

**MEETING NOTES OF THE
COMFORT LAKE-FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, August 6th, 2019**

Present: Tom Furey, Bruce Anderson, Jerry Grundtner, Randy Schumacher
Others: Jessica Lindemyer (CLFLWD Staff), Jon Spence (Board President)

1. Watershed Activities Update

a) Administrator's Report

The July 25th Administrator's report was handed out to the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) members present. Watershed Assistant, Jessica Lindemyer, highlighted several items from the report providing the Committee an overview of the LimnoTech DIY Monitoring progress, Claros in-lake trials, School Lake sediment core collection, shoreline property direct outreach, and the date of the next Watershed Management Plan update discussion which is scheduled for September 12th. Ms. Lindemyer noted that staff would be hosting a booth at Arts in the Park at Lakeside Memorial Park in Forest Lake on Tuesday, August 13th. She asked that any Committee Members interested in volunteering to help host the booth contact her by the end of the week. The Committee was reminded of upcoming meeting dates for the Board of Managers, specifically regarding the public hearing for the 2020 budget scheduled for August 22nd.

b) Other

Ms. Lindemyer brought the Committee's attention to the email enclosed in the meeting packet from Angie Hong regarding free cigarette disposal receptacles.

Ms. Lindemyer provided an updated on the planning for the Wonders of Water Journey scheduled for January in partnership with Girl Scouts River Valley (GSRV). She noted that she met with the GSRV Program Coordinator and Angie Hong of East Metro Water Resource Education Program (EMWREP) in mid-July to discuss logistics and pick activities. The event will be broken down into three 30-minute stations that the girl scouts will rotate through. She asked Committee members to consider volunteering for the event as over 160 girls are expected to attend the event.

2. CAC Roles and Responsibilities

Ms. Lindemyer stated that the Roles and Responsibilities Document which was finalized at the July CAC meeting was presented to the Board of Managers at their July 25th regular board meeting. By unanimous consent, the Board concurred with the document as presented and as such no further action is needed by the CAC unless further changes are desired. The Committee expressed its satisfaction with the document in its current state.

The discussion moved on to how the Committee should go about implementing the document, when and how current members should go about picking their individual roles, and what the expectations should be in terms of commitment to those roles. There was consensus that the item should be brought forward to the September meeting at which time Committee members should be prepared to pick their individual roles with the understanding that it may take several months for everyone to settle into their roles.

3. 2019 Committee Initiatives

At the July meeting the Committee requested to revisit the initiatives set for 2019. Ms. Lindemyer provided a brief update on the Adopt-A-Drain program, stating that at this time, the District has committed to funding a welcome kit for 50 drain adopters. The welcome kit includes informational materials and a yard sign which states “We protect Forest Lake”. She noted that as the program expands in the area and drains are added into the system around other lakes, such as Lake Keewahtin, signs will be produced for those lakes as well. Committee member, Jerry Grundtner, inquired about how the District intends to market the program. Ms. Lindemyer indicated that she is currently working with Angie Hong of EMWREP on designating a pilot area to really focus initial efforts on. She also noted that this program, having been marked a priority initiative by the CAC, would be an excellent area for CAC members to get involved in drumming up interest.

Mr. Grundtner provided the Committee with an update of the efforts undertaken by the Forest Lake Lake Association to host a lake tour for local officials out on Forest Lake. He noted that the idea has largely been scrapped due to the potential conflicts arising from the open meeting law. The lake association has instead set up a meeting between the District and the city for lake August. There was general consensus among the Committee that other local officials would run into the same problem.

Committee member Curt Sparks asked that a discussion of the Jeffers Foundation partnership efforts be added to the list for the next meeting. Ms. Lindemyer asked for clarification regarding what specific aspects of the effort would be appropriate for the CAC to undertake. Mr. Sparks explained that the discussion is really about a larger education program and the vision for the future. He described the wetland curriculum he has been developing for 3rd and 4th graders. Mr. Sparks concluded that he would supply Ms. Lindemyer with the documents relevant to the discussion for the September meeting to be included with the meeting materials.

Committee member Tom Furey suggested that some of the committee members may be interested in learning more about, and getting involved in, the DIY Monitoring initiative currently being undertaken by the District. He noted that both himself and Mr. Grundtner had attended the initial training for the program and are providing feedback to the trainer.

4. 2020 Budget

Ms. Lindemyer brought the Committee’s attention to the 2020 budget of which electronic copies were distributed via email the day before, and printed copies presented at the meeting. She reminded the Committee that the public hearing for the 2020 budget would be August 22nd and

that any comment the Committee wished to share would be presented at the same meeting. Ms. Lindemyer highlighted three main items of the budget: the proposed levy of \$1,400,00 is an increase of \$100,000 from last year to make up for delinquent taxes, loan funds comprise \$600,000 of the revenue budget, and the CAC initiatives budget of \$5,000 (which is the same as last year) is located in line item 3-005-A. She then opened the floor for Committee discussion, noting that Board President Jon Spence is available for questions as well.

Mr. Grundtner asked if the District had budgeted for a vehicle and watercraft in the 2020 budget. Ms. Lindemyer and President Spence confirmed that those items are incorporated in the budget under line item 3-010-A.

There was discussion about the Clean Water Partnership Loan the District is utilizing to fund part of the budget. President Spence informed the Committee that the loan is interest-free and repayment does not begin until 2021 at which time the District will make semi-annual payments of \$75,000 until the loan is repaid.

There was discussion about if, and when, the District would recoup the delinquent taxes.

5. Election of Chairperson

Over the past several meetings the CAC has chosen to defer the election of a Chairperson in favor of finalizing the Roles and Responsibilities document so that the individuals volunteering for the position have a better understanding of what the position entails. Mr. Furey stated that he would be interested in the position of Chair starting in 2020 but is too busy to step forward at this time. No other individuals indicated interest in the position. The item will be brought forward again at the September meeting.