



Wednesday, July 20, 2022

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Virtual Meeting

www.minnehahacreek.org

Board of Managers:

Sherry White, President; William Olson, Vice President; Jessica Loftus, Treasurer; Eugene Maxwell, Secretary; Richard Miller, Manager; Arun Hejmadi, Manager; Steve Sando, Manager

Board Liaison: Manager Loftus

Citizens Advisory Committee Members in Attendance:

Lisa Fowler, Laurie Goldsmith, John Iverson, Shannon Martin, Drew McGovern, Rich Nyquist, Peter Rechelbacher, Marc Rosenberg, John Salditt

Citizens Advisory Committee Members Absent:

Emily Balogh, Bill Bushnell, Dan Flo, David Oltmans, Cassy Ordway

MCWD Staff:

Samantha Maul, Helen Schnoes, James Wisker

- 6:30 pm**
- 1. Committee Meeting Call to Order and Roll Call 6:33pm**
Introduction: Samantha Maul, Engagement Coordinator
 - 2. Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)**
Nyquist, Iverson -- All approved
2.1 July 20, 2022 Agenda
 - 3. Approval of Minutes (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)**
Iverson, Rechelbacher – All approved
3.1 May 18, 2022 Minutes
 - 4. Action Items**
4.1 No action items
- 6:45pm**
- 5. Discussion Items 6:45pm**
5.1 2023 Budget and Work Plan (Wisker)

Wisker reminded the CAC of his January 2022 “Look Ahead” presentation that offered strategic context, including the District’s evolution across the 2007 and 2017 Watershed Management Plan cycles, and looking ahead to 2027. He also located the work in a strategic planning context, which unfolds over 5-year periods. MCWD is currently taking stock of lessons learned over its history, setting direction on climate, charting 5-year project priorities, and planning for strategic growth.

MCWD's Budget Process runs from April – November, with the CAC's budget review following multiple budget conversations with the Board. September 15 is statutory requirement for budget adoption, with two required public hearings – one before and one after.

Wisker shared Board feedback to date, and stated they were generally comfortable with the 2023 Budget process and content. A need has been recognized for developing clear policies and processes for creating project forecasts beyond one fiscal year to inform planning and decision-making. Given this direction and a flat levy for the last five years, the Board anticipated increasing the levy by 2%. Wisker walked the CAC through the budget's components and highlighted key changes from 2022 to 2023. These figures were included in the CAC meeting packet for agenda item 5.1.

Wisker presented new approaches and thinking for Capital Project Implementation related to Planning, Design, Construction, and Warranty phases, and provided clarity on what work happens in each phase and what key milestones will be as a project progresses. This framework will help the District measure progress and manage risk. He previewed specific capital projects included in the Capital Improvement Plan for 2023 across the watershed.

CAC members had questions about several parts of the Budget, including facility changes and technology budget increases. Specific questions and feedback related to capital projects budgeted for 2023 included concerns over cost estimates for projects as well as the costs, efficacy, and feasibility of alum treatments (in-lake and through possible treatment facility). Salditt welcomed continued CAC communication and engagement on the analysis of the Halsted Bay Alum Treatment facility. Overall, CAC members concluded that it was valuable to engage in a deep conversation on capital projects because they are key to the District's mission.



Wisker also provided Budget details on operational changes related to organizational structure and staffing. The Budget presentation showed a 2023 increase from 27 positions to 30 positions. New positions include an Operations Manager, Policy Planner, and Planner Project Manager, with the Policy Planning Manager and Project Planning Manager rising to the Director level.

In closing the Budget discussion item, Schnoes invited feedback on the Budget Publication and Work Plan through offline engagement.

5.2 Citizens Advisory Committee Alignment Diagnostic Check and Recruitment Process (Schnoes) 8:05pm

Schnoes provided background on the 2021 CAC Alignment Report and discussed the objectives for the diagnostic check for November 2022. She presented the proposed approach and timeline as well as invited live and offline feedback on the approach and methods of data collection. Salditt noted that due to the subjective nature of the evaluation, it may be useful to conduct interviews in addition to a digital survey. CAC members

also recommended that staff hold a brief orientation for new members so that they may contribute effectively to the diagnostic, and Schnoes stated that members would only be expected to engage on their direct experience.

Schnoes provided some background on membership and recruitment changes from the 2021 Alignment Report before providing an overview of the proposed 2023 Recruitment process and timeline as listed in the memo for agenda item 5.2. She invited offline feedback and questions on the proposed approach as staff plan for this year's process. CAC members indicated their interest in further updates as planning continues.

8:10pm

6. Informational Items + Updates

6.1 CAC Member Updates

Members reported back from June Meet & Greet in Arden Park

6.2 Board Liaison Updates

Manager Loftus provided updates on several current projects:

- The Board was presented a Budget overview, and particularly noted concerns over the feasibility of the Halsted Bay Alum Treatment Facility and the 3–5-year Capital Improvement Plan focus.
- MCWD's Land & Water Partnership Initiative has advanced and a publication of this new engagement effort was sent out with an overview of MCWD's permitting rules change process and new policy direction, its Land and Water Partnership program currently in development. The Board of Managers and MCWD staff will be collecting stakeholder feedback and engaging with a Technical Advisory Committee of public partners.
- Board meetings moved back to in-person in June, and there are hopes that the CAC will be able to meet in-person again soon.

6.3 Staff Updates

Wisker provided updates:

- Minnehaha Creek Watershed is within the 3% of the state that is experiencing moderate drought. Although May was reasonably wet, this June has been the 5th driest ever recorded. Subscribe to MCWD's water level updates to stay informed on the state of the watershed.
- Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board (MPRB) is reviewing the Hiawatha Master Plan and moving through procedural votes toward a public hearing.

Schnoes provided updates:

- The land sale for a parcel at the 325 Blake Road Redevelopment project site in Hopkins was approved by the Board of Managers and completed.
- Construction on trails at the Six Mile Marsh Prairie restoration project site has begun and there may be an opportunity to visit in fall.

8:30pm

7. Adjournment 8:38pm Nyquist, McGovern—all approved

Upcoming Meeting

