

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
COMFORT LAKE–FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
Thursday, December 15, 2022**

**1. Call to Order**

President Schmaltz called the December 15, 2022, regular board meeting to order at 6:30 via online video conference.

Present: President Steve Schmaltz, Vice President Christopher Loth, Secretary Dave Bakke, Treasurer Jackie Anderson, Assistant Treasurer Douglas Toavs.

Absent: None.

Others: Mike Kinney, Administrator; Bobbie Law, Office Manager; Emily Heinz, Planning Coordinator; Garrett Miller, Watershed Assistant; Beth Carreño, Senior Program Manager; Mike Sandager, Permitting Coordinator (CLFLWD staff); Greg Graske, Cecilio Olivier (Emmons & Olivier Resources); Chuck Holtman (Smith Partners) Joy Hobbs, Mark Edlund; (St. Croix Watershed Research Station & Science Museum of Minnesota); Hanna Valento (City of Forest Lake); Mike Crepeau, Jeanine Hansen, R. Berglund, Ted Hanson

**2. Setting of Meeting Agenda**

Manager Bakke moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Manager Anderson. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

| <b>Manager</b>   | <b>Aye</b> | <b>Nay</b> | <b>Absent</b> | <b>Abstain</b> |
|------------------|------------|------------|---------------|----------------|
| Dave Bakke       | X          |            |               |                |
| Christopher Loth | X          |            |               |                |
| Doug Toavs       |            |            | X             |                |
| Jackie Anderson  | X          |            |               |                |
| Stephen Schmaltz | X          |            |               |                |

(Manager Toavs arrived at this time.)

**3. Consent Agenda**

- a) **Regular Board Meeting Minutes – October 13, 2022**
- b) **Regular Board Meeting Minutes – October 27, 2022**

Manager Bakke moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Manager Anderson. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

| <b>Manager</b>   | <b>Aye</b> | <b>Nay</b> | <b>Absent</b> | <b>Abstain</b> |
|------------------|------------|------------|---------------|----------------|
| Dave Bakke       | X          |            |               |                |
| Christopher Loth | X          |            |               |                |
| Doug Toavs       | X          |            |               |                |

|                  |   |  |  |  |
|------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Jackie Anderson  | X |  |  |  |
| Stephen Schmaltz | X |  |  |  |

#### 4. Public Comment on the 2023 Budget and Levy

Ms. Heinz presented an overview of the 2023 budget and levy. She highlighted the fact that the 2023 levy has no change compared to the 2022 levy. She displayed an example tax statement and explained where the District is displayed. She explained how increasing property values are affecting District residents. Manager Anderson indicated the tax amount for the District in Chisago County decreased for the 2023 year, per her tax statement. She noted that Forest Lake properties have a larger property value increase. She also noted a possible rebate for homeowners in the District.

Jeanine Hanson, President of the Comfort Lake Association, asked the Board about the status of the lake association grant program. President Schmaltz explained that the grant program will be discussed later in the meeting.

President Schmaltz invited public comment on the 2023 budget and levy. No attendee wished to offer comment.

#### 5. Public Open Forum

There were no comments.

#### 6. Citizen Advisory Committee Update

Mr. Kinney highlighted the update materials provided. He noted that he is pleased with the leadership staff is providing for this group.

#### 7. Aquatic Invasive Species Update

Mr. Miller explained that the presentation for this item is available to view as a recording on YouTube. He provided a status on the reports and noted that they are available online.

- a) 2022 AIS Program Yearend Summary
- b) 2022 Watercraft Inspection Report
- c) 2022 Blue Water Science Reports
- d) 2022 WSB Carp on Shields Lake Report

Manager Bakke thanked Mr. Miller for recording the presentation. He noted that it was well done. He mentioned that he shared the recorded presentation with the Bone Lake Association Facebook page. President Schmaltz suggested the presentation be shared with all the local lake associations.

