



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Minutes
Citizen Advisory Committee
Tuesday, December 7, 2021
Teleconference via WebEx

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by President Diederichs. The following members were present: Judy Berglund, Craig Diederichs, and Theresa Kuplic. In addition, the following individuals joined the meeting: Linda Loomis, Naiad Consulting LLC and Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD) Administrator; Jen Dullum, Young Environmental Consulting Group LLC (YECG); and Rebecca Haug, YECG.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Kuplic moved to approve the December agenda, and this was seconded by Berglund. Upon taking a vote, the following individuals voted in favor of the motion: Berglund, Diederichs, Kuplic. The following voted against: none.

3. Approval of the November Minutes

Diederichs moved to approve the November minutes, and this was seconded by Berglund. Upon taking a vote, the following individuals voted in favor of the motion: Berglund, Diederichs, and Kuplic. The following voted against: none.

4. Citizen Input on Non-Agenda Items

There was no input.

Greg Genz and Jenny Karkowski joined the meeting.

5. New Business

a. Speaker Rebecca Haug, YECG

Jen Dullum introduced Rebecca Haug from YECG. Rebecca is a senior water resource scientist with YECG and a steering committee member for the Minnesota Cities Stormwater Coalition. Rebecca's presentation introduced stormwater, provided a history of stormwater management, and explained the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4), including minimum control measures, permit changes, funding, and partnerships.

Follow-up discussion included questions around using nets at the ends of outfalls to the Minnesota River to trap plastic waste and debris. Rebecca noted that the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory (SAFL) research stormwater treatment devices. One tool, the SAFL Baffle, is a stormwater pretreatment system that keeps sediment out of downstream waters. Nets create a potential flooding concern that has limited the usage of nets. Linda Loomis noted that the City of Chaska conducted a pilot of the use of nets to collect debris. A potential exists to plan to host

a presentation describing the project and its outcome. The LMRWD is also working with the City of Shakopee on the possibility of installing environmental manholes in the downtown area because the stormwater in downtown Shakopee is routed directly to the Minnesota River without any pretreatment.

A comment was posed about how in the past, stormwater was treated at regional facilities before being discharged into local waters. Now, stormwater is directly discharged into surface waters. Education is necessary to inform people that there is no treatment at the end of the pipe, and dirty stormwater runoff is entering our water.

Additionally, winter salt use was discussed. Education about salt use for the public, business owners, and public and private applicators needs to be more robust.

6. Old Business

There was none.

7. Communications

Jen Dullum mentioned that a rain barrel handout is currently under development. The steep slopes handout will be reviewed by the LMRWD Technical Advisory Committee for comment and next steps. Communications regarding education opportunities will continue to be shared with the Citizen Advisory Committee.

Linda Loomis asked for interest in hosting speakers on topics such as the Adopt-a-Drain program and chloride management. The CAC is interested in both topics for speakers. Linda also mentioned a possible spring 2022 tour of the SAFL, a research and teaching facility on the Mississippi River.

The CAC January meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, January 4, at 9 a.m. Mark Nemeth from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) will speak about fish in the Minnesota River.

8. Adjournment

Berglund moved to adjourn the meeting, and this was seconded by Kuplic. Upon taking a vote, the following individuals voted in favor of the motion: Berglund, Diederichs, Genz, Karkowski, and Kuplic. The following voted against: none.