

**Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting
South Washington Watershed District
Tuesday, March 26, 2025, 5:30 pm
City of Woodbury Public Works Building**

CAC Members Present:

- Patty Goertz
- Dan Henely
- Sarah Lilja (virtual)
- Howard Markus
- David Nuccio
- Bill Sumner

SWWD Staff & Board:

- Kyle Axtell, Watershed Project Manager
- Abby Tekiela, Water Resources Program Coordinator
- Emily Stephens, Board of Managers

CAC Members Not Present:

- Nayere Ghazanfarpour
- Jay Sockness

Others:

1. Call to Order

Watershed Project Manager Kyle Axtell called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm. A motion was made by Bill Sumner to approve the agenda as presented. Patty Goertz seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval of Minutes – December 17, 2024

A motion was made by Sumner to approve of the minutes as presented. Dan Henely seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Open Forum

None.

4. Artist-in-Residence 2025

Abby Tekiela led the CAC through a review of the artists' portfolios and the CAC discussed them as a group. CAC members presented their review rubrics and highest scoring artists, narrowing the discussion to the top three of the seven applicants. ***Sarah Lilja moved to recommend Taylor Mills to the Board of Managers for selection. David Nuccio seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

5. Wilmes Public Art

Kyle Axtell reviewed the results of the CAC subcommittee review of Wilmes Public Art submissions and the selection of Nipinet Landsem by the subcommittee. Henely remarked that the native species selection featured in Landsem's submission might benefit from being narrowed down to species more commonly seen at and around Wilmes Lake. Axtell noted that the piece will feature a didactic panel which may help with species identification. Sumner noted the range of talent exhibited in the final submissions reviewed. ***Henely motioned to recommend Nipinet Landsem be selected as the artist for the Wilmes Public Art project to the Board of Managers. Goertz seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

6. Coordinated Capitol Improvement Program (CCIP) 2025

Goertz began by inquiring about the overall CCIP budget and sought clarification on the difference between brine and pre-wetting applications as described in the applications from Newport, St. Paul Park, and Afton State Park. Axtell discussed the three management units of the Watershed District, noting that East Mississippi and Lower St. Croix units typically have a lower funding base (\$5,000 annual budget, each) than the South Washington unit (\$650,000 annual budget). He also described the difference between direct brine application to roadways (anti-icing) and pre-wetting, where rock salt is treated during application to make it “stick” to roads better (de-icing).

The CAC discussed the twelve applications received. Markus noted that lakes impacted by chloride are likely already too far gone and wondered how to better go about allocating chloride reduction resources to areas that would substantially benefit from preventative measures. Axtell noted that some lakes in the Watershed District experience chloride problems as described by Markus. Axtell continued, noting that monitoring data from spring 2024 showed that chloride was down about 75% when compared to the prior season. Axtell also noted the connection between reduced chloride usage in the winter of 2023-24 and the mild temperatures, which also contributed to the springtime chloride reduction. Markus raised the issue of lake turnover and expressed that lakes that do not experience turnover due to chloride pollution may not need as much protection because there is little that can be done once a waterbody has reached such a level of impairment. Axtell noted that many District lakes (except Powers Lake) are shallow and continue to experience regular turnover despite increasing chloride levels. Henley noted that there is value in supporting projects that will reduce chloride for non-landlocked waterbodies such as the Mississippi River and Trout Brook. ***Markus moved to recommend the Board of Managers approve the Newport, St. Paul Park, and Afton State Park proposals with a 50/50 cost-share agreement. Goertz seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

The CAC next discussed the South Washington Management Unit proposals; Axtell provided a high-level outline of each of the nine proposals. Manager Emily Stephens asked if Cottage Grove has ever asked for maintenance funding like Woodbury does each year. Axtell responded that Cottage Grove had not. Markus noted that it may be a better budgetary solution for Cottage Grove to ask for equipment support from Woodbury, who currently has the same Jetter-Vac Truck that they are requesting funds for. Axtell noted that Cottage Grove already owns one Jetter-Vac Truck and has a maintenance responsibility under their NPDES MS4 permit to conduct maintenance that they are requesting the Jetter-Vac Truck for. Sarah Lilja inquired about the process for treating salt for chloride reduction as requested in the Cottage Grove Treated Salt Chloride Reduction Project proposal. Axtell responded that the treatment of the Cottage Groves salt pile would be one-time, and that the city would like to conduct the work as a pilot program. Further, he noted that if SWWD funded this pilot, it would not be on an ongoing basis. Markus inquired about the effectiveness of a treatment such as this one. Axtell noted existing concerns about the use of sugars and the potential to increase biological oxygen demand (BOD) that would potentially reduce oxygen in downstream waters.

The CAC discussed the Woodbury Brush Cutter proposal. Axtell explained that the city is requesting this piece of equipment to reduce invasive species and manage City properties and areas around stormwater ponds more efficiently and effectively. Henley asked about the

relevance of vegetation management and water quality. Axtell noted that this proposal is connected to a long-term vegetation restoration effort and improved soil health and plant diversity, and that SWWD staff had advised the City regarding what type of equipment to acquire for the effort. Goertz noted the project cost typo within the Woodbury Linear Stormwater Study. Axtell responded that the total project cost should be \$200,000 (\$100,000 CCIP request plus \$100,000 additional local funds). Lilja expressed that the benefit of the Woodbury Linear Stormwater Study is overall positive if it helps cities establish long-term planning to identify BMP locations. **Markus moved to recommend the Board of Managers approve the Cottage Grove Salt Spreader Controls Upgrade, Woodbury Bailey Lake Lift Station Generator, Woodbury Brush Cutter, Woodbury Eagle Valley Golf Club Ponds Vegetation Management, Woodbury Linear Stormwater Study, and the Woodbury Seasons Park Vegetation Management proposals with a 50/50 cost-share agreement. Henley seconded. Motion carried unanimously.** The remaining three projects were not recommended for funding, including Cottage Grove Jetter-Vac Truck & Enhanced Sump Cleaning, Cottage Grove Treated Salt, and Woodbury Stormwater Maintenance.

Henley discussed the potential to expand a linear stormwater study, as outlined in the Woodbury proposal, to the entire watershed with the remaining CCIP funds. Manager Stephens noted that this was a beneficial suggestion. **Henley moved that the Board of Managers evaluate the usage of remaining CCIP funds to expand the linear stormwater study to the entire watershed. Markus seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

A supplemental meeting tentatively scheduled for April 1st, 2025, was deemed unnecessary following the complete review of all CCIP proposals.

7. Upcoming Meetings and Events

- June 24, 2025, 5:30 PM, CAC Regular Meeting
- September 23, 2025, 5:30 PM, CAC Regular Meeting
- December 16, 2025, 5:30 PM, CAC Regular Meeting

8. Adjourn

The next regular CAC Meeting will be held on June 24th, 2025, at 5:30 PM. A motion was made by Patty Goertz to adjourn at 7:25 pm. David Nuccio seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Abby Tekiela, Water Resources Program Coordinator

Approved By:



Dan Henely, Acting SWWD CAC Secretary

6/25/2025

Date