



Title: 2022 Citizens Advisory Committee Executive Committee Election

Prepared by: Name: Helen Schnoes, Outreach Manager
Phone: 952-641-4524
Email: hschnoes@minnehahacreek.org

Purpose:

At the January 19, 2022, meeting of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD or District) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), the CAC will elect its Executive Committee for the year. Given the arrival of new members and continued implementation of new operational recommendations, this memo outlines the process and statements of interest submitted in advance from members.

Background:

On June 10, 2021, the MCWD Board of Managers approved [Resolution 21-042](#), in which they adopted the Citizen Advisory Committee Operational Recommendations Report (CAC Report). The report followed a strategic assessment of the CAC in 2020 and 2021 to align the CAC with [MCWD's Balanced Urban Ecology approach](#) and to ensure organization resources are aligned to serve its mission.

Following the approval of the CAC Report, the MCWD Board of Managers approved updates to the CAC Bylaws on July 22, 2021, in [Resolution 21-048](#). Bylaws guide the function and operations of the CAC and these updates, unanimously approved by the CAC members on July 14, 2021, ensured conformity with the CAC Report.

Article IV of the CAC Bylaws, Committee Structure, Officers, and Operations, provides direction for the composition and election of Officers for the CAC, who comprise the Executive Committee.

- **Section 2 (Officer elections)** directs the annual election of officers by a quorum of CAC members by simple majority.
- **Section 3 (Election procedures)** notes that nominations for holding an officer position can occur through nomination by any member or self-nomination. All members are eligible to vote for each candidate.
- **Section 4 (Officers and duties)** defines the composition of the Executive Committee as four unique officers in the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, and two Executive Officers, and speaks to the duties of each.

The CAC Report defined that the CAC Executive Committee will meet six times per year ahead of the regular CAC meetings. Executive Committee members have also supported new member on-boarding, recruitment, and other strategic initiatives as interest and needs arise.

2022 Executive Committee Interest:

The following CAC members have expressed interest in serving on the 2022 CAC Executive Committee. Statements of Interest shared with staff were requested at the December 8, 2021, CAC meeting and subsequently through email communications to both returning and new members. Sharing of the names and interest statements here does not prevent further dialogue or nomination of others during the January 19, 2022 CAC meeting.

Name	Positions of Interest	Statement of Interest
Dan Flo, Minneapolis	Executive Officer Vice Chair	I am interested in serving as a member of the MCWD CAC Executive Committee and appreciate your consideration. I have been a member of the CAC for two years and enjoy the opportunity to provide guidance and support to the MCWD Board and Staff. I am excited about the direction that the CAC and District as a whole are moving, seeking more opportunities for inclusion and engagement with residents of the watershed while working creatively to face the very real challenges of climate change and climate resiliency. I am hopeful that my 20 years of experience in environmental consulting, regulatory compliance, and project management will provide unique perspectives and valuable insight to the CAC as we continue our work together.
Laurie Goldsmith, St. Louis Park	Chair Executive Officer Vice Chair	I am interested in a leadership role on the CAC to make sure that discussions about District projects and goals consider (and perhaps focus upon) the science behind achieving surface water quality standards (set by BWSR?). Obviously, the District should employ industry best management practices to achieve these standards in the most cost-effective ways possible, taking into account longer term projections and not just immediate issues with water quality. With 25+ years interest and involvement in natural resource management, I understand that there are some predictable, though often unpredictable, long-term effects of anthropogenic global changes and climatic shifts. If it is possible for District projects to help mitigate some of these larger environmental threats as we fulfill our primary mandates, we should take advantage of these opportunities as they present themselves. Viewing our work through this lens, we may be able to increase environmental resilience through already necessary projects, which will also benefit District constituents.
Rich Nyquist, Minneapolis	Executive Officer Vice Chair	I have been a member of the MCWD CAC for seven years. As an active member I have observed and contributed to the discussion and dialog that is the essence of typical CAC meetings, whether in-person or virtual. I have an interest in continuing the service that the CAC provides to the MCWD board and staff in a manner that is similar to the format that has earned the respect and gratitude of the board and staff. I have appreciated the cooperative spirit that has defined the CAC experience since I first became a member and intend to maintain this spirit as a member of the MCWD CAC Executive Committee.
Peter Rechelbacher, Long Lake	Vice Chair (incumbent)	I would be interested in returning as Vice Chair for 2022 to help with continuity and transition as we move forward with the new alignment with the CAC.
John Salditt, Plymouth	Chair (incumbent)	Having served on the CAC for 4 years now and also in the Vice-Chair and Chair roles, I know I can continue to effectively support the MCWD staff and the Board as a member of the Exec team and Chair, if re-elected to that role.

CAC meeting focus and next steps:

At the January 19, 2022, CAC meeting, members will be able to speak to their interest in serving on the Executive Committee and have related discussion. Elections will unfold through nomination or self-nomination that specify the Executive Committee position. Results will be determined by simple majority of all members through a voice vote.