

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
COMFORT LAKE–FOREST LAKE
WATERSHED DISTRICT
Tuesday, May 26, 2020**

1. Call to Order

President Spence called the May 26, 2020 special board meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. via online video conference.

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

Absent: Secretary Jen Oknich, Manager Jim Dibble.

Others: Mike Kinney, Emily Heinz, Blayne Eineichner, Abigail Ernst, Trey Jonas (CLFLWD staff); Meghan Funke, Greg Graske, Camilla Correll, Rosie Russell (Emmons & Olivier Resources); Eric Alms, Nick Nistler, Cole Landgraf (MPCA); Craig Wills (MnDNR); Jen Kostrzewski (Metropolitan Council).

2. Watershed Management Plan Update – Floodplain, Stormwater Management, Resiliency Planning

Attendees were introduced, and Dr. Funke provided an overview of the District including the four Lake Management Districts (Bone, Forest, Comfort, Little Comfort lakes), general hydrologic flow patterns, and land cover classifications. Manager Anderson noted how different each Lake Management District (LMD) is, and how interconnected the lakes are in ways that might not be apparent, such as stormwater flow.

Stormwater Management

Dr. Funke reviewed existing goals for Floodplain, recommended goals for Stormwater Management and Resiliency Planning, and target areas in each LMD for each issue. She noted that the GIS data layers for land cover classification, etc. will help make goals more measurable. Manager Schmaltz indicated that areas with greater than 25% impervious surface coverage are known to be problem areas for stormwater management. Manager Anderson explained that the City of Forest Lake's stormwater runoff is a big problem for Comfort Lake. She requested that the worksheet table be revised to include Forest Lake as well as the City of Wyoming for the Comfort LMD. Camilla Correll reviewed the proposed goal for Stormwater Management: ensure no net increase in runoff rate, volume and pollutant loading from new development and redevelopment. Manager Anderson pointed out that this is essentially covered by the District's current rules. Engineer Graske explained that the rules do address this, but the goal itself is not incorporated into the District's 10-year Watershed Management Plan (WMP). He went on to explain that the issue is also addressed in more than one way; not only with the rules/permitting program, but also with

the regional stormwater treatment facility which may help exceed minimum required standards.

Mr. Graska suggested considering additional goals for stormwater management:

1. Provide stormwater treatment (likely regional treatment) for areas of the District that developed without adequate stormwater treatment (based on today's standards)
2. Ensure proper maintenance of stormwater facilities (encompasses City-owned, District-owned, or sites with maintenance agreements)
3. Address pollutants of emerging concern
4. Address planning and responsibilities for managing/maintaining stormwater conveyance routes (e.g. abandoned portions of the JD-1 ditch system that now serve as stormwater conveyance routes, but there are many other examples of old ditches and drainage-ways in the District).

Manager Anderson suggested now is a good time to discuss maintenance responsibilities with cities. Manager Schmaltz supported the idea of adding a stormwater section to the Plan, as it raises the visibility of this issue. Cole Landgraf explained the MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is in the process of reissuing the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) general permit, which will apply to the cities of Forest Lake and Wyoming. There will be new, more aggressive, standards for stormwater treatment requirements. There was discussion about the District's cost-share programs at various levels: residential (currently only \$500 plant grant program), agricultural, commercial/community, and municipal. There was agreement that other green infrastructure practices beyond raingardens should be encouraged. The cooperative enhanced street sweeping program in the City of Forest Lake has so far been successful and may be replicated in other cities, such as Wyoming.

Floodplain

There was discussion about preventing encroachment of the 100-year floodplain and ensuring no net loss of flood storage capacity within the watershed. It was noted that the District's permitting program largely defers to municipal floodplain ordinances for regulation on this issue. Craig Wills indicated that MN Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) regulates work beneath the ordinary high water (OHW) level and has numerous resources available on the MnDNR website. Mr. Graska explained the importance of having enough data to know what the actual floodplain is; this is key to enforcing floodplain protection ordinances effectively. Manager Anderson indicated the District should be a technical resource to its partners, especially in cases such as this. This will be a key item to discuss with municipalities during the Plan update process: how do we work together to ensure proper implementation of ordinances and protection of floodplain storage capacity? It was noted that the District's hydraulic and hydrologic (H&H) model update, which is currently in progress, will be a useful tool for evaluating floodplain. There was discussion about potentially adding a glossary to the Plan, so common terms such as "infrastructure" could be clearly defined.

Resiliency Planning

Ms. Correll cited the Washington County Comprehensive Plan which defines “resiliency” as having the capacity to respond, adapt, and thrive under changing conditions and realities. There are a few examples available for this topic including from Washington County and Brown’s Creek Watershed District. There was discussion about how climate adaptation and resiliency planning are already embedded in so most District programs but having a separate Issues section for this in the Plan will help bring it into focus for readers. The District should assess hazards such as extreme wind, increased rainfall, warmer winter temperatures, and ice storms. It may also conduct a vulnerability assessment which can be shared with local communities. Another objective to consider is regular review (every 5 years) and, if necessary, updates to the District Rules to account for changing conditions (e.g. revising stormwater management standards to account for changing precipitation patterns). There was general agreement that green infrastructure is a high priority item related to these issue areas in one way or another.

3. Adjourn

a) Next regular board meeting – April 23, 2020

Manager Schmaltz moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Manager Anderson. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 3-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

Manager	Aye	Nay	Absent
Jon Spence	X		
Jackie Anderson	X		
Stephen Schmaltz	X		
Jen Oknich			X
Jim Dibble			X

Jen Oknich, Secretary _____