Manager Anderson requested that Mr. Miller give some highlights for the 2022 season. Mr. Miller gave an overview of the carp population estimate project completed in 2022. He noted that the findings indicate the population estimates are below the standard threshold for needing extensive management efforts.

Mr. Miller stated that the Board would have time to review the reports, provide any comments or edits, and take action at a future meeting to accept the reports.

**8. New Business**

**a) Permit 22-038**

Mr. Sandager gave an overview of permit 22-038 including:

- Permit Name: Community Helping Hands Building Addition
- Location: West of Target in Forest Lake
- Project Plans: Addition to an existing structure along with reconstruction of an existing parking lot
- District Rules Triggered: Erosion and sediment control and stormwater management

Mr. Sandager recommended conditional approval upon receipt of the following items:

- Execution of a maintenance instrument satisfactory to the CLFLWD addressing the ongoing operation and maintenance of the proposed stormwater management features. The proposed instrument shall be provided to the District for review prior to execution, and documentation of recording with the County must be provided before permit issuance.
- Financial Assurance in the amount of \$1,000 for grading and alteration.
- Financial Assurance in the amount of \$17,000 for stormwater management or demonstration that the applicant has provided the municipality with a financial assurance, specific to the stormwater facilities, of equal or greater value.

Mr. Graske gave an overview of the site plans. He noted that more than 50% of the site will be disturbed. He highlighted the fact that the proposed plan will satisfy the rule requirements. He also recommended conditional approval.

Manager Bakke moved to approve permit application #22-038 with conditions stated in EOR’s December 7th memo regarding “Permit Application #22-038, City of Forest Lake”. Seconded by Manager Toavs. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

| <b>Manager</b>   | <b>Aye</b> | <b>Nay</b> | <b>Absent</b> | <b>Abstain</b> |
|------------------|------------|------------|---------------|----------------|
| Dave Bakke       | X          |            |               |                |
| Christopher Loth | X          |            |               |                |
| Doug Toavs       | X          |            |               |                |
| Jackie Anderson  | X          |            |               |                |
| Stephen Schmaltz | X          |            |               |                |

## **b) Forest Lake & Little Comfort Lake Paleo Sediment Cores**

Mr. Kinney introduced the St. Croix Watershed Research Station (SCWRS) representatives. He noted that the SCWRS staff and University of St. Thomas faculty and students have been partnering with the District to collect deep lake sediment core samples on District lakes. These core samples enable the District to understand the quality of the lakes prior to European settlement. He explained how the data enable District staff and managers to make best judgments regarding water quality goal setting.

Dr. Joy Hobbs with the St. Croix Watershed Research Station gave an overview of the Forest Lake and Little Comfort Lake paleo sediment core data collected in 2022.

President Schmaltz asked about iron bound phosphorus vs organic phosphorus. He requested to know the difference in the two forms of phosphorus and what their sources are. Dr. Hobbs noted that iron- and aluminum-bound phosphorus is more loosely held, and so more available to biota to fuel algae blooms. Dr. Mark Edlund spoke to the source of phosphorus and their transportation modes. He noted that, in general, phosphorus is not partitioned when it enters the lake, but becomes bound in the lake environment. President Schmaltz mentioned the alum treatment planned for Forest Lake. Dr. Edlund explained that the effectiveness of alum treatments are reduced if external nutrient sources are not addressed. Dr. Edlund discussed the different types of phosphorus binding and how geology affects District lakes.

Manager Anderson asked if the core on Little Comfort Lake was taken near the outlet to Big Comfort Lake. She highlighted a possible current in the area. She noted recent drought conditions that could account for the slight water quality improvements in 2022. She noted the goal of the District to return lake water quality to a pre-settlement condition. She highlighted the amount of sedimentation in Comfort Lake and Little Comfort Lake compared to other District lakes. Dr. Hobbs explained that the sediment data would show that a return to 1880 conditions is not a reasonable goal at this time due to the level of development. She stated that the recovery period from 1960 to 1990 would be more realistic. Dr. Edlund agreed with Dr. Hobbs' statement. He clarified that core sites are chosen based on depth profiles. He explained that the deepest flattest area in Little Comfort Lake is where the best sample can be taken, and this happens to be near the outlet. Dr. Edlund spoke to the recent drought conditions that could seriously limit the flow from Big Comfort to Little Comfort.

