

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING
OF THE
COMFORT LAKE-FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
CITY OF FOREST LAKE
AND FOREST LAKE LAKE ASSOCIATION
Monday, August 26, 2019**

1. Call to Order

Councilmember Sam Husnik called the joint meeting to order at 8:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Forest Lake City Center, 1408 Lake Street South, Forest Lake.

Attendees representing Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District: President Jon Spence, Vice President Jackie Anderson, Secretary Jen Oknich, Treasurer Steve Schmaltz (also a board member of the Forest Lake Lake Association), Mike Kinney (District Administrator), Meghan Funke (District Engineer, Emmons & Olivier Resources)

Absent: Assistant Treasurer Wayne Moe

Attendees representing City of Forest Lake: Mayor Mara Bain, Councilmembers Paul Girard, Sam Husnik, Kelly Monson, Kathy Bystrom; Dave Adams (Public Works Director), Ryan Goodman (City Engineer, Bolton & Menk), Patrick Casey (City Administrator)

Attendees representing Forest Lake Lake Association: President Jerry Grundtner, Board Members Ross Ohman, Doug Joens, Beth Burlingame, Kenneth Wood

Others: Angie Hong (East Metro Water Resources Education Program); Jamie Jenson (Developer)

2. Discussion

Members of each group briefly introduced themselves and the organization they represented.

Jerry Grundtner began discussion of the City's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit and his request for increased transparency with regard to spending on that program. There was a budget review as well as multi-year project schedule and expenditures presented. The City's efforts to ensure cleanliness of Forest Lake were recognized and it was recommended that the City develop a 2 to 5-year plan to continue moving forward with lake concerns. Mr. Grundtner requested that more information be communicated to the residents and transparency should be increased.

It was noted that, compared to other areas which have lakes, Forest Lake is undercharging for surface water management fees. The city needs to generate more revenue to accomplish area projects because the current budget of \$455,000 is inadequate.

Watershed Administrator Kinney complimented Public Works Director, Dave Adams, for his efforts surrounding the lake, for example, the street sweeper. He described how the enhanced street sweeping program began with a study including cost-benefit analysis of sweeping effects on pollutant reductions to area lakes.

The Watershed District noted that mapping of water infrastructure, including culvert dimensions and inverts, is important for watershed planning and project implementation. There was discussion about how water flows in the watershed, water quality improvement projects, partnerships and grant proposals.

Road terminations were also discussed in regard to city and non-city owned properties. The Watershed District suggested partnering to make enhancements to lake-adjacent dead-end streets.

Questions were brought up regarding the downtown area and redevelopment in terms of surface water runoff. Watershed Manager Jackie Anderson explained past collaboration between the City and the Watershed District to treat stormwater runoff associated with downtown development. Examples included stormwater ponds, iron-enhanced sand filters and underground stormwater treatment devices. Watershed Administrator Kinney described plans for a regional stormwater treatment facility and how developers can pay into the stormwater impact fund as an alternative to meeting the Watershed District's stormwater requirements on a development site. City Administrator Casey expressed that there should be some commonsense development alternatives and there needs to be standardized rules so developers are not driven away. Councilmember Husnik noted the importance of protecting Forest Lake and suggested finding a cooperative way to come to an agreement on development regulations. He suggested increasing public education as a means of protecting the lake as well.

City-owned parcels surrounding the lake were discussed and it was noted that the Watershed District and Lake Association feel more can be done with these parcels to enhance the lake, for example, putting gates across to prevent boat launching.

The Forest Lake plant harvester was discussed, and it was noted that the City has supported the harvester and the responsibility for disposal of native vegetation. The Lake Association indicated they are willing to pay for an operator to run the harvester on a full-time basis next year but would like the City to pay for the maintenance and fuel for the harvester.

The 2020 City budget was discussed with regard to taxes and use of the lake by those living on the lake versus those who don't. Park and lake funding was also discussed. The Watershed District and Lake Association asked the council and staff to consider raising funds.

The public dock at Lakeside Park was discussed and the group requested that the City separate the 80-foot dock into two 40-foot docks along with access improvements.

It was mentioned that the Watershed District will host a 20th anniversary event on Saturday, September 21, 2019 to tour major projects around the district.

Ryan Goodman noted that the Watershed Districts (Comfort Lake-Forest Lake WD and Rice Creek WD) currently attend any project meetings the City presents or has in place and that the Forest Lake Lake Association is welcome to attend the meetings as well.

3. Adjourn

Jen Oknich, Secretary _____