



## Citizen Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

June 8<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 Member Tammy McCulloch!

Attending: Cliff Aichinger, Bill Bartodziej, Maddy Bohn, John Chikkala, Jill Danner, Randee Edmundson, Hallie Finucane, Dani Follett-Dion, Mark Gernes, Jennifer Gruetzman, Lauren Hazenson, Stuart Knappmiller, Dana Larsen-Ramsay, Carrie Magnuson, Tammy McCulloch, Gary Nelson, Sage Passi, Scott Ramsay, Gary Schroeher, Stephanie Wang.

- a. Tammy's introduction: Resides in Woodbury, but is an At-Large representative. She's been at the U of MN Extension for 10+ years and is the Regional Director, working out of their Farmington office. Her role is a liaison between partners and the University, so she works with many metro counties. Tammy works in all facets of the extension office from ag, natural resources, 4H, Master Naturalists, Community Engagement/Vitality, etc. She is also on the Washington Co Library Board, interested in youth development, and agriculture. She grew up on a farm, served in the Peace Corps and has two kids, ages 8 and 6.

2. 6:50 PM: WaterFest – Maddy, Lauren & Carrie

- a. Review of past traditional WaterFest events – 21<sup>st</sup> year
- b. This year: June 19-27<sup>th</sup>: Nine days of interactive experiences for families and individuals featuring educational activities – 11 AM-6PM
- c. Designed as a self-directed event with COVID safety in mind
- d. Every day is a different WaterFest, visit multiple times to get the full experience
- e. As always, Free
- f. Activities: for example: H2O on the Go sculpture, stenciling, Water Pollution Mystery Game, We are Water exhibit, paddle sports, sailing demos, canoeing, and many more
- g. About 20 grounds activities ([link to map](#)), and virtual activities ([link to website](#)).
- h. Marketing:
  - Postcards
  - MN Monthly, Pls/St. Paul Magazine, Do It Green MN, Visit St. Paul, St. Paul District Councils, Woodbury Magazine.
  - Emails to previous exhibitors/participants
  - Social media postings
  - Goose Chase App (Free online scavenger hunt, available in 5 different languages)
- i. Logistics:
  - Volunteers will be setting up between 10-11am and taking down between 6-7pm. Storage space available at Lake Phalen Golf Course. Volunteers still needed! Volunteer shifts are 3 hour shifts to set-up, take down, answer questions, and generally keep an eye on things. Maddy will send link.
  - Social: @MNWaterFest, #mnwaterfest, [rwmwd.org/waterfest/](http://rwmwd.org/waterfest/) *Quality Water for Quality Life.*

3. 7:10 PM: Carp Fishing Contest – Maddy, Lauren & Bill
- a. Lauren:
- Reviewed main goals brought up at last CAC meeting:
    1. Raise awareness of carp as an invasive species, benefits of carp management
    2. Highlight RWMWD success with carp management
    3. Invite community to be a part of our work
    4. Relationship building with community
    5. 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.
  - Planning:
    1. In-person contest July 31<sup>st</sup> and August 28<sup>th</sup>
    2. Located on Gervais and Owasso
    3. On-site disposal for participants
    4. Connect with lake associations
    5. Online carp fishing tutorial
    6. FishDonkey app (made by person who lives on Lake Owasso). Has a leader board, stats collecting, etc.
- b. Bill talked with President of the Lake Owasso Lake Association who is really excited about the event. Excited about July 31<sup>st</sup> date. Looking at focusing more towards kids and education about why we want to get the carp out of the lake chain.
- c. Messaging:
- Opportunities to get connected to RWMWD
  - Options to impact water quality in their area
  - Promote future events
- d. Questions/Comments:
- Will this be hook in mouth only? Bow? Snag? – Answer: leave it open and emphasize hook/line with YouTube tutorial. That said, we will not fret too much about how the carp get out of the lake.
  - We could make it more specific to technique for certain prizes. Answer: leaning more towards dividing categories by age.
  - What prizes are being offered? Answer: We are looking at sponsors to donate prizes such as rod/reels, etc. Fleet Farm, Blue Ribbon, Joe's Sporting Goods.
  - Could we get the DNR, Tips Outdoors, or Joe's to give a fishing clinic?
  - Do we have a way to promote with Scouts and 4-H? Answer: Currently looking at logistics, but Lauren will connect with Tammy when they are ready for outreach.
  - July 24<sup>th</sup> is the Taste of Shoreview (all along Victoria) – might be good opportunity to outreach. Signage?
  - Jenni Gruetzman has connections to Boy Scouts at St. Odilia's.
  - Sage has a tour in Shoreview that could be used to promote it.
  - If people are interested, how can the CAC be useful? Answer: Event support, helping out with contest itself, someone who has previously won carp contests 😊, and other on-site opportunities that will be ironed out as we get more details. Outreach! Voices of CAC are more believable to residents/friends verses RWMWD as an organization. We will need help networking. Educational opportunities.

