

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COMFORT LAKE–FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Thursday, February 9, 2023**

1. Call to Order

President Schmaltz called the February 9, 2023, regular board meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. via online video conference.

Managers Present:

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

Absent: None.

Staff Present:

Bobbie Law, Office Manager
Blayne Eineichner, Project Coordinator
Jessica Lindemyer, Operations and Outreach Specialist
Garrett Miller, Watershed Assistant
Emily Heinz, Planning Coordinator
Beth Carreño, Senior Program Manager

Others Present:

Greg Graske, Emmons & Olivier Resources
Chuck Holtman, Smith Partners
Tom Dietrich, Washington County
Mike Motzko, Comfort Lakes Association

2. Setting of Meeting Agenda

President Schmaltz outlined efficiencies he is seeking to introduce in regard to agenda timestamps and regular meeting protocol. He stated that for most board actions, a voice vote rather than a roll call vote would be used.

President Schmaltz also said that if the time limit on a topic has been exceeded, the Board can decide to call the vote or postpone the discussion until the next meeting.

Manager Toavs moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Manager Bakke. The motion carried, 4-1 (Manager Anderson opposed).

Manager	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Dave Bakke	X			

Christopher Loth	X			
Doug Toavs	X			
Jackie Anderson		X		
Stephen Schmaltz	X			

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Mr. Holtman clarified that because the District is meeting remotely, the Open Meeting Law requires that all votes be by roll call.

3. New Business

a) Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership Grant Application

Ms. Heinz explained that staff plans to request around \$60,000 from the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership (MGLP) grant program. She noted that the funds are being requested to support the District’s shoreline restoration program.

Manager Toavs moved to authorize the District Administrator to submit an application to the MGLP Lake Conservation grant program and execute the grant agreement, if awarded. Seconded by Manager Bakke. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

Manager	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Dave Bakke	X			
Christopher Loth	X			
Doug Toavs	X			
Jackie Anderson	X			
Stephen Schmaltz	X			

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b) FY23 Clean Water Fund Grant Agreement

Ms. