

Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting
South Washington Watershed District
Tuesday, March 26, 2024 5:30pm
Virtual Meeting via MS Teams due to Inclement Weather

CAC Members Present:

- Nayere Ghazanfarpour
- Patty Goertz
- Dan Henely
- David Nuccio
- Bill Sumner

SWWD Staff & Board:

- Mike Madigan, Board of Managers
- John Loomis, Deputy Administrator
- Kyle Axtell, BMP Project Specialist
- Tony Randazzo, Watershed Restoration Specialist

Others:

- None

1. Call to Order and Setting of Agenda

BMP Project Specialist Kyle Axtell called the meeting to order at 5:35pm. A motion was made by David Nuccio to approve the agenda as presented. Patty Goertz seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval of Minutes – December 5, 2023

A motion was made by Goertz to approve the minutes as presented. Nuccio seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Open Forum

None.

4. Coordinated Capital Improvement Program (CCIP)

a. Application Reviews

BMP Project Specialist Kyle Axtell provided overviews of the flowing eleven applications. He noted that the District had approximately \$5,000, \$26,000 and \$650,000 available in the Lower St. Croix, East Mississippi and South Washington Management Units, respectively. Afton Alps was the only application from the Lower St. Croix management unit and Newport was the only application from the East Mississippi management unit. All others were located in the South Washington management unit. Axtell noted that there was not enough funding to go around and that decisions would need to be made about which proposals to recommend for funding. CAC discussion points are summarized for each application.

- ***Afton Alps: Truck-Mounted Brine Applicator (\$5,948)***

Goertz asked if educational signage could be installed at Afton Alps discussing chloride reduction measures employed at the facility. Dan Henely asked for clarity about how this equipment would be used at the property and if Afton Alps staff had received smart salting certifications. Axtell provided information about where and how the equipment would be utilized. Deputy Administrator John Loomis replied that SWWD could easily add a clause to its cost-share contract to require certifications.

- ***Newport: Truck-Mounted Brine Pre-Wetting Kits (\$6,500)***
 Henely again asked if Newport staff had participated in smart salting training. Loomis replied that he believed so, but a requirement could be placed in the agreement to make sure. Goertz asked about the difference between the cost of this application and Afton Alps for seemingly similar equipment. Axtell explained the differences in the equipment. Nuccio noted the general lack of detail associated with this application compared to others.
- ***Cottage Grove: River Oaks GC Stormwater Reuse (\$163,238)***
 Nuccio asked if there were other similar projects to compare this to and if SWWD had funded reuse efforts like this previously. Axtell described several similar projects that have been implemented across Washington County in the last decade, noting two in the SWWD at golf courses in Woodbury. Nuccio noted that this seemed like a lot of cost for no water quality benefit. Axtell confirmed that this project was viewed strictly as a groundwater conservation measure and agreed there was little or no benefit to surface water quality in this case. Henely added that he was concerned about this level of funding going to a golf course when we have so many other priorities to deal with and that are addressed with these applications.
- ***Oakdale: Brine Production Facility (\$74,000)***
 Axtell explained that this project would benefit Oakdale and downstream resources city-wide. Only about 10% of Oakdale lies within the SWWD. Oakdale is currently engaging with the Ramsey-Washington Metro and Valley Branch Watershed Districts to pursue additional funding. RWMWD is specifically considering funding of up to \$100,000 for this project in the near future. Staff's hope is that SWWD's cost-share amount will more closely align with our share of the city's area. Henely offered praise for Oakdale seeking to improve its chloride management regime and shared that praise for all chloride-related proposals.
- ***Woodbury: Bailey Lake Lift Station Improvements (\$650,000)***
 Axtell provided a brief summary of the six different components within this application. A question was asked about security/safety at the end of the pipe at CDP-85 and asked if children can access the interior of the pipes. Loomis replied that there were large, heavy hatches installed covering the ends of the pipes and doubted anyone could lift them to gain access. The bulk of discussion on this application occurred later in the meeting.
- ***Woodbury: Interlachen Pkwy Pond Expansion (\$150,000)***
 Bill Sumner asked if this application possibly needed more study to determine if the project was necessary. Axtell responded that this was certainly a possibility and that the project was not intended for construction in 2024, per the application. Henely asked that Woodbury consider retaining some parking adjacent to Interlachen Parkway to provide for potential future community access to Wilmes Lake via a contemplated canoe access near the alum treatment facility. Further discussion centered on sending this application back to Woodbury for additional study, including looking at this site for additional flood storage capacity, and suggesting it be resubmitted in the future.
- ***Woodbury: La Lake Well & Septic Abandonment (\$30,000)***
 Axtell noted that a recent conversation with Woodbury Parks staff indicated that funding had been secured for this project through other means and it no longer warranted consideration. Howard Markus asked about the possibility of the City and SWWD pursuing funds for pollinator habitat improvements within the Xcel Energy

