
COMFORT LAKE FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2004

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INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103D.351 and Minnesota Rules Section 8410.0150, the Board of Managers of the Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District submits its 2004 Annual Report. The District was established in 1999. The report is intended to inform readers of the District's activities, plans, goals and objectives in 2004 for the new and developing District. The District invites comments and suggestions on the report.

The District submits its Annual Activity Report to the Board of Water and Soil Resources, the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, and the Director of the Division of Waters. Copies are available from watershed Managers or the District's legal advisors.

ACTIVITY REPORT

Board Members

NAME AND OFFICE	APPOINTING COUNTY	MAILING ADDRESS TELEPHONE NUMBER	DATE OF TERM EXPIRATION
Richard P. Damchik President	Washington	9109 North Shore Trail Forest Lake, MN 55025 (651) 464-5890	9/22/07
Kenneth M. Banta Vice President	Chisago	P.O. Box 266 Forest Lake, MN 55025 (651) 464-4163	9/23/05
Jackie Anderson Secretary	Chisago	25484 E. Comfort Dr. Forest Lake MN 55025 (651) 462-3734	11/20/06
John T. Lynch Treasurer	Washington	920 15 th Street S.E. Forest Lake, MN 55025 (651) 464-3022	9/22/05
Dennis G. Larson Manager	Washington	20750 Kirby Avenue North Scandia, MN 55073 (651) 779-5054	9/22/06

Advisory Committee Members

Citizen Advisory Committee Members

NAME	MAILING ADDRESS
James Thoreen	303 North Main Street Center City, MN 55012
Kathy Blomquist	6044 Cedar Street North Branch, MN 55025
Terry Dryer	23290 Melanie Trail North Scandia, MN 55073
Judy and Tim Rahey	20801 Keewahtin Avenue North Forest Lake, MN 55025
Mary Schmitz	313 Main Street North, Suite 243 Center City, MN 55012
Don Steinke	8890 202 nd Street North Forest Lake, MN 55025
A.J. Schwidder	7980 230 th Street North Forest Lake, MN 55025
Don Hult	813 8 th Avenue S.E. Forest Lake, MN 55025
Bruce Carlson	24886 Greenway Avenue Forest Lake, MN 55025
Vernon Haag	26996 Fenwick Avenue Wyoming, MN 55092
John Springman	24658 Greenway Ave. N. Forest Lake, MN 55025
Bruce Anderson	25484 East Comfort Drive North Forest Lake, MN 55025

Employees and Consultants

The District employs independent contractor consultants who provide all of the necessary accounting, legal, public information and other services. The District's general funds are not adequate to pay the attendant salary, space, telephone, pension and insurance costs while meeting statutory and regulatory requirements. The District's independent consultants effectively fulfill its obligations, goals, and objectives within budget. The following consultants served the District in 2004:

NAME	ORGANIZATION AND TITLE	MAILING ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS
Curt Sparks	North American Wetland Engineering	20 North Lake Street Suite 210 Forest Lake, Minnesota 55025 (651)255-5050
Kathleen M. Blackford	Accountant	3116 Fairview Avenue North Roseville, MN 55113 (651) 748-1889
Mark Gibbs	HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd	4810 White Bear Parkway White Bear Lake, MN 55110
John Hoffman	ICS Agency Insurance Agent	4901 West 77 th Street Minneapolis, MN 55435 (612) 835-4848
Paul R. Haik	Krebsbach & Haik, Ltd. Legal Advisor	225 South Sixth Street Suite 4320 Minneapolis, MN 55402 (612) 333-7400

Goals and Objectives of Prior Work Plan

Water Management Plan

The District was formed in 1999 and its first Water Management Plan was approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources in 2001. In 2003 and 2004, the Board of Managers undertook to prepare a floodplain map of the District. The Board review final drafts of the mapping in the fall of 2004. The final map is expected to be complete early in 2005. Now that the floodplain delineation is complete, the District will begin its flood plain analysis which is essential to the future adoption of rules, and the petitioning and construction of basic water management projects.

