board workshops** (optional): 4:00 pm\* in Wagonbridge

(\*Start time can vary, check meeting agenda beforehand)

- **January 12:** Woody
- **February 9:** Ben
- **March 9:** Christopher
- **April 13:** Jim
- **May 11:** Maureen
- **June 8:** Maureen
- **July 13:** Loren
- **August 10:** Christopher
- **September 14:** Ben
- **October 12:** Jim
- **November 9:** Woody
- **December 14:**