



## Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 6:30-8:30 pm – VIA Zoom

6:15 PM: Optional Pre-Meeting Social Time

1. 6:30 PM: Welcome & Introductions – Special Welcome to New Members!
  - a. Attending: Cliff Aichinger, Bill Bartodziej, John Chikkala, Jill Danner, Randee Edmundson, Hallie Finucane, Mark Gernes, Jennifer Gruetzman, Lauren Hazenson, Kathryn Keefer, Stuart Knappmiller, Dana Larsen-Ramsay, Carrie Magnuson, Linda Neilson, Gary Nelson, Glen Olson, Scott Ramsay, Gary Schroeher, Stephanie Wang, Karen Wold
  
2. 7:10 PM: Brainstorm on Possible Carp Fishing Contest – Lauren Hazenson & Bill Bartodziej
  - a. Carp Fishing Contest Pilot: Doing this in the time of COVID, this project may require modifications that won't be present in future years. 2021 will be sort of experimental.
  - b. Goals:
    - Raise awareness of carp as an invasive species, benefits of carp management
    - Highlight RWMWD success with carp management
    - Invite community to be a part of our work
    - Relationship building with community
    - Not necessarily an effort to remove a lot of carp, removing 100-200 fish would be great, but to be a source of education and community involvement.
  - c. Brainstorming:
    - What would this look like with COVID restrictions?
      1. Utilize an online registration and honor system/photo fish registration.
    - When/where would it take place? –
      1. When: mid-June is when spawning ends, so it would be good to target June – August. Suggestion to not target it for a weekend or day.
      2. Q: Where is the lake most populated with carp?  
A: The contest this year will not necessarily be restricted to certain water bodies, but instead be district wide. There could be more focus on Owasso and Phalen Chain of Lakes. The thought is that it would be wise to decentralize this year with distancing guidelines.
      3. Moving forward, it might be nice to have a focus lake and rotate it throughout the district. That would bring common participants to different parts of the district they haven't been to.
    - Potential partners
      1. Fishing communities. We may not be able to provide poles, so partnering with a local business to incentivize would be helpful.
      2. Joe's Sporting Goods
      3. Blue Ribbon bait shop
      4. Fleet Farm, but it might be harder to work within the corporate environment.
      5. Partner with cities/counties to see if they can help dispose of fish.
      6. Have staff/volunteers be onsite to help educate.

7. DNR Fishing in the Neighborhood – may provide some access to equipment and technical support.
- Promotion opportunities
    1. Gamification – badges and awards
      - a. Earning levels: example: 5 carp caught = gift certificate to local restaurant for a fish taco or fish pho, etc.
      - b. Punch card.
      - c. Triple points for catching in the focus area.
      - d. Team competitions
      - e. Points for different activities such as shore, boat, different lakes, etc.
      - f. Leaderboard
    2. Q: How would we ‘register’ the fish?  
A: Photos by a ruler would be fine. Honor system for the most part. Should have people designate in which lake they caught the carp
    3. Scavenger hunts
    4. Prizes: It would be nice to think of a big prize, and a youth prize. Guided bass fishing day in the Twin Cities. Three River’s Park Dist. gave a fishing boat, motor and trailer as a prize at the Carp Fest years ago but may be better to give more prizes than one large one.
    5. Eastside local restaurants could partner – give gift cards as prizes.
    6. Lauren will draft a promotion calendar and bring it to the CAC. June is a busy promotional season for RWMWD.
    7. Lauren will pull educational materials together for showing what lakes are within the district, fishing and consumption guidelines, rules, prizes, etc.
  - Evaluation/measurement – gauge success, what works/didn’t
    1. Do a post-event survey
  - Other observations
    1. Question: How should anglers dispose of the carp? We clearly cannot promote catch and release due to their invasive status.
      - a. Scott recalls having recipe books. We could even have chefs present to cook up and make samples available to incentivize people. Maybe do a fish fry/smoke in non-Covid year.
      - b. Catch and compost.
      - c. Can we coordinate with a zoo or wolf center, wildlife center? We may need to coordinate with DNR due to regulations. If we can get approval, maybe visiting that center would be a great prize.
      - d. Community food compost site? Partner to cities/counties if they can help dispose of fish.
      - e. There are some concerns with the consumption of carp because they are bottom feeders and can bioaccumulate toxins. We may need to include DNR consumption guidelines.
      - f. Ramsey County has a number of disposal sites around the community that you can bring organics for municipal compost. Someone should talk to the Ramsey Co folks that handle those sites just to make sure. Another member thought these drop off facilities may not want that much fish waste. Maybe deal directly with Rosemount organic facility?
      - g. In future years, if we do a targeted lake, it would make more sense for RWMWD to manage disposal.

2. Does this include both shoreline and boat fishing? Certain communities might not have some advantages like boats, fish-finders, etc. Maybe having different categories such as shoreline fishing and from boats with fish finders to make prizes more equitable.
      3. Cliff or Bill could bring up the idea of a carp fishing workshop with Shemek.
      4. Michele H's husband Ken could possibly help with carp fly fishing demo. Maybe put both on YouTube.
    - Anyone in the group that wants to form a sub-committee can contact Lauren, Bill or Carrie directly.
3. 7:50 PM: Water Trail Video Project – Lauren Hazenson – Tabled until next meeting due to time.
4. 8:10 PM: Project, Activity & Event Updates
  - a. Environmental Forum Follow-up – Dana
    - 146 people registered for event, 2 additional late registrations. 123 logged into event. Largest event to-date! Reached a geographically wider audience.
    - Very well-received – lots of questions and positive feedback.
    - Tim Manthey, HBF IT Manager instrumental in success of 1<sup>st</sup> virtual Environmental Forum – couple of small glitches but overall went very smoothly.
    - Follow-up survey 92% said event was excellent!
    - Recording posted online for those who could not attend. First time EF has been recorded, which a lot of people appreciated.
  - b. WaterFest – Carrie
    - WaterFest will be self-directed, multi-day, in-person and on-line event spanning 9 days – June 19-27<sup>th</sup> at Lake Phalen Park in St. Paul. No boat activities due to Covid.
    - Families can enjoy outdoor, interactive, Covid-safe activities that will change throughout the course of the event, so attendees are invited to visit as many days as desired to get the full experience. Can also join online for virtual activities shared by exhibitors. As always, WaterFest is free to attendees. To get updates on exhibitors and the daily schedule follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or our event page at [rwmwd.org/waterfest](http://rwmwd.org/waterfest). Maddy was hired as the coordinator again this year.
    - If you think you could volunteer, sign up on the WaterFest website. Our volunteer coordinator will get in touch with you to see what shifts and roles you're interested in. Likely 3 hours shifts for set up, tear down and to protect exhibits.
5. 8:25 PM: Community Announcements
  - a. Vadnais and Sucker Lakes/Snail Lake – improvements visible to work done over the winter. Water levels look to be down because the groundwater levels are lower. Snail Lake is used year-round and in all weather. The trumpeter swans that migrate through the area often stop and are a big attraction.
  - b. Linda: Several plant sales are coming up soon. Linda will have Carrie forward the info to CAC members – Ramsey County Correctional Facility Nursery's Volunteer's in Corrections, Wild Ones and Ramsey County Master Gardeners.
  - c. Linda attended an interesting webinar through the Moos Family Speaker Series titled "*The Global Problem of Pharmaceutical Pollution*" featuring Dr. Alistair Boxall, professor in environmental science at the University of York, U.K. After the lecture, they welcomed Eva Carlson of RoundtableRx and Mark Ferrey of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in a discussion moderated by Dr. Valery Forbes, dean of the UMN College of Biological Sciences, the event cohost. For those who could not watch live, you can view a [recording here](#).

6. 8:30 PM: Adjourn

Future meetings:

- June 8<sup>th</sup>
- September 28<sup>th</sup>
- October 26<sup>th</sup>
- December 7<sup>th</sup>