



Citizen Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

October 26th, 2021 6:30-8:30 pm - VIA Zoom

6:15 PM: Optional Pre-Meeting Social Time

1. 6:30 PM: Welcome & Introductions – Cliff Aichinger, Simba Blood, John Chikkala, Hallie Finucane, Mark Gernes, Jennifer Gruetzman, Lauren Hazenson, Kathryn Keefer, Dana Larsen-Ramsay, Carrie Magnuson, Tammy McCulloch, Linda Neilson, Gary Nelson, Glen Olson, Sage Passi, Scott Ramsay, Gary Schroeher, Cathy Troendle (Educational consultant – guest), Stephanie Wang, Karen Wold
2. 6:45 PM: Natives vs. Cultivars Presentation – Simba Blood
 - Background: Insect populations and animals that depend on natives are in danger in large part because of habitat loss. Normal suburban lawns have an average of 80% non-native and turf species. Local insects and birds depend on the ecosystem created by native plants. Reduced use of native plants has produced a 45% loss in some insects, some being important pollinators.
 - b. How to tell if it's native: look at binomial name. Cultivars have genus and name and a quote (*Echinacea purpurea* 'Ruby Star' for example) meaning it's patented. An "X" in the name indicates that it is a hybrid.
 - c. Simba presented research
 - Annie White's research compares native plants and their directly-related cultivars. She planted the native and cultivar in replicates in fields and monitored them for two seasons and counted pollinator visits. She found that native plants and 'selected' cultivars were equally visited. Hybrids were significantly less visited in almost all cases. This included various insects. Exceptions: lavender does tend to attract more visitors.
 - ✓ She also looked at nectar rewards and found variations. Example: the native cardinal flower, *Lobelia cardinalis*, produced significantly more.
 - ✓ Hybrid bloom times can mismatch when their pollinator seeks nectar.
 - ✓ Other animals, such as songbirds are affected by reduced native plants. About ninety percent of songbirds need caterpillars and larval insects to feed their young. White wanted to look at how well cultivars support those vital protein sources.
 - Tallamy Lab research looks at woody shrubs and trees compared to their cultivars (American Elm, Winterberry, Red osier dogwood, High bush blueberry, etc.). They planted native and cultivars and collected insects from each over two seasons.
 - ✓ Results: still preliminary, but the only characteristics that had significant results was in differentiation in leaf color. Variegated leaves actually showed increased feeding, but they have less nutritional value.
 - ✓ Large berry size *seems* advantageous, but not if it's too large for the animal feeding on it.

- ✓ Cultivar growth patterns could be less advantageous for nesting patterns.
 - d. Other concerns with choosing cultivars over natives:
 - Loss of genetic variation
 - Hybridization with wild populations
 - e. Take-aways:
 - Plant selection should be guided by project goals (habitat? tidiness?)
 - When practical, select true natives to support wildlife
 - If using cultivars, select those that are least modified
 - If residents are applying for RWMWD's Stewardship Grant, we require 75% native plants for reimbursement
 - Best way to make sure you're purchasing true native plants is to purchase from a native plant supplier. Look also for events by Landscape Revival, Wild Ones etc.
 - Simba is willing to share the links to the research for interested members. Simba will email it to the group.
 - f. Questions:
 - Stephanie: How do we tell which are 'better' when looking at 'slightly modified'? Answer: it's complicated. Avoid if you see an 'x' in the name.
 - Stephanie: What are your favorite 'manageable' natives? Simba: She does not have a list but we have to consider the project site conditions. Call upon our landscape architects at the County who would be better experts on that.
 - Cathy Troendle: Regarding nectar – are the birds and insects 'figuring it out'? Simba: Not sure. There *is* something that they are figuring out that makes them visit hybrids less, but unsure how tuned in they are.
3. 7:15 PM: Carp Fishing Contest Recap & Brainstorm – Lauren
- a. July 30th at Gervais and August 28th on Owasso. On-site disposal for participants. Connected with lake associations. Cities helped promote.
 - b. Lauren felt like there was good engagement
 - Most participants were first time visitors to the water body.
 - Lots of children (~50% kids)
 - Pretty good turnout, despite it being some of the worst air quality days in MN history.
 - Lots of families and established groups of people who carp fish recreationally
 - c. Challenges:
 - Drought = low water, so hard to fish from shoreline.
 - Late in season for carp to bite. 14 carp caught at Owasso, 1 at Gervais.
 - RWMWD is actively doing carp management, especially at Gervais, so populations may be reduced
 - Would be helpful to do more education of RWMWD and aquatic invasive species on the front end of the contest
 - d. Brainstorming for next year:
 - Should we do this again?
 - ✓ Bill and Przemek (Carp Solutions) seemed optimistic about doing it again.
 - ✓ Good opportunity for meeting Lake association members.