Manager Bakke thanked Dr. Edlund and Dr. Hobbs for presenting the information to the Board. He explained that it is his understanding that education for the future of the lake is extremely important. He noted the importance of awareness regarding best practices.

President Schmaltz thanked the presenters.

Manager Anderson moved to accept the Forest Lake & Little Comfort Lake Sediment Core Report. Seconded by Manager Toavs. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

| <b>Manager</b>   | <b>Aye</b> | <b>Nay</b> | <b>Absent</b> | <b>Abstain</b> |
|------------------|------------|------------|---------------|----------------|
| Dave Bakke       | X          |            |               |                |
| Christopher Loth | X          |            |               |                |
| Doug Toavs       | X          |            |               |                |
| Jackie Anderson  | X          |            |               |                |
| Stephen Schmaltz | X          |            |               |                |

**c) 2023 Board Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Kinney explained that the Board must annually set a meeting schedule for the coming year. He explained that this would be publicly available to anyone interested in attending District meetings. He noted that as of this time, all meetings will continue via video conference.

Manager Toavs moved to approve the 2023 Board Meeting Schedule. Seconded by Manager Anderson. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

| <b>Manager</b>   | <b>Aye</b> | <b>Nay</b> | <b>Absent</b> | <b>Abstain</b> |
|------------------|------------|------------|---------------|----------------|
| Dave Bakke       | X          |            |               |                |
| Christopher Loth | X          |            |               |                |
| Doug Toavs       | X          |            |               |                |
| Jackie Anderson  | X          |            |               |                |
| Stephen Schmaltz | X          |            |               |                |

Mr. Kinney noted that any special meetings in 2023 will be noticed according to the Open Meeting Law.

**d) Climate Resiliency Planning Grant**

Mr. Kinney noted that per Board policy, all applications for grants over \$40,000 are to be brought to the Board for authorization. He noted that this is the second time the District has applied to this grant program, but the first time the District would be submitting an application without partners.

Manager Anderson moved to authorize the District Administrator to submit an application for an MPCA Climate Resiliency Planning Grant and execute the grant agreement, if awarded. Seconded by manager Toavs. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

| <b>Manager</b>   | <b>Aye</b> | <b>Nay</b> | <b>Absent</b> | <b>Abstain</b> |
|------------------|------------|------------|---------------|----------------|
| Dave Bakke       | X          |            |               |                |
| Christopher Loth | X          |            |               |                |

|                  |   |  |  |  |
|------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Doug Toavs       | X |  |  |  |
| Jackie Anderson  | X |  |  |  |
| Stephen Schmaltz | X |  |  |  |

**e) Bone Lake Northeast Wetland Project Closeout**

Mr. Kinney explained that this is a Clean Water Fund grant project that was completed in the winter of 2021-22. He stated that there are some grant funds remaining, and the field that received nutrient rich soils could be further maintained with the remaining grant funds. He noted that the staff recommendation is to approve final payment to the contractor and accept the engineer’s certificate of completion.

Manager Bakke requested to know what work would be completed with the remaining grant dollars. Mr. Kinney responded that the field’s pH levels were the worst he had ever seen. He explained that grass was utilized to stabilize even before the spoils on the wetland were placed on the field to improve the soil. He noted that it is the District’s goal to implement further best management practices on the property including a long-term hay crop project or prairie restoration depending on the owners’ plans.

