



# LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

## Executive Summary for Action

Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers Meeting  
Wednesday, December 11, 2024

### **Agenda Item**

#### **Item 5. D. – Report from the Citizen Advisory Committee**

#### **Prepared By**

Linda Loomis, Administrator

#### **Summary**

The Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) met on November 12<sup>th</sup> and December 3<sup>rd</sup>. At the November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting the CAC reviewed the applications for Educator Mini-grants. There is presented under the Action Items section of this agenda.

At the December meeting, the CAC began planning the CAC calendar for 2025. They will table at events and will develop a citizen participation process as the LMRWD begins planning its next generation comprehensive watershed management plan. They will also help with outreach for the Educator Mini-grant program. The CAC has been invited to the Listening Session on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

The next meeting of the CAC is scheduled for January 7, 2025. I believe the time of the meeting was changed to 5:30 pm.

#### **Attachments**

Citizen Advisory Committee Officer Election memorandum

#### **Recommended Action**

No action recommended – for information only



## Citizen Advisory Committee Officer Election

### Officer Roles and Responsibilities (Article VII Bylaws)

Officers shall be elected for a one-year term. Elections shall be held during the first CAC meeting of the calendar year. The officers shall be Chair, Vice-chair, and Secretary. Descriptions of the offices are introduced below:

Chair	Vice-Chair	Secretary
Preside all CAC meetings, leading with efficiency.	Perform Chair duties in their absence and support Chair in duties as requested.	Approves meeting minutes created by Education and Outreach staff.
Plan meetings in cooperation with LMRWD staff.		Supports CAC correspondence and files as needed
Encourage participation by all members.		
Serve as primary contact to Board.		
Appoint members to subcommittees.		

## CAC Members

The following CAC members can be nominated and voted for to serve as officers for 2025.

### Judy Berglund

Judy is interested in preserving water quality in our lakes and streams. Judy joined the CAC to work with other residents to encourage them to preserve and improve water quality in our lakes and rivers. Judy hopes to be a spokesperson for the LMRWD and to promote her local grant project as an example of how other residents can use rain gardens and native plant restoration on the banks of streams and lakeshores to improve water quality in our local waterways. **Judy has been a member of the CAC since February 2021 and is the acting Chair.**

### Greg Genz

Greg has lived his life on Minnesota rivers. This has allowed him to see the positive and negative impacts on rivers for over 60 years, from swimming in the Mississippi as a youngster to being on several nongovernmental organization boards from Red Wing to the Minnesota River. Greg states that the Minnesota River has outsized impacts on downriver water issues, and he feels he can give voice to those impacts. As a CAC member, Greg hopes to help the public understand how their personal activities affect the health of our rivers. **Greg has been a member of the CAC since February 2021 and is the acting Secretary.**

### Patty Thomsen

Patty has lived within the LMRWD her whole life and has seen the changes it has gone through. She works to remove invasive plants and is interested in resorting the watershed to a healthier condition in order to improve the water quality and keep silt out of the Minnesota River by replanting with long-rooted native plants. She has hands on experience working outside and has adopted several storm drains in her community, while also leading several volunteer buckthorn busts in her neighborhood. **Patty has been a member of the CAC since February 2023.**

### Lee Peterson

Lee Peterson lives in a High Value Resource Area adjacent to the Minnesota River and is concerned about lawn care practices and their effects on the water quality. Lee is a retired conservation practice farmer and former northeast Iowa Soil and Water Conservation District technician. He also has a background as a wetland restoration project manager and is knowledgeable in native grass and flower seeding. As an avid boater, canoer, and kayaker, Lee would like to keep the Minnesota River clean. **Lee has been a member of the CAC since October 2023.**

### Meah Vogel

Meah Vogel is a college student earning her degree in ecology at Normandale Community College. She is interested in the local environment and how she can protect it as a young person. She brings project experience with the Metropolitan Council, where she used community outreach to bring proposals forward. She is interested in environmental topics that include gardening and native plants to help bring biodiversity to her neighborhood. **Meah joined the CAC in August 2024.**

### Karl Disney

Karl Disney lives in Shakopee, near Dean's Lake. Karl is interested in serving on the CAC because he believes water management is important in addressing the impacts of climate change. He is a first-time volunteer, but he is interested in contributing to the conservation of water and natural resources within his local community. In his daily career, Karl is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). **Karl joined the CAC in August 2024.**

### John Williams

John Williams lives within the district, near Dean's Lake. He is passionate about improving and preserving the environment for future generations. As a teacher with South Washington County Schools, he also mentioned using the CAC opportunity to model how his students can be involved in watershed management. He is interested in learning to implement conservation practices and include these topics in his curriculum. His family has also adopted a section of highway in Minnesota to care for and he volunteers as a water quality monitor for a lake in northern Minnesota. As a teacher, John noted his schedule would allow him to be involved in various capacities to support the LMRWD's mission and goals. **John joined the CAC in August 2024.**

## CAC Members (Continued)

The following CAC members can be nominated and voted for to serve as officers for 2025.

### **Kathryn (Casey) Zebrev**

Kathryn Zebrev is a self-employed real estate agent who lives near Dean's Lake. Kathryn grew up near the Minnesota River and has a bachelor's degree in science with a wildlife management specialization. She believes water and preservation are key to sustainability and she is an avid recreational user of the cross-country running trails within the LMRWD. Through her work in real estate, she is very dedicated to all members of the community and works to improve access to local water and natural resources. **Casey joined the CAC in August 2024.**

### **Kati Johngrass**

Kati Johngrass is a resident of Savage, MN, with a lifelong passion for volunteering and community service. She has a perpetual curiosity for nature and has been seeking out new ways to give back and make a difference for the environment. She wants to help educate the community and bring a sense of ownership on how the public can support improving and maintaining waterways. She lives near the Savage Fen and the Rudy Kramer Nature Preserve and believes it is critical to protect these areas for future generations' health and enjoyment. **Kati joined the CAC in August 2024.**

### **Holley Wlodarczyk**

Holley Wlodarczyk is an independent writer, artist, and surface pattern designer that is currently serving as a Board Member for the Twin Cities Chapter of Wild Ones, where she has served in various leadership positions for more than 10 years. She is interested in learning more about how to protect our watershed and local ecosystem, participating in community education, and providing resources to help others understand decision-making that affects water quality, plant communities, and wildlife in our area. Holley has a PhD from the University of Minnesota in Comparative Studies in Discourse and Society. **Holley joined the CAC in July 2024.**