- ✓ Cliff thinks it would be good to do again, as does Gary. They think we can use the lessons we learned this year to make next year's event more successful. Successful catches will create more excitement.
- Locations: It's hard to find lakes/areas that have substantial carp populations AND easy public access. Mark: Owasso seems like a good option to keep as a target lake if done earlier in the year, but many others in the Phalen Chain are possible (Keller, Spoon, Phalen if enough carp). Cliff: If people had boats they could go anywhere.
- Other Comments and Questions:
 - ✓ Glen: Suggest using multi-modal messages to various social media outlets. Response: We did online ads over social media, articles with City of Roseville and Shoreview papers, Ramsey Co Parks promotions. We utilized Eventbrite for sign ups so registrants got repeated emails with info, Q/A, and a follow-up survey. 25% no show is typical. We also had signage at contest locations leading up to the event (though some were removed).
 - ✓ Are there angler groups we can promote this with?
 - ✓ Cliff: Did we bait carp beforehand? Yes
 - ✓ Were there instructions? Yes. It was mentioned in the intro materials that someone (Przemek) would be on hand to show attendees how to fish for carp. Corn bait was provided if they wanted. Przemek also had long fishing poles he was using to work with the kids.
 - ✓ Engagement: there were other categories for non-carp fish on a catch-and-release basis. Kids were really into this event.
 - ✓ Dana: What were the prizes in 2021? Response: Donation solicitation was done by Maddy Bohn. She had gift certificates to golf courses and to restaurants at about the \$100 point. Other ideas:
 - Kids fishing rods
 - Cabela's
 - Fleet Farm
 - Dicks Sporting Goods
 - Fishing kayak
 - Put a tagged fish back in the lake and if anyone catches it, they get a bigger prize.
 - ✓ Can we rent boats to offer people (canoes) – DNR, Wilderness Inquiry
 - ✓ Can we talk to private shoreline owners about accessing Kohlman?
 - ✓ 65 people maximum on Lake Owasso shoreline.
 - ✓ Dana: Make Gytaku art prints on site to increase festival feeling
 - ✓ Dana: Tap into DNR education program – Take A Kid Fishing, etc. to add more instruction/activities. Have a fly angler demonstrate carp fishing on a fly rod.
 - ✓ Jen Gruetzman (DNR) is happy to be a connection to the agency for partnering
 - ✓ Work out fish licensing so folks can show up even if they don't have a license.
 - ✓ Tammy: 4-H has started a [Fishing 101](#). Equipment is an issue to engage young people.

- a. See goals in previous meeting minutes
- b. Format:
 - 1-3 minute videos for each lake.
 - Capture interviews with a diverse set of park/lake users
 - Include captivating visual content.
 - Include captions.
- c. Process: Lauren and Communications intern, Dani collected a lot of content over the summer.
- d. Results were less than what we had hoped, on par with the average RWMWD videos.
- e. Recommendations:
 - Full multimodal communications plan
 - ✓ Big push leading up to WaterFest, where maps can be given out at cities, rec centers, outdoor supply stores. Our audience tends to go to the city first for information, so might be best to use the tools/collaboration we can through those partnerships
 - ✓ Include printed materials as well as timed posts with photos as well as short video
 - ✓ Temporary signage
- f. Feedback:
 - Stephanie: Signage is helpful to meet people where they are at – literally. People may not be comfortable coming up to a person, but a sign is very non-threatening. Especially if signage is switched out, it's more engaging.
 - Try to broaden our audience to folks to those who would not normally attend Watershed events.
 - Scott: Can we make the signage multi-lingual? Yes. We will look at the populations who live around the lake and include it.
 - Katie: QR code usage? Yes. But of note, we are going through a website redesign that will launch in June. It's a great idea, but considering we will be remapping the website, QR codes will be tricky until that's complete.
 - Dana: It would be good to use signage to connect our projects/website/mission to the immediate surroundings – restoration work done on Phalen, for example.
 - Show historical photos showing how the shoreline has changed, and where can I learn more about things like shoreline restoration and how different cultures use the lakes.
 - Glen: there are some limits to education. Example, people who want a resource to be one thing that fits their needs. Lauren: ideally, we will get educational content before a crisis or before emotions are high about an issue. Build relationships and familiarity. Having a strong connection to the City and the city websites would be very helpful. Lauren agrees.
 - Lauren: looking at having more in-person contacts in the community – farmer's markets, events, etc.
 - Lauren will be pulling together a communications calendar to look at what we would do when, and pass it to the CAC for comments.
 - The CAC are *key* communicators within the community because they are not paid staff, but they are members of the neighborhood and have relationships and can be trusted sources.

