

**MEETING NOTES OF THE  
COMFORT LAKE-FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, February 13th, 2019**

Present: Jerry Grundtner, Doug Toavs, Tom Furey, Randy Shumacher  
Others: Jessica Lindemyer (CLFLWD Staff)

Note: This meeting of the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) was the second meeting of the Committee held in February. Due to poor weather, the regularly scheduled meeting held on February 5<sup>th</sup> had rather limited turn-out. Given the pressing nature of a couple items, Watershed Assistant, Jessica Lindemyer, called for this second meeting of the CAC of which the main purpose was to elect a new chairperson and provide guidance on items related to the Watershed Champion Award. The notes from the February 5<sup>th</sup> CAC meeting can be found here: [https://www.cflwd.org/documents/2-5-19\\_CACMeetingNotes.pdf](https://www.cflwd.org/documents/2-5-19_CACMeetingNotes.pdf)

**1. Watershed Champion Award**

Ms. Lindemyer recapped the information shared about the Watershed Champion Award at the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. She stated that the deadline for nominations is March 1<sup>st</sup> and that at this time the District has only received two nominations. She again encouraged the present CAC members to assist in promoting the program and to submit nominations themselves if they felt so inclined.

Ms. Lindemyer then asked the Committee for guidance on a couple matters relating to the Award Program.

- 1) *When should nominees be notified of their nomination? and to what degree should the submitted nomination forms be available for viewing by the public?*

Mr. Schumacher pointed out that as a unit of local government all materials are technically subject to public review should a formal request be made. There was general consensus of the Committee that nominations should remain private until such time that the nomination deadline has passed unless a formal request was made.

Mr. Furey suggested that the District try and get a couple of articles in the local newspapers; the first article highlighting the award program and promoting the new State of the Watershed Public Meeting on April 30<sup>th</sup>, and the second being published after the April meeting focusing on those who were nominated and celebrating all of the great work done by community members in the area. Ms. Lindemyer indicated that she would begin reaching out to the Forest Lake Times, Chisago County Press, and Forest Lake Area Lowdown regarding the matter.

- 2) *How will the committee be selecting its members for the Nomination Review Committee?  
Note: The Review Committee will be made up of three CAC members, one board member, and one staff member.*

There was a general consensus of the Committee members present to allow those who are interested in serving on the Review Committee to volunteer themselves rather than electing members. Both Mr. Toavs and Mr. Furey volunteered to serve on the Review Committee. Mr.

Grundtner and Mr. Schumacher indicated that they would not be able to serve on the Review Committee due to being out of state. Ms. Lindemyer noted that she would send an email out to the remaining CAC members who were not in attendance to see if one of them would be interested in volunteering for the Review Committee.

Mr. Grundtner suggested that a deadline for selection of the award winners should be chosen soon so as to allow those who have been nominated to make plans to attend the April 30<sup>th</sup> public meeting. Ms. Lindemyer stated that she would add the topic to the Agenda and bring a draft scoring form for consideration to the March CAC meeting. She also noted that the Board will be selecting a manager to serve on the Review Committee at the February 28<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

## **2. Election of New Chairperson**

The previous Chair of the CAC, Jerry Grundtner, stepped down from the position in January. Ms. Lindemyer is serving as the interim Chair until such time that a Committee member is elected to the position. Mr. Furey inquired about the required duties and expectations for the position. Mr. Grundtner indicated that during his time as Chair of the Committee he found the responsibilities to be as follows: Attend monthly committee meetings, draft meeting agendas, communicate with District Staff, and attend the occasional District Board meeting to provide updates as needed. Mr. Toavs indicated that he may be interested in taking on the role of Committee Chair once he has more experience serving on the Committee. Both Mr. Furey and Mr. Toavs were appointed to the CAC at the January 24<sup>th</sup> regular Board meeting.

There was a general consensus among the Committee members present to have Ms. Lindemyer serve as Chair until such time that a Committee member is elected. They asked that the topic be kept on the agenda until a Chairperson is chosen.

## **3. Review of Materials Presented at the February 5<sup>th</sup> CAC Meeting**

Ms. Lindemyer provided the present Committee members, the majority of which were not present at the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, with a review of the items covered at the last meeting. There was discussion about the potential for the Adopt-a-Drain program extending into other areas due to the limited number of residential stormdrains in the area. Ms. Lindemyer indicated that this could be a good opportunity to get businesses involved as most of the drains are in the downtown areas. Mr. Grundtner expressed his support for this suggestion, noting that the local businesses have a big stake in the quality of our water resources and should be doing their part to help protect them. Ms. Lindemyer indicated that she would reach out to Angie Hong of the East Metro Water Resource Education Program to see if any of the Adopt-a-Drain pilot programs focused on engaging businesses.

Mr. Grundtner suggested that the Committee revisit the items from the January Committee meeting, particularly those pertaining to Committee initiatives discussed for 2019, such as the District tour and lake tours for elected officials. Ms. Lindemyer indicated that the date for the District tour has been set for March 5<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Grundtner expressed concern regarding the proximity of the event to that of the Public Meeting on April 30<sup>th</sup> noting that the attendance of both events might suffer as individuals would likely choose to attend one or the other, not both. There was

further discussion on the topic with the Committee coming to a consensus to recommend that the Board reschedule the District Tour for some time in early September. It was noted that similar events that have been held in September, such as the 2018 NEMO workshop, have experienced good attendance. Ms. Lindemyer noted that she would convey the recommendation the Board at the February 28<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

The discussion shifted to the topic of lake tours for elected officials. The purpose of these tours would be to not only get local elected officials out onto the lakes they represent, but also to educate them on the issues facing our local water resources. Ms. Lindemyer noted that it was her understanding that the Committee had decided that it makes more sense for the initiative to be run by the local lake associations. She asked if this was still the case, or if the Committee would like to continue pursuing the option of hosting the lake tours. Mr. Schumacher expressed his desire to see this initiative moved forward, stating that while the Lake Associations could host the session on their respective lake, the initiative would likely get more traction and be more cohesive if the Watershed District were to coordinate it. There was general agreement of the Committee that the District should coordinate the initiative in partnership with the local lake associations, which will host the individual tours. Ms. Lindemyer indicated that she would put together a list of next steps to bring to the March Committee meeting.