

**MEETING NOTES OF THE
COMFORT LAKE-FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 4th, 2020**

Present: Bruce Anderson, Tom Furey, Jack MacKenzie, Randy Schumacher, Curt Sparks

Others: Mike Kinney, Jessica Lindemyer (CLFLWD Staff), Jim Dibble (CLFLWD Board of Managers)

1. Watershed Activities Update

a) 1-23-20 Administrator's Report

The January 23rd Administrator's report was handed out to the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) members present. District Administrator, Mike Kinney, informed the Committee of the District's 2020 Clean Water Fund (CWF) grant awards. Mr. Kinney provided background on the two grants received and an overview of the related financials. The Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District (CLFLWD) received the largest single project award and received the most total dollars of any entity who received funding in the 2020 CWF cycle.

Operations and Outreach Specialist, Jessica Lindemyer, asked Mr. Kinney to provide the Committee with some background on the City of Forest Lake Joint Study Proposal which is on the board meeting agenda for the following week. Mr. Kinney summarized the information provided in the letter from the City which can be found in the online board packet and stated the District is very interested in working with the City on this study. Committee members were invited to attend the board meeting on February 13th when the topic will be discussed. It was clarified that it is not a joint meeting between the City of Forest Lake and the CLFLWD but rather a CLFLWD meeting in which the City's letter will be discussed by the managers.

Ms. Lindemyer pointed out that the presentations on the yearend aquatic invasive species and watercraft inspection reports, which were postponed at the January 23rd regular board meeting, are currently on the agenda for February 13th as well.

[Mr. Kinney departed the meeting]

b) Other

Ms. Lindemyer provided the Committee with a summary of the Girl Scouts River Valley Wonders of Water event that was held on January 11th. Over 140 Brownies from across Minnesota attended the event. Ms. Lindemyer and Angie Hong of the East Metro Water Resource Education Program lead interactive education stations on ground water and watersheds. After attending this event troops are required to implement a capstone project to complete their "wonders of water journey". The CLFLWD has offered to be a resource for local troops who may be looking for additional support in implementing their capstone project.

The Committee was reminded of the upcoming Turf Talks hosted by Committee Member Jack MacKenzie. The educational workshops are scheduled for March 21st and April 4th. Committee

members were asked to help spread the word and consider attending themselves. Ms. Lindemyer noted that the sessions are free with breakfast provided and a free gift.

2. State of the Watershed, Watershed Champion Award

Ms. Lindemyer reminded the Committee that a date and venue have been chosen for the 2nd annual State of the Watershed public meeting. It is scheduled to take place the evening of April 30th at Stella's on 97. She noted that she has met with Managers Oknich and Anderson to begin planning for the event and associated awards program. Ms. Lindemyer summarized several changes to the awards program that came out of the meeting with the managers:

- The deadline for nomination submission has been extended to March 31st.
- Projects prior to January 1st, 2016 will be considered, provided sufficient supporting documentation.
- Four nomination categories have been established: Residential/Individual, Municipal, Commercial/Community/Group, and Agricultural. Awards will be limited to one per category.
- District managers, staff, and consultants are not eligible for the award.

The Committee was reminded that the award selection committee is made up of three CAC members, one staff member, and one board member. Mr. MacKenzie indicated that he would be willing to be part of the selection committee if it could be held just prior to the CAC meeting on April 7th. Other Committee members present indicated that they were likely unavailable but would check their calendars.

There was a brief discussion about the new "Outstanding Watershed Champion Award" that will be nominated by and selected by the Board of Managers. Ms. Lindemyer indicated that she would provide more information on the award once it is available.

3. 2020 Committee Goals and Initiatives

Ms. Lindemyer provided a list of topics the CAC has been discussing in terms of goals and initiatives for 2020: Arts in the Park, neighborhood education signage, Adopt-a-Drain, and youth education (specifically in partnership with the Forest Lake Area School District).

Mr. MacKenzie inquired about the dates for Arts in the Park. Ms. Lindemyer indicated that the dates for the District attendance have not yet been determined. Once the dates have been set, she will notify the CAC, and members can sign up to host the District booth.

There was general discussion about the different ways the District could bolster resident participation in the Adopt-A-Drain program. It was noted that 17 residents adopted a drain in Forest Lake in 2019 and that adopters receive an informational kit and a sign for their lawn when they sign-up for the program. There was discussion about other incentives that would increase individuals' willingness to sign-up, such as a physical tool kit including a broom, bucket, and dustpan. This kit would likely be most effectively used by volunteers who would canvas neighborhoods informing residents of the program and helping them sign up. A similar method could be used to encourage commercial businesses in Forest Lake to adopt the drains outside their storefront.

Ms. Lindemyer informed the Committee that the District was recently approached by the Hardwood Creek Library in Forest Lake about being part of their Summer Speaker Series. The District is looking for input from the Committee on what topic(s) may be of most interest to the community. It was suggested that the street sweeping program, in conjunction with the adopt-a-drain program, would be a good topic. Depending on the set up the series perhaps the City could bring out the sweeper and/or individuals could help stencil drains out front of the Library.

Committee Member, Randy Schumacher, indicated that he would be willing to assist Mr. MacKenzie in hosting another storm drain stenciling event in 2020.

Manager Jim Dibble suggested it might be good publicity to have the street sweeper in the City's 4th of July parade.

Mr. MacKenzie brought the Committee's attention to a new initiative between the Forest Lake Area Schools and Lakes Center for Youth & Families called "Career Launch". The purpose of the initiative is to ensure students better understand career opportunities, required skills and training, and the workplace environment. Mr. MacKenzie noted that this might be a good way for the District to engage local students in the world of water resources and encourage exploration of the water resources field of study. There was general consensus among the Committee that this could be a good opportunity for both the District and local students. Ms. Lindemyer indicated that she would share the program with Administrator Kinney.

4. Election of Chairperson

Over the past year the CAC has chosen to defer the election of a Chairperson until such time that a member is interested in the position. The item will be brought forward again at the next Committee meeting.

There was discussion about member availability for the March 3rd CAC meeting. It was pointed out that the 2020 primary elections are on March 3rd. The Committee asked Ms. Lindemyer to send out an email the week prior to March 3rd asking for Committee availability. If availability is low, the meeting will be cancelled and the committee will meet again at the next scheduled meeting on April 7th.