- Randee can share with Eastside Youth and their families.
- Sage has puppets available, carp with eggs and bluegill to show how they eat the carp eggs.
- Fish prints: Gytaku would be a cool idea to include. Scott told the group that kids love doing that.
- Sage: East Side Boys and Girls Club have worked with the fish prints at WaterFest before so they could maybe be contacted for that.
- Sage knows of a dollmaker on Phalen that she could connect with Maddy/Lauren to see how she can support.
- Contact [Lauren.hazenson@rwmwd.org](mailto:Lauren.hazenson@rwmwd.org) or Maddy at [mbohnconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:mbohnconsulting@gmail.com) with more comments/questions

4. 7:30 PM: Phalen/Water Trail Video Series – Lauren & Dani

a. Primary Goals developed by CAC in past meetings:

- Showcase the Lake Phalen Chain as a unique/special recreation area
- Feature recreation opportunities that will appeal to disparate audiences
- Highlight unique attributes of each lake
- Feature map and other info

b. Format:

- 1-3-minute videos for each lake
- Each feature a unique feature and/or activity
- Include interviews with a diverse set of park/lake users
- Include captivating visual content
- Include captions

c. Examples:

- RWMWD previously made videos:
  1. Lake Phalen Restoration Video ([link](#)) has interviews that were done during WaterFest, using storytelling and interviews with local residents.
  2. Lake sampling: ([link](#))
  3. See others at [www.youtube.com/rwmwd](http://www.youtube.com/rwmwd)

d. Delivery:

- Promote to community partners
- YouTube, Social Media
- Cross promotion (example: Carp fishing contest)
- Schedule: video 2x/month in June – August, and having videos from each lake.

e. Brainstorming:

- What should Lauren know before we get started?
  1. Likes the idea of having video (even just audio)
- What are the top 1-2 things you think stand out most about each lake?
  1. Send Lauren an email if you think of things later.
- If you could only get 2 things across about the Phalen Lake Chain, what would they be?
  1. Phalen beach is a great swimming beach in St. Paul
  2. Loons on Lake Phalen. Some people don't believe loons come into cities
  3. Historical aspect from the Indigenous communities
  4. Historical context for pipe draining Phalen

5. Ramsey Co parks and trails have a connection/links to Rice Creek Trail, but not to this one. We should look into highlighting our site on their website.
  6. Sage connected with someone on the Little Canada Historical Society about Indigenous history and how that could influence the signage that city/county people are looking into.
  7. Teach watershed concepts. Look at how this chain connects to the Owasso Chain
  8. The CAC members generally liked the idea of short videos that could lead into our other videos.
- Are there any audiences we're missing?
    1. Commissioners? Can we get them to canoe these lakes?
    2. Could the map be shared with NextDoor in neighboring communities and paddling groups?
      - a. We *can* now do NextDoor postings. Lauren has been working with them on getting an agency account. We can use our boundary to hit neighborhoods that hit our jurisdiction.
    3. Some members interested in taking a group paddle? (about 13 members were interested)

## 5. 8:00 PM: Project, Activity & Event Updates

### a. CAC/LEAP Team Planting at Wetland A – Bill

- Would love to have the CAC out again to help plant.
- The wetland just southeast of Snail Lake in Ramsey County Regional Park is one of the most highly diverse ecological sites in the watershed. RWMWD has been doing a lot of work around restoring that buffer
- In the past the Natural Resources (NR) crew has left the more difficult planting for the CAC to do. They need that again in 2021 (emergent plants specifically, in 6-12" of water). Events we've done in the past have been really productive, and it's a great team opportunity.
- Timing: Thinking mid-late August so the water levels have time to go down a bit. Usually these events are held in the evening. Bill will get his team to choose some dates.
- At least 8 CAC members seemed interested.

### b. Casey Lake Rain Garden Project with Simba – Dana

- Mid and late season clean ups are needed – likely same 5 homes/6 gardens done last year in N St. Paul/Maplewood.
- Is there interest again this year? 12 people seemed interested.
- Stephanie: Are there other areas that need this sort of help? Can we share that information if we know it and create a sort of pop-up maintenance?  
Answer: Simba Blood at RWMWD is a key staff to ask that. Dana will ask Simba.