Manager Bakke moved to accept the engineer’s certificate of completion and authorize final payment to the contractor. Seconded by Manager Anderson. Upon a roll call vote the motion carried 5-0.

| <b>Manager</b>   | <b>Aye</b> | <b>Nay</b> | <b>Absent</b> | <b>Abstain</b> |
|------------------|------------|------------|---------------|----------------|
| Dave Bakke       | X          |            |               |                |
| Christopher Loth | X          |            |               |                |
| Doug Toavs       | X          |            |               |                |
| Jackie Anderson  | X          |            |               |                |
| Stephen Schmaltz | X          |            |               |                |

**9. Old Business**

**a) 2023 Staff Work Plan & Administrator Review**

Mr. Kinney stated that a line item was added regarding the performance metrics of the Administrator. He explained that a summary of the Administrator review process created with Gallagher staff will be presented to the Board.

Mr. Kinney gave an overview of the work plan, 2023 budget, and 10-year management plan. He noted how they all align.

Manager Anderson moved to approve the 2023 staff work plan. Seconded by Manager Toavs.

Discussion: Manager Bakke stated that he understands that Gallagher suggested the Administrator give updates on his progress towards his smart goals on a monthly basis

at regular Board meetings. President Schmaltz explained that a decision on where to report progress needs to be confirmed and finalized. He noted that a meeting run by Gallagher staff should be scheduled for January of 2023. Managers discussed the goal setting process for staff.

Upon a roll call vote the motion carried 5-0.

| <b>Manager</b>   | <b>Aye</b> | <b>Nay</b> | <b>Absent</b> | <b>Abstain</b> |
|------------------|------------|------------|---------------|----------------|
| Dave Bakke       | X          |            |               |                |
| Christopher Loth | X          |            |               |                |
| Doug Toavs       | X          |            |               |                |
| Jackie Anderson  | X          |            |               |                |
| Stephen Schmaltz | X          |            |               |                |

**b) Little Comfort Lake Project & Budget Transfer**

Mr. Kinney stated that the District would need to make a budget transfer to reflect grant revenue for the purchase of the North Shore Trail Nature Area (formerly called Cranberry Lake Channel Property) and to allocate dollars for a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment at another potential property acquisition referred to as the Gravel Pit.

Manager Anderson moved to amend the 2022 budget for account 3-012-A to \$517,000 and to transfer \$417,000 from account 000-2900 to account 3-012-A. Seconded by Manager Toavs.

Discussion: Manager Anderson highlighted that she supports property acquisition to complete water quality improvement projects. President Schmaltz noted his concerns regarding access to the property being reviewed by the District.

Mr. Kinney explained that the information provided to managers was created by CLFLWD staff. He explained the budgeting process and need for transfer. He also noted that the property with access concerns is being discussed with the landowner.

Manager Anderson requested an overview of the projects being proposed in the Comfort Lake drainage area. Mr. Kinney explained the nature of the area and how development affects water storage. He explained that the District sought out an area for water storage and movement rather than affecting the surrounding development negatively. The property acquisition being proposed with this budget transfer would provide this opportunity.

Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

| <b>Manager</b>   | <b>Aye</b> | <b>Nay</b> | <b>Absent</b> | <b>Abstain</b> |
|------------------|------------|------------|---------------|----------------|
| Dave Bakke       | X          |            |               |                |
| Christopher Loth | X          |            |               |                |

|                  |   |  |  |  |
|------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Doug Toavs       | X |  |  |  |
| Jackie Anderson  | X |  |  |  |
| Stephen Schmaltz | X |  |  |  |

**c) Lake Association Grant Program**

Mr. Kinney identified this agenda item as a discussion item and provided an overview of the grant program’s conception and status. He outlined the differences of the current community grant program in place versus the proposed lake association grant. He highlighted the work being completed by staff to create comprehensive shoreline restoration programing. He explained that many partners have been involved in the shoreline restoration program planning process so far. Staff have also been involved and are providing leadership in statewide efforts around shoreline protection and restoration. He introduced Mr. Miller to provide an in-depth overview.

