

**MINUTES OF THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)
OF THE
COMFORT LAKE -FOREST LAKE
WATERSHED DISTRICT**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2007

1) **Call to Order**

Administrator Anhorn called the CAC meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Forest Lake City Offices, 220 North Lake Street, Forest Lake, Minnesota

Present: Beryl Halldorson and Sam Hathaway
Staff: Randy Anhorn

2) **Introductions/Member Updates**

Each CAC member introduced themselves and provided updates about activities, conditions, and concerns about areas within the watershed.

3) **Discuss scope of the CAC**

Administrator Anhorn stated that he had simplified the general scope of the CAC and wondered what the CAC thought.

The Comfort Lake - Forest Lake Watershed District Watershed (CLFLWD) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is an advisory group that is made up of volunteers who advise the Board of Managers on water-related community concerns and issues. The CAC's purpose, as established by the Board of Managers is to provide public input to the CLFLWD regarding policy and project matters, provide a channel of communication to the Board Managers, aid in fostering a positive public image of the CLFLWD, and help to educate the public about the CLFLWD's goals and accomplishments.

The CAC meets quarterly throughout the year and at project milestones during the concept phase of project development. These meetings allow members to discuss water-related issues, project alternatives and encourage participation in project decision-making where applicable. The CAC plays an important role in helping develop various aspects of each.

The CAC discussed the need to keep the scope and structure of the committee informal until a larger group is able to be recruited.

Administrator Anhorn mentioned that he is going to run a press release in the local papers and on the District's website, seeking interested people to become members of the CAC

4) **Update of District Activities**

Administrator Anhorn updated the CAC on the recent activities of District's 2007 work plan. Anhorn presented the following:

a) **Lake and Stream Monitoring. Completed**

- *The District contracted for monitoring services with Washington Conservation Services to conduct monitoring of 7 stream sites and 4 lakes (Birch, Moody, School, and Shields lakes) in 2007.*
- *The District monitored 5 additional lakes (Bone, Comfort, Forest, Little Comfort, and Sylvan lakes) with the use of volunteers in 2007 in conjunction with the Metropolitan Council's Citizen-Assisted Monitoring Program(CAMP)*
- *The District conducted macrophyte surveys for Birch and School Lakes (2 each-June and September).*
- *Zooplankton samples were collected on Sylvan to determine Daphnia populations.*
- *The District set-up 2008 monitoring schedule and will be submitting for MPCA Surface Water Assessment Program grant.*

b) **Water Quality (load allocation) Modeling and Design Services. Ongoing.**

- *At the August 21st Budget Workshop, the Board picked projects for preliminary design and associated cost projections.*
- *Wenck has presented it draft report of the Capitol Improvement Plan at the October 25, 2007 regular Board meeting.*

c) **Rules and Regulations. Ongoing.**

- *Draft rules are completed and just finished initial legal review.*
- *After Board approval the draft rules will be sent out to the local communities and members of the TAC/CAC and start meeting process.*

d) **Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). Ongoing.**

- *The District prepared a draft TMDL Work Plan (for submittal for Clean Water Legacy Funds) and submitted to Craig Affeldt (MPCA) for preliminary review.*
- *It is anticipated that the District will be signing a contractual agreement with MPCA within the next month to official start the process.*
- *It is currently planned to have Craig Affeldt from the MPCA at the November 13, 2007 Board meeting..*
- *In addition, the District continues to attend meetings of the Sunrise River study/TMDL Task Force. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Chisago County are initiating a study/TMDL of the Sunrise River Watershed which will result in the development of a watershed-based plan for aquatic ecosystem and water quality management and restoration within the watershed that integrates all aquatic resources – lakes, rivers and wetlands – and considers the influence of current and future watershed runoff scenarios.*

e) **Education**

- a) **Website**— Completed. clflwd.org
- b) **East Metro Water Resource Education Program**— *Nothing on this specifically to date. We have, however, hosted a “Planting for Clean Water workshop, and a watershed tour, and hosted a nitrate testing clinic on June 30, 2007as well as other “educational” gatherings.*
- c) **Map/Brochure**—Nothing on this to date.
- d) **Signage**—Nothing on this to date.
- e) **Stormsewer stenciling (partner w/ City of Forest Lake)**—Completed.
 - There is the possibility that we may have the Scouts go out again this fall and stencil other areas around Forest Lake.
- f) **Free nitrate testing clinic**—Completed.
- g) **Other.**
 - The CLFLWD Administrator has presented at the following
 - The Comfort Lake Association annual meeting
 - The Planting for Clean Water Workshop
 - The Forest Lake Association initial kick off meeting
 - The Forest Lake Rotary Club on October 3, 2007.