power line corridor that crosses this park property and also at the large solar farm just east of the southern half of the park. Watershed Restoration Specialist Tony Randazzo explained that currently, SWWD is trying to do exactly that working through BWSR further west on the power line corridor down to the Mississippi River. In time, it may be possible to expand efforts into this area.

- ***Woodbury: Brine Storage Tanks Replacement (\$30,000)***

CAC members discussed the need to replace these tanks already and asked SWWD staff how old the existing brine production facility was. Loomis responded that SWWD funded the original facility in 2018, making the tanks approximately five years old. Axtell noted that the application indicated the tanks for at the end of their useful life and also indicated the city was looking to expand capacity with larger tanks. Henely asked if the existing tanks could be reused/refurbished either by Woodbury or by another community in the watershed. Axtell stated he would inquire with Woodbury staff about this possibility. Loomis noted that the existing facility is still within the 10-year operation and maintenance requirement of the 2018 grant. Axtell offered one option that SWWD could consider funding the difference in cost between the current and proposed tank sizes. CAC members asked staff to obtain more information about this for presentation to the SWWD Board.

- ***Woodbury: Truck Brine Tanks (\$35,000)***

Sumner indicated he supported this application and all others that involved chloride management.

- ***Woodbury: Stormwater BMP Maintenance (\$100,000)***

Henely asked if other communities are asking SWWD for funding for maintenance of existing stormwater BMPs. Loomis responded that Woodbury asks every year and Cottage Grove asks for something maybe every other year. The SWWD Board has been open to these requests in the past when there is sufficient funding available in the CCIP program and that it views maintenance of existing stormwater infrastructure as a crucial component of stormwater management work. He noted that different communities have different needs and capacity for this work due to geology, age of development, and staffing/funding levels. Henely offered an idea to establish a specific fund for BMP maintenance and prorate it somehow to all communities as a way to increase equity across the watershed as opposed to providing funding to whoever asks.

- ***Washington County: Ravine Park Entrance Road (\$87,500)***

Discussion about this application occurred later in the meeting.

b. CAC Funding Recommendations

CAC discussion about project funding revolved around prioritization and finding a way to sort through groups of applications given that the entire pool of proposals were so varied in scope, benefit and cost. Markus moved to recommend the SWWD Board approve all chloride reduction proposals, pending some additional information staff will be seeking from the respective applicants. Sumner seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Applications recommended for approved in first motion:

- ***Afton Alps: Truck-Mounted Brine Applicator (\$5,948; Lower St. Croix)***
- ***Newport: Truck-Mounted Brine Pre-Wetting Kits (\$6,500; East Mississippi)***
- ***Oakdale: Brine Production Facility (\$74,000; South Washington)***

- ***Woodbury: Brine Storage Tanks Replacement (\$30,000; South Washington)***
- ***Woodbury: Truck Brine Tanks (\$35,000; South Washington)***

Axtell explained that after this action, \$511,000 remained available for allocation to projects in the South Washington Management Unit. Based on earlier discussion, Nuccio moved to remove Woodbury's La Lake and Interlachen Parkway proposals from consideration. Goertz seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Applications removed from consideration in second motion:

- ***Woodbury: La Lake Well & Septic Abandonment***
- ***Woodbury: Interlachen Pkwy Pond Expansion***

Nuccio expressed his view that climate and infrastructure resiliency should be of utmost importance for the watershed, and so he is very interested in funding as much of the Bailey Lake Lift Station Improvements as possible. He noted that the system provides for critical flood relief for the City of Woodbury in concert with SWWD's Central Draw Overflow system. Nuccio moved to allocate all remaining South Washington funding to Woodbury's Bailey Lake Lift Station Improvement project.

