

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
COMFORT LAKE–FOREST LAKE  
WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Thursday, September 10, 2020**

**1. Call to Order**

President Spence called the September 10, 2020 regular board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. via online video conference.

Present: President Jon Spence, Vice President Jackie Anderson, Secretary Jen Oknich, Treasurer Steve Schmaltz.

Absent: Assistant Treasurer Jim Dibble.

Others: Mike Kinney, Jessica Lindemyer, Emily Heinz (CLFLWD staff); Meghan Funke, Stu Grubb, Camilla Correll (Emmons & Olivier Resources); Chuck Holtman (Smith Partners).

**2. Setting of Meeting Agenda**

The Forest Lake joint board-council meeting was added to the agenda as part of item 5a Watershed Management Plan Update.

Manager Schmaltz moved to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Manager Oknich. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 3-0.

<b>Manager</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Jon Spence	X		
Jackie Anderson			X
Stephen Schmaltz	X		
Jen Oknich	X		
Jim Dibble			X

[Manager Anderson was away during the vote]

**3. Public Open Forum**

There were no comments.

**4. New Business**

- a) **Notice of Public Opportunity to Comment on 2021 Budget and Levy**

President Spence stated at the Board's regular meeting on December 17, all interested members of the public will have an opportunity to address the Board on the 2021 budget and the associated levy.

## **b) Groundwater Assessment**

Dr. Funke noted questions were raised about this during the watershed management plan (WMP) workshop this spring. Stu Grubb described Minnesota's geologic history including glacial activity and associated sediment deposits. The superior lobe sediments are generally sandy and permeable, whereas the Des Moines lobe sediments are relatively clay rich and impermeable. Forest Lake sits on top of clay-rich glacial sediments and therefore, has a different type of groundwater-surface water interaction compared to other lakes. White Bear Lake is situated on sandy soil and has more interaction with groundwater. Oneka Lake is a remnant of a glacial lake and has implications for Hardwood Creek and Washington Judicial Ditch 6 (WJD-6), even though Oneka Lake is outside CLFLWD boundaries. Mr. Grubb explained Forest Lake has a relatively small watershed compared to the size of the lake, which is unusual for a surface water-fed lake. Forest Lake has a fair amount of groundwater inflow, primarily in the southeast part of the lake, with springs that are located north of Highway 97. Forest Lake is considered a groundwater flow-through lake. The area around Forest Lake has a low probability of groundwater contamination from surface water sources.

Manager Anderson noted Forest Lake's current outlet is a manmade dam/channel. She asked if there is evidence of a natural outlet on historic maps. Dr. Funke stated maps do indicate there is a historic outlet channel. Manager Anderson asked if maps are available for southern Chisago County. Mr. Grubb noted there are some maps available for that area, but not all of the maps presented this evening are available in southern Chisago County. Manager Anderson noted there are areas in the Comfort Lake Management District (LMD) with high pollution sensitivity of near surface materials. She asked what implications that has for development. Mr. Grubb explained a watershed district may opt to not allow underground storage tanks and may require spill prevention, control and countermeasure (SPCC) plans in those areas.

Mr. Grubb displayed a map of large capacity wells in Washington and Anoka counties. There are relatively few large capacity wells in CLFLWD. There are several associated with the City of Forest Lake, a few golf course wells, and a couple of industrial wells which are relatively small. Mr. Grubb indicated he is not aware of any groundwater quantity issues in this part of the county. He indicated the District may work with MN Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) to collect more groundwater data. Mr. Grubb noted that water quality monitoring is usually performed by counties, and in general, groundwater quality in CLFLWD is good.

Dr. Funke noted the recommendations in the memo will be included in the WMP implementation section and 10-year budget. She explained staff met with local resident and retired engineer, Curt Sparks, who has provided valuable input on this topic. Manager Anderson asked for more detail on what municipalities in CLFLWD are doing

relative to groundwater. Mr. Grubb explained the municipalities would be responsible for renewing their water appropriation permit. As part of this permitting program, MnDNR is reviewing to see if there are any issues with the groundwater withdraw from those wells. He added that municipalities regularly monitor well water quality and there are not any significant issues coming from those wells. Manager Anderson suggested the District should not be duplicative of cities' efforts, but there should be proactive coordination before development occurs to protect groundwater recharge areas.

Mr. Grubb indicated one recommendation is to perform a groundwater dependent natural resource (GDNR) review, which would entail inventorying GDNRs in Chisago County and verifying existing GDNR data in Washington County. He explained this will be important for maintaining biodiversity and general watershed health. President Spence and Manager Anderson agreed inventories like this should be high priorities to complete early in the next 10-year plan, so the District can bridge information gaps and provide information to counties and other LGUs. Mr. Grubb clarified that Lake Keewahtin is groundwater dependent and Forest Lake is partially groundwater dependent.

