

Citizen's Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2010

Attendees:

Ken Richter (WBL)
Marsha Anderson (AH)
Gary Karger (NO)
Chris Mann (NO)
Kristine Lampert (VLAWMO)
Stephanie McNamara (VLAWMO)

I. Call to Order - Introductions

II. Review of Survey – Interests for 2010

9 people responded to the survey which was a good turnout for the CAC. Review of results:

- 7pm was the preferred start time for the CAC meetings
 - Top 3 interests for the group were: 1) Maintenance Projects (help with planting projects, clean up and maintenance of streams, lakes, or raingardens); 2) Workshop Coordination (organization and promotion of workshops and classes); 3) Communications (develop/edit an e-newsletter, writing news articles)
- Kristine passed around a sheet for people to sign their names for the areas they are interested in. Kristine will contact those who are interested in those topics for help when planning for those types of projects.

III. Upcoming Projects for 2010

A. Shallow Lakes Workshop

VLAWMO will be hosting a Shallow Lakes Workshop on February 27th at Waverly Gardens in North Oaks. Flyers were passed out to attendees. If you would like to come, please contact Kristine. Chris Mann arranged for the space at Waverly Gardens. Articles will be in the North Oaks News and Press Publications newspapers. Postcards were mailed out to residents around the shallow lakes within the watershed. Kristine asked the CAC to spread the word about the workshop. Ken Richter will put flyers in the mailboxes in his townhome association on Birch Lake. Chris Mann said she would get it out in the North Oaks email list. Kristine asked the CAC to give input on what they would like to learn from this event. Our two speakers want to address concerns that people have. Chris Mann said she would ask the lake associations for Gilfillan and Deep Lakes for their input. **If you think of anything you would like to have addressed, please contact Kristine asap so I can pass it along to the speakers. We would also like help from the CAC with set up, check in, and clean up of the event.** The last part of the workshop will be used to play the Watershed Game which is an interactive game where people have to work together to reduce a certain pollutant in a lake. The game was developed by NEMO from the University of Minnesota and Kristine has been trained to be a facilitator of the game.

B. *Water Matters* News columns – ideas for future columns?

Some suggestions that were brought up at the meeting include:

- Sprinkler use – how to use them more efficiently
- Salt Use and its effects on our lakes, streams, and wetlands
- Impacts of watering your lawn by pumping lake water
- An article about the Watershed Game

C. Newsletter/e-newsletter

Interested CAC members could have a sub-committee to get this project off the ground in 2010. Kristine will check for who is interested in pursuing this further.

- D. Work with the AFSA School on a spring project?
AFSA has expressed interest in working with VLAWMO on some sort of environmental project (raingarden perhaps?). This could be another sub-committee project to make this project a reality this spring.
- E. Planting Projects
Since this was the type of project that many expressed interest in, VLAWMO is planning to get some projects done this year and will ask the CAC for their help in getting the projects done.
- 1) Whitaker Pond (May/June) – this is a large project currently under construction in White Bear Lake. The pond that has silted in over the years and is being cleaned out and redesigned to better accommodate the storm water runoff it receives. The area was largely cleared of vegetation this fall and VLAWMO will be planting shrubs, trees, perennials, and emergent vegetation. This will likely be a spring project. The hope would be that we could take a Saturday morning and work together to get the bulk of it completed.
 - 2) County Road F (May/June) – in conjunction with the Whitaker Pond project we replaced a flume in Lambert Creek at County Road F and Centerville Road. We want to put in a couple of trees and some plants to help reestablish vegetation in the area.
 - 3) Birch Lake – VLAWMO is working on a shoreline restoration project on the north side of the lake. The scale of the project will be dependent on whether we receive a grant which was applied for in December (we will hear by the end of January – early February). We want to reestablish vegetation in an eroded area where people walk down to access the lake. We would like to retain an access for people but do it in a more ecologically friendly manner. This will likely be a late summer/early fall planting.
 - 4) WBL raingarden/infiltration basin – VLAWMO is looking for an area to install a raingarden within the Lambert Creek subwatershed to help with the amount of storm water runoff we currently have at the Whitaker Pond site. If this project comes to fruition this year, we would have a late summer/early fall planting.
 - 5) Kohler Road – this is another project that is dependent on whether we receive grant funding. If it is funded, we would like to do a streambank restoration along 1100 linear feet of Lambert Creek in Vadnais Heights. This would again be a summer/fall project.
- F. Heritage Hall Raingarden
VLAWMO would like to work with the CAC to do maintenance at the Heritage Hall Raingarden located in Gem Lake. This will likely be an evening event in May – early June.

IV. Date of next meeting

Kristine would like to have the CAC help her run through the Watershed Game before the Shallow Lakes Workshop. If the CAC is interested in this, we could have a meeting in February. There was some interest from the group. Kristine will follow up with the entire CAC for a date confirmation – it will either be February 11 or 18.

Prepared by Kristine Lampert