Henely inquired about Washington County's application and noted that the CAC hadn't really discussed it yet. He suggested we consider funding at least a portion of the project like the manhole sumps if it was possible to identify those costs from the overall total. Markus stated that he was uncomfortable with so much of the available funding all going to Woodbury and to one project proposal. Goertz agreed with this sentiment and liked the approach to prioritize different groups of projects while maintaining some equity across the watershed in terms of project funding. Nuccio withdrew his earlier motion.

Henely moved to fully fund Washington County's proposal (\$87,500) and assign the remaining balance (\$423,500) to Woodbury's Bailey Lake proposal. Seconded by Goertz. Motion passed unanimously.

Applications recommended for approved in third motion:

- ***Washington County: Ravine Park Entrance Road (\$87,500; South Washington)***
- ***Woodbury: Bailey Lake LS Improvements (\$423,500; South Washington)***

SWWD Manager Mike Madigan suggested developing a more formal set of factors or criteria for the program in hopes it might make it easier to review applications in the future. Loomis noted that this is really the first time in a long while that we have had such a large number of applications and also such a diversity of applications. Axtell indicated that staff will take the suggestion under advisement. Axtell explained that all funding in the program had been allocated, leaving two remaining proposals not recommended for funding. Recommendations will be brought to the SWWD Board for final consideration in April.

Applications removed from consideration due to lack of remaining funding:

- ***Cottage Grove: River Oaks GC Stormwater Reuse***
- ***Woodbury: Stormwater BMP Maintenance***

5. SWWD Watershed Management Plan Update

Axtell noted that SWWD's interactive Story Map and resident input survey were both live and available for use and distribution now. Links were provided on the agenda document but did not work for some CAC members. Axtell committed to re-sharing with CAC members via email after the meeting.

6. Hasenbank Public Art Concepts

Axtell shared the public art concepts that are under development with the committee. Markus asked if Aaron Dysart's large sculpture could be made to spin or have other moving features. Axtell indicated that was not a likely possibility due to the size and weight of the sculpture, safety considerations, and future maintenance needs.

7. SWWD Staff Project Update

Axtell noted the memo in the packet and encouraged CAC members to peruse it on their own due to lack of time during this meeting.

8. MPCA – Mississippi River Pool 2 Fish Consumption Advisory

Axtell noted the recent publication of a new fish consumption advisory for the Mississippi River from Saint Paul to Wabasha, including all river lakes and backwater areas due to PFOS, PFOA and other contaminants.

9. Upcoming Meetings and Events (*adjusted post-meeting due to agenda typo*)

- June 25, 2024, ~~6:00pm~~ **5:30pm**, CAC Regular Meeting
- September 24, 2024, ~~6:00pm~~ **5:30pm**, CAC Regular Meeting
- December ~~10~~ **3**, 2024, ~~6:00pm~~ **5:30pm**, CAC Regular Meeting

10. Adjourn

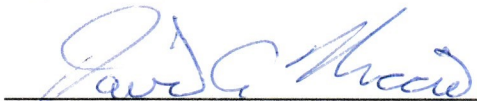
The next regular CAC Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 5:30pm. A motion was made by Sumner to adjourn at 7:55pm. Henely seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

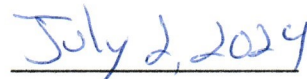


Kyle Axtell, BMP Project Specialist

Approved By:



David Nuccio, SWWD CAC Secretary



Date