

**MEETING NOTES OF THE
COMFORT LAKE-FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, October 1st, 2019**

Present: Curt Sparks, Jack MacKenzie, Tom Furey, Randy Schumacher, Jerry Grundtner
Others: Mike Kinney, Roxy Robertson (CLFLWD Staff)

1. Watershed Activities Update

a) Administrator's Report

The September 19th Administrator's report was handed out to the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) members present. Program Coordinator, Roxy Robertson, highlighted several items from the report providing the Committee with an overview of the District's local student engagement activities throughout September, including the Chisago County Children's Water Festival, the Lakes International Academy stormwater activities, and Warner Nature Center outreach. Tom Furey asked Mike Kinney about how Chisago County has been progressing towards lake standard goals. Mr. Kinney indicated that he has been asking similar questions at the One Watershed One Plan meetings.

The District tour was also held on September 21st and Mr. Kinney indicated that it went very well with good turnout. An update was given that no additional zebra mussels have been found in Bone Lake. Curt Sparks indicated that the aggressive treatment of zebra mussels in the Lake is impressive. Mr. Kinney indicated that after the initial discovery of zebra mussels in the Lake, Steve McComas of Blue Water Science commented publicly that they may have been planted so we don't want to draw conclusions too early about the success of the treatment. Ms. Robertson reminded the Committee of dates for the upcoming October regular board meeting as well as for scheduled alum treatments of Moody Lake and Shields Lake. Tom Furey asked if the Clarosorb technology was available in a large net that can be dragged across the Lake to absorb phosphorous and whether it can be used in place of alum treatments. Mr. Furey indicated that, theoretically, if the Clarosorb is exposed to enough water, it can absorb 60-70% of its weight in phosphorus. The Committee commented that there are benefits to alum treatment such as recycling phosphorus and the limitations of understanding the new Clarosorb technology. Mr. Kinney said that the District would like to explore extending the life of alum treatments using Clarosorb.

b) Other

Ms. Robertson introduced herself as a new staff member of the District who started on September 24th. The CAC members also introduced themselves and gave background information about their involvement in the area.

2. CAC Recruitment

Mr. Sparks talked to people at the District tour about whether they would be interested in the CAC and many indicated that they would be but not at this moment. The committee recommended CJ Carlson as a potential member given her interest in the Jeffers initiative and school environmental education, and Jack MacKenzie said that he would reach out to her. Mr. Furey said that he did not bring it up to the Bone Lake Association at the last meeting. Mr. MacKenzie reached out to the high school and was connected to their environmental science department and he will be presenting to the class soon and will discuss the CAC. Mr. Furey suggested that the high schoolers could be involved in the IO-Rodeo monitoring. Mr. Kinney indicated that staff can also do more communication for CAC recruitment.

3. 2019 Committee Initiatives

Mr. Sparks provided an update on the Jeffers Foundation initiative and meeting that was held on September 23rd with the school district, stating that Tom Westerhaus from Jeffers gave a review of their education program. The meeting outcomes included the suggestion that a working group be developed in order to put together a program. Mr. Sparks developed an agenda for the first meeting of the working group which recommended goals and work committees, as well as other topics which should be discussed such as summary of ongoing efforts, discussion of partners and needs for community involvement. Mr. Kinney stated that the Forest Lake superintendent indicated that they want to make environmental education a part of their corps identity and were interested in building their own environmental learning center. He also indicated that he would reach out to Mr. Westerhaus to get his feelings about the meeting outcomes.

There was discussion about how the Committee needs to identify their 2020 goals and initiatives. Mr. Sparks suggested that the Watershed Management Plan Update visioning could be used to help them to develop initiatives. The Committee commented that the drawn-out timing of that would be too late for setting 2020 goals and that the Committee still needs to identify those for next year. Mr. Furey reminded the Committee of some of the ideas that have been discussed in the past such as quarterly attending board meetings and having members perform research or other tasks, but that specific initiatives may not have been identified. The Committee agreed that the selection of initiatives should be the primary focus of the November meeting and that each member should come prepared with ideas. Mr. Kinney suggested that they use the District budget and activities to help them decided on some initiatives, but not to limit themselves to the budget either.

4. Election of Chairperson

This agenda item was not discussed at the end of the meeting due to time restrictions.