

CLFLWD CAC Meeting

March 7, 2017

Meeting Summary

5:00 – 6:30 PM

Attending: Jerry Grundtner, Mike Sorensen, Bruce Anderson, Jack MacKenzie, Melanie Castellano-Swanson, Nicole Meis, Sam Hathaway

- Update on WSD activities
 - The District held an open house on February 21st from 5:30-7:00 PM. The event was attended by 30-40 people, some of which had no previous experience with the District. Mike S., Jerry G., and Bruce A. attempted to recruit additional CAC members during the open house, but were not able to convince anyone to sign up. That said, the event was still considered a success.
 - Mike S. took a moment to point out the volunteer appreciation t-shirts that had been made for CAC members and Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP) members and encouraged the attending CAC members to take one on their way out of the meeting if they had not already done so.
 - Construction has been largely completed on all three of the District's current capital improvement projects, which include: the Moody Lake Wetland Rehabilitation Project, the Forest Lake Wetland Treatment Basin Project, and the Hilo Lane Stormwater Retrofit Project. Each of the projects will be finalized when site restoration and landscaping can occur in the spring.
 - Jerry G. updated the District Board of Managers about CAC activities at their February 23rd meeting and encouraged the Managers to attend a future CAC meeting if they are interested in learning more.
 - The East Metro Water Resource Education Program (EMWREP) was recently given grant money from the State of Minnesota to extend Freshwater Society's Master Water Stewards program into Washington County. The grant funding will be used to support 20 stewards through training, ten in 2018 and ten in 2019. It is likely that two stewards for both 2018 and 2019 will be sought from the CLFLWD. Interested District residents can apply in June and will begin training in

September of this year. The grant also contains money to help fund the steward's capstone projects.

- EMWREP will be co-sponsoring a workshop for realtors selling shoreline property that will take place on Thursday, March 9th. The workshop registration is now full with 50 attendees, so EMWREP is confident that this workshop will be an opportunity to education many realtors about shoreline regulations and stewardship.
 - The Washington Conservation District and EMWREP were recently given aquatic invasive species grant funds from Washington County that may be of interest to CLFLWD residents. First, they have funding to support sending 10-15 Washington County citizens through the University of Minnesota's AIS Detectors certification program, which will take place next month. Second, they plan to hold three hands-on AIS identification workshops around the county this summer, one in Forest Lake, one at Big Marine Lake, and one at Lake Elmo. The group agreed that the AIS identification workshop that will be held in Forest Lake should be advertised to all local lake associations and lake service providers.
- Update on Welcome Coolers for new lake residents
 - Jack M. has prepared letters to 300 Forest Lake residents that have purchased their homes in the last four years. He plans to introduce the project in these letters and request a time when he or another volunteer can meet with the resident to discuss shoreline stewardship and give them a cooler full of educational materials.
 - Jack has had 200 coolers made and plans to distribute them through whatever means possible. He has suggested to the Forest Lake Lake Association (FLLA) that they start holding dock-side education programs where Jack would volunteer his time to present about shoreline stewardship and distribute coolers. The FLLA seems receptive to this. Jack hopes to distribute coolers to Bone Lake and Comfort Lake residents as well.
 - Update on Forest Lake High School partnership
 - The District has purchased approximately \$70 of native plant seeds from Prairie Restorations and those seeds have been planted in the Forest Lake High School greenhouse by Mike Miron and his students. The plant seeds came in separate bags based on their species: big bluestem, wild lupine, fragrant giant hyssop, black-eyed Susan, and little bluestem.
 - It is likely that these projects will be used for a planting project somewhere around Forest Lake in May. The location has not yet been determined, but may

be one or several of the dead end street rain gardens that exist around Forest Lake. It was initially thought that the Hosanna Lutheran Church parking lot may serve as an appropriate project site, but the Church is no longer interested in moving forward with the project.

- CAC members may be contacted by Mike S. and Jerry G. and asked to serve as volunteers to oversee the high school planting field trip.
- Update on storm sewer stenciling
- Melanie Castellano-Swanson, a CAC member, explained to the group that she is interested in coordinating a storm stenciling effort in Forest Lake as her capstone project for the St. Croix Master Watershed Stewards certification program. She said that she hopes to move forward with this project in March and hopefully start the stenciling effort in April with the help of local groups such as the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts.
 - The group discussed how it would be very difficult to stencil all of the nearly 1,700 storm sewers in Forest Lake, but that this could be an ongoing project that the District supports, where several hundred storm drains are stenciled per year.
 - Melanie mentioned how she hopes to create some kind of handout or door hanger to put on houses that are near the stenciled areas. That way, homeowners can be aware of the project and perhaps be more likely to refrain from dumping unwanted material into the storm drain.
- Attendance at the Forest Lake Parks, Lakes and Trails Commission meetings
- When the CAC identified their list of priority activities for 2017, one of them was promoting attendance of CAC members at Forest Lake Parks, Lakes, and Trails Commission meetings. Jack MacKenzie is a member of this commission in addition to the District CAC, so he provided a brief summary of the types of activities that the Commission works on. He highlighted one project in particular by telling the group about how the Commission has been working to have pickleball courts built in Forest Lake.
 - Jack told the group that the Commission tends to work primarily with parks and planning social events such as the Tuesday night Arts in the Park that take place in Lakeside Park. Jack said that the Commission's involvement in lake-related projects is limited. He continued to suggest that his regular attendance at the Commission meetings may be adequate in terms of promoting CAC representation at the meetings.
 - The group agreed that Jack will serve as the primary liaison between the CAC and the Commission. They do not plan to send anyone else to regularly attend the

Commission meetings. They continued to discuss the importance of engaging any parks commissions that might exist in the Cities of Scandia and Wyoming as well.

- Other 2017 CAC activities
 - The group discussed their desire to complete a few projects in 2017, and complete them well, rather than taking on too much.

- New business
 - Jerry G. mentioned that the Forest Lake Lake Association will be hosting its annual meeting at Stella's on Thursday, April 20th, and encouraged Jack M. to attend the meeting and hand out some of his welcome coolers.