Mr. Miller gave an overview of the grant program development including:

- Factors to consider when creating programs and plans, including inclusivity, transparency, objectivity, and accountability.
- Comparisons of the District’s current community grant program and the proposed lake association grant program.
- The challenges faced while developing the lake association grant program including the creation of applicant ranking forms that include inclusivity, transparency, objectivity, and accountability. The Citizen Advisory Committee’s (CAC’s) concerns with the program were also noted.
- Board of Soil and Water Resources Clean Water Legacy Partners Pilot Grant Program

Ms. Heinz gave an overview of the Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR) Clean Water Legacy Partners Pilot Grant Program. She noted that it is a new program that targets nonprofit organizations and tribal governments. She explained how this program could be utilized by lake associations to accomplish many of the goals that have been proposed as projects that could be funded by a pending lake association grant program from the District.

Manager Anderson asked what the dollar amount being offered by the BWSR Clean Water Legacy Partners Pilot Grant Program is. Ms. Heinz explained that the maximum grant award amount is \$250,000, and the total amount available to non-profit organizations is \$500,000. Manager Anderson mentioned that the program is statewide; meaning \$500,000 would be available to all the non-profit lake associations in the state of Minnesota.

Manager Anderson explained that the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers group has been working in areas where there are not watershed districts, and has been successful in making funds available to local lake associations. She stated that she believes the District’s lake association grant program should not be a competitive program. She stated that this would be a dedicated fund for lake associations, with a principal goal of

clean water education. She stated this would make the review process less strict. She also noted that half a million for all lake associations in the state is not much when you spread the funds out that far. She also addressed the conflict-of-interest concern about managers being members of lake associations. She noted that the Board is involved in many policy decisions, some of which may affect their lake association or the lake on which they reside. She noted that a manager is able to perform his or her role objectively. She explained that the design of the program is to do that same thing that the District does for agricultural landowners when it funds best management practices. She discussed the importance of paying attention to the turnover of new homeowners on the lake and ensure they are implementing best practices on the lake shore. She discussed her opinion to have separate funding pools for Little and Big Comfort Lakes. She reiterated that she would like the program to be noncompetitive and provide dedicated funds for lake associations.

Manager Loth asked how lakes in the District that do not have lake associations would be supported. He asked if the District could work to include these lakes to be eligible for grants from this program even though they do not have a lake association. Manager Schmaltz responded that the District's current residential grant program is available in these cases. Manager Loth asked what the limitations of that program might be. Mr. Kinney clarified that the District has a residential plant grant program that is limited to \$500. He noted that these projects have, in the past, had low return on investment with respect to nutrient reductions. He explained that historically if a project had value to the District, the District would complete the project itself and not have an outside group complete the project. President Schmaltz explained that the District has completed a study to identify project locations that provide a positive cost benefit for water quality improvements rather than completing projects just because groups or individuals want to complete them.

Manager Anderson emphasized the program purpose of developing relations and collaborative spirit among lake landowners and indicated that leveraging multiple landowners to complete larger shoreline projects might not be possible without the proposed lake association grant program. She provided an example of Chisago County's LID (Lake Improvement District) grant which is a similar program. She noted that the County allows lakeshore homeowners without lake associations to work with another lake association to put forth their proposed projects for consideration to receive grant funds. She noted that in the first year she would like only the District's lake associations to get funding and then in the second year try to involve the smaller District lakes. She offered the connectivity of Moody Lake and Bone Lake as an illustration.

Manager Bakke stated that, as an individual serving on a lake association board, he finds it difficult to mobilize a lake association to focus on impacts that can change the water quality due to the complexity of the grant applications. He perceives that what Manager Anderson is proposing is much less complex. He noted the shorelines on Bone Lake that could use assistance and funding. He noted that he understands the concern of the staff, but believes the program being proposed by the managers is different than what was

proposed by staff. He stated that he thinks the District needs to start somewhere and move forward more quickly.

