

**MINUTES OF BOARD WORKSHOP  
OF THE  
COMFORT LAKE – FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT**

**Wednesday March 9, 2016**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order on March 9, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. at the Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District offices at 44 Lake Street South, Suite A, Forest Lake, MN 55025.

Present: President Jackie Anderson, Vice President Jon Spence, Secretary Wayne Moe, Treasurer Stephen Schmaltz

Absent: Assistant Treasurer Jackie McNamara

Others: Mike Kinney, Emily Schmitz, Mike Sorensen (CLFLWD staff), Steve McComas (Blue Water Science), Jason Naber (EOR), Dave Bakke (Bone Lake Association).

The Board decided to change the order of discussion items on the agenda to accommodate Mr. McComas' schedule.

**2. 2016 AIS Program Discussion**

Administrator Kinney introduced the topic and went through the meeting materials provided including a quote for services from Blue Water Science, AIS budgets and timelines and a memo including information from a meeting between CLFLWD staff, Jason Naber and Steve McComas.

Emily Schmitz walked through the 2016 AIS Management Plan lake by lake, describing each activity and indicating which activities are included in the Blue Water Science quote.

Moody Lake AIS activity will entail continued operation of the winter aeration system to control the bullhead carp population.

Bone Lake AIS activities will include curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil delineations, treatments and assessments; carp management including flow trapping, telemetry and a spring harvest; an investigation of carp spawning suitability in nearby Sea Lake; zebra mussel early detection monitoring and watercraft inspections.

Little Comfort Lake AIS activities will include curly-leaf pondweed delineation and assessment, standard fyke net fish survey and lake sediment sampling. Treatment of curly-leaf pondweed is not planned, as growth has been light in previous years. The 2016 delineation will serve as an indicator of future need for surveys or management.

Shields Lake AIS activities will include operation and maintenance of the electric fish barrier and zebra mussel early detection monitoring.

Sylvan Lake AIS activities will include purple loosestrife biological control using weevils and zebra mussel early detection monitoring. District staff has gathered information on biological control methods from other organizations such as Chisago County and intends to gather the weevils from a known location and release them throughout stands of purple loosestrife this spring.

Forest Lake AIS activities will include delineations, treatments and assessments of curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil and flowering rush; carp spawning survey of nearby Cranberry Lake; zebra mussel population density and distribution monitoring; and watercraft inspections.

Comfort Lake AIS activities will include delineations, treatments and assessments of curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil; zebra mussel population density and distribution monitoring; and watercraft inspections.

Discussion continued after the AIS management plan walkthrough and included control methods, outreach techniques, and rapid response plans.

### **3. Cost-Share Program Discussion**

Administrator Kinney introduced the topic and gave some background information. District staff met with Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Chair Jerry Grundtner and Washington Conservation District (WCD) staff members Tara Kline and Bryan Pynn to discuss the proposed changes to the cost-share program structure. The results of that discussion were put into a draft memo that was presented to the Board. Administrator Kinney proceeded to walk through the memo.

Per the CAC's suggestion, it is recommended that the reimbursement rate for homeowner labor be raised from \$15 per hour to \$20 per hour.

It was recommended that the District keep the 50% cost-share up to \$3,000 structure for all non-shoreline restoration best management practices (BMPs) such as raingardens. Shoreline restoration projects would be funded based on the amount of estimated phosphorus (P) removal. Projects removing less than 0.20 pounds of P would receive a \$500 maximum "plant grant" to reimburse the landowner for 100% of the cost of purchasing native plantings. It was confirmed that certain tree species such as willows would be accepted as approved plants for the "plant grant." Projects removing 0.2-0.5 pounds of P would receive 50% cost-share up to \$3,000. Projects removing greater than 0.5 pounds of P would receive 75% cost-share up to \$5,000.

An emergent vegetation planting program was also proposed. Cost-share funding would be based on the linear footage of emergent plantings along the shoreline. It was agreed that a map of suitable shoreline locations for emergent plantings would be developed. The District is planning to pilot one emergent planting project with an interested homeowner this year.

Shoreline ice heaving was also discussed. It was agreed that a map of ice heave-prone locations for each lake would be developed in order to predict locations where projects may be susceptible to damage from ice heave.

It was recommended that WCD/Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) staff would develop 4-6 BMP designs to show prospective applicants what different projects would look like and show what various levels of funding are available. It was mentioned that design specifications regarding rip rap would follow the DNR guidelines.

Maintenance requirements would be shortened from a 10-year lifespan to a 5-year lifespan. It was mentioned that the District should provide assistance to landowners with maintenance procedures and weed identification. Administrator Kinney noted that other watershed districts have worked with private contractors to perform maintenance on BMPs. He indicated that the CLFLWD is evaluating this option. Manager Anderson suggested requiring a total project lifespan of 5 years, but only requiring a maintenance agreement for the first 3 years. There was general agreement with this idea.

A turf management program was proposed for the year 2017. The proposed program would provide cost-share to implement sustainable, water-friendly turf management practices. Program specifics would be determined within the upcoming year.

Administrator Kinney wrapped up the discussion and indicated that the two items that were just discussed will be brought to the March 24<sup>th</sup> regular board meeting for final approval.