

Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization  
 Citizen Advisory Committee – Meeting Notes  
 September 16, 2021

Attendees:

<b>Name</b>	<b>City of Residence</b>
Connie LaCombe	West St. Paul
Tom Boudewyns	Mendota Heights
Chris Boerboom	St. Paul
Dawn Gaetke	Inver Grove Heights
Cynthia Lonquist	Mendota Heights
Jacque Hamilton	West St. Paul
Analiese Miller	West St. Paul
Leslie Pilgrim	Mendota Heights
Colleen Corrigan	Saint Paul
Stephen Treichel	Mendota Heights
Christa Flodquist	South St. Paul
Joe Barten	NA – LMRWMO Administrator
Greg Williams	NA – Barr Engineering Co.

**Notes**

- Barr staff (Barr) and the LMRWMO Administrator (Administrator) presented background information about the Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization (LMRWMO) and the Watershed Management Plan (Plan) update process, including a summary of stakeholder engagement activities performed to date and the draft issue and resource prioritization discussed by the LMRWMO Board of Managers (Mangers) at the September 8, 2021 LMRWMO meeting.
- CAC asked why the City of Mendota Heights did not formally respond to the Plan notification letter. Barr staff noted that due to the frequent interaction between LMRWMO member city staff and the Managers and discussion of issues, a formal letter was not needed.
- CAC noted that groundwater quality is a concern and asked about the LMRWMO’s role with respect to groundwater management. At least one member of the CAC recommended elevating groundwater to a higher priority issue.
- Administrator noted that the LMRWMO’s strategies to addressing priority issues and resources (e.g., capital projects, education) may vary according to the resource and issues.
- CAC asked why waterbodies in the LMRWMO are impaired? What is the source of pollutants?
- CAC asked about trends in stormwater quality. Is it worse now? Barr and Administrator noted that while stormwater treatment standards are more stringent than in the past, in-lake problems have developed over time.
- Administrator noted that the LMRWMO and others are not tracking water quality of all lakes but monitoring reports are available.
- CAC suggested that strategies focused on education would have a big impact.
- CAC suggested tours, events, or other ways to communicate stormwater issues to residents. Engaging youth was suggested as an avenue for further resident engagement. CAC noted Dodge Nature Center as another potential engagement partner.

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- CAC had broad support for a focus on preventative action versus restoration – with education playing a large role in preventative action. Are there focus areas in the watershed where preventative action may have the greatest impact? CAC noted that a dollar spent on prevention goes further than a dollar in restorative projects.
- Barr and Administrator noted that in a developed watershed, there are challenges to implementing water quality improvement practices. CAC suggested identifying areas in the watershed with minimal treatment for future focus (e.g., Robert Street?).
- CAC expressed disappointment at the lack of stormwater treatment implemented as part of recent commercial redevelopment projects. The CAC noted the need for more stormwater treatment as part of redevelopment projects through more stringent redevelopment standards or incentivizes. CAC asked about the LMRWMO's role in this area; Administrator noted there is currently minimum standards set by the WMO that Cities implement. There is the possibility to discuss overlay zones within which Cities could apply more stringent performance standards or incentive programs within certain watersheds.
- CAC asked about opportunities for regional treatment if developed areas do not have space. Administrator noted that Inver Grove Heights has a stormwater fee that does this, although opportunities for regional treatment in the watershed are limited.
- CAC asked how the LMRWMO can have more influence over what cities and developers are doing. Administrator noted that the LMRWMO can set minimum performance standards that cities incorporate into ordinances and permit programs, but that there is a cost to this, to the developer who must then install infrastructure, which costs money, and the LMRWMO wants to offer solutions as well as requirements.
- CAC had broad support for more green infrastructure and less resource intensive infrastructure.
- CAC wondered if maintenance of ponds (dredging) has unintended consequences on ecology and habitat.
- CAC specifically noted cemetery “backflowing” into Lake Augusta as a potential concern and suggested the cemetery be involved with potential corrective actions.
- Some members of the CAC requested being copied on future LMRWMO meeting packets.