



Citizen Advisory Committee – CAC
March 5th, 2020
6:30-8pm
Vadnais Heights City Hall – Lakes Room
Agenda:

1. 2020 Calendar
 - Tours
 - Workshops
 - Supporting roles
2. Road Salt and City engagement
 - Engaging city councils and commissions
 - Tools and resources
3. Special events
 - Spring trash pick-up
 - Raingarden maintenance
 - Other/brainstorm
4. “Welcome to the neighborhood” letters and planning
5. Open feedback to VLAWMO, fielding questions, project development, etc.

3/5 Minutes:

Present: Ceci Shapland, Ed Shapland, Kelvyn Chang

1. CAC discussed 2020 events based on the 2020 Watershed Season document. Ceci and Ed elected to lead a June 20th water bugs pop-up event at the Sucker Channel in Vadnais/Sucker Park. Kelvyn elected to volunteer at the May 6th Raingadrens 101 workshop, facilitating the welcome table and book sales. Other events were explained and will be arranged and planned in more detail as the season moves forward.

2. CAC discussed model ordinances and contracts for smart salting agreements. Such policies would strive to foster smart salting practices and encourage certifications in smart salting.

3. CAC discussed the implications of a spring trash pick-up, and retains the possibility of holding two of these events. Raingarden maintenance events are being sought at Central Middle School, Heritage Estates in Vadnais Heights, and Chippewa Middle School.

4. CAC discussed an effort to send welcome letters to new homeowners in the watershed. A letter has been drafted by Ceci, reviewed and edited by VLAWMO staff (Nick), and printed for distribution. The letter is to be accompanied by a cost-share brochure and an adopt-a-drain flyer. The goal of the effort is to introduce new homeowners to the watershed and its opportunities early on, increasing awareness and participation.

5. Questions were fielded and recommendations were provided from the CAC.

- Discussion questions included future efforts working with local wildlife such as otters.
- Future potentials of frog and toad surveys as a volunteer citizen science effort.
- Updates on the “Get the Lead Out” program and related legislation
- CAC recommends VLAWMO to provide technical, definitive responses to local concerns about the Lambert Lake meander project.
- CAC encourages VLAWMO to continue a regular stream of press publications, and believes this format is one of the best ways to disperse useful information.
- CAC expressed a goal to be involved in City commissions in the pursuit of introducing smart salting ordinances. Initial information such as current rates of smart salting certification and salt storage compliance are being sought to form a baseline understanding and set a course for City commission and council engagement.