

**WCIMEETING NOTES OF THE
COMFORT LAKE-FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, May 7th, 2019**

Present: Doug Toavs, Tom Furey, Jack MacKenzie, Sam Hathaway, Jerry Grundtner
Others: Jessica Lindemyer, Garrett Miller (CLFLWD Staff)

1. Watershed Activities Update

a) Administrator's Report

The March 28th and April 18th Administrator's Reports were handed out to the Committee Advisory Committee (CAC) members present. Watershed Assistant, Jessica Lindemyer, introduced Garrett Miller who joined the CLFLWD staff on April 1st. She noted that Mr. Miller will be the main contact for the Watercraft Inspection Program, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), and Lake Association inquiries. Ms. Lindemyer went on to mention that a sediment core was collected from Bone Lake in early March, stating that the results will be brought back to the committee once the core has been analyzed. Ms. Lindemyer stated that the 2018 Monitoring report is scheduled to be approved at the May 23rd regular board meeting. Once it has been approved, a link to the report will be sent out to the Committee via e-mail.

b) Other

The Committee inquired about the status of a board liaison. Ms. Lindemyer stated that while the Board recently approved updates to the Governance Manual, which included the CAC on the list of groups for appointed liaisons, the board has not yet appointed a specific board member to the position.

2. State of the Watershed and Watershed Champion Award Feedback

Ms. Lindemyer provided the Committee with a brief overview of the Inaugural State of the Watershed Public Meeting which was held April 30th at Mulligan's Bar & Grill at Forest Hills Golf Club. The event was well attended, with around 80 individuals present for the duration of the meeting and many sticking around after for one-on-one discussions with staff and managers.

Ms. Lindemyer asked the Committee for their feedback on the event. There was a general consensus that the venue could have been larger, but overall it did work well, and the food was very well received by all. There was a suggestion to somehow encourage more interaction with the display tables set up at the event as the materials available were excellent but only a small portion of the attendees perused the tables. Ms. Lindemyer asked if the Committee had any specific feedback on the promotion of the event and if they felt the promotion was successful. There was a general consensus among the Committee that the turn-out speaks volumes about the promotion of the event and that the promotions were successful.

3. Watershed Management Plan (WMP) Update

Ms. Lindemyer directed the Committee to the memo from Watershed Technician, Emily Heinz, which was included in their meeting packet and distributed via e-mail with the agenda several days earlier. She noted that, as stated in the memo, the District is looking to have the Committee discuss a couple of items at this meeting which include feedback on the draft WMP outreach plan and volunteers to help staff the booths for the WMP kick-off meeting on June 11th and the WMP initial planning meeting on June 20th.

Jerry Grundtner inquired about the multi-year timeline for the WMP update, expressing concern about the process potentially becoming stale in the minds of the public. The Committee recommends that the District keep its outreach communications varied so as to maintain a level of excitement and interest in the process and consider doing outreach activities in waves so that the message doesn't get to be too repetitive for audiences.

Tom Furey expressed his support for all of the upfront work and research the District does prior to applying for grants stating that he would like to see the District maintain this focus while writing the WMP update. The Committee was in agreement with this comment.

Ms. Lindemyer took some time to walk the Committee through the new website created specifically for the WMP update process, indicating where meeting information can be found and where the public survey is linked. There was some discussion about adding questions to the survey to collect contact information. Ms. Lindemyer noted that this initial survey was created by Angie Hong of the East Metro Water Resource Education Program (EMWREP) based on those used by similar organizations and the Lower St. Croix One Watershed-One Plan planning effort.

4. 2019 Committee Initiatives

a) Adopt-A-Drain

Ms. Lindemyer provided the Committee with an update on the Adopt-A-Drain program noting that the website is now live and people can log on to adopt drains in their neighborhood. She also noted that the new street sweeper is actively sweeping the streets in forest lake per the Forest Lake Street Sweeping Plan.

The Committee took some time to navigate the map on the Adopt-A-Drain webpage looking at the storm drains available. There was some discussion about storm drains that were potentially missing from the map. Ms. Lindemyer indicated that she would check with Ms. Hong at EMWREP about the accuracy of the map and the potential missing drains.

b) Lake Tours for Local Officials

Ms. Lindemyer provided a recap of this discussion from the March Committee meeting, stating that the breakdown of responsibilities as she understood them was that the

District would help with planning, scheduling, promotion, and provide a representative to be on each tour with information about the lake while the lake associations would provide the watercraft and personally invite their respective officials. She asked the Committee for volunteers to assist in coordinating these events. Mr. Grundtner indicated that the Forest Lake Lake Association (FLLA) is already in the process of implementing a lake tour for local officials. He noted that the District would be invited to speak and provide materials for the tour, but the event would primarily be an FLLA event and not a Watershed District Event. The lake tour is currently scheduled for some time in July. Mr. Grundtner noted that he would notify the District once a specific date has been set.

