

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COMFORT LAKE–FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Thursday, February 10, 2022**

1. Call to Order

President Schmaltz called the February 10, 2022, regular board meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. via online video conference.

Present: President Steve Schmaltz, Vice President Christopher Loth, Secretary Dave Bakke, Treasurer Jackie Anderson, Assistant Treasurer Douglas Toavs.

Absent: None.

Others: Bobbie Law, Office Manager; Blayne Eineichner, Planning Coordinator; Jessica Lindemyer, Operations and Outreach Specialist; Garrett Miller, Watershed Assistant (CLFLWD staff); Greg Graske, Cecilio Olivier (Emmons & Olivier Resources); Chuck Holtman (Smith Partners); Hanna Valento, Forest Lake City Council.

2. Setting of Meeting Agenda

Manager Schmaltz moved to approve the agenda, with the addition of a Greenway Corridor Workshop discussion as item 4(c). Seconded by Manager Toavs. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

Manager	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Stephen Schmaltz	X			
Christopher Loth	X			
Dave Bakke	X			
Jackie Anderson	X			
Doug Toavs	X			

3. New Business

a) DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant Program

Mr. Miller explained that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has grants available for aquatic invasive species (AIS) control. He explained that these applications are lake specific. District staff proposes to apply for the DNR’s grant intended for curly-leaf pondweed management on Bone, Shields, and Moody Lakes.

Manager Anderson moved to authorize the administrator to submit the DNR AIS Control Grant Program applications and take any further steps necessary to accept and administer the grants. Seconded by Manager Bakke. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

Manager	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Stephen Schmaltz	X			
Christopher Loth	X			
Dave Bakke	X			
Jackie Anderson	X			
Doug Toavs	X			

b) AIS Detector Training

Mr. Miller explained that the University of Minnesota’s Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Detectors program has an online management class for anyone interested in plant management and control measures for AIS. The class has a \$75.00 registration fee. Mr. Miller proposed the District cover this fee for any interested District residents, either in total or partially. Staff feels that covering these costs will give those who are interested incentive to participate in water management activities, join the District’s Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC), and/or join their local lake association.

Managers discussed the timeline for sign-up. Mr. Miller noted that it is a self-paced course.

President Schmaltz asked how reimbursement would be administered. He recommended staff request some form of confirmation that individuals have completed the course before sending a reimbursement. Mr. Miller suggested the Board cap the number of individuals that can be reimbursed for completing the course.

Managers pointed out the importance of District water quality monitoring volunteers being offered this opportunity.

Mr. Holtman suggested the managers set parameters for the amount of reimbursement and the number of individuals the District will reimburse, and otherwise delegate administration to staff.

Managers discussed the local lake associations’ interest in contributing to the reimbursement for the online course.

President Schmaltz suggested that the District reimburse \$50 of the total cost of \$75 for up to ten participants on a first come, first served basis. The other managers concurred.

4. Old Business

a) CAT and DIY Monitoring Presentation and Report

Mr. Eineichner presented the results from the 2021 Do-It-Yourself (DIY) and Citizen Assisted Tributary (CAT) monitoring program. He highlighted multiple items including:

- The development of these programs in 2020.

- The orthophosphate colorimeter and HACH reagents that are being utilized to collect data.
- Monitoring methods, including grab sampling during rain events.
- 2021 monitoring locations
 - DIY: Sunrise River watershed between Forest Lake and Comfort Lake
 - CAT: Forest Lake Basin 2 and 3
- Drought conditions in 2021 and their effect on the number of samples that staff and volunteers were able to collect.
- DIY monitoring locations, data collected, and findings.
 - Few elevated readings found in 2021.
- The District's enhanced street sweeping program and the positive effects on water quality.
- CAT monitoring locations, data collected, and findings.
 - Few elevated readings found in 2021.
- A duplicate water quality sample comparison that was completed by the District and an outside lab that showed promising results for the utility of the DIY monitoring equipment.
- Recommendation to repeat the District efforts in 2022 with hopes of a more “normal” year of precipitation.
- A thank you to our volunteers.

Manager Anderson explained that she found the patterns in the data fascinating. She noted the times of the year when increased contaminants occurred. She asked if this was investigated by staff. Mr. Eineichner explained that the drought may have influenced the data. He explained that flow is not measured through these programs.

