

**MEETING NOTES OF THE
COMFORT LAKE-FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, January 18th, 2022**

Present: Curt Sparks, Tom Furey, Randy Schumacher

Others: Manager Dave Bakke, Aidan Read, Garrett Miller

1.) Watershed activities update

- a. Aidan Read, land management specialist, provided an update on watershed district activities since the previous meeting. Some of the updates Mr. Read included were that aerators had been started on Moody and Shield lakes, winter lake monitoring was underway, a description of technology services upgrades, and a description of recent staffing changes. Mr. Read also highlighted upcoming items for future board meetings.
- b. As requested by the committee, Mr. Read provided an update on the Cranberry Lake channel property acquisition. The purchase is proceeding, but the current landowner is seeking additional information and guarantees regarding property access and water levels. Dave Bakke, member of the Board of Managers, confirmed this for the committee.

2.) AIS update and discussion

Garrett Miller, watershed assistant, provided an update on aquatic invasive species (AIS) management for 2021 and led a discussion on management activities for the upcoming year. Randy Schumacher asked a series of questions on how contractors are selected for both surveying and AIS treatments. Mr. Miller responded that surveying has been done by Blue Water Science for many years, and the District benefits from continuity of service, so that work is typically not bid out. AIS treatments are typically put through the District's standard bidding process. Mr. Schumacher asked further questions on the methodology of the survey work conducted by Blue Water Science. Mr. Miller provided details on the methodology and the rationale behind certain procedures. Further questioning from Mr. Schumacher related to the difference in acreage of curly leaf pondweed (CLP) treatments from the years 2017 to 2018. Mr. Miller responded that this was outside his time with the District, but that CLP is highly responsive to environmental factors so large fluctuations are not unusual. Mr. Read added that 2018 had late ice-out conditions, and that Mike Sorenson, the previous AIS coordinator, had left that year. These two factors may have been related to the reduction in treated CLP acres. Mr. Miller was also asked if he anticipated flowering rush treatments continuing as an annual treatment. Mr. Miller stated that while the science is evolving and the District has had success with flowering rush treatments, he anticipates continuing annual treatments for the near future.

3.) Potential outreach event

Mr. Read led a discussion about a potential outreach event centered around providing native plants to watershed district residents, in collaboration with the Forest Lake Future Farmers of America (FFA) organization. An event built around native plants and the FFA would be a good opportunity to promote the CAC, CLFLWD, and District programs, while also building a

relationship with a valuable partner organization. Examples of a potential event were discussed, including providing plants to residents at Arts In the Park, providing assistance / sponsorship to the annual FFA plant sale, or hosting a stand-alone event with the FFA. Members of the committee expressed support for this idea and directed Mr. Read to continue exploring options for this event and discuss with potential partners.

4.) CAC field days discussion

In previous meetings the committee had expressed interest in hosting meetings or events around the District to highlight certain projects or successes. Mr. Read led a discussion asking for more direction from the committee on these potential “field days”. Tom Furey and Mr. Schumacher supported the idea of events in the spring, summer, or fall, potentially on a quarterly basis. These events would be aimed towards interested members of the public and would be hosted by the CAC. Mr. Read was directed to continue exploring the opportunity for a field day in spring.

5.) February Meeting

Due to the confirmed unavailability of several members in February, cancelling the next CAC meeting was discussed by the committee. It was decided that a decision would be made no later than one week from the scheduled meeting time. Tom Furey was designated as Chair for the February meeting.