### c. LEAP Program – Nominations Needed – Mark & Dana

- Mark gave history and explanation of what the LEAP team is looking for
  1. Innovative practices to improve water quality
  2. Residential and non-residential
- Program began in 2002 = 19 years. Thus far 107 awards have been presented (77 private, 5 schools, 7 businesses, 5 churches, 13 public sites).

- He encouraged CAC members to look around the watershed for properties that impress them – porous pavement, native plants, rain gardens, etc. If it catches your eye, please grab the address and send it to [deb.barnes@rwmwd.org](mailto:deb.barnes@rwmwd.org) It only takes a couple of minutes to nominate someone.
  - The LEAP team gets about 8-10 applications per year, tours the sites and selects the winners.
  - Awardees are recognized at the Watershed’s annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner (usually in November), and awardees receive a yard sign, gift certificate to a native nursery, and handmade artisan birdbath
  - Nominations must be submitted by July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- d. Watershed Excellence Awards & Volunteer Recognition Dinner – Nominations Needed & Eric Sommer’s Awards – Carrie & Dana
- Dana summarized what the awards and dinner is like and gave examples of award categories:
    1. Outstanding Partner
    2. Conservation Work
    3. Lake Steward
    4. Youth Engagement Award
    5. Roger Lake Stewardship Excellence Award
  - Nominations are simply a written paragraph about person or organization doing exemplary work for water quality. Nominations can suggest a topic/award name. Dana and Sage collect all nominations.
  - CAC members should consider who they know; organizations, people, etc. who are making a difference for the watershed, stewardship, education, etc. Just write a paragraph and send to Dana ([dana.larsen-ramsay@hbfuller.com](mailto:dana.larsen-ramsay@hbfuller.com))
  - Started in 2013 and 41 awards have been given out.
  - Typically give about 6 awards each year.
  - Plan is to cycle through physical award designs again.
- e. CAC Work Plan – Dana & Carrie
- One thing we wanted to do this fall (listed below), Simba Blood had two topics. Are members still interested? If so, which topic: Invasive Species (what are they, why they are dominant, how to manage (district/private), OR Cultivars vs. Natives (pros/cons etc).
    1. Several votes for Cultivars vs. Natives.

6. 8:25 PM: Community Announcements

- a. Ames Lake Sculpture Unveiling and Grand Opening of Phalen Community Room (Ranee): This effort started in 2017 and RWMWD funded 2 of 3 of the sculptures in 2019. June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 The unveiling went well, especially considering the heat and their first attempt to gather post-covid. Aloun, Shoua, Koreena and Ranee spoke at the event. Max (Shoua's brother) spoke at her sculpture and helped share her artistic process. They unveiled the Great Blue Heron sculpture at Phalen and then led the crowd to Ames Lake to view the other 2 sculptures. Eric Thompson from Park and Rec, Howard Paster from Paster Properties and the District 2 council board were there along with a small crowd of neighborhood folks, family and friends and East Side Boys and Girls Club youth. Sen. Fong Hawj spoke at the ribbon cutting for the community room and talked with our youth and Aloun as well. There were three dance groups - ballet, Hmong traditional, and Irish

traditional. There was a great selection of local food trucks and booths from local vendors. Earlier they had a "tennis camp" for kids to try.

- b. Sage would like to get a plant walk going. She will coordinate with Mark Gernes about coming out to help ID plants. This did end up happening on the southwest shoreline of Lake Phalen on the evening of 6/22/21. About 20 people from the neighborhood came.
- c. Sage had a planting last week with 3M volunteers at the south end at Lake Phalen. They will be out on Peanut Pond (Snail Lake Wetland A) soon. Sage is looking for volunteers to help replant the south end of Lake Phalen. Sage will send something out to the CAC. Water Stewards are helping too.
- d. Sage said volunteers are needed at a State Fair booth in the Eco Experience Building – volunteers will receive free admission. Sage will email the group about this.

7. 8:30 PM: Adjourn

### **2020 CAC Project Review and 2021 Project Plans – Future Meetings**

- a. Salt Use Outreach/Education – CAC
- b. Create Invasive Species Education Pieces – CAC
- c. Annual RWMWD Excellence Awards – Dana
- d. CAC Visit to Artist Eric Sommers' Glass Studio (2021?) – Dana
- e. Education Topics:
  - Invasive Species – Simba
  - Cultivars vs. Natives – Simba
  - Permitting – Nicole
- f. Other ideas?

### **Future meetings – Zoom or In-Person:**

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