Manager Anderson highlighted the drought conditions experienced in 2021 and how this could have affected monitoring results. Mr. Eineichner explained that Emmons and Olivier Resources staff would be presenting flow data to the Board in the coming months.

President Schmaltz thanked the staff for their work.

Manager Bakke asked if the volunteer monitoring program would be continued in 2022 based on volunteers’ availability. Mr. Eineichner explained that staff will be attempting to recruit more volunteers in 2022. He noted the possibility of expanding the CAT monitoring program if the District gets more volunteers.

Managers discussed the involvement of local lake associations to gain volunteers. Manager Anderson asked that staff reach out to lake association presidents to coordinate members’ assistance with the CAT program.

b) Website and Branding Process Update

At the request of President Schmaltz, Ms. Lindemyer explained briefly that the District's reimbursement process for the AIS detectors course will follow the same process used for other reimbursement programs such as the plant grant program.

Ms. Lindemyer stated that the memo provided includes an update on the website and branding process. She explained that the first step in this process includes a questionnaire to be completed by all staff, managers, and CAC members. She requested that this questionnaire be completed by Monday, February 14th.

Ms. Lindemyer reminded the Board that the current website will be updated to include brief manager bios. She noted that a request for information has been emailed to all managers with a response deadline of Monday, February 28th. She credited the idea of including manager bios on the website to Manager Loth.

c) Greenway Corridor Workshop Discussion

President Schmaltz explained that a summary of his thoughts regarding the greenway workshop was sent to the managers. He invited feedback.

Manager Anderson explained the importance of utilizing the 10-year Watershed Management Plan for direction regarding projects. She noted that there may be different options as to project location focus. President Schmaltz explained that he agrees there are multiple projects going on that would align.

Manager Bakke commented that he listened to the February 1st special board meeting recording because he was unable to attend the latter part of the meeting. He noted that he also further researched Minnesota Statute chapter 103D. He explained all this information has improved his understanding of the District's role in the greenway effort.

Manager Toavs mentioned the importance of recreation within the greenway.

5. Program/Project Update

a) Project Update

Mr. Eineichner gave the monthly project update. He included updates on:

- Bone Lake Northeast Wetland Enhancement (Legacy Load Project): Mobilization occurred on January 24th. Implementation has a scheduled start date of February 9th. The excavation is estimated to be complete by February 16th. Site restoration is planned to occur from February 16th to February 22nd.
- County Road 50 Iron Enhanced Sand Filter: Easement has been executed with the main landowner. Coordination with surrounding landowners is in progress. Emmons and Olivier Resources will bring a feasibility study to the Board in late March or early April.

- Little Comfort Lake Subwatershed Enhancement (East Wetland) Project: Geotechnical boring conducted 2-7-22. Easement documents are in development and landowner coordination is underway.
- Sunrise River Drained Wetland Restoration (Tax Forfeit Property): Geotech and soils data collected indicate more phosphorus removal is possible compared to original estimate. Emmons and Olivier Resources plans to bring the feasibility study to the Board in March. District staff will request a grant extension this spring.
- Melanie Trail BMPs – 2022 Scandia Street Improvements: The City of Scandia posted its street improvement project for bids in January of 2022. The low bid has been identified for the stormwater improvements portion of the project. The City plans to review and award the project later in February.

6. Summary and Approval of Board Direction

Board direction was summarized:

- Staff will advertise the University of Minnesota’s aquatic invasive species detector training with an emphasis on explaining that the District will reimburse the first ten interested individuals.
- Staff will coordinate with local lake association presidents to seek out and gain volunteers for the Citizen Assisted Tributary monitoring program.
- Staff will highlight any nitrogen reductions due to District projects.
- Staff will encourage District cities to utilize the District’s community grant program when incorporating water quality improvement best management practices (BMPs) into their general city improvement projects.

7. Adjourn

a) Next regular board meeting – February 24, 2022

Manager Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Manager Toavs. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Manager	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Stephen Schmaltz	X			
Christopher Loth	X			
Dave Bakke	X			
Jackie Anderson	X			
Doug Toavs	X			

Dave Bakke, Secretary _____