



**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, September 15, 2021**

Members present:

Bushnell, Flo, Nyquist, Oltmans, Rechelbacher, Salditt

Members absent:

Balogh, Girard, McGovern, Ordway, Rosenberg

Managers present:

Olson

Others present:

MCWD Staff: James Wisker, Becky Christopher, Kate Moran, Abbie Ernst, Helen Schnoes

6:30pm

1. Committee Meeting Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting chaired by Salditt and called to order at 6:36.

2. Approval of Agenda (*Additions/Corrections/Deletions*)

2.1 Approval of September 15, 2021 Agenda

Agenda amendment offered by Chair Salditt to add item 6.4 CAC Member Updates, generally a standing item.

Bushnell motioned to approve the agenda, Nyquist seconded, motion approved.

3. Approval of Minutes (*Additions/Corrections/Deletions*)

3.1 Approval of August 18, 2021 Minutes

Bushnell motioned to approve the August 18, 2021 minutes, Flo seconded, motion approved.

4 Introduction: Outreach Manager, Helen Schnoes, AICP

Administrator Wisker introduced Helen Schnoes, new Outreach Manager for Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD). Schnoes provided some personal background and shared about her excitement for entering the role.

CAC members in attendance introduced themselves.

6:45pm

5 Discussion Items

5.1 MCWD Responsive Model & Permitting Alignment: Background (Christopher)

Christopher introduced the staff team working on the initiatives to be presented during the meeting. She provided context for previous CAC engagement with the Responsive Program and Permitting Alignment and outlined areas of focus for member feedback during the night's discussion.

Both initiatives arose as key initiatives from the 2017 MCWD strategic plan.

5.2 Responsive Program Presentation (Moran) + Small Group Discussion

Moran presented a PowerPoint that spoke to the Responsive Program, a new strategy and approach for how the District will make decisions about partnerships, funding, and related services to advance the Watershed Management Plan's goals and organizational strategic plan to support Balanced Urban Ecology.

PowerPoint slides provide summary information and are included with the minutes.

Staff will be making recommendations to the Board of Managers for program refinement on September 23, 2021 and plan to seek authorization from the Board of Managers to initiate a stakeholder engagement process in November 2021.

Members asked clarifying questions of staff and offered feedback on messaging and strategy of the program as it is currently developed as well as learnings from the pilot phase that has been in progress.

5.3 Permitting Alignment Presentation (Ernst) + Small Group Discussion

Ernst presented a PowerPoint that provided an overview of how MCWD intends to make its regulations and permitting process easier to get through while maintaining trust in the watershed's role in protecting natural resources. A goal of this is to build trust in the District and open pathways for more public-private partnerships that help the District advance its strategy of integrating water and land use planning.

PowerPoint slides provide summary information and are included with the minutes.

Staff will be making recommendations to the Board of Managers for directional approval on September 23, 2021 and plan to engage a Technical Advisory Committee in early 2022. Final rule revisions, public comment, and Board adoption of rules anticipated Q2 2022.

Members asked clarifying questions of staff and offered feedback on messaging and strategy of the program recommendations.

8:15pm

6 Information Items and Updates

6.1 Board Liaison Updates (Olson) (postponed to after 6.3)

Manager Olson provided an update on the Wassermann Park project and 325 Blake Road development.

6.2 Position Description (Schnoes)

Schnoes presented a drafted position description to use in recruiting new members. Examples from other watershed districts in the metro were reviewed. Comments and suggested edits will be welcomed via email through Wednesday, September 22 at noon.

6.3 Staggering Terms and New Member Recruitment (Schnoes)

Schnoes presented a summary of survey feedback from members to help staff develop an approach for initiating staggering of two-year terms for the CAC, in alignment with the new bylaws approved in July by the Board of Managers. All current 11 members interested in returning and there's flexibility to be able to have some one-year appointments as well as 2-year, to establish two cohorts of seven members with alternating appointment years.

Salditt reminded folks about goal of diversifying membership and that current members will be asked to apply and be considered for reappointment by the Board of Managers along with potential new applicants.

Schnoes requested that members include ideas about recruitment strategies, networks to leverage, so that the call for new member applications is robust and helps CAC meet its goals of diversifying membership. Suggestions will be collected via email through Wednesday, September 22 at noon.

6.4 CAC Member Updates (Salditt)

Members provided updates on a variety of related policy and community activities unfolding.

Wisker provided updates on 325 Blake Road development, drought conditions, and potential state funding for the MCWD to advance modeling to support climate action planning.

7 Adjournment

Bushnell motioned to adjourn, Nyquist seconded, motion approved at 8:44pm.

Upcoming Meeting

Wednesday, November 10, 2021 – Manager Miller, Board Liaison