In formulating its goals and objectives, the District has considered the various municipal, county, state and federal laws that apply within the watershed. The District has focused on applicable municipal floodplain management, wetland, and shoreline ordinances, in addition to state drainage laws. Cooperation with the local municipalities is essential to managing the District's duties under the Watershed Law and effectively protecting water quality of the District's lakes.

Since the District's formation, the Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District has provided interim water quality monitoring data and services. Having completed its flood plain analysis of the watershed's hydrology, the District is positioned to begin its own monitoring and analysis. The District recognizes the importance of developing water quality data that comports and coordinates other federal and state laws and regulations.

Goals and Objectives of Projected Work Plan

Water Quality

Community Concerns

The District has a citizen's advisory committee and has received considerable input regarding District issues from area residents regarding their concerns, and requesting assistance in protecting lake water quality. Members of the Bone Lake Association have addressed the Board regarding water quality concerns and have raised issues that may be properly addressed through a basic water management project. The District's flood plain mapping provides the tools to identify the flow of water quantities into the lake that affect water quality. Water quantities affect quality, by transporting pollutant loads that adversely impact water quality.

Basic Water Management Projects

In September of 2004, the Board accepted the Washington County's petition for a basic water management petition for the outlet structure on Forest Lake. The District may direct an engineering review to assess the petition project before proceeding with the petition project. Control over the outlet structure was transferred to the District.

Residents of Bone Lake have attended several District meeting in 2004. The residents have raised the issue of a possible petition and project for water quality with the Board of Managers. The Board explained the petition process and funding for a possible future project.

Permitting

Permits and Variances

With the near completion of an engineering floodplain analysis, the District has begun discussing the type and nature of proposed rules that are responsive and meaningfully address the water quality facing District lakes. Within proposed rules, the District has been considering

the most efficient and effective means of compiling, storing, and managing the large number of permits that can be expected, given the rate of development within the District, once a permit program has commenced. Well-formulated and proper rules will be a key to protecting water quality.

Enforcement Actions

The District did not commence any enforcement actions in 2004.

Water Quality Monitoring Data

Since forming in 1999, the District has contracted the Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District, for the collection of water quality and quantity monitoring data. As the floodplain analysis is complete, the District will begin its own monitoring which will ultimately be the basis for future rules and basic water management projects designed to protect and improve water quality in the District.

Local Plan Adoption and Implementation

Following approval of the District's plan, municipalities will begin separately adopting local water management plans.

Written Communication

As the District finalizes its floodplain mapping, begins implementing its plan, adopting rules, and ordering projects, it will provide communications about its increasing activities. The District has discussed the publication of a newsletter.

Solicitations of Interest

In May of 2004, District solicited engineering, legal and accounting services. Pursuant to statute, the District's next biennially solicitation will be in 2006.

Wetland Banking Program

Currently, the District does not have an adopted wetland-banking program. The District relies upon the state wetland bank administered the Board of Soil and Water Resources.

Financial and Audit Report

Budget Adopted for 2005

A copy of the District's proposed budget for 2004 is incorporated by reference. Additional copies are available through the District's accounting or legal advisor.

Reporting of Revenues and Expenditures

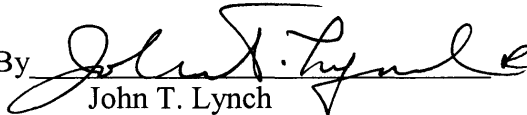
The District's revenue sources are general and insurance levies pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapters 103D and 466. In 2004, the District levied \$250,000 pursuant its general levy. Funding pursuant to Chapter 103B is not available, as the District is not located completely within the metropolitan area.

CONCLUSION

In 2004, the District completed the critical step of mapping the watershed's flood plain. How water is conveyed throughout the watershed is critical to anticipating and managing future development, protecting property from flooding, and understanding how water soluble pollutants are distributed and impact the water quality of District lakes. It will serve as the foundation for a future permit program and basic water management projects. The floodplain analysis provides a complete and necessary context for planning and protection of water quality, through projects and permits, for decades to come. The District looks forward to working on the implementation of its analysis to protect the District.

Respectfully submitted,

COMFORT LAKE FOREST LAKE
WATERSHED DISTRICT

By 
John T. Lynch
President