Manager Loth asked if the long-term vision for the program is to exist at the same time as the community grant program or if this will replace that program. He also asked how much is currently spent on the community/commercial grant program. Manager Anderson explained that the 10-year management plan incorporated a commercial grant that was led at the engineering and staff level. She explained the community and commercial grant has not been utilized in the past 10 years. She noted that the people most engaged are the individuals on the lake associations. President Schmaltz explained how the District had pulled back on these grant programs in the past. He asked what kind of projects Manager Anderson believes the lake associations could complete without technical assistance from District staff. She gave some examples including Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) treatment on Comfort Lake and Forest Lake. She explained that the program created for the Chisago Lake Improvement District was specific to aquatic invasive species. President Schmaltz stated that EWM would not be treated under this program because the District doesn't fund aquatic invasive species (AIS) management that isn't directly related to water quality. Manager Anderson stated that she believes it was always discussed that all AIS not treated through the District could be managed under this program. President Schmaltz requested to hear different examples of possible projects that could utilize a lake association grant program. Manager Anderson suggested other potential projects may include education efforts and the Score Your Shore program. She believes that a local approach is best. She noted that there is a certain level of trust between lake associations and lakeshore owners that could bring about more change in behavior regarding treatment of lake shores.

Manager Loth mentioned the District's efforts on a public relations/communications campaign that it has taken in house. He wondered if the public relations efforts may be able to address the education needs Manager Anderson is mentioning.

President Schmaltz proposed that the District complete the shoreline program efforts in progress. He suggested the managers review this program first. He suggested the Board entertain funding projects brought to the District regardless of the finalization of the lake association grant program. He supports lake associations applying for Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Clean Water funds; if they are not awarded the District would then consider allocating funds.

Manager Anderson stated that there is no problem with having the BWSR grant and the proposed lake association grant both available rather than just having one or the other. She said the District was founded to be innovative and aggressive in setting and achieving water quality goals. She stated the District should never be afraid to be the first group to start something new. She requested the proposed lake association grant program be implemented and be reviewed via the District's adaptive management process to see if it is effective.

President Schmaltz explained his financial concerns with the program. He noted the concerns of the District's Citizen Advisory Committee. Manager Anderson responded that there is an application process where the application has to be reviewed by staff and then it comes to the Board. President Schmaltz asked why the District couldn't implement the proposed lake association grant program being proposed by District staff and stated he doesn't think the District should be paying for lake association volunteer work. Manager Anderson stated that the grant program created by staff is competitive, and she does not think it should be competitive. She believes it should simply be a set dollar amount available to lake associations. She noted that the individuals applying for funds are not experts. Her concern is that the application becomes too difficult for individuals or lake association members to even consider applying.

Mr. Miller apologized if the past materials provided by staff made the program seem competitive, because that was not the intention. He explained that the intention of the application was to provide guidance. He noted that most lake associations, if not all, could obtain funding. He explained that the application ensures that the project being proposed for funding meets a certain threshold and is impactful for improving water quality.

Manager Schmaltz stated that he cannot understand the push to utilize Manager Anderson's version of the grant program verses the staff program framework.

Jeanine Hansen introduced herself as the president of the Comfort Lakes Association and Comfort Lake resident. She believes that a Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) problem did not exist until the DNR put a boat launch on the lake. She explained the level of issues EWM is giving residents that live on the lake. She indicated that the delay in advancing this program is alienating the people that fund the District's work. She explained the efforts of the Comfort Lakes Association to manage Eurasian watermilfoil. She noted the many stakeholders involved in the treatment completed on Comfort Lake. She thanked the District for completing projects that improve water quality. She explained that she would like to partner with the District but doesn't understand how it has taken a year to create a grant program. She believes it should not take that long, and that it is simple. She suggested staff survey lake owners to find out what is important to them. She indicated that lakeshore homeowners pay high taxes. Ms. Hansen explained that \$15,000 of the Comfort Lakes Association's bill to treat Eurasian watermilfoil on Comfort Lake is yet unpaid. She noted that it was her belief, based on a verbal promise made, that the District would be funding this dollar amount through the proposed grant program for lake associations. She explained that she had been told that money was set aside for 2022. She explained that she was coming to the District for support and partnership. She made the comment that if the District doesn't provide support, it risks losing support from the surrounding lake associations. She expanded on the efforts that the Comfort Lake Association is working on and on which it would like to partner with the District.

