

CLFLWD CAC Meeting

November 15, 2016

Meeting Summary

5:00 – 6:30 PM

- Update on WSD activities
 - The District will be completing a minor plan amendment of its 10-year Watershed Management Plan this winter. This process will involve seeking input from various groups including area lake associations and the CAC.
 - The Hilo Lane Stormwater Improvement project continues to move forward, although the District is in the process of terminating its contract with the original contractor. The original contractor performed unsatisfactory work, especially with regard to erosion and sediment control, and the District Board of Managers wants to ensure that the remaining project construction is done correctly. Project construction will likely be completed by the end of the winter.
 - The District Board of Managers has moved forward with soliciting bids for the Forest Lake Wetland Treatment Basin Project. This project will involve the excavation of nutrient-rich sediments and reestablishment of beneficial native vegetation to the wetland. Construction is expected to occur this winter. A neighborhood educational meeting will occur on the evening of November 16th, and Mike Sorensen invited the CAC members to attend.

- Update on further steps with Mike Miron and High School
 - Jerry Grundtner introduced this topic and stated that he would be interested to touch base with Mike Miron, an Agricultural Education teacher at Forest Lake High School, and ask if he is still interested in some of the collaboration projects that have been discussed for winter and spring. One project that has been considered would involve the District purchasing native plant seed that the high school students would grow in their greenhouse over the winter and sell at their annual Agriculture Open House in the spring.
 - The CAC members expressed interest in starting some kind of internship program where motivated high school students can receive hands-on experience

by working with the District. Mike Miron has expressed a mutual interest in starting this kind of program and said that he teaches a senior capstone class in the springtime that may have interested students. Future conversations need to occur in order to determine the specifics (time commitment, pay, etc.) of these positions.

- Sam H. mentioned that another possible collaboration opportunity could involve asking the students to help with weeding and maintaining native plant raingardens and shoreline buffers around the District.
- The CAC agreed that they have a common interest in moving these, and other projects forward and continuing to build our relationships with local public schools.
- Curt S. shared a Shoreline Management Handbook developed by Aitkin County that is similar to the Shoreline Tools and Rules Handbook that was recently developed by District staff.

- Update on Welcome Coolers for new lake residents
 - Although Jack M. was not able to attend the meeting, he provided a written update on his Welcome Coolers project. The District Board of Managers has recently agreed to be the fiscal sponsor for the project. Jack has contacted local real estate agencies and received a list of new lake homeowners on Forest, Bone, and Comfort Lakes. He plans to continue assembling his coolers and hopes to distribute them over the winter and into the spring.

- Decide on Next Action steps for CAC for 2017
 - Chris M. and Mike S. both presented research that they had done to determine what types of activities are done by other metro watershed district CACs. They mentioned that different CACs take part in vastly different activities. From Mike and Chris' lists, the CAC drafted a list of some of the activities that may interest them in the next few years:
 - Review cost-share project applications
 - Help maintain District relationships with local LGU's
 - Educate District homeowners
 - Organize neighborhood cleanup events
 - Coordinate a student internship program
 - Give out a watershed steward of the year award
 - Spray paint educational messages on storm drain inlets (e.g. "No dumping. Drains to Forest Lake").

- Regularly meet and coordinate with City of Forest Lake Parks, Lakes, and Trails Commission
- Curt S. mentioned that the CAC has made great steps toward accomplishing its education goals and that he would be interested in starting a new partnership initiative, where the CAC helps improve the District's level of coordination with various local government units, schools, environmental organizations, and private consultants. Curt went on to describe the value of these types of relationships as they relate to completing capital improvement projects, starting new programs, and receiving grant funds. The group seemed interested in this idea but did not make any formal plans to move forward with it.
- Input from CAC on 10 Year Management Plan
 - Mike S. described the Watershed Management Plan amendment process and provided handouts of the timeline and proposed plan changes to the group. He said that the Board of Managers is interested in receiving input from the CAC, among other groups. He asked that the CAC members in attendance access the current Watershed Management Plan on the District website, draft a list of goals and priorities related to the Plan, and send their list to Jerry Grundtner via email by Friday, December 2nd. These lists will be combined into one list and discussed at the December 6th CAC meeting before being submitted to the Board of Managers at their December meeting. Mike said that he continues to work with each of the area lake associations to solicit their input, particularly as it relates to water quality goals, as well. Mike said that he would send the request for plan input to all of the absent CAC members via email.
- Mike S. announced that the District has been awarded a \$30,600 grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to retrofit the Shields Lake fish barrier. This project, which will take place during summer 2017, will involve removing the current electric fish barrier and installing a passive (non-electric) grate fish barrier. The passive fish barrier is expected to provide 50 years of service at a much lower cost than the electric fish barrier.