COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
Request for Board Action

MEETING DATE: August 12, 2019
AGENDA NUMBER: 7
ITEM: Advisory Committees Report

AGENDA: Policy Discussion Information

ACTION REQUESTED: Receive Report

BACKGROUND
The Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) met on Wednesday, July 10, 2019 and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has not yet met in 2019. Updates from those meetings are underlined.

• The next CAC meeting is on Wednesday, August 14th, 4:45pm at the new CCWD office location in Ham Lake, MN.

ISSUES/CONCERNS
Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

1. Kelly gave an update on the CCWD Office move that includes closing the Blaine office from noon on 7/31 through Tuesday, 8/6. The new office will open at 8am on Wednesday, 8/7.

2. Kelly gave a presentation on the Preliminary Rough Draft 2020 Budget, the same presentation as at 7/10 Board meeting. The schedule is for a rough draft to go to Board the first meeting in August (8/12) for approval for send out for official comments to CAC and TAC, then present to Board at end of August (8/26). The public hearing is at the Board meeting on September 9.

Overall, it would show a slight decrease in property tax levy and in tax per person or slightly similar, though it’s a 4% increase.

Fund balance - need $500,000 due to $250,000 cost in few days for tree cleanup after straight line winds in Andover, and a tornado in Coon Rapids in past years.

Salary & benefits- review of Board discussion mainly about three new positions and there was discussion of combining 2 of the positions. Kelly explained that specialized skill sets are needed, so it’s difficult to combine the jobs.

Operating expenses - there’s a decrease with no more rental costs, and decrease in Program costs since big grant projects have been completed. Kelly spoke of ditch channel maintenance, getting ditches hydrologically in balance throughout the system.

• Fischer asked about buffer law- now coming as requirement for ditches in 2019, is there any change in budget? Kelly replied not since CCWD doesn’t enforce it, County highways does. Also, all are in basically in compliance.
The CAC will see budget again in August, noting it may change from the 8/12 to 7/22 board meeting. Will meet with TAC in August for budget review.

Questions, comments or clarifications:
- Johnson - re additional staff, does Kelly ask for justification from staff before going to the Board? Answer: Yes, and showed the 5/28 staff report, noting some positions in discussion for 1.5 years. Johnson hopes there’s also staff retained for continuity while also having new people who can see it as a career path.

- Fischer noted that having staff is always cheaper than hiring contractors.

3. Chloride Study Summary - Kelly introduced student intern Norman and the study. Norman gave a summary while people reviewed his handout developed as part of his internship. He also referenced an MPR report noting the amount of salt used in 2017 Minnesota winter was 730 million pounds, and it one teaspoon salt contaminates five gallons of water. Next steps: more sampling starts October plus targeted outreach & education in the areas of high chloride results: Level 1 Smart Salting training on parking lots & sidewalks, and citizen science engagement project possibly based on an established format used by the Izaak Walton League of America.

- Fischer noted that salt prices are high due to demand: last year $57/ton, now $82/ton.

- Discussion followed on public expectations, public safety, and best management practices that optimize salt use for public safety including a new CCWD cost-share program that is partially funding articulated snowplow blades at City of Coon Rapids in the Sand Creek subwatershed as a trial to better remove snow and thereby reduce salt use.

RECOMMENDATION
Receive Report