



Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2024 | 7-8 PM

In person at Discovery Point (Microsoft Teams link available if needed)

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 223 041 475 563

Passcode: T5wsbQ

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

1. Call to Order

- a. CAC Members present: John Arthur, Roger Bildsten, James Clark, Charlotte Lefebvre*, Joshua Lynn, Heather Johnson, Mandy Pedigo
- b. CAC Members absent: John Hickman, Tim Ronhovde, Jonathan Scoll
- c. Staff present: Gael Z
- d. Board Managers present: Larry Olson
- e. Others: Brigitte Bjorklund (bbjorklund@zanassoc.com), Abigail Blonigen (both from Zan Associates)

*indicates attended virtually

2. Open Public Forum

3. Business

- a. Presentation and equity activity by Zan Associates, presented by Brigitte Bjorklund.
 - i. Agenda for the presentation to be attached to the minutes of this meeting.
 - ii. The presentation included a map of the district with overlays showing the population makeup and dots to indicate where the various district projects were located. This gave an excellent overview of where and for what communities the projects were serving.
 - iii. Discussion followed the presentation. (see attached presentation agenda for more detail on topics)



Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

- iv. Survey link (to take, and share with your networks):

Example text for sharing survey:

Talk to us about the watershed!

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District is a public organization that works to protect and restore the water and natural resources in the land area flowing into Nine Mile Creek.

The NMCWD works to take care of the water and nature in the areas that flow into Nine Mile Creek. The District serves the residents, property owners and visitors of Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina, Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Richfield. The Board of Managers and staff create a 10-year water management plan to decide how to use money collected from property taxes to do this work. Learn more at ninemilecreek.org.

Please tell us what matters to you. Complete this short [survey](#) to tell us about how you use the creek, lakes and land nearby. We want to know what issues related to water are important to you. Your feedback will help us better serve all people in the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District.

Thank you!



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9MileDEIA>

4. Member and Board liaison updates

- a. This portion of the meeting was skipped due to the DEIA presentation running over time

5. District updates

- a. This portion of the meeting was skipped due to the DEIA presentation running over time
- b. Intern positions filled! The two new interns will be starting mid-May.
- c. Sign up for grant review:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4CAFAD2CA3F49-46803308-cost>

6. Adjourn (8:08 pm)



Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

CAC meetings: every other month, first Wednesday from 7-8 PM in person at Discovery Point and over Zoom.

2024 meetings (first Wednesdays, from 7-8, hybrid)

June 5

August 7

October 2

December 4



Agenda

Community Advisory Committee Meeting | April 3, 2024

I. Introductions

- a. Name, role, and connection to Nine Mile Creek Watershed District (NMCWD)

II. Agenda and meeting goals

- a. Inform the CAC about the DEIA plan initiative
- b. Give equity background/goals
- c. Collect feedback
- d. Share how the CAC can help

III. Overview of DEIA plan objectives

- a. Develop a DEI plan that gives steps for how to improve engagement with underserved communities and how to better serve them in each of their program areas
- b. Have concrete, achievable, and measurable action items to improve equity in our project plans and governance
- c. Authentically embed equity principles and best practices in our work and upcoming 10-year plan
- d. Better serve and include underrepresented communities in our work as a result of our DEIA plan-guided efforts

IV. Equity map review

- a. What stands out to you?
- b. Why are these maps helpful in the DEIA planning process?

V. Homework review

- a. Share feedback gathered from community members

VI. Equity Considerations

- a. How are marginalized communities informed about the work of the watershed and how they can help? What unique strategies are being tried?
- b. How are communities informed of the benefits and burdens of water quality? Environmental hazards? What benefits are these communities missing out on because they are uninformed?
- c. What specific strategies are used to get capital improvement funding information to underrepresented communities in the watershed?
- d. What are the criteria for determining what capital projects will be in the 10-year plan? Is the capital project distribution equitable? Has special attention been paid to project areas that have been historically underrepresented?



VII. Next steps/How you can help

- a. Continue to share and gather feedback
- b. Distribute survey to underrepresented community members
- c. Notice people, organizations, and events that might help us gather more input

Organizational Scan

September 2023

The organizational scan is the first step towards gaining a deeper understanding of Nine Mile Creek Watershed District (NMCWD) programs and service areas and how they relate to DEIA considerations. Each program lead was interviewed to provide deeper insight into each program's goals and how it relates to overall watershed management. This matrix will guide our engagement activities by providing key messages for the public, questions for community members, and equity considerations for the future DEIA plan.

Overview of Nine Mile Creek Watershed District

Purpose:

To protect and improve water quality and mitigate risks of flooding on a watershed basis. There are two branches of the Nine Mile Creek. The north branch originates from groundwater in Hopkins. The south branch is fed by a series of wetlands in Minnetonka. The two branches join just north of Normandale Lake in Bloomington forming the main stem of Nine Mile Creek. The creek winds through a 50-square-mile watershed consisting of a largely developed urban landscape and encompasses portions of Bloomington, Edina, Minnetonka, Eden Prairie, Hopkins, and Richfield.

Below is a set of general key messages and questions for community engagement related to the DEIA plan. The following matrix includes additional messaging and considerations based on each core watershed program area.

Key Messaging:

- The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District is a local government agency focused on protecting and restoring the surface water and natural resources in the land that drains to Nine Mile Creek. The District serves the residents, property owners, and visitors of the cities in our boundaries which include Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina, Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Richfield. The Watershed District's work is guided by a board of managers and a 10-year management plan that prioritizes how the District spends its tax-levied budget.
- The District accomplishes its goals of managing water quality, controlling flooding, and protecting groundwater resources through several methods—large in-ground natural resource improvement projects, in-lake projects, creek improvement projects, water quality monitoring, permitting, grant programs, and education and outreach.



Questions for the public:

1. What do you know about the Nine Mile Watershed District and its work?
2. Have you experienced flooding on your property or nearby? What were the experiences?
3. What is your relationship with water resources? What do you think about the water quality in your community?
4. How do you like to recreate in or near your local water bodies and local green spaces?
5. How do you think Watershed District goals might intersect with how you live, work, and play?
6. What amenities in natural areas do you enjoy or find useful?
7. Would you like to be involved in our work?
8. What changes related to natural resources would you like to see in your neighborhood?
9. Does weather often impact how you live, work, and play?

