



Title: Citizens Advisory Committee Member Appointment Adjustment

Resolution number: 24-050

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Recommended action: Appoint Citizens Advisory Committee Member Emily Balogh as a Non-Resident Member

Past Board Action: Resolution # 23 – 084 Appointment of the 2024 Citizens Advisory Committee

Background:

According to MN Statute [§103D.331](#), the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD or District) Board of Managers must annually appoint a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). On June 10, 2021, the Board approved [Resolution 21-042](#) adopting operational recommendations which included setting the size of the CAC at 14 members and instituting staggered, two-year terms for CAC members.

CAC Membership:

MN Statute [§103D.331](#) requires that CAC members reside within the watershed district, but also notes exceptions for representatives from soil and water conservation districts, counties, and other interested and technical persons who may or may not reside within the watershed district. These individuals may be appointed to serve at the pleasure of the Board of Managers but may not vote or hold office within the committee.

CAC Appointment:

Each fall, MCWD conducts a competitive recruitment process to determine appointments for the CAC at the discretion of the Board of Managers. Current members are encouraged to re-apply, and new candidates are solicited to participate in an application process.

On December 14, 2023, the Board of Managers [adopted Resolution 23-084](#) and appointed 14 members to the 2024 CAC, including Emily Balogh, who was appointed to a two-year term from 2024-2025. Emily Balogh has served on the CAC since January 2020 as a member in good standing. However, as of August 17, 2024, she changed her place of residence and no longer resides within the watershed district.

Staff have evaluated the options of leaving this seat vacant until the next recruitment and appointment cycle, considering Ms. Balogh's attendance and critical engagement at CAC meetings, her technical background in water resources and community participation experience, her continued interest in serving, and the value provided by a full 14-member CAC to advise on the District's projects and initiatives. Based on these considerations, staff recommend that Emily Balogh continue to serve on the CAC until her position may be filled by a resident member solicited through a competitive recruitment process.

Next Steps:

On the advice of legal counsel, staff request that the Board formally address Ms. Balogh's shift in residence by appointing Ms. Balogh as a non-resident CAC member for the remainder of 2024, during which time she may advise on the District's projects and initiatives, but she may not vote or hold office. MCWD is currently soliciting applications to fill her position on the CAC with a resident member as part of the 2025 CAC recruitment and appointment cycle.