President Schmaltz explained that the Board understands that Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) is not an aquatic invasive species that affects water quality. He explained that the District would provide technical support for management efforts but not fund treatment of EWM. He explained how the Forest Lake Lake Association pays for its own treatment and management of EWM. He explained that even if the grant program was completed, the funding wouldn't be received by Comfort Lakes Association unless the District changed its policy. Ms. Hansen stated that this is not what she understood from what she saw and from working with watershed representatives. She disagreed that Eurasian watermilfoil is not a water quality issue. President Schmaltz explained that it is an issue for recreational use of the lake. Ms. Hansen explained that there are fewer homes on Comfort Lake compared to Forest Lake to pay for Eurasian watermilfoil treatment. She reiterated that the District is creating enemies. President Schmaltz noted that he understands the frustration.

Manager Anderson moved to approve the lake association grant program framework as drafted by Manager Anderson. Seconded by Manager Bakke.

Discussion: Manager Bakke suggested the District call the program a "pilot" program. Manager Anderson agreed to call the program a Pilot Lake Association Grant Program.

Manager Toavs mentioned that the lake he lives on does not have an association, but he agreed the program needs to be finalized and implemented.

Manager Loth asked if any of the other board members are concerned about how the allocation of tax dollars under this program might be perceived by the public. Manager Bakke noted that this is always a concern, and the program will be broadened as it goes. Manager Loth provided an additional explanation of his transparency concern. Manager Anderson stated that the projects would be reviewed by staff and voted on by the board for approval. She referenced the District's agricultural and education programs.

President Schmaltz noted a letter sent to him from the Citizen Advisory Committee with major concerns regarding this program. He reiterated that it is not the policy of the Board to pay for Eurasian watermilfoil treatment. Manager Anderson disagreed with this statement.

Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 3-1-1

| <b>Manager</b>   | <b>Aye</b> | <b>Nay</b> | <b>Absent</b> | <b>Abstain</b> |
|------------------|------------|------------|---------------|----------------|
| Dave Bakke       | X          |            |               |                |
| Christopher Loth |            |            |               | X              |
| Doug Toavs       | X          |            |               |                |
| Jackie Anderson  | X          |            |               |                |
| Stephen Schmaltz |            | X          |               |                |

Managers discussed the Citizen Advisory Committee's involvement and review of this program.

Manager Anderson requested permission to work with staff to finalize the documents.

Mr. Kinney explained that July 12<sup>th</sup> was the last meeting the proposed grant program was discussed. He noted that the program has been out of staff's hands since that time. He noted that the challenge is the discussion of aquatic invasive species components. He noted that Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) grows less if less nitrogen is available in the lake. He noted that the District will continue to discuss EWM separate from the Lake Association Grant Program. He explained his hopes to have a full-time staff member to work specifically with lake associations.

Manager Anderson reiterated her belief that aquatic invasive species management has been included in this program from the beginning of its inception. She asked that a board discussion as to the scope of District AIS management be separately scheduled.

Mr. Kinney highlighted his interest in getting the City of Wyoming and the County to partner with the Comfort Lake Association and provide funding for in-lake management efforts such as EWM treatment.

**d) MS4 Follow Up Items**

Mr. Kinney outlined the work completed with the City of Forest Lake to update the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) infrastructure data.

