

# **CLFLWD CAC Meeting**

**August 8, 2017**

## **Meeting Summary**

**5:00 – 6:30 PM**

Attending: Jerry Grundtner, Mike Sorensen, Randy Schumacher, Sam Hathaway

- This CAC meeting will be shorter than normal, since a Board of Managers budget workshop is also occurring in the District office at the same time. When the CAC meeting is over, CAC members will be encouraged to attend the rest of the Board workshop.
  
- Update on CLFLWD activities
  - The St. Croix Watershed Research Station has been analyzing sediment cores collected from Moody Lake, Shields Lake, and Comfort Lake and will be submitting a report to the District by the end of this summer. The sediment data will provide insight into the historical condition of the lakes prior to European settlement of this area.
  - Zebra mussels were discovered in Comfort Lake in July. The lake resident who discovered the zebra mussels had recently attended an aquatic invasive species identification workshop that was hosted by the District. The mussels have now been found in five different locations throughout Comfort Lake, so eradication is not possible considering our limited suite of treatment methods.
  - The District is planning on applying for three 2018 Clean Water Fund grants from the the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR):
    - \$180,000 to conduct an alum treatment on Moody Lake
    - \$240,000 to complete conservation projects on agricultural fields in Bone Lake watershed agricultural fields
    - A yet to be determined amount to restore a wetland complex that will treat water coming out of Heims Lake before it enters Comfort Lake
  - Additionally, the City of Forest Lake is applying for \$200,000 to purchase a new street sweeper. This would allow the City to implement the enhanced street sweeping plan that is currently being developed with a 2017 Clean Water Fund

grant. There was discussion about how street sweeping is an extremely cost-efficient means of improving water quality in terms of cost per pound of phosphorus removed.

- The District has recently purchased a kayak and outfitted it with ciBioBase, a sonar scanning technology that allows for creating detailed maps of the bottoms of waterbodies. This will be used on small lakes and stormwater ponds throughout the District.
  
- Updates from Jack MacKenzie
  - Trails, Parks and Lakes commission updates
    - Mr. MacKenzie was not at the meeting, so no update was provided.
  
- Updates on other activities
  - Master Water Stewards
    - The Washington Conservation District (WCD) received a 2017 Clean Water Fund grant from BWSR to extend the Freshwater Society's Master Water Stewards program into all of Washington County. The program was previously available to Washington County residents of Rice Creek Watershed District and Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District.
    - The WCD is currently seeking two District residents who would like to become certified as Master Water Stewards. The training will consist of in-person coursework, the completion of a capstone project, and 50 volunteer hours per year to maintain certification. Interested residents are asked to contact Angie Hong ([AHong@mnwcd.org](mailto:AHong@mnwcd.org)).
  - Comments on EMWREP's Annual report
    - Angie Hong plans to attend the September 5<sup>th</sup> CAC meeting. She will provide a summary of 2017 activities and a plan for 2018 activities. CAC members are asked to bring suggestions for EMWREP to the September 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  
- Comments on 2018 CLFLWD Budget
  - The group discussed the draft 2018 CLFLWD budget. Sam H. mentioned that he is supportive of the proposed levy raise since he lives on one of the District's lakes and is personally interested in seeing that water quality improvement projects are completed. He continued on to say that District residents who do not live on lakes may be more critical of their increased taxes.

- Randy S. mentioned that if the tax levy continues to raise, District staff and Managers should continue to educate the public about what is being accomplished with the increased budget.
  - There was further discussion about the District using bonding as a means of supporting the construction of capital improvement projects.
  - This item will be on the agenda again as part of the September 5<sup>th</sup> CAC meeting. Jerry G. stressed the importance of the CAC as being a group of District residents that can provide the Board of Managers with an outsider's opinion about the budget.
- 2018 Potential Projects
    - Native wildflower plantings
      - Mike S. and Jerry G. described the native planting field trip that took place with Forest Lake High School this year. Jerry said that he thinks the CAC should expand on that program for next year and possibly identify community sites where the plantings can occur.
      - The CAC could coordinate the event with other community organizations for some kind of city-wide native planting day.
    - Storm Sewer Stenciling
      - Due to a number of unforeseen circumstances, Melanie Castellano-Swanson, a CAC member, will not be able to finish her storm sewer stenciling capstone project for Master Watershed Stewards. Jack MacKenzie, also a CAC member, is interested in finishing the project on her behalf. He would like to find volunteer help and complete a community-wide stenciling event sometime yet in 2017 or in early-2018.
    - Other types of community outreach
      - The group did not have any new ideas at this time, but agreed to start brainstorming for discussion at future CAC meetings.
      - There was discussion about how the vast majority of District residents likely do not even know that the District exists. It was suggested that new outreach events should focus on spreading awareness of the District and building positive relationships between the District and residents.
      - There was general agreement that face-to-face interaction, if possible, is preferable and likely more effective than communication via print or electronic media.
      - Also discussed was the benefit of educating K-12 students, who can then educate their families, rather than attempting to educate adults who may be more set in their ways.

- CAC members at board meetings
  - Jerry encouraged CAC members to attend Board of Managers meetings in order to meet the Managers and learn more about what is going on with the District. He thinks that a good starting point would be for CAC members to attend one Board of Managers meeting each per year. The full Board of Managers meeting schedule can be found on the District homepage, <http://www.cflwd.org/>
- Other
  - Sam H. mentioned that he would be interested in helping educate the public about aquatic invasive species. Sam recently completed the University of Minnesota AIS Detectors certification course. Mike S. mentioned that Sam could organize an AIS identification workshop for other Bone Lake residents where could teach how to identify various native and invasive plant species. Mike said that he could help Sam plan an event like that if he is interested.
- Discussion on Watershed Steward Award for 2018
  - A few area watershed districts give out steward of the year awards and the CAC is interested in starting a similar award, but a number of factors need to be decided, including: how do nominations work, what are the award criteria, etc.
  - The group agreed to discuss this item at the September CAC meeting.