

**MEETING NOTES OF THE
COMFORT LAKE-FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, January 7th, 2020**

Present: Bruce Anderson, Tom Furey, Curt Sparks

Others: Jessica Lindemyer (CLFLWD Staff), Jackie Anderson (CLFLWD Board of Managers)

1. Watershed Activities Update

a) 12-19-19 Administrator's Report

The December 19th Administrator's report was handed out to the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) members present. Operations and Outreach Specialist, Jessica Lindemyer, highlighted several items from the report providing the Committee with an overview of various activities including the activation of Moody Lake aerator and the upcoming presentations on the yearend aquatic invasive species and watercraft inspection reports.

Ms. Lindemyer reminded the CAC of upcoming meeting dates including several meetings that week for the Workload Analysis firm selection and the regular board meeting scheduled for January 23rd.

b) Other

The Committee was reminded about the volunteer opportunity coming up on January 11th with Girl Scouts River Valley at their Wonders of Water event. Ms. Lindemyer noted that she and Angie Hong of the East Metro Water Resources Education Program will be leading educational stations on watersheds and ground water. Over 160 Brownies have registered for the event so volunteers would be much appreciated. Manager Anderson indicated that she would like to attend the event.

2. Bone Lake Tree Project

Committee Member, Tom Furey, summarized for the group a recent meeting he had with several local government partners on the topic of building a gravel bed tree nursery. The goal of the project would be to encourage native plantings around Bone Lake. Mr. Furey noted that the existing vegetation in the area was heavily damaged during a storm in 2019 leaving exposed soil in many places. A gravel bed nursely significantly increases the rate of success when transplanting trees to their permanent location and would provide area residents with a low cost, local source, for reestablishing vegetation on their property.

There was discussion about the size and variety of trees that would be planted. Mr. Furey explained that the project is still in the early planning phases but that they would be looking to work with species that are a) known to be successful in gravel beds, b) good for pollinators and c) climate change tolerant. He noted that the selection would likely include a mix of shoreline and upland species.

Committee Member, Curt Sparks, suggested starting with seedlings and offered his tree planter.

There was discussion about where the nursery might be located. Mr. Furey indicated that they are exploring several options, but that it would need to be a location with water access as the nursery needs to be watered daily.

3. MAWD Update

Mr. Sparks provided the Committee with an overview of his attendance at the annual conference of the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) summarizing some the sessions he attended. There was discussion about the CAC session at which Mr. Sparks spoke as part of a panel. Mr. Sparks indicated that there was a very obvious distinction between CACs of metro watershed districts and those of rural watershed districts but that there seemed to be two overarching items that were important for all CACs to have. Those items being strong partnerships and trust between the CAC, the district board, the community, and the local governing units. Mr. Sparks recommended that at least one CAC member attend the MAWD conference every year.

Mr. Sparks provided additional information on one session titled “Building a Basin-wide Education Program” which he found particularly inspiring with potential for expansion in the Forest Lake area. This session covered the [River of Dreams](#) program put on by the International Water Institute. The program is a cross-curriculum watershed education program tailored to elementary students. Participants learn watershed terminology and how their subwatershed fits into the larger watershed through the design and real-life launch of a 14” cedar canoe. Mr. Sparks indicated that he will be meeting with local educators to discuss the possibility of bringing the program to the area.

4. State of the Watershed, Watershed Champion Award

Ms. Lindemyer informed the Committee that a date and venue have been chosen for the 2nd annual State of the Watershed public meeting. It is scheduled to take place the evening of April 30th at Stella’s on 97. She noted that she will be meeting with Managers Oknich and Anderson in the coming weeks to begin planning for the event and associated awards program and would like to bring forward any feedback or suggestions the Committee has on the topics.

There was a general consensus among the Committee that the event went well last year, but a larger CAC presence would be great to have in 2020. This presence could take the form of having a CAC member as one of the event presenters and/or having an informational booth at the event to help recruit new members.

5. 2020 Committee Goals and Initiatives

There was a general consensus among the Committee members present that further discussion regarding 2020 goals and initiatives would be better served at a meeting with more members in attendance. The item will be brought forward again at the February meeting.

6. Election of Chairperson

Over the past year the CAC has chosen to defer the election of a Chairperson until such time that a member is interested in the position. The item will be brought forward again at the February meeting.