

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District Plan Update

September 29, 2020

TAC Attendance: Mike Isensee (CMSCWD), Fred Weck (City of Wyoming), Angie Hong (EMWREP), Dan Fabian (BWSR), Ryan Goodman (Scandia-Forest Lake City Engineer), Jen Kostrzewski (Met Council), Alena DeGrado (Washington County), Kendra Fallon (Wyoming City Engineer)

Staff Attendance: Emily Heinz, Trey Jonas, Meghan Funke

Summary of Main Takeaways and Recurring Points

- 1. Issue area prioritization:** TAC gave varying input regarding what the next top priority should be after lake WQ goals are achieved. Seems that, as a baseline, District should protect investments made to date (project O&M, regulatory program), then move on to other issue areas. See next section of notes below.
- 2. Prioritize equity:** look at CLFLWD priorities and activities from an equity standpoint – how is the District providing benefit to non-lakeshore owner taxpayers? Consider public accessibility and communications to ensure District is providing equitable service. Also promote buy-in from landowners throughout the watershed (e.g. protecting backyard wetlands).
- 3. Prioritize contiguous corridors and multiple benefits:** focus on projects that have multiple benefits (e.g. restore wetland functions and values AND create floodplain storage) and projects that are part of a cohesive corridor (e.g. promote wetland habitat in a large contiguous space rather than isolated spots).
- 4. Public and interagency communications remain important:** always keep these elements in mind throughout all activities – consistent communications make programs and projects go further.
- 5. Ensure goals are measurable and state how they go above and beyond minimum regulatory requirements:** ensure all goals are measurable and make it clear that goals do not include regulatory measures – floodplain storage capacity increases go beyond regulatory requirements, same with buffers etc. Regulatory program is in place to counteract impacts of development (hold steady/prevent negative impact). Goals seek to improve from existing baseline (improvement).

After lake goals are achieved, what should be the next top priority?
(responses from TAC members)

- Recreational opportunity and access with priority on multiple benefits (GW, wetlands, uplands). There are fewer opportunities for recreation in CLFLWD than other places.
- River/streams & groundwater (this is much like trying to pick a favorite child, I'd assume...)
- Wetlands and groundwater
- Gold Level: Lakes natural buffer protection and restoration. After that: 1. Floodplain and landlocked basins (resiliency planning). 2. Groundwater SSTS education/engagement, chloride contamination, 3. Rivers/Streams buffers and load reductions to the Sunrise River/St. Croix River. 4. Upland resources invasive species management/restoration within tributary areas of water resources.
- After meeting lake goals the next priority for the District should be operations and maintenance of the facilities that have been constructed. and continued operation of their permit program. Also protection of the accomplished lake goals.