

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP
OF THE
COMFORT LAKE – FOREST LAKE
WATERSHED DISTRICT
Thursday, November 16, 2017**

1. Call to Order

President Anderson called the November 16, 2017 board workshop to order at 5:05 p.m. in in the Forest Lake Room of the Forest Lake City Center, 1408 Lake Street South, Forest Lake.

Present: President Jackie Anderson, Vice President Jon Spence, Assistant Treasurer Jackie McNamara, Treasurer Steve Schmaltz

Absent: Secretary Wayne Moe

Others: Mike Kinney and Jessica Lindemyer (CLFLWD staff), Chuck Holtman (Smith Partners), Greg Graske and Carl Almer (Emmons and Olivier Resources)

2. Rule Revisions

President Anderson asked legal counsel for clarification with regard to statute requirements for municipalities within the District to adopt the District rules. Legal Counsel Holtman explained that local units of government may maintain their own ordinances, which can differ from the District's rules, in which case permit applicants need to comply with both sets of requirements. Alternatively, a local unit of government may adopt and enforce ordinances intended to be as protective of water resources as the District's rules, in which case on District approval of those ordinances, the District would not apply its rules within that municipality. The District cannot mandate the strictness of city ordinances. There was discussion about coordination with the municipalities within the District, and the City of Forest Lake staff's expressed desire to make the District rules less strict for roadway and redevelopment projects especially.

Engineer Graske recapped the District's original intent with the rule revisions: to incorporate elements of Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS) to make inter-agency coordination easier, but without reducing the aggressive standards currently in the rules. He also noted that the District rules have generated a number of variance requests, and this was also taken into consideration during the revisions. The objective is also to allow enough flexibility so that a high number of variances doesn't occur, while still solving the water quality problems created by years of development that did not provide for proper stormwater or water resource management. He summarized key specifics being requested by the cities, including more leniency for linear and commercial redevelopment projects. City staff has expressed that many projects are not moving forward because it would be too costly to meet the District's stormwater standards. President Anderson expressed a desire for the cities to provide factual evidence as to how compliance with District rules

imposes hardship with regard to economic development. There was discussion about means of reaching concurrence with the District's local units of government while still achieving the necessary resource protection. Manager Schmaltz suggested creating a summary of all the adjustments and simplifications that are being proposed in the revisions so that cities can see where the District is seeking to be responsive.

Carl Almer walked through key proposed revisions to Rule 2.0 Stormwater Management. Much of the rule has been restructured in order to improve readability and some triggers and standards have been changed to be more consistent with MIDS and other neighboring watershed districts. President Anderson shared her own comments and suggested additions to the proposed revisions, including clarifications to make some points or definitions clearer to readers.

[Manager McNamara arrived at 5:57 pm]

There was continued discussion about President Anderson's suggested additions to the revisions. There was agreement to postpone further discussion, including preparation for the upcoming joint workshop with the City of Forest Lake, until the regular meeting to begin shortly after adjournment of this workshop.

3. Adjourn

- a) **Next regular board meeting – November 16, 2017 at 6:30 pm in Council Chambers.**

Manager Spence moved to adjourn the workshop. Seconded by Manager Schmaltz. Upon vote, the motion carried 4-0, and the workshop was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Wayne S. Moe, Secretary _____