CAC Meeting
January 5, 2016
6:00 – 7:30 PM

Minutes

Attending: Curt Sparks, Jerry Grundtner, Chris Mann, Sam Hathaway, Nicole Meis, Jack MacKenzie, Mike Kinney, Laura Jester, Angie Hong

- Update on CAC information presented to Board at December 17th meeting
  - Board would like to schedule special workshops to discuss changes to AIS and shoreline cost-share programs

- Update on CLFLWD activities
  - Bixby Project bid accepted and project will happen over the winter
  - Another project moving forward on district owned tax forfeiture property – degraded wetland on North Shore Trail on the west side of the lake
  - BWSR just announced grant awards for 2016. CLFLWD received two grants. One for the Moody Lake Wetland Rehabilitation ($429,284) and another project moving forward on tax forfeiture property improving a degraded wetland on North Shore Trail on the east side of the lake: Forest Lake Wetland Treatment Basin Implementation ($162,000).
  - CLFLWD will be submitting an RFP to Washington County for AIS support in 2016 for boat launch inspections and flowering rush treatment
  - District is interviewing applicants for program assistant
  - County will be appointing a new board member to replace Dick Damchik
  - Feb. 2 special workshop with BCWD and CMSCWD at Warner Nature Center

- Additional action items for CAC to consider working on.
  - Jack talked about the Master Water Steward Program – could a program like that work in CLFLWD?
    - Angie described how the program works – it has been piloted in Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and is now expanding to 9 new watersheds in the metro this year.
• Stewards are highly trained volunteers that complete 50 hours of training and a capstone project. They then do 30hrs per year of volunteer work & outreach in their community.
• Watershed Districts sponsor the volunteers - $2500 per steward
  o Kris asked if the district is looking for opportunities to do curb-cut raingardens or ditch retrofits
    ▪ Mike Kinney said they worked with WCD to complete subwatershed analyses of south and north watersheds draining to Forest Lake to identify locations for a variety of BMPs, including curb-cut raingardens. They are also working with the city to increase the number of stormwater projects they are doing.
• Curt asked that when the Forest lake Diagnostic Study is done consideration of the wetland restoration project once proposed for the Timm’s Marina area be considered.
  o Next action items to work on:
    o Education
    o Communication
    o Who are the target audiences?
      ▪ Curt – not interested in the CAC getting involved in programs educating city staff or elected officials. Highest priority is educating kids. Jerry also interested in educating kids as a way to reach the parents.
      ▪ Angie – EMWREP is currently providing education to homeowners (to build raingardens and shoreline projects); articles for local papers; 2-3 technical trainings for city staff/contractors per year; education for local elected officials (did a special workshop with Forest Lake this year); some AIS workshops
      ▪ Laura – West Metro Water Alliance hired two professional educators to do education in the elementary schools
        • There are other examples – H2O for Life, RWMWD, CMSCWD – where non-profits or watershed districts hire educators to teach in the schools
      ▪ How could nature centers adapt their programming to include a more local focus and talk about water & their local watershed
      ▪ Program at Wild Mountain several years ago on watershed management was mentioned. Question about whether it is still going.
      ▪ Nicole – district could do education outside the schools too – informal community education on weekends and evenings; offer summer programming for kids through the rec dept. and school district
- There was discussion about whether we could get in on the St Croix watershed grant for environmental education.
- Forest Lake High has a very large FFA program that CLFLWD could be working with. It was suggested that the School District staff for FFA be contacted to discuss eco-education.
  - Nicole suggested inviting a student from the group to come to a future meeting at CLFLWD
- CLFLWD has talked with the city and school district about how stormwater retrofits could be included in new school construction planned.
- Dakota SWCD has an annual field day for 5th graders. Chisago County does too.
- RCWD used to have a program called Resource Subs where they would train substitute teachers so that they could go into classrooms with environmental education lessons.
- Homework: research and bring back a list of water education curriculum
- Nicole suggested looking for funding through the Initiative Foundation – lots of funding for Chisago, Pine and Isanti Counties

  - Upcoming WSD board meetings and attendance
    - Next CAC meeting Jan. 26, 6-8pm