

**MEETING NOTES OF THE
COMFORT LAKE-FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, July 14th, 2020**

Present: Tom Furey, Jack MacKenzie, Randy Schumacher, Curt Sparks, Jerry Grundtner
Others: Jessica Lindemyer, Emily Heinz, Blayne Eineichner (CLFLWD Staff)

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 a summary of Board Meetings, fish kill and algae bloom reports, results of the Bone Lake zebra mussel veliger tow, and current progress toward goal for the Watercraft Inspection Program.

b) Other

Ms. Lindemyer provided the Committee with a summary of the District's COVID-19 response and associated Preparedness Plan stating that the office is currently closed to the public with all staff working remotely, and all meetings held via videoconference. The full Preparedness Plan can be viewed online at:

https://www.clflwd.org/documents/COVID-19_EEO20-74PreparednessPlan_APPROVED06252020.pdf

2. Monitoring

Project Coordinator, Blayne Eineichner, provided the Committee with an overview of the District's 2020 water monitoring program. Updates included background information on the staff lead DIY Diagnostic Monitoring efforts, the Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP), and the Citizen Assisted Tributary Monitoring Program (CAT), as well as long-term stream monitoring, lake monitoring, and diagnostic & effectiveness monitoring being led by Emmons and Olivier Resources (EOR) the District's engineering firm.

There was discussion among the Committee regarding the viability of the data collected by volunteers with the IO Rodeo and Hach colorimeters. Mr. Eineichner explained that there are several sites in the DIY program that overlap with EOR Diagnostic monitoring sites to help assess the information provided by the colorimeters. There was additional discussion regarding how flow data is collected and the importance of flow data in determining phosphorus concentrations

3. Watershed Management Plan

Watershed Technician, Emily Heinz, reminded the Committee of the efforts undertaken by the District in 2019 to kick off the 2021 watershed management plan update process. Ms. Heinz walked the Committee through the Plan schedule for summer 2020 pointing out that the Board held a series of workshops earlier in the year to discuss and review the issues, priorities, and goals presented in the Plan. The Board is currently starting the process of reviewing draft sections of

the plan. Ms. Heinz encouraged the Committee to review the draft sections as they become available and submit comments either individually or as a group. Chapter 3 is currently available for comment and has been shared with the Committee.

There was discussion about the upcoming Board meeting on July 30th. Ms. Heinz confirmed that at this time the main focus of the meeting will be the Watershed Management Plan, the 2021 Draft budget, and capital project options in the Washington Judicial Ditch-6 subwatershed. She encouraged any interested Committee members to attend the meeting, as it should be highly informational.

4. 2021 Draft Budget

Ms. Heinz introduced the topic of the 2021 draft budget and provided the Committee with the schedule for the budgeting process. Committee Member, Jerry Grundtner, inquired about where the current draft budget sits in relation to the 2020 budget. Ms. Heinz confirmed the current version of the 2021 draft budget sits at \$144,358 higher than the 2020 budget which is roughly a %5 increase. She went on to explain that it is the recommendation of staff that the levy remain the same for 2021.

Committee Member, Curt Sparks, inquired about the deadline for comments regarding the budget. Ms. Heinz stated that the budget would not be adopted until August, however the earlier comments can be provided the more time the Board will have to take the comments into consideration. The Committee expressed interest in having printed copies of the draft budget made available for their review. Staff confirmed printed copies would be made available.

5. CAC Member Updates

Mr. Sparks provided a recap of the discussion at a recent meeting of the Forest Lake Rotary at which he was in attendance. He noted that many of the Rotary members expressed interest in being a part of local efforts lead by other organizations. Mr. Sparks spoke to the Rotary on the topic of creating a local effort to increase appreciation for water resources and positioning the Forest Lake area to be recognized as the "Gateway to the Lakes". While there appeared to be support for such an effort, is still unclear who would lead the effort and bring everyone together. Mr. Sparks also noted that he shared the Committee's idea of setting up scholarships for students entering water resource programs with the Rotary as there were several members interested in supporting local efforts through means of donating funds.

Committee Member, Randy Schumacher, inquired about the 2019 curly leaf pondweed control efforts on Forest Lake stating that there was good control on the west and middle basins, but poor control on the east basin. Ms. Lindemyer indicated she would connect with Watershed Assistant, Garrett Miller, on the topic and get back to Mr. Schumacher.

Committee Member, Jack MacKenzie, inquired about the Forest Lake Street Sweeper and its operation during the pandemic. Ms. Lindemyer noted that, to her knowledge, the street sweeper has been fully operational all season and that the City of Forest Lake provided a new educational

wrap for the sweeper this season. The District recently received an invoice from the University of Minnesota for analysis of the material picked up by the sweeper. Ms. Lindemyer will look into the status of those results and bring them back to the CAC when available.

There was discussion about high water levels on Lake Keewahtin.