

Citizen's Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2009

Attendees:

Sue Lundquist (WBL)

Marsha Anderson (AH)

Kristine Lampert (VLAWMO)

Kathryn Smith (VLAWMO)

Stephanie McNamara (VLAWMO)

Absent: Jessica Collin-Pilarski (VH), Larry Breimhurst (VH), Cindy Chua (NO), Chris Mann (NO),

Kristy DuBois (VH)

-Mark Gehringer stopped by to let us know that he is moving to Texas and will no longer be a part of the CAC. We wished him well and told him he would be missed.

-Kristine introduced Kathryn Smith who has been VLAWMO's summer intern.

-Kristine read the email she received from Kristy DuBois who has been working in Martin County this summer. Kristy is doing some prairie restoration and creek assessment work. She seems to be really enjoying what she is doing.

I. Local Events

A. Recap of Marketfest – July 30

Kristine stated that the event went quite well. We gave away a rainbarrel and that brought in a lot of traffic. People were very interested in rainbarrels. VLAWMO began a program which allows VLAWMO residents to purchase a rainbarrel at a subsidized price. Applications were handed out at the event and interest was high.

B. White Bear Township Festival – September 12

Kristine will get a sign up form set up for this event.

II. Raingarden Workshops

A. Videotape Session

The taping will occur on August 31 at 6pm at the cable studio on County Road F and Bellaire in White Bear Lake. Shawn Tracy will be the presenter. Steve Onderick will be working with us to produce the video. A pre-taping meeting will be held on August 24th at 2pm at Vadnais Heights City Hall to get everyone organized. The Ramsey Conservation District (RCD) has provided some funding to this project as well as donating Shawn Tracy's time to the project. RCD will be distributing the DVD to all the local communities. This is growing into a really great project.

B. Advanced Raingarden Class – June 18

The class went quite well. Evaluations were done by the participants and it was mostly positive. There is always a lot of information and it is difficult trying to get it squeezed into the allotted time. The workshops have been a great way to get word out about the VLAWMO Cost Share Program. Sue asked why we don't have a class in the fall. Kristine stated that we just followed what others were doing and most of them have the classes in late winter and spring when people are excited to get out and work on their yards. That doesn't mean that we could hold a fall class. Kristine will ask around to see what others think.

III. Watershed Tour – June 24

The tour went well. We had about 15 people come. There is interest to do these on an annual basis. Kristine asked that members think of things they would like to see or ideas for tours (possibly one focused on raingardens?).

IV. Local School Involvement

Kristine asked CAC members if they had any ideas for having more involvement with the local schools. Marsha does work with the environmental group at Centerpoint School. Kristine announced that she is going to be more involved with the East Metro Integration District (EMID) School. What are some activities we can produce to hand out at schools rather than the hands on experiments we have been creating this summer? Marsha suggested creating a map of local raingardens so that kids can see what they look like. Marsha also thought that creating posters with water friendly facts could be good for classrooms. Marsha also emailed Kristine after the meeting and suggested creating an

audit worksheet regarding water – much like the energy audit forms that people use to assess how much energy they are using. Kristine will play around with these ideas further.

V. Watershed Improvement Projects

Kristine asked if people had an interest in doing a clean up project along Lambert Creek this fall. A resident asked about some trees and debris in the creek and if VLAWMO would ever clean it out. VLAWMO doesn't do this sort of thing normally. If we did an organized project, it not be an all day event. It would likely be an hour or two of cleaning. There was a little bit of interest expressed. Perhaps the CAC could look into having a Boy Scout Troop or similar type of group take on a project like this.

VI. Other Items

A. Rainbarrel Program – as stated earlier, VLAWMO has started a rainbarrel program to sell rainbarrels at a subsidized rate to residents within VLAWMO. The CAC is asked to get the handout regarding this program distributed to local businesses, libraries, or other suitable places to promote the program.

B. Water Book – Kristine showed a book that was created which lists a lot of water facts and asked if the CAC thought this would be a worthwhile item for VLAWMO to produce. CAC members stated that they have seen this sort of thing before and that it would be better to come up with a less expensive and more useful way to convey the information. Ideas included creating a pamphlet with some of the facts listed and calling it something like “How to live Greener with your Water”. Kristine suggested a page on the website with the facts. Sue suggested creating a Twitter account where VLAWMO would send out one fact daily. It was also discussed that we would make sure not to infringe on any copyright issues if we took facts straight from the book.

VI. Date of next meeting – September 17, 6:30pm at Vadnais Heights City Hall

Prepared by Kristine Lampert