

CLFLWD CAC Meeting

September 6, 2016

Meeting Summary

5:00 – 6:30 PM

- Update on WSD activities
 - The CLFLWD Board of Managers will be holding a public hearing for the draft 2017 budget this Thursday (September 8th) at the District office from 3:00-5:00 pm. Members of the public are encouraged to attend.
 - Progress is being made on commencing the Forest Lake Wetland Treatment Basin project and Moody Lake Wetland Rehabilitation project. Construction on both will begin this winter.
 - Five BWSR Clean Water Fund grant applications were submitted by District staff in the last few weeks. The largest project included in the applications is a one million dollar water reuse project at Forest Hills golf course near Shields Lake. If funded, this project will help the golf course transition to using surface water from a drainage ditch for course irrigation, rather than relying on groundwater.
 - The District's native plant grant project, which is new this year, is receiving a lot of interest from the public. Ten projects have already been approved for this year, which is a dramatic increase from the one cost-share project that was approved in 2015.

- Jerry G. described the purpose of the CAC to Melanie Castellano-Swanson, a first-time meeting attendee who may be interested in joining the group. Melanie is a candidate of the St. Croix Master Watershed Stewards program and is interesting in working with District staff to complete her capstone project. After briefly introducing herself, Melanie told the group that she is running for Forest Lake City Council this year.

- Update on Master education program
 - Meeting with Mike Miron
 - District staff and Jerry G. have continued to meet with Mike Miron from Forest Lake High School to discuss potential collaboration opportunities.

- District staff and volunteers plan to host a fieldtrip in Lakeside Park on September 27th where students from Mike Miron's natural resources class will learn about water quality sampling.
 - The District also plans to purchase native plant seeds for the high school that can be grown in the greenhouse over the winter. These plants could be sold to District plant grant recipients next summer.
 - Another potential fieldtrip that the group discussed is to bring high school students to the site of a District capital improvement project while it is being constructed.
 - Curt Sparks mentioned that BWSR has a water-themed school curriculum that we could use at the high school.
- Update on Welcome Coolers for new lake residents
 - Jack M. continues to move his capstone project forward and is looking for monetary support from local organizations. He is going to be filling small coolers with informational material about lakeshore stewardship and distributing them to new Forest, Comfort, and Bone Lake residents. Since the cooler delivery will likely take quite a bit of time, Jack is attempting to find volunteers from the lake associations to assist him in going door to door to hand out the coolers. Jack plans to have his project completed by mid-October.
 - Jerry G. mentioned that approximately 40-70 homes turn over annually on Forest, Bone, and Comfort Lakes combined, so there is no shortage of new lake residents to visit.
 - Curt S. mentioned that Aitkin County has a similar program where they distribute shoreline stewardship information to new residents. He said that he would try to find a copy of the handout so that Jack and District staff could see it.
 - Jerry G. asked if CAC members have any interest in going door to door with the lake association members for this project.
- Decide on Next Action steps for CAC for 2017
 - Jerry G. mention how the CAC's K-12 education initiatives are being moved forward. He asked the group what they want the CAC to be involved with in 2017. Mike S. agreed to research what is being done by CAC groups for other watershed districts.
 - Several of the CAC members seem interested in taking part in a bus tour of District capital improvement projects. Jessica L., the District Watershed Assistant, is researching bus costs and will proceed with organizing a bus tour for District Managers, staff, and CAC members.

- The CAC members expressed interest in working with the City of Forest Lake Park Parks, Lakes, and Trails Commission to implement their comprehensive park plan.

- Additional CAC members
 - Jerry G. mentioned that he would like to recruit additional CAC members and encouraged the attending members to think of ways to do this.