

**MEETING NOTES OF THE
COMFORT LAKE-FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Shoreline Workshop
Tuesday, September 6th, 2022**

Present: Tom Furey, Ted Hansen, Geneva Kubal, Jerry Grundtner, Randy Schumacher, Curt Sparks

Others: Doug Joens, Aidan Read

- 1.) Aidan Read, Land Management Specialist, provided a short presentation to the CAC to provide context for the conversation on shoreline restoration.
- 2.) On the topic of lakeshore inventories, members discussed the possibility of the inventories being conducted by staff to save costs; the necessity of inventories; and what the ultimate purpose of the inventories is.

The Committee agreed that attempts to conduct surveys via UAV should be avoided due to privacy concerns, and the poor response from the public that could be expected. With that in mind, remote sensing technologies should be explored that could result in improved data gathering capacity.

- 3.) Jerry Grundtner, along with several other members, emphasized that the first step of this program must be an education and outreach element. There is a considerable amount of confusion and misinformation amongst members of the public that is hindering restoration of shoreline. Over the course of the conversation, it was determined that:
 - a. An education and outreach program should provide
 - i. Regulatory clarity
 - ii. Clear examples – e.g., Shoreline idea catalog
 1. Model shorelines can be identified by staff, or with assistance from the Lake Associations
 - iii. Workshops targeting contractors (landscapers, restorationists)
 1. Randy Schumacher specifically mentioned using a “watershed preferred” list of contractors who attend the meeting as an incentive.
 - iv. Clearly illustrate impact on property values (positive) as well as lake impact.
 1. Curt Sparks discussed a link between water clarity and property values, as well as extrapolating pollution reduction information from one parcel to the whole lake.

- 4.) In terms of shoreline rules, the Committee discussed the confusion surrounding responsibilities and enforcement. A focus needs to be made on interagency cooperation to resolve this confusion.

- 5.) In examining the cost-share program, a recurring theme from the Committee has been that large amounts of funding need to be made available for shoreline restoration projects. Mr. Read prepared a slide demonstrating a tiered cost-share program with various levels of funding: a micro grant tier, traditional tier, and a payments tier – providing annual payments to landowners that meet the strictest shoreline criteria. One comment was that the “micro” tier of grants (such as the existing plant grant) doesn’t offer a significant amount of money that would interest many lake owners. Other comments reflected the idea that small grants can be used to “nudge” behavior changes, even if the money may not seem significant. The only concern with the tiered cost-share proposal is that the funds will not be sufficient to enact widespread change.