Mr. Furey indicated that he would speak with the Bone Lake Association to gauge their interest in hosting a similar lake tour on Bone Lake. Ms. Lindemyer added that she would similarly reach out to the Comfort Lake Association considering the Committee members from Comfort Lake were not in attendance.

c) CAC Roles and Responsibilities

This item was last discussed at the March CAC meeting where the Committee asked District Staff for more information on the guidance documents other CACs utilize in order to help provide clarity on the purpose, role, and expectations of the CAC.

Ms. Lindemyer referenced an email she sent out in early April, which contained links to the materials utilized by other CACs. She stated that she included the one from Vadnais Lakes Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO) in this month's meeting packet as it appeared to potentially be a good template for the CAC. There was a general consensus that the VLAWMO form would be a good template for the Committee to work off of.

Jack MacKenzie asked the Committee for ideas on what the next step in the process should look like, proposing the idea of doing a SWOT analysis at the next meeting. The SWOT analysis is a process in which groups or organizations identify their internal strengths and weaknesses, as well as its external opportunities and threats.

Mr. Grundtner suggested the Committee utilize the next meeting to create a draft framework built off of the VLAWMO form that can then be presented to the Board of Managers for comments at the June regular board meeting.

The Committee was receptive of both ideas, agreeing that the purpose of the next CAC meeting would be to do an analysis and draft an initial framework for Board consideration.

5. Election of new Chairperson

There was consensus among the present Committee members that any election of a new Chairperson should occur once the new framework is in place so that the individual has a clear understanding of the associated responsibilities of the position.

MEMORANDUM
Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

To: Board of Managers

Date: May 7, 2019

From: Citizen Advisory Committee

Subject: Initial Comments on Watershed Management Plan Update

Introduction

The Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) has reviewed the draft Outreach Plan, proposed update timeline, and considered other sources of information such as the existing Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District (CLFLWD) Watershed Management Plan (WMP) and provides its initial comments in this memo. The CAC will review further plan update documents as the process progresses, and it will provide additional comments at the appropriate times.

Initial Comments on CLFLWD Plan Update

The timeframe for the WMP update is approximately 2 years. As such, the CAC recommends that the District keep its outreach communications varied so as to maintain a level of excitement and interest, rather than, for example, creating one post at the beginning of the process and not updating it. Consider doing outreach activities in waves so that the message doesn't get "stale" for audiences.

In writing the WMP update, the District should maintain its focus on performing pre-grant diagnostic monitoring work in order to gather valuable information which can be used to obtain grants for projects. The District has been successful in this endeavor in the past and should continue to do so over the next 10-year period of watershed planning.

The WMP update is very complete. It covers the whole community with the emphasis needed to get the best product. As we work to bring stakeholders together for the development of a community education and involvement program the plan update can be the process for connecting them together. We would suggest the District put together a consistent message that offers to the stakeholders a meaningful activity/program for success.

Here are suggestions on the layout of a message that can be taken to each partner.

1. Identify the value of the resource
2. What benefit does it provide to the community (focus on the organization you are presenting to with their mission/purpose)
3. What are the issues
4. What organizations are leading the plan for solutions
5. What are the solutions
6. What will be the measure of success

This presentation and handouts should be used for all the outreach meetings. It can be in the form of a YouTube-type presentation or PowerPoint with audio. The message is: "You can be an important player in this important program." Then give examples of how we want them to be involved. Leave with a request for a contact to follow-up with them on how they be involved (i.e. assign someone to do "the right thing" in the context of their organization).

MEMORANDUM

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

Can we find a slogan to use, such as “Clean water is the right thing for all of us”? Make it something that is true for everyone.

A second comment is how the plan leads into the overall water resource effort in the Lower St Croix. We should be looking to the long-term attitude addressing the need for change in the way we treat our water. We need to instill the practice in people that makes them always, as a habit, do the right thing. Example: I never throw a paper/container on the ground (litter). It is built into who I am. I just never litter. In fact, I pick up litter when I have the chance. If this was the attitude of everyone the environment would be better for it. My children would never litter because they grew up not to do that. If it is part of who you are it solves the problem parentally.

The CLFLWD 6-Lake Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Study and Implementation Plan should be a driver in the plan along with the message that clean water is for everyone.