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

- a. Watershed Excellence Awards & Recognition Dinner – Dana, Carrie & Sage
 - Invite list should be out by Friday
 - Lauren and Sage have been filming winners
 - Collecting photos for slideshow
 - Door prizes are being collected
 - Eric Sommers has awards done. Sage will send him the names of the awardees this week
- b. Casey Lake Rain Garden Project Results – Simba
 - Two gardens well-weeded for elderly residents
 - Cleaned out sediment from 7 gardens
 - 32 5-gallon buckets of sediment removed from inlets
 - Simba went back to one of the raingardens that was weeded, leaving few desirable plants, to fill in with a flat of native plants.
 - For future, looking at working with Master Water Stewards so they can be maintained more regularly.
 - Looking at other public land projects that the CAC can collaborate on for next year.
- c. CAC/LEAP Team Planting at Wetland A Results – Carrie
 - Warm and muggy August evening.
 - 21 hardy volunteers including 5 kids.
 - 730 plants representing 14 native emergent and wet meadow species were installed
 - Over 500 ft of wetland shore was planted
- d. Potential Future Topics:
 - Pop-up Rain Garden Clean Up (Stephanie) – Simba & CAC
 - ✓ Simba: Would be great if CAC would determine which members would be interested and what lead time they would need. CAC members should also keep their eyes open (especially on public lands, or non-profits) for properties that need help.
 - ✓ Stephanie: Be sustainable by getting the community involved, even beyond CAC. Watershed might have a better idea of who in the community would be good raingarden ‘hubs’ to contact. They don’t have to be owners or physically able to do the maintenance, but we need those who can organize community gatherings. How can we empower those (communities?) with the rain gardens themselves to do more.
 - Buckthorn Pull (Gary S.)
 - ✓ Orchard Lane by Hanlo’s Pond, smaller pond on City property and YMCA that Gary Schroeder walks by often, and it’s a buckthorn forest. He would like to rally folks from WBL Environmental Advisory Commission and CAC to do a big buckthorn harvest.
 - ✓ Simba suggests looking at property owners and getting permission. She also wants us to look at the ecological importance of the land – are there parts of the property that would be more advantageous to clear. Pulling is not the best from an ecological standpoint (too much disturbance to soil, which creates opportunities for other infestations of invasive plants). Cutting is best bet. Owners/volunteers need to decide if we want to use organic or chemical processes as one of the

tools? If organic, the Robert's Bird's sanctuary has been doing chest high cuts with cutting re-sprouts for 2 years with success. Using chemical is about an 85% kill rate. Also, would need to consider disposal options. Season – best time is late fall or late winter because it's easy to spot/identify buckthorn.

- Ownership:



6. 8:25 PM: Community Announcements

- Snail Lake Development - Kathryn Keefer reported on a large development being proposed on the northeast shoreline of Snail Lake. There are a lot of neighbors opposed to this development and they are organizing to try to stop it.
- Glen Olson – Casey Lake neighborhood had meeting regarding the pond. The neighbors are less interested in the health of the shallow lake and the expectations they should have with it. They want it to be clear of vegetation.
- Weed bloom guide – Stephanie sent this PDF over chat. Contact her if you need it.
- Sage: New Adopt-a-Drain adoptees have their signs. Looking for more people to help deliver signs. Some go to Shoreview, North St. Paul, Battle Creek Lake/Carver areas. If people have time to do that in the next week or two, talk to Sage. Katie Keefer (Shoreview) and Linda (Battle Creek Lake) are willing to help.

7. 8:30 PM: Adjourn

2020 CAC Project Review and 2021 Project Plans – Future Meetings

- Salt Use Outreach/Education – CAC
- Create Invasive Species Education Pieces – CAC
- CAC Visit to Artist Eric Sommers' Glass Studio (2022?) – Dana
- Education Topics:
 - Invasive Species – Simba
 - Permitting – Nicole
 - Water Steward Tours – Sage (added 8/9/21 per Sage's request)
 - How to Better Represent the Watershed District (Stephanie's idea)
 - ✓ What should any child/adult know about the impact of RWMWD? (e.g., What projects would the RWMWD consider key to its legacy?)

- ✓ What's the RWMWD done for me?
 - Impact in the immediate areas I recreate in or live near?
 - Work to solve "water-related" problems (e.g. Blue-green algae, Flooding)?
- ✓ How does this BMP work (e.g. Beam Ave iron enhanced sand filter basin)? Narrative for child, for adult, for more technically-inclined.
- Spring 2022: Eastside B&G club youth might be interested in sharing their experience/work on their rain garden and art installation.
- Other ideas?

Future meetings – Zoom or In-Person:

- December 7th