

**MEETING NOTES OF THE
COMFORT LAKE-FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, December 4, 2018**

Present: Jerry Grundtner (Chair), Bruce Anderson, Randy Schumacher, Curt Sparks,
Others: Jackie Anderson (CLFLWD Board President); Jessica Lindemyer (CLFLWD Staff); Angie Hong (East Metro Water Resource Education Program); Tom Furey (Bone Lake Resident, Master Water Steward)

1. Update on Watershed District Activities

A. General

Watershed Assistant, Jessica Lindemyer, provided the Committee with an update on the District's activities since the last CAC meeting on November 6th. She highlighted the recent completion of Phase One of the Shields Lake Stormwater Harvest Irrigation Reuse and Alum Treatment Project. Ms. Lindemyer also noted that the Watercraft Inspection season officially closed October 28th and staff expect to bring the yearend summary report to the December or January regular board meeting.

B. Administrator's Report

The November 15th Administrator's report was handed out to Committee members present.

2. Status of Watershed Champion Award

This item was last discussed by the Committee at the November 6th meeting and brought before the Board at the November 15th regular board meeting. Ms. Lindemyer handed out copies of the award program description and nomination form as approved by the Board. She noted that Board approved the material as presented with no further changes made. The Board will be setting the date for the State of the Watershed Public Meeting, the venue through which the awards will be presented, at the December 13th regular meeting.

3. 2019 Potential Projects

Mr. Grundtner reminded the Committee of the November 6th project discussions. The discussion was turned over to Angie Hong for an overview of activities completed in 2018 and a look at those lined up for 2019. Ms. Hong highlighted the following items:

2018 Initiatives

○ Realtor Workshop:

On November 28th EMWREP hosted an Environmental Topics for Realtors and Appraisers workshop. The half-day workshop covered topics such as groundwater, septic systems, and lakeshore properties. Thirty realtors and ten county staff attended.

Committee member, Curt Sparks, suggested that EMWREP/CLFLWD should send thank you notes to the realtors who attended the workshop to thank them for attending and encourage their engagement in future workshops hosted by the District.

- Utility Mailers & Newsletters:
In an effort to increase communications with residents through existing sources, EMWREP has been communicating with the cities in the area to include articles, tips, and watershed updates in their utility mailers and newsletters. Ms. Hong noted that the City of Forest Lake no longer has a print or e-newsletter and as such has been able to arrange for educational material to be included with the utility bills. The City of Wyoming has been including the occasional article or tip in their newsletters. Ms. Hong noted that she will continue to push information out to the City of Scandia and plans to increase communication efforts with their staff in 2019.

2019 Initiatives

- Adopt-a-Drain:
This program allows residents to 'adopt' a storm drain in their area, effectively committing to keeping pollutants, such as leaves and grass clippings, out of the stormwater system. The program is currently active in the St. Paul/Capitol Region Watershed District area and should be ready to roll out in the Forest Lake/Wyoming area in either February or March. Ms. Hong noted that the storm drain information for the metro was obtained from Minnesota Mosquito Control.
- Wetland Workshops:
Many EMWREP partners have expressed interest in having some sort of wetland workshop hosted in their area. Ms. Hong explained that these workshops would likely focus on the basics of what a wetland is, what the law says about them, and how residents can help protect their wetlands. This particular initiative is one she is looking for detailed feedback on from each partner in terms of what specifics should be covered in these workshops. There was general consensus from the Committee that a workshop of this nature is very much needed in the area and with the right promotion would likely be very well attended.

Manager Anderson noted that the content of workshops like this need to be specialized to the CLFLWD and the unique challenges presented in this area. She also expressed a desire to see workshops specific to each lake management district implemented in the District.

Manager Anderson inquired about incorporating some of the Blue Thumb programming and materials into the District's outreach efforts. There was discussion about what areas of their programming might be the most pertinent to the District's current efforts.

Mr. Sparks asked Ms. Hong if she knew of any shoreline tree planting workshops that could be introduced in the District. Mr. Sparks noted that the Tree Sale events put on by the counties present a great opportunity for residents to obtain a variety of native trees at low cost and pairing those sales with a workshop on shoreline plantings could be very successful.

There was general discussion about the possibility of holding CAC partnership meetings with other CACs in the area. Ms. Hong noted that some watershed districts have very active CACs while others may only meet a few times a year. Partnership meetings, such as the one for area lake associations,

can be very fruitful by providing a venue for sharing experience and knowledge. Committee members expressed an interest in exploring this idea more in 2019.

Mr. Grundtner distributed a copy of Minnesota Statute 103D.311 in reference to the purpose, duties, members, and expense reimbursement of advisory committee. He asked the Committee, that as they think about the potential projects for 2019, to take a moment to review the statute, thinking about the purpose of the Committee and how these potential projects might fit with that purpose.

A. Adopt-a-Drain

Item was included in EMWREP discussion.

B. District Tour

The Board of Managers will be setting the date for the 2019 District Tour at the December 13th regular meeting.

C. Project Near Bone Lake

Mr. Grundtner noted that this item was added to allow for discussion of any projects or programs Mr. Furey would like to bring to the attention of the Committee for consideration in 2019. Mr. Furey expressed interest in working with the Committee on any ideas they might have for the Bone Lake area, though at this time he does not have any programs or projects for suggestion.

4. McGregor Lakes Foundation

This agenda item was tabled from the November committee meeting due to the absence of Mr. Sparks who had introduced the topic at a meeting earlier this year. Mr. Grundtner expressed his desire to have the Committee revisit this topic every few months so as to keep the topic from falling off the radar. Mr. Sparks provided a brief summary of the foundation and the previous Committee discussions on the topic for those who were not present at the time of its introduction. There was a general consensus of the Committee to continue periodic discussions of this topic in the future.

5. Other Discussion

A. Lake Association Liaisons

Mr. Grundtner summarized the liaisons appointed at the November meeting: Mr. Grundtner (Forest Lake Lake Association), Mr. Hathaway (Bone Lake Association), Mr. Anderson (Comfort Lake Association).

Mr. Grundtner announced his decision to step down from his position as Chair of the Committee after the January meeting. He expressed gratitude for having served as Chair the last 3 and a half years, stating that the position was both fun and rewarding. The Committee was asked to think about the next steps they would like to take and who might be willing to step forward and assume the responsibility of being Chair. Mr. Sparks asked that the appointed of a new Chair be added to the Committee agenda for January.