

**MEETING NOTES OF THE
COMFORT LAKE-FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, April 6th, 2021**

Present: Tom Furey, Curt Sparks, Jerry Grundtner, Randy Schumacher, Jack MacKenzie

Others: Mike Kinney, Jessica Lindemyer, Emily Heinz (CLFLWD Staff); Dr. Meghan Funke (EOR); Désirée Weins (Minnesota Water Steward)

1. Watershed Activities Update

a) Administrator's Report Highlight

Operations & Outreach Specialist, Jessica Lindemyer, provided the Committee with various updates regarding District activities over the last several months. These updates included several recently completed reports as well as the draft 2020 Annual and Progress Reports.

b) Other

Ms. Lindemyer provided the Committee with a summary of upcoming board meetings. She highlighted several of the items coming before the Board in April including the Bone Lake Northeast Wetland Restoration Scope of Work, the Comfort Lake & Little Comfort Lake Diagnostic Study Report & Presentation, the Bone Lake Hydrologic & Hydraulic Model Update, and the Floodplain Vulnerability Assessment Update.

District Administrator, Mike Kinney, gave an update on recent hires. The new Land Management Specialist will have an agriculture focus working to help form a farmer-led council and increase engagement with a rural communities within the District. The new Senior Land Management Coordinator will be working on land acquisition, particularly as it relates to planning for the greenway corridor, and providing oversight of the permitting program.

Ms. Lindemyer informed the Committee that the District is still accepting applications for the Office Manager position as well as several Watercraft Inspector positions.

2. Watershed Management Plan

Planning Coordinator, Emily Heinz, summarized the recent efforts related to the Watershed Management Plan update along with some of the previous comments submitted by the CAC and turned the discussion over to the Committee.

Committee member, Jerry Grundtner, inquired about comments submitted by the District's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Ms. Heinz indicated that a few comments had come in from the TAC during the initial informal review period, more comments are expected to come in as the deadline for formal comments gets closer (April 30th).

There was discussion about how the Plan, and the public comment period, has been advertised to the public. Much of the public outreach took place in the fall of 2019 in the form of public

listening sessions. The District has also advertised the Plan update and public comment period on social media and in local newspaper articles.

Ms. Heinz reviewed the timeline of the Plan update stating that the 60-day agency review and public comment period closes April 30th with the public hearing scheduled for June 10th and final plan approval set for the end of September.

There was a discussion about how the 10-year budget relates to the Plan and how the Plan addresses what will be done once water quality goals have been met.

Mr. Kinney provided an update on recent discussions with the Forest Lake Area School District and the District's plans for a new office space that would also double as a watershed education and research center.

Committee member, Randy Schumacher, inquired about a Clean Water Fund grant recently awarded to the Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District for projects on East Rush, West Rush, and Goose Lakes. Mr. Schumacher that noted that "heavy recreation usage" is listed as part of the reasoning behind the awarded grant funds and inquired if the District is including recreational importance when submitting grant applications. Dr. Meghan Funke confirmed that the District does include recreational importance when submitting grant applications.

No formal comments on the Watershed Management Plan were made.

3. Member Updates

Ms. Lindemyer noted that Minnesota Water Steward, Désirée Weins, was in attendance to learn more about the Committee and the work that the District does. The committee members introduced themselves and provided a summary of the items they are involved in in relation to the District. Ms. Weins introduced herself and described her interest in the District and the Minnesota Water Stewards.

Ms. Lindemyer opened the discussion to general updates from the Committee.

Committee Member, Jack MacKenzie, indicated that he is working with Ms. Lindemyer and Angie Hong of the East Metro Water Resource Education Program (EMWREP) to host a virtual Turf Talk program this spring.

Mr. Grundtner informed the Committee that the annual meeting of the Forest Lake Lake Association is scheduled for May 6th and will be held virtually. He encouraged any interested Committee members to attend and stated that Mr. Kinney would be giving presentation at the meeting.

4. Election of Chairperson

Over the past two years the CAC has chosen to defer the election of a Chairperson until such time that a member is interested in the position.

Mr. Kinney asked the Committee to consider a rotation schedule for the chairperson position so as to reduce the long-term commitment on any one individual while still meeting the statutory requirement of electing a chairperson from within the Committee. He stated that the new Land Management Specialist, Aidan Read, will be involved in expanding and engaging the CAC. Mr. Read will be attending the May meeting of the CAC.

The item will be brought forward again at the May meeting.