

Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

Meeting Minutes: November 6th, 2019

6:30-7:45 pm - Vadnais Heights Community Commons

Members in attendance: Ceci Shapland, Ed Shapland, Tom Falk

1. VLAWMO Organizational comments:

Members express a general support for lowering West Vadnais Lake level. Optimism about mitigating flooding regarding nearby Twin Lake, which has had some residents sandbagging their backyards.

Members discussed recent meetings and events concerning Goose Lake, and expressed an encouragement to seek science-based solutions and policies on this and future lake management decisions. Members express support for VLAWMO to establish clarity regarding newspaper articles and the greater public discussion.

Members commented that VLAWMO has had good news coverage this year.

Members express support for the upcoming Lambert Lake re-meander project and the Sucker Wetland assessment and potential restoration. Congratulations and excitement for Priority Watershed Status. Encouragement to address the sources of sedimentation and nutrients, upland restorations, etc.

Members expressed interest and support for Community Blue's Growing Green Hearts program, commenting that it's an excellent hands-on community engagement strategy.

Members noted that stormdrain clean-up and stormdrain stenciling activities are common in other watershed organizations. Expression of support and awareness for these activities in VLAWMO.

2. Comment and critique on VLAWMO 2019 education materials:

No comment on education materials.

3. Discussion and design of 2020 volunteer positions:

The 'Welcome to the neighborhood' position was re-designed to include a residential welcome letter rather than a VLAWMO staff-written letter. When a new property is sold within the Watershed, VLAWMO is able to send a welcome information packet with cost-share and other local water info. The volunteer in this position will focus on either their immediate neighborhood, or the entire watershed, depending on interest. Their letter would include a picture and a welcome note from them as well as other describing community cost-share projects, and would convey why they got involved with VLAWMO and what their experience was.

Ceci expressed interest in assisting 'Welcome to the Neighborhood' for her immediate area.

Ed expressed interest in serving as cost-share photographer.

Tom expressed interest in continuing advisory role and applying carpentry skills on an as-needed basis.

General discussion took place concerning a possible water-friendly carwash kit and other prospective volunteer positions. Members expressed support and approval to begin outreach to the public to seek volunteers.

All members expressed interest in assisting with scoring incoming Community Blue applications using the new scoring chart established at the November 5th, 2019 Policy and Personnel meeting.