



LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

Minutes Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Tuesday, January 4, 2021 Teleconference via WebEx

1. Officer Election

Jen Dullum opened nominations for board officers. Craig Diederichs was nominated for president by Judy Berglund. Theresa Kuplic seconded this nomination. Jen Dullum asked for any other nominations. There were none. Theresa Kuplic was nominated for vice president by Judy Berglund. Craig Diederichs seconded this nomination. Jen Dullum asked for any other nominations. There were none. Greg Genz was nominated for secretary by Judy Berglund. Theresa Kuplic seconded this nomination. Jen Dullum asked for any other nominations. There were none. Upon taking a roll-call vote, the following individuals voted in favor of the nominations: Berglund, Diederichs, Genz, and Kuplic. The following voted against: none.

2. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by President Diederichs. The following members were present: Judy Berglund, Craig Diederichs, Greg Genz, 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; and Mark Nemeth, Minnesota Department of Natural Resource (MNDNR).

3. Approval of the Agenda

Berglund moved to approve the January agenda, and Kuplic seconded this. Upon taking a roll-call vote, the following individuals voted in favor of the motion: Berglund, Diederichs, Genz, and Kuplic. The following voted against: none.

4. Approval of the December Minutes

Berglund moved to approve the December minutes, and Kuplic seconded this. Upon taking a roll-call vote, the following individuals voted in favor of the motion: Berglund, Diederichs, Genz, and Kuplic. The following voted against: none.

5. Citizen Input on Non-Agenda Items

There was no input.

6. New Business

a. Speaker Mark Nemeth, MNDNR

Mark Nemeth, a trout stream habitat specialist with MNDNR Fisheries, gave a presentation on fish species in the Minnesota River Watershed. Mark provided several facts about the

Minnesota River and its tributaries. There are 97 fish species in the Minnesota River. The Minnesota River is nationally known for flathead catfish. Ike's Creek is the last remaining trout stream in Hennepin County, and Eagle Creek is the last remaining trout stream in Scott County. Ike's Creek was last stocked with native brook trout in 2007. Brook trout have continued to reproduce since being stocked. The trout stream is currently closed for fishing to maintain fish species. Eagle Creek was last stocked with Brook trout in 1973. The Creek is spring fed, and almost all land is publicly held property.

CAC members asked about fish consumption from the Minnesota River and its tributaries. Linda Loomis provided information on fish consumption (attached).

Mark Nemeth then discussed implications on trout streams from impervious surfaces. Impacts to trout start being noticed at around 7 percent impervious surface. Between 15 and 25 percent impervious surface trout are not found. Currently, the Eagle Creek watershed is at 7 percent impervious surface. Trout are temperature dependent. Once temperatures start rising above 64 degrees, trout will look for a cooler area. A temperature of 72 degrees is lethal to trout.

Craig Diederichs asked about sediment impacts on fish. It is suspected that sediment does affect fish; however, floodplain lakes and creek connections assist in lessening those impacts.

Greg Genz feels that not enough is being done to protect the Minnesota River from Asian carp. Mark Nemeth noted the ongoing research from the state on control methods.

Theresa Kuplic asked what the CAC could work on to improve the fish habitat in the Minnesota River. Mark Nemeth listed several ideas: maintaining river water quality through its streams and floodplain lakes; controlling erosion from valleys and bluffs, which will support water quality; advocating for projects that reduce nutrients; advocating for projects that manage the flow of water by reducing peak flows; and promoting regenerative agriculture, which holds water back and improves soil health.

7. Old Business

Jen Dullum mentioned that a rain barrel handout is currently under edit review. The LMRWD Technical Advisory Committee will review the steep slopes handout for comments and next steps.

8. Communications

a. 2022 meeting schedule

Jen Dullum verified that the first Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. still works for the group's monthly meetings.

b. Other

The February CAC meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, February 1, at 9:00 a.m. Brooke Asleson from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will speak about chloride.

9. Adjournment

Berglund moved to adjourn the meeting, and Kuplic seconded it. Upon taking a roll-call vote, the following individuals voted in favor of the motion: Berglund, Diederichs, Genz, and Kuplic. The following voted against: none.