

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE  
COMFORT LAKE–FOREST LAKE  
WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Thursday, September 5, 2019**

**1. Call to Order**

President Spence called the September 5, 2019 special board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the offices of the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District, 44 Lake Street South, Suite A, Forest Lake, MN.

Present: President Jon Spence, Vice President Jackie Anderson, Secretary Jen Oknich, Treasurer Steve Schmaltz, Assistant Treasurer Wayne Moe.

Others: Mike Kinney (CLFLWD staff), Meghan Funke (Emmons & Olivier Resources)

**2. Public Hearing – Ordering of the Shields Lake Alum Treatment Project**

Dr. Meghan Funke summarized the project. The alum treatment comprises the second and final phase of the Shields Lake Stormwater Harvest, Irrigation Reuse and Alum Treatment project. Sediment cores were collected last fall and used to prepare the alum dosing plan. The dosing rates happen to be similar to the rates which was used for the Moody Lake alum treatment. Depths of 5 feet and deeper will be treated. Following project ordering, the project will go out for bid and an applicator will be selected. The treatment must occur before October 31, otherwise the water temperatures will likely be too cold. Like the Moody Lake alum treatment, the Shields Lake alum treatment will be split into two phases – the first this fall (2019) and the second next fall (2020).

Administrator Kinney noted that the District is working with WSB & Associates to perform a carp harvest on Shields Lake this fall as well. Mr. Kinney will meet with WSB and the City of Forest Lake next week to discuss the carp harvest and access through the city park. The goal is to finish the carp harvest prior to the alum treatment so as not to disturb the lake bottom sediment and alum with the seining process. If the carp harvest gets delayed, the alum treatment can still occur this fall. Dr. Funke explained that the second half of the alum application occurring next fall will combat any sediment disturbance that may occur after the first application. There was discussion about other forms of carp removal such as box netting or bowfishing. Manager Moe expressed that bowfishing doesn't seem like it would be as effective as netting.

Manager Schmaltz asked about the risk of fish kill as a result of the alum treatment and what is being done to minimize this risk. Dr. Funke explained that about half the cost of the alum treatment is for the pH buffer. The application of a buffer simultaneously with application of alum is a requirement in the bid specifications. This requirement will prevent fish kills. For example, during the Moody Lake treatment last fall, the alum and buffer were applied simultaneously and there was no change in pH. Manager Schmaltz reiterated how

important it is to minimize fish kill due to the high visibility of the project. Dr. Funke added that Emmons & Olivier Resources (EOR) staff will follow in their own boat during the alum treatment checking pH levels.

Manager Schmaltz noted that the increase in water clarity is expected to result in increased aquatic plant growth, especially curly-leaf pondweed. He asked whether the District should try to eliminate curly-leaf pondweed prior to the alum treatment. Mr. Kinney noted that the District performed a curly-leaf pondweed treatment this spring and achieved whole-lake control. Dr. Funke noted that, due to the curly-leaf turion (seed) bank in the lake sediment, the District will perform annual treatments to keep the population under control in years to come. She explained that with shallow lakes such as Shields, general lake management will likely be continual.

**3. New Business**

**a) Shields Lake Alum Treatment Project Ordering & Bid Solicitation**

Manager Anderson moved to adopt resolution 19-09-01. Seconded by Manager Oknich. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

<b>Manager</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Jon Spence	X		
Jackie Anderson	X		
Wayne Moe	X		
Stephen Schmaltz	X		
Jen Oknich	X		

**b) October 24 Regular Board Meeting**

Mr. Kinney indicated that Manager Schmaltz is unable to attend the regularly scheduled board meeting on Thursday, October 24. In order to determine if a quorum will be present on the 24<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Kinney asked if any other managers have conflicts. Managers Spence, Anderson and Oknich indicated they would be there. Manager Moe was unsure if he would have a conflict. With three in attendance, a quorum would be reached. Managers were encouraged to notify staff if anything in their schedule changes.