f) **Bone Lake shoreland restoration and City of Forest Lake dead-end street projects**—

- *The District in partnership with Great River Greening has submitted an application for a DNR “Shoreline Vegetation Grant” to help fund these projects and well has fund a few others as they are submitted (\$50,000 request).*

g) **Citizen Involvement.**

- *One CAC meeting was held on June 25, 2007 and another is scheduled for October 29, 2007. The CAC will be involved in the Districts review of their draft rules and will have a representative on the Districts BMP Cost-Share Program project selection committee.*
- **Develop and prioritize a Capitol Improvement Program (CIP) Schedule-- In Process.**
- *The Final Report from the Wenck Study was presented ath the District’s October25, 2007 regular Board meeting.*
- *The District is looking into amending the current Watershed Management Plan with the updated CIP as well as defining Lake Management Districts and amending them in their plan.*

h) **Other projects which address “hotspots” within the watershed, which become available through grants, and/or great public/stakeholder interest or benefit.**

To date, the District consulted to have:

- *two Beaver dams removed*
- *debris clogging the grate of the Forest Lake Outlet Dam cleared (five times)*

- *repaired the aeration system on Shields Lake*
- *partnered with Chisago County SWCD on a BWSR challenge grant for cost-share on shoreland stabilization and rain gardens*
- *partnered with Great River Greening and the City of Forest Lake on a DNR Shoreland Habitat Grant (\$50,000).*
- *passed Board resolution to seek designation as a Metro watershed under 103B. The District has been in the process of seeking support from local communities and counties as well as Legislators.*
- *presented an LCCMR grant application request (\$125,900) entitled “Social Marketing to Develop and Implement a Shoreline Buffer Incentive Program” in front of LCCMR panel.*
- *the District received a petition to levy to establish and support a BMP cost-share incentive program. The District, in partnership with Chisago and Washington SWCDs, is in the process developing the program in order to implement it in 2008.*

The group discussed the benefits of a BMP cost-share program and specifics of the draft CIP from the Wenck water quality design services study. The consensus from the group was that emphasis should be placed on implementing projects at the beginning of the watershed because they will all have an impact on the water quality at the end of the watershed. The group also discussed other prioritization methods including the ability for specific projects to qualify for outside funds (private, state, or federal). The group thought that if a project were able to get the majority of it funded through an outside source and reduce the burden of taxpayers, the project should be highly prioritized.

The group also discussed the overall price tag of the District’s draft CIP and thought the District should receive a second opinion on the projects and costs. Administrator Anhorn mentioned that the District’s engineers, EOR, will review the draft report and provide comments to the Board of Managers.

5) **Things on the District’s agenda for 2008**

Administrator Anhorn discussed items the District will be undertaking in 2008.

- a) Monitor water resources
- b) Education program (website, workshops, etc...)
- c) Adopt rules and capitol improvement plan (CIP) and define lake management districts
- d) Amend above (c) to WMP
- e) BMP Cost-Share Program
- f) Special legislation to designate WD as a MN Statute 103B (Metro watershed district) as opposed to 103D
- g) Undertake TMDLs on impaired lakes in District
- h) Look at implementing projects from amended CIP
- i) Others
 1. Additional projects if grants come through

- a. LCCMR (\$125,900)
- b. DNR Shoreline Vegetation Grant (\$50,000)

The group discussed work plan items for 2008. The CAC provided favorable responses to the District setting up lake management district and seeking special legislation to become a metro watershed district under MN Statute 103B.

The group also discussed the District's levies of \$307,500 for 2008. Administrator Anhorn stated that the 2008 levies result in an impact of \$36.45 on a property with a taxable market value of \$250,000. Anhorn further mentioned that the total market value for all properties within the watershed was 1.86 billion in 2007.

6) **Discuss themes/topics of future CAC meetings**

Due to the low meeting turnout, there was little discussion on themes of upcoming meetings. It was mentioned that an educational component would not only be beneficial to those in attendance, but may act as a draw as well.

7) **Ideas for expanding CAC membership**

The group thought that the best method to increase CAC membership is through the use of press releases in the local papers and on the District's website. They also stated that they would each be looking for potential members, however, discussion also raised the importance to have good representation throughout the watershed as opposed to concentrated in certain areas.

8) **Schedule Next Meeting**

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for 6:00 January 28, 2008. Administrator Anhorn further mentioned that the CAC members will be invited to the next CIP stakeholder meeting as well as the rule review TAC/CAC meetings.

9) **Adjournment**