

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
COMFORT LAKE – FOREST LAKE
WATERSHED DISTRICT
Thursday, August 13, 2015**

1. Call to Order

The President called the August 13, 2015 Special Board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Forest Lake City Offices, 1408 Lake Street South, Forest Lake.

Present: President Richard Damchik, Vice President Jackie Anderson, Treasurer Jon Spence, Secretary Wayne Moe and Assistant Treasurer Stephen Schmaltz.

Others: Michael Kinney and Emily Schmitz (CLFLWD staff), Chuck Holtman (Smith Partners), Greg Grasko, Meghan Funke and Cecilio Olivier (EOR), Mark Lobermeier (City of Wyoming), Jerry Grundtner (CAC member), Margie Schmidt (Bone Lake Association), Christine Wawrzaszek (resident on Comfort Lake).

2. Setting of Meeting Agenda

Manager Moe moved to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Manager Anderson. Upon vote, the motion carried 5-0.

3. Public Open Forum

Christine Wawrzaszek introduced herself as a resident on Comfort Lake and part of the Eurasian watermilfoil Task Force. She stated that this is her first watershed meeting and she is very interested in treatment for Eurasian watermilfoil on Comfort Lake.

4. New Business

a) Watershed Specialist Training Program

Administrator Kinney reported that this training would be a good opportunity for our technician to learn new things and there is no line item in the budget for this level of training. Manager Moe moved to fund the training. Seconded by Manager Spence. Discussion. Upon vote, the motion carried 5-0. Manager Anderson stated that the Administrator has the authority to make this decision without Board action, but keeping the Board informed is useful.

b) AIS and MAWD Legislative Agenda

Manager Anderson stated that the District has discussed things that are inhibiting our ability to act quickly when AIS or other things are happening in the watershed, specifically on the lakes. She suggested that the Board can be thinking about suggestions we can make to MAWD about the 2016 Legislative agenda and resolutions be added to an agenda in September. Mr. Holtman noted that AIS is an area where watershed districts are active and that though resolutions do not have to go through Metro MAWD, it could be helpful to undertake some coordination to the extent that an AIS motion could go to MAWD with some level of consensus or support among other districts. It was agreed to get resolution suggestions to Administrator Kinney by September 1.

c) Draft TCMA Chloride TMDL and WRAPS

Dr. Funke presented the study and results and asked if the Board would like to put public comments together. Briefly the study covered the seven county metro area with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency focusing on chloride because it is toxic to aquatic life. The source is mostly from deicing salts. In rural areas, there are a lot of chloride inputs from water softening salts as they go through the waste water systems and are discharged to lakes and streams. The study also found an increase in chlorides in groundwater. It looked at high-risk lakes and streams. Nineteen lakes, four wetlands and 16 streams are impaired due to chronic exposure to chloride. Dr. Funke highlighted other interesting aspects of the report such as a map of chloride loads.

d) Pollutants of Emerging Concern

Dr. Funke gave a presentation on pollutants of emerging concern in lakes and streams. EOR developed a technical memo regarding this topic in response to recent news articles about a new study released by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) that confirms that lakes and streams across Minnesota are contaminated by pharmaceuticals, cosmetic ingredients, and endocrine (or hormone)-disrupting compounds. Dr. Funke summarized the results from the MPCA's study, and gave a recommendation for what watershed districts can do with this information. The study found that chemicals in medications and products used by humans can get into waterbodies through septic system and wastewater treatment plant outflow. These chemicals tend to be long lasting and aren't readily broken down in the natural environment, meaning they can persist in a waterbody for a long time. The biggest concern is the effect that these chemicals have on aquatic organisms, especially fish. Effects that these chemicals have on human health are not alarming. Dr. Funke went on to recommend the District add a "pollutants of emerging concern" segment to its water quality education program. She explained that until scientists better understand the effects of these chemicals on aquatic and human health and because of the persistence of these chemicals in our lakes and streams, the best action watershed district residents can take right now is limiting the transport of these chemicals to our lakes and streams by avoiding flushing unwanted medicines down the toilet (which then end up in lakes and streams through septic system and wastewater treatment plant outflow). Better alternatives include taking the drugs to a medication collection site or mixing them with vinegar or cat litter to discourage ingestion and throwing them in the trash in a sealed container.

5. Old Business

a) Revised Stream Monitoring Proposed Scope of Work

Dr. Funke presented the revised scope of work. Revisions to the original scope of work were made in response to Board comments at the July 23 regular board meeting. In the original scope of work the total cost was \$24,559 to conduct stream biotic monitoring, assess stream habitat and condition, identify near-stream bacteria sources, and recommend feasible Little Comfort Lake tributary flow monitoring locations. The revised scope of work had a total cost of \$6,281 to conduct field reconnaissance, recommend feasible Little Comfort Lake tributary flow monitoring locations, and summarize potential near-stream bacteria sources observed during the field reconnaissance.

Manager Anderson moved to accept the revised scope of work. Seconded by Manager Moe. Discussion. Upon vote, the motion carried 5-0.

b) Comfort Lake Treatment Update

District staff provided the Board with an update on the status of Eurasian watermilfoil treatment on Comfort Lake. Lake Management Inc. performed herbicide treatment on 0.52 acres of Eurasian watermilfoil on August 10. The treatment area was significantly smaller than originally proposed due to the Department of Natural Resource's requirement to maintain a 50-foot buffer between treatment areas and water lilies.

c) Update on Progress on Lake Vegetation Management Plans

District staff indicated that they are continuing coordination with EOR and DNR staff to complete lake vegetation management plans for Forest Lake, Bone Lake, Comfort Lake and Shields Lake.

d) Personnel Review

Manager Spence moved to convene in closed session to evaluate performance of the District Administrator. Seconded by Manager Schmaltz. Discussion. Upon vote, the motion carried 5-0.

The Board reconvened in open session and indicated that the outcome of the personnel discussion was to retain the services of the Administrator and increase his salary by 3% effective immediately.

6. Report of Officers and Managers – nothing to report

7. Adjourn Next Meeting – August 27, 2015

Manager Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Manager Spence. Upon vote, the motion carried 5-0.