

# **CLFLWD CAC Meeting**

**February 7, 2017**

## **Meeting Summary**

**5:00 – 6:30 PM**

Attending: Jerry Grundtner, Mike Sorensen, Bruce Anderson, Angie Hong

- Update on WSD activities
  - One of District's the CAC members, Melanie Castellano-Swanson, is currently being trained in the St. Croix Master Watershed Stewards program. For her capstone project, she plans to coordinate a storm drain stenciling effort for the City of Forest Lake on Earth Day. She would like to collaborate with a boy scout troop, girl scout troop, or other similar organization for the project. Since the City of Forest Lake has approximately 1,700 storm drain inlets, she will have to identify some way of prioritizing which ones get stenciled as part of this effort.
  - A CLFLWD open house is planned for Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> from 5:30-7:00 pm at the District office. District staff plan to provide a presentation on a summary of District activities and host a brief volunteer appreciation event, where volunteers such as the CAC members will be given a t-shirt that says "I love my watershed" on one side and has the District logo on the other side.
  - Construction on the Forest Lake Wetland Treatment Basin project is largely completed. The construction crew was forced to adapt their plans due to the unseasonably warm weather and thawing wetlands. However, they were still able to complete the main project features.
  - Construction has commenced on the Moody Lake Wetland Rehabilitation project. A groundbreaking ceremony for the project was hosted on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Due to the warm forecast, the contractor will likely have to complete the project on a compressed schedule.
  - The Hilo Lane Stormwater Retrofit project construction has been largely completed, and only needs minor landscaping work after the snow melts. The mixing and installation of the iron-enhanced sand filter has been successfully completed.
  - The Washington County Board had their workshop to review Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Aid grant proposals earlier today. This year, they received

over \$300,000 worth of applications for only \$132,000 available, so they discussed partially funding many of the projects. While the grant awards have not been voted on and finalized yet, it appears that the District will likely receive partial funding for the flowering rush management and watercraft inspections applications, but no funding for the CD3 boat cleaning station and AIS identification workshop applications. The Washington Conservation District was granted funds for AIS education and outreach, and it is likely that they will host an AIS identification workshop on Forest Lake this summer.

- Update on Forest Lake High School partnership
  - Jerry Grundtner provided a summary of his and Mike S.'s previous meetings with Mike Miron, an agriculture teacher at Forest Lake High School. He reported that Mr. Miron is proceeding with purchasing \$300 worth of native plant seeds and plugs with funding from the District and growing them in the school's greenhouse with some of the classes that he is teaching this spring. Then, near the end of the school year, Mr. Miron wants to take his landscaping class on a field trip to plant the native plants at a community site that is yet to be determined. Jerry mentioned that Jeff West, the Manager of a local native plant company called Prairie Restorations, has been in contact with the group and offered to present to Mr. Miron's class about the benefits of using native plants for landscaping.
- Update on welcome cooler project
  - Jack MacKenzie was not at the meeting to provide an update on the welcome cooler project. However, he is currently storing the coolers at the District office, so Mike S. took one out to show the group. The group agreed that the coolers were high quality and would likely be a successful means of engaging District homeowners on lake stewardship.
- 2017 EMWREP activities discussion
  - Angie Hong from the East Metro Water Resource Education Program (EMWREP) attended the meeting to provide a summary of the education activities that EMWREP has planned for 2017.
  - Angie started by mentioning that EMWREP and the St. Croix River Association are holding a workshop for realtors on March 9<sup>th</sup> at the Stillwater Public Library. The workshop will be focused specifically on realtors who are selling lakefront and riverfront properties and will provide attendees with an understanding of state and local shoreline rules.

- Angie then reminded the group that EMWREP recently received an \$81,000 Clean Water Fund grant to extend the Freshwater Society's Master Water Stewards program into Washington County. The grant funding will be used to support 20 stewards through training, ten in 2018 and ten in 2019. It is likely that two stewards for both 2018 and 2019 will be sought from the CLFLWD. The grant also contains money to help fund the steward's capstone projects. These projects typically involve the constructions of a raingarden, a shoreline planting, or other in-the-ground project. Mike S. reminded the group that the CLFLWD currently has residents being trained through the St. Croix Valley Foundation's Master Watershed Stewards program. He described how this is a similar program to the Freshwater Society's program, but is specific to the residents of the St. Croix Watershed. He said that the St. Croix Master Watershed Stewards program is entering the second year of a two year EPA grant and the future of the program is not known at this time.
- The group then discussed aquatic invasive species identification workshops that will likely be hosted by EMWREP this summer using funding from Washington County. Angie mentioned that she would like to hold one workshop at Forest Lake, one at Big Marine Lake, and one at Lake Elmo. The idea for the workshops would be to collect live invasive and native plant species from the lake and give the attendees hands-on experience learning to identify them. The group agreed that this would be a more meaningful way to learn AIS identification, rather than using preserved specimens or computer images. Angie mentioned that the University of Minnesota also plans to offer an AIS Detectors course this spring in Andover. She said that the course will likely consist of 6-8 hours of online work and one full-day of field training.
- Angie mentioned that EMWREP plans to hold a landscaping workshop and a tree workshop in the next few months and also plans to coordinate a compost bin and rain barrel sale that will have a pick-up location at Hugo City Hall. All of these events will be open to CLFLWD residents.