



CRWD board nearing approval of draft rules

Public hearing Wed. to give people one more chance to provide their thoughts

AUSTIN, Minn. – Thursday, July 14 – A final public hearing on the Cedar River Watershed District’s proposed rules, which include a permitting program, will be conducted next week in Austin.

The CRWD Board of Managers plans to host the public hearing at 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 20th, at the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center’s Ruby Rupner Auditorium. The board will hear from the public and consider approving the proposed draft rules that are aimed at reducing future flooding and improving water quality within the Cedar River Watershed.

Everyone will have a chance to express his or her views during Wednesday’s hearing on the rules.

Snow storage – an issue of particular concern with the City of Austin and its snow-storage site along the Cedar River near the Marcusen Park baseball stadium – is one area of the rules expected to be discussed during the hearing.

CRWD board members have gone far beyond what state statute requires for the process of creating rules for a watershed district and they should be commended, CRWD Administrator Bev Nordby said.

“We are at the end of a long road,” Nordby said. “It has been almost two years of hard work to put a good set of rules together for the watershed.”

Government officials at the township, city and county levels in Dodge, Freeborn, Mower and Steele counties reviewed the CRWD’s draft rules earlier this year following months of work by a Rules Advisory Committee of citizens from various sectors.

The Minnesota Board of Soil & Water Resources also has reviewed and given feedback on the rules.

CRWD officials drafted rules to address their top priorities of reducing stormwater flows as well as protecting and improving water quality. The rules cover several areas, including stormwater, flood plain, water body alterations, erosion control and enforcement.

State and local officials formed the CRWD in April 2007 in response to the Cedar River watershed’s top worst-known floods that occurred in 2000 and 2004.

All Minnesota watershed districts must have a watershed management plan and rules in place under state law.

One of the objectives in the CRWD’s watershed management plan is to create rules regarding flood control and rate control that prevent the district’s current flood conditions from worsening. The district’s rules are intended to fill gaps in existing federal, state and local regulations – not to duplicate existing regulations.

For accuracy of record, all important facts and statements for Wednesday’s public hearing should be submitted in writing. Written statements may be handed to the administrator at the meeting or mailed beforehand to Bev Nordby, Administrator, Cedar River Watershed District, 1408 21st St NE Austin, MN, 55912. All statements will become part of the official record.

Copies of the draft rules are available at the Mower County Soil & Water Conservation District office in Austin or online at the CRWD’s website – www.cedarriverwd.org.

Cedar River Watershed District, 1408 21st Ave. N.W., Austin, MN, 55912, (507) 434-2603

www.cedarriverwd.org

Who: Cedar River Watershed District’s Board of Managers.

What: Public hearing on the CRWD’s proposed rules.

Where: Ruby Rupner Auditorium, Jay C. Hormel Nature Center, Austin.

When: 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 20th.

Why: To hear from the public and consider the acceptance of the proposed draft rules.

Contact:

Bev Nordby

CRWD administrator

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