

**MINUTES OF THE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP
OF THE
COMFORT LAKE -FOREST LAKE
WATERSHED DISTRICT**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2010

1) **Call to Order**

The President called the Watershed Management Plan (Plan) Workshop to order at 5:00 p.m. at the Forest Lake City Offices, 220 North Lake Street, Forest Lake, Minnesota

Present: President Richard Damchik, Vice President Jackie Anderson, Treasurer John Lynch, Secretary Wayne Moe, Manager Jon Spence.

Absent:

Staff: Randy Anhorn, Lisa Tilman (EOR)

2) **Discuss District Mission Statement and Vision**

Administrator Anhorn passed out a copy of the Mission statement from the District's 2001 Plan (a copy is incorporated by reference and annexed within). Anhorn asked for discussion on the Mission statement and asked the Managers if they thought the original Mission still fulfilled the Board's vision, or if edits or additions should be made. Anhorn further presented additional thoughts on the statement discussed at the January 2010 Board meeting including; adding mention to the District's *adaptive management* approach, the importance of *education* and being *fiscally responsible*. Other thoughts included emphasizing *protection and improvement*.

Administrator Anhorn then passed out an updated Mission statement (a copy is incorporated by reference and annexed within) incorporating requested additions into the District's current Mission. Following discussion, the Board felt it was best to have a concise Mission statement that would portray the District's overall vision, and then to support the Mission by added definition providing more detail. The resulting Mission was as follows.

The Mission of the District is to protect and improve its water resources through adaptive management approaches and education of local stakeholders.

Staff stated that they would work on supportive definitions and verbiage to be included in the Mission statement section providing more detail on the District's adaptive management approach, how it is supported by sound scientific technologies and methods, how it results in fiscally responsible integrated approaches to water management in an ongoing effort to protect and improve the District's water resources. In addition, the section will reiterated how the District stresses education and outreach to increase the awareness of Stakeholders as to water resource issues and their roles in protecting and improving the quality of our water resources

The Board then directed staff to bring the edited Mission statement to the upcoming TAC/CAC workshop to get their comments and suggestions and then to bring their comments back to an upcoming Board meeting.

3) **Review Goals and Objectives of 2001 Plan**

Administrator Anhorn presented a memo reviewing goals and objectives listed in the District 2001 first generation watershed management plan, as well as summarizing which of the objectives have and have not been met in order to measure outcome and determine gaps. A copy of the memo is incorporated by reference and annexed within. Anhorn stated that by reviewing the goals, accomplishments as well as objectives that were not met, new goals and objectives can begin to be determined.

The Board and staff went through the goals of the 2001 Plan and discussed which were still important and which should/could be redefined in order to better define the District's focus. The Board also discussed reorganizing goals in a general water resource management umbrella that would be broken out into Lakes (recreational and non-recreational), Streams, Wetlands, and Groundwater categories, other goal categories would include Natural Resources and Interagency and Public Coordination (including continued partnerships with state agencies and education of local stakeholders). Ideas and areas of importance discussed specific to each are as follows;

- Public Water Management: Address general quality, quantity issues and manage in accordance to MN Statutes 103D and 103B. Also;
 - minimize flood damage
 - protect & improve water quality
 - groundwater
 - Work toward goals of St. Croix River basin
- Lakes: Different for recreational and non-recreational lakes. Should address need for continual monitoring (adaptive management). Also;
 - preserve & improve recreation on recreational lakes
 - maintain & improve the variety of functions of non-recreational lakes
 - Aquatic Invasive Species (AISs)
 - Buffers/biodiversity
- Streams: Address needs to continue monitoring (adaptive management) including biological and habitat monitoring. Also;
 - maintain flow
 - maintain & improve the variety of recreation and non-recreation functions of streams
 - protect & improve stream habitat
 - Classify stream sections (IBIs)
 - AISs
 - Buffers/biodiversity
- Wetlands: Address need to better classify wetlands throughout the District by starting function and value assessments and to maintain wetland diversity. Also;
 - maintain the functions & values of wetlands
 - increase diversity of wetlands
 - maintain inventory of wetlands

- coordinate between LGUs as a technical resource
 - investigate wetlands acting as a source
- Groundwater: Work with local Counties and in accordance with their groundwater plans. Also;
 - recharge
 - quality
 - quantity
 - surface water-groundwater interactions
 - Natural Resources: Need to promote wildlife and incorporate wild/scenic areas (prairies, woodlots, etc...) and endorse their importance to stormwater management. Also;
 - maintain forests/natural areas even when away from water bodies
 - education on importance of natural areas
 - maintain/improve wildlife habitat
 - Coordination/Education:
 - minimize effort and cost to public through coordination between government agencies
 - local office for facilitating public input
 - education
 - TMDLs

Following discussions on categories and areas of importance for potential goals, the Board ask staff to work on formulating their thoughts into draft goals to bring back to the February 25, 2010 Board meeting where they can be discussed further. Following the drafting of goals, the Board felt it would better be able to address objectives/implementation steps for each goal.

The Board also asked Ms. Tilman to bring examples of other watershed district Plans to the February meeting in order for them to review goals and missions of other watersheds.

4) **Presentation of Gap Analysis and Presentation of Compiled/Completed Materials**

Lisa Tilman presented a memo of recent work by EOR detailing land and water resource inventory gap analysis for the Districts Plan update. A copy of the memo is incorporated by reference and annexed within. Ms. Tilman stated that the land and water resources inventory for the District 2011 Plan update was well underway. Ms. Tilman then summarized the plans and planning efforts reviewed and highlighted gaps identified a gap analysis has been conducted through review of existing planning efforts that affect the District. Following the presentation, Ms. Tilman asked the Board if they knew of any other relevant plans that they thought should be included in the review in order to provide background or context for the Plan or provide information for the Land and Water Resources Inventory. Administrator Anhorn mentioned that staff would be seeking similar comments from the Districts Plan TAC/CAC.

The Board provided feed back to additional plans and surveys that are available or should be made available for District review, and should be included in the list. Documents mentioned included recent point-intercept macrophyte surveys on District lakes, storm sewer infrastructure surveys/maps from local communities, a shoreland photo survey for Comfort Lake, as well as locating various plans on the Forest Lake Outlet Channel and Sunrise River.

Following discussion on the presented, the Board, by consensus, adjourned the Manager's Watershed Management Plan workshop.

Wayne S. Moe, Secretary