

**DRAFT Regular Meeting Minutes – July 17, 2023**  
**RPBCWD Citizens’ Advisory Committee Monthly Meeting**  
**Location: Virtual via Zoom**

**ATTENDANCE**

Status: P=Present, E=Excused, A=Absent without notification

**CAC Members**

Andrew Aller	P	Jeff Weiss	P	Marilynn Torkelson	P
Arne Bjork	P	Jessica Willey	P	Michelle Frost	P
Bonnie Nelson	P	Jim Boettcher	P	Savanna Larson	P
Dave Paulson	P	John Tyler	A	Sharon McCotter	E
		Louise Ludford	P	Terry Jorgensen	P

**Others**

Liz Forbes	<i>RPBCWD Staff</i>	P	Tom Duevel	<i>RPBCWD Manager</i>	P
Eleanor Mahon	<i>RPBCWD Staff</i>	P			
Jill Crafton	<i>RPBCWD Manager</i>	P			

**CAC MOTIONS for the Board of Managers:**

1. None

**Key CAC discussion items for the Board of Managers:**

1. None

- I. **Opening**
  - A. Call CAC Meeting to Order: Andrew called meeting to order at 6:03 pm
  - B. Attendance: *As noted above*
  - C. Attendee introductions as needed
  - D. Matters of general public interest: None
  - E. Approval of the Agenda: Bonnie made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim
  - F. Designate timekeeper: Andrew
  - G. Approval of previous CAC meeting minutes: Approval by consensus
  
- II. **Learning Presentation:** Kristine Maurer, Senior Conservation and Natural Resources Ecologist from Hennepin County. Very informative presentation. [Recording on YouTube](#). Lots of questions from CAC members and BOM representatives.
  - Conservation Easements
  - Biological Monitoring
  - Habitat Improvement projects. The County has money available for projects that could benefit the Watershed District
  - Natural Resources Viewer Tool. Many layer/views: [gis.hennepin.us/naturalresources/](https://gis.hennepin.us/naturalresources/)
  
- III. **Board Meeting Recap and Discussion** – Andrew attended 7/12/2023 BOM meeting
  - A. Highlights: Meeting which went past 10:45 p.m. Meeting to be continued on another date. Recording available on [RPBCWD YouTube Channel](#). Discussed CAC interest in resuming in-person meetings. BOMs are continuing the conversation and working

toward a hybrid concept. They expect to move forward when equipment for enacting concept is received, possibly in September.

- B. Response on CAC recommendation to the Board: None
- C. New Advisory Topics from the Board: None

#### IV. Program and Project Updates – 6:25 - 7:25

##### A. District Updates

1. General: The next EHAP workshop is Thursday 7/20/2023. They will be addressing the questions: How can we address gaps in ecosystem protection and improvement? Where can we be most effective?
2. E&O
  - [Photo contest](#) for calendar is on-going, submit photos by September 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Building Healthy Soils workshop 9/29 and Building Healthy Soils walkshop 10/7 in Minnetonka – *contact Eleanor Mahon for more info*
  - [Buckthorn removal workshop](#) with Eden Prairie @ Staring Lake on 9/14
  - [Gravel bed trees](#) will be available in fall, make your reservation for one
  - Build your own rain barrel workshop October 3 – *more info to come*
  - [Cycle the Creek](#) bike ride along Riley Creek Oct 7th
  - Summer newsletter is coming out this week. [Sign up to receive if you haven't.](#)

#### V. CAC Process and Function

- A. Motion to resume meeting in person tabled to future meeting.
- B. Interesting news item: At Crystal Lake in Robbinsdale they are using existing settling tanks (a flocculation plant) to treat lake water. Flocculation chemicals are added to the water, which binds the phosphorus and algae into clumps which then settle out. This improves water clarity and will reduce the formation of toxic blue-green algae in the lake. Settled pollutants are discharged to the sewer system. CBS news clip: <https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/news/robbinsdales-crystal-lake-uses-one-of-a-kind-system-to-battle-against-toxic-blue-green-algae/>

#### VI. Running list for future meetings

- A. TBD: Dave Hansen or Jack Distel, City of Bloomington – Natural Areas Restoration
- B. TBD: Alaina Portoghese (AmeriCorps) soil health project
- C. TBD: Importance of native plants
- D. TBD: Climate change & watershed impacts
- E. TBD: 10 Year Plan Update: Overview/requirements
- F. TBD CAC/community education approach (idea: incorporate work Alaina is doing with soil health)

#### VII. Upcoming Events and Adjournment

- A. Tour of Marilyn's native plant landscape, August 2, 6 pm, 8956 Braxton Drive, Eden Prairie, in conjunction with Lower Minnesota River WD CAC
- B. [CAC Meeting](#) – Aug 21, 6:00 PM
- C. View District calendar at [rpbcd.org/calendar](http://rpbcd.org/calendar)
- D. [BOM Regular Meetings](#) (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays @ 7 pm): Aug 2
- E. [BOM Workshops](#) (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays @ 7 pm): July 20