Mr. Grubb recommended water appropriation permitting review as a top priority. He explained while the District cannot deny a permit, it can provide comments to MnDNR before MnDNR approves a permit. Mr. Grubb recommended another critical item is coordination with other watershed management organizations (WMOs) to identify the groundwatershed, especially in the area between CLFLWD and bordering watershed districts (Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District and Rice Creek Watershed District). Mr. Grubb recommended groundwater modeling is an ultimate goal, but the District may not have the resources or the need for it. He suggested the District could start with collecting some of the data to input into the model.

Manager Schmaltz suggested prioritizing the GDNR inventory which should inform future activities and prioritizing efforts surrounding Lake Keewahtin. Manager Anderson indicated she was reluctant to make a decision without having more groundwater information in southern Chisago County. President Spence agreed information gathering is important as the District aims to be a technical resource for partners. Manager Schmaltz noted existing rules and guidelines will help protect groundwater as well. There was agreement to continue discussion at a board workshop in the future.

### **c) Forest Lake Enhanced Street Sweeping Results**

Dr. Funke presented the 2019 monitoring results of the Forest Lake enhanced street sweeping program. She explained the purpose of monitoring was to evaluate the accuracy of the University of MN street sweeping calculator used to predict pollutant load recovery. Load recovery is the removal of material from street surface and is the only direct measurement available. Dr. Funke explained the District needs to make inferences to estimate pollutant load reduction in runoff discharged to downstream waterbodies. Direct reduction is larger than the reduction seen at the waterbody of

concern because of intermediate treatment occurring in stormwater ponds, swales, etc. By the end of 2019, the City ended up completing more total sweeps across all sweeping zones compared to the recommended amount. City staff devised a way to run the sweeper almost constantly throughout the summer. Dr. Funke reported, overall, total solids recovery was 2.6 times greater than the University calculator predicted, and total phosphorus recovery was 1.3 times greater. Some sweeping zones were overpredicted (i.e. the calculator thought it would remove more) and some were underpredicted (i.e. the calculator thought it would remove less), but when summed, results exceeded the calculator's prediction. Dr. Funke indicated the District could share this information with lake associations.

Manager Schmaltz asked about results from the mechanical sweeper. Dr. Funke explained the results shown are just for the vacuum sweeper. She explained the City owns two street sweepers: a mechanical sweeper and the newer regenerative air vacuum sweeper. She indicated it is harder to quantify load reductions achieved by the mechanical sweeper, but in theory, factoring it in would make the results even better. Dr. Funke noted direct drainage is the hardest to treat because it drains directly to the lake. Mr. Kinney explained the District is working with the City of Wyoming on a similar program.

## **5. Old Business**

### **a) Watershed Management Plan Update**

The Board reviewed the meeting facilitation slides for the September 21<sup>st</sup> joint meeting with the City of Forest Lake. There was agreement to highlight high priority topics with bold text and keep the rest of the information so the City can review the information in advance and refer back to it later. Ms. Heinz indicated she would send the slides and agenda to City staff.

[Manager Oknich left the meeting]

### **b) Climate Vulnerability Assessment Scope of Work**

This item was postponed to a future board meeting.

### **c) Project Updates**

There was discussion about staff and manager attendance at the September 14<sup>th</sup> Wyoming Park Advisory Committee meeting. The Board reviewed the draft presentation slides regarding the Sunrise River Tax Forfeit Project and greenway corridor coordination. There was discussion about the District's political boundary and updated hydrologic boundaries, specifically around Ashton Lake in Wyoming. There was discussion about the Tax Forfeit project, and Dr. Funke confirmed that EOR is holding off on updating the project design until further direction is given from the Board.

## 6. Summary and Approval of Board Direction

Directives from the meeting were summarized:

- EOR to revise the Groundwater Assessment information to include more information and maps for Chisago County.
- Staff to schedule a workshop in early October to discuss the groundwater assessment recommendations and Watershed Management Plan Update.
- Staff to examine the political and hydrologic boundary questions pertaining to the area around Ashton Lake.
- Administrator Kinney to communicate with Mr. Steinke and Mr. Ducharme regarding interest in land conveyance. EOR is on hold to revise project design until this matter is clear.

## 7. Adjourn

- a) Forest Lake joint board-council workshop – September 21, 2020
- b) Next regular board meeting – September 24, 2020

Manager Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Manager Schmaltz. Upon vote, the motion carried 3-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

<b>Manager</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Jon Spence	X		
Jackie Anderson	X		
Stephen Schmaltz	X		
Jen Oknich			
Jim Dibble			

Jen Oknich, Secretary \_\_\_\_\_