**4. Old Business**

**a) 2020 Budget**

President Spence referred to the updated memo. He explained that, prior to the meeting, Manager Anderson raised concerns about the tax impact calculations represented in the original memo. It appeared that the counties' impact calculators may be incorrect. The District's levy was raised by 7.7%, while the Taxable Market Value (TMV) increased by 13.2% and the Net Tax Capacity (NTC) increased by 8.6%. However, the tax impact

calculators were indicating that the tax impact would increase by approximately 12% for an average home. Given that the TMV and NTC are increasing more than the levy, the tax impact shouldn't be increasing; rather, it should be decreasing. Staff is looking into the impact calculators to determine what went wrong. President Spence noted that there will be another opportunity for public comment on the budget in November, so the correct impact calculations could be presented at that time. He clarified that these changes to the memo have no impact to the resolution or budget itself.

Manager Moe asked about the Bone Lake Alum Treatment budget line item. Given that there is still watershed phosphorus loading entering the lake, is an alum treatment something that is ready to move forward in 2020? Mr. Kinney explained the monitoring occurring around Bone Lake including do-it-yourself (DIY) monitoring as well as samples taken by EOR in order to address watershed phosphorus loading. Manager Anderson asked if any 2019 water monitoring data has been received from Washington Conservation District (WCD). Mr. Kinney explained that he requested the preliminary data for July and August a few weeks ago. Manager Anderson indicated that this year's precipitation is the highest on record and there are going to be positives and negatives associated with that. She expressed that the District needs to have this information, otherwise it is sitting blind. Dr. Funke noted that while there is seasonal variability, most of the suspended solids settle out within the year. She explained that if a lake's inlet is close to its outlet, suspended solids can short-circuit and immediately leave the lake, especially in high flow years. There are other tributaries to the lake besides the main inlet. Dr. Funke explained that, in her review of the preliminary 2019 monitoring data from WCD she noticed that Moody Lake's surface water phosphorus concentrations are higher than normal, which is expected in a high runoff year. The bottom water is very low in phosphorus concentration, indicating the success of last fall's alum treatment. Returning to Manager Moe's original question, Dr. Funke explained that this has been a topic of conversation between her and Mr. Kinney. The funding in the 2020 budget for the Bone Lake Alum Treatment is mainly in order for the District to keep an eye on it, though the treatment may not necessarily happen. It's possible that the watershed load reductions may be sufficient for Bone Lake. If not, the funding can be spent elsewhere.

Manager Anderson moved to adopt resolution 19-09-02. Seconded by Manager Moe. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

<b>Manager</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Jon Spence	X		
Jackie Anderson	X		
Wayne Moe	X		
Stephen Schmaltz	X		
Jen Oknich	X		

President Spence stated that at the Board's regular meeting on November 21, all interested members of the public will have an opportunity to address the Board on the 2020 budget and the associated levy.

## 5. Adjourn

### a) Next regular board meeting – September 12, 2019

Manager Moe moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Manager Anderson.

Discussion: Manager Schmaltz expressed that the Board needs to determine a schedule for Administrator Kinney’s annual performance review. Mr. Kinney noted that it’s on the agenda for September 12<sup>th</sup>. Manager Anderson indicated that the managers can speak with Mr. Kinney after the meeting and prepare for the review. Manager Schmaltz requested a copy of the review form well in advance of the meeting. Manager Anderson indicated that this year’s process includes Mr. Kinney completing a self-evaluation which will be provided to the committee. Then the committee may propose an increase based on what has been brought forward by both the managers and Mr. Kinney himself. The managers’ reviews can be sent out, but they cannot be discussed among other managers or with Mr. Kinney. Manager Schmaltz expressed concern over the lack of involvement from the full board in the review process, including selecting the process itself.

Upon vote, the motion carried 5-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Jen Oknich, Secretary \_\_\_\_\_