

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE  
COMFORT LAKE – FOREST LAKE  
WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Tuesday, September 18, 2018**

**1. Call to Order**

President Anderson called the September 18, 2018 special board meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the offices of the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District at 44 Lake Street South, Suite A, Forest Lake, MN 55025.

Present: President Jackie Anderson, Vice President Jon Spence, Secretary Wayne Moe, Treasurer Steve Schmaltz

Absent: Assistant Treasurer Jackie McNamara

Others: Mike Kinney, Jessica Lindemyer, Emily Heinz (via teleconference) (CLFLWD staff); Meghan Funke (Emmons & Olivier Resources); Doug Joens (Forest Lake Lake Association)

**2. 2019 Budget Prioritization**

Administrator Kinney explained that, since the Board's past prioritization discussions have focused largely on water quality information, Dr. Meghan Funke will be giving a presentation on that topic. Dr. Funke explained that sedimentation can mean more than just soil; it can include both organic and inorganic material. She explained how understanding the ratio of inorganic to organic sedimentation can help explain the source. Organic materials may include plant and animal remains such as aquatic plants, terrestrial plants, algae and zooplankton. Inorganic materials include eroded soil both from watershed runoff and shoreland erosion. The District's deep sediment cores showed that, in Shields Lake, the sedimentation rate is five times higher than the 1800s. It is estimated that the higher sedimentation source is from watershed runoff, which may be due to the changing agricultural practices in the watershed. Moody Lake was different from Shields in that the present-day sedimentation rate is now again similar to that of the 1800s but was much higher in between at times. In Comfort Lake, the present-day sedimentation rate is roughly three times higher than the rate in the 1800s. It is estimated that the peak sedimentation in the 1930's-2005 was due to watershed sources. From 2005-2016 the sedimentation rate has been decreasing.

Dr. Funke reviewed past stream monitoring data from lake outlets and tributary streams. There are six legacy sites that have been monitored fairly consistently for the past 15 years, and therefore provide enough data to effectively assess trends. She explained that a small watershed may contribute a high volume of runoff if it has a large percentage of impervious cover or other current or historical land activities which are sources. It is important to try to keep the phosphorus concentrations low because managing volume of flow can be difficult.

The load is very dependent on the weather; dry years oftentimes have better water quality because there was less watershed runoff occurring.

Administrator Kinney explained that staff is prioritizing its monitoring budget to obtain the most useful data for project identification purposes. There is a lot of sediment in the Sunrise River channel between Bixby Park and Comfort Lake. Shallow Pond is currently acting as a phosphorus sink but needs to be protected and preserved so that it does not fill up and turn into a source. In the Six Lakes Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study, all the allocated phosphorus reductions for Comfort Lake are focused on discharge from Little Comfort Lake. Administrator Kinney explained that the Comfort Lake goal can be met by fixing Little Comfort, but the protection of Shallow Pond is still a factor. The District's 2030 water quality goals are being met in Comfort Lake, Bone Lake and Forest Lake, meaning the latest 5-year water quality averages are meeting the goals. Little Comfort, Shields, and Moody have not yet met their 2030 District goals.

Dr. Funke explained the adaptive monitoring approach to the Little Comfort Diagnostic Study. She indicated that the necessary data has been gathered, and the next step is to begin landowner coordination for projects.

The Board discussed each budget change as previously proposed by either managers or staff. There was consensus on which suggested changes to keep and which to remove. The ending result after all agreed changes was a balance of \$552,352. It was agreed that these excess budget dollars would be kept in the reserve until more information is gathered. Administrator Kinney indicated that he would work with EOR to provide an update at the next meeting on proposed next steps for the Forest Lake implementation projects. There was discussion about current and proposed monitoring efforts. Administrator Kinney stressed the importance of collecting data in order to identify cost-effective projects which will save District funds while also making for strong grant proposals.

[Manager Spence left the meeting.]

There was further discussion about monitoring and data collection.

### **3. Adjourn**

#### **a) Next regular board meeting – September 27, 2018**

Manager Schmaltz moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Manager Moe. Upon vote, the motion carried 3-0, and the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Wayne S. Moe, Secretary \_\_\_\_\_