**10. Program/Project Update**

**a) Project Update**

Mr. Kinney reported that the first phase of construction of the County Road 50 Iron Enhanced Sand Filter is nearing completion. He also explained that the Sunrise River Highway 61 Wetland Enhancement project will start construction in January.

**11. Report of Staff**

**a) Administrator**

Mr. Kinney presented information on two items including:

- On December 11<sup>th</sup> the Board of Soil and Water Resources informed the District that it was awarded a Clean Water Fund grant in the amount of \$533,600 for the Forest Lake Alum Treatment Project. The first round of the split application treatment is slated to occur in fall of 2023.
- CLFLWD was awarded a climate adaptation award from the University of Minnesota. He noted that the award will be presented at an in-person event on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- The Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund increased the preliminary grant allocation for the South Bone Lake Wetland project to \$1.89 million.

Manager Bakke congratulated staff on their accomplishments. He requested that staff look into how to incorporate the Administrator’s SMART goals in the administrator’s report.

**b) Emmons & Olivier Resources**

Mr. Grasko highlighted the progress being made on a memorandum of agreement with the City of Forest Lake regarding the downtown redevelopment project including additional stormwater treatment. He noted that the agreement should come to the Board early in 2023.

Manager Anderson requested that when these subjects come forward on the agenda, additional time be provided for an in-depth overview. Mr. Grasko noted that he will prepare a presentation.

**c) Smith Partners**

Nothing to report.

**12. Report of Treasurer**

**a) Approval of Bills and Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Anderson reported income for the period of \$201,819.39 and expenses in the amount of \$884,737.21.

Manager Schmaltz moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report and pay the bills in the amount of \$884,737.21. Seconded by Manager Toavs. Upon vote, the motion carried 5-0.

| <b>Manager</b>   | <b>Aye</b> | <b>Nay</b> | <b>Absent</b> | <b>Abstain</b> |
|------------------|------------|------------|---------------|----------------|
| Dave Bakke       | X          |            |               |                |
| Christopher Loth | X          |            |               |                |
| Doug Toavs       | X          |            |               |                |
| Jackie Anderson  | X          |            |               |                |
| Stephen Schmaltz | X          |            |               |                |

**13. Report of Officers and Managers**

**Manager Schmaltz:** Reminded all managers that officers will be elected at the January Board meeting.

**Manager Bakke:** Nothing to report.

**Manager Toavs:** Reported that he attended the MAWD Conference in December 2022. He thanked staff for their presentations and noted that the CLFLWD was well represented at the conference.

**Manager Loth:** Nothing to report.

**Manager Anderson:** Reported that she attended the MAWD Conference in December 2022 as well. She also thanked staff for their presentations there. She reported that she attended an EMWREP meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup> where she created a sub-committee to discuss the partner payment structure.

#### 14. Summary and Approval of Board Direction

Board direction was summarized as listed:

- Staff will arrange a meeting in January with Gallagher as part of the administrator’s review.
- Manager Anderson will work with staff to get the pilot lake association grant program documents finalized.
- Staff will provide an opportunity for further discussion on the District's scope of aquatic invasive species funding.
- Staff will consider where and how the administrator goals are displayed.
- Staff, in coordination with Manager Schmaltz, will ensure time is available at a board meeting in January of 2023 to allow for a presentation regarding the City of Forest Lake downtown redevelopment agreement.

#### 15. Adjourn

**a) Next regular board meeting – January 12, 2023**

Manager Schmaltz moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Manager Anderson. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

| <b>Manager</b>   | <b>Aye</b> | <b>Nay</b> | <b>Absent</b> | <b>Abstain</b> |
|------------------|------------|------------|---------------|----------------|
| Dave Bakke       | X          |            |               |                |
| Christopher Loth | X          |            |               |                |
| Doug Toavs       | X          |            |               |                |
| Jackie Anderson  | X          |            |               |                |
| Stephen Schmaltz | X          |            |               |                |

Dave Bakke, Secretary \_\_\_\_\_