

CLFLWD CAC Meeting

January 10, 2017

Meeting Summary

5:00 – 6:30 PM

Attending: Jerry Grundtner, Mike Sorensen, Curt Sparks, Sam Hathaway, Mike Kinney

- Update on WSD activities
 - The District held its Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting related to the current Watershed Management Plan amendment process earlier today. The meeting was attended by representatives from local government units, state government, and the three local lake associations. Mike S. handed out a timeline for the amendment process and noted that the process is currently in phase 2 of 5. Mike S. stated that the amendment process is the topic of a Board of Managers workshop that will be held at 4:00 pm at the District office on Thursday, January 12th.
 - Mike S. mentioned that a groundbreaking ceremony for the Forest Lake Wetland Treatment Basin project was held earlier this week and that construction has started and will continue until approximately January 27th. He also noted that construction for the Moody Lake Wetland Rehabilitation Project will occur from January 30th to March 22nd and that the Hilo Lane Stormwater Retrofit Project is being constructed now and will likely be completed by the end of January. All three of these projects are being completed by Peterson Companies, Inc. from Chisago City, MN.
 - With regard to future capital improvement projects, Mike S. reminded the group that the District has recently been awarded almost \$1 Million in Clean Water Fund grants from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources. He said that District staff are busy drafting work plans for those three grants. The group discussed one of the three grants, which involves working with the City of Forest Lake to develop a targeted street sweeping program, where streets that typically exhibit high levels of phosphorus loading to local waterbodies will be swept more often than low-priority streets.

- Update on Welcome Coolers for new lake residents
 - Jerry G. updated the group on the status of Jack M.'s Welcome Cooler Project, as Jack M. was absent. Jerry stated that Jack recently met with two realtors in Forest Lake and they were very enthusiastic about working with Jack on his project. Jack has had the coolers manufactured and hopes to have them delivered sometime in the next few months. He plans to have them delivered to new homeowners on Forest, Bone, and Comfort Lakes, and would like for there to be some face to face interaction, perhaps with lake association volunteers, rather than sending them through the mail.

- Update on Forest Lake High School partnership
 - Mike S. and Jerry have met with Mike Miron again to discuss collaboration opportunities. They are especially interested in moving forward with two projects in 2017:
 - Starting some kind of internship program where high school students have the opportunity to gain work experience with the CLFLWD, perhaps in coordination with Mike Miron's senior-level agriculture capstone class.
 - Working with the high school students to grow native plants in the school's greenhouse so that the plants can be used for a native planting project near the end of the schoolyear.
 - Jerry and Mike have reached out to Prairie Restorations, a local company that sells native plants. Jerry noted that the manager of Prairie Restorations seemed interested in potentially donating some time or plants to this project. They plan to meet as a group on January 18th to continue this conversation. As this project moves forward, they want to make sure that it is not competing with any local native plant businesses and also that the District is not profiting from the sales of the native plants. They plan to present these partnership ideas to the District Board of Managers before moving forward.

- Prioritize short list of 2017 CAC activities
 - The group revisited a list of priorities that they developed at their November meeting. This list represented possible CAC activities for 2017, and was developed, in part, by researching the activities that were undertaken by other metro-area watershed district CACs in 2016. The list included:
 - Review cost-share project applications
 - Help maintain District relationships with local LGU's
 - Educate District homeowners
 - Organize neighborhood cleanup events

- Coordinate a student internship program
- Give out a watershed steward of the year award
- Spray paint educational messages on storm drain inlets (e.g. “No dumping. Drains to Forest Lake”).
- Regularly meet with the City of Forest Lake Parks, Lakes, and Trails Commission
- After discussing the positive and negative aspects associated with these and other activities, the group identified four priorities for 2017:
 - Coordinate a student internship program
 - Oversee the installation of educational messages (e.g. “No dumping. Drains to lake”) on storm drain inlets District-wide.
 - Regularly meet with the City of Forest Lake Parks, Lakes, and Trails Commission
 - Continue collaborating with Forest Lake High School, especially related to native plant projects
- Curt reminded the group that he would like to see the District collaborate more with other organizations, whether they be government or nongovernment. He said that in his experience, the highest quality projects involve a collaboration. He encouraged the group to keep this in mind as they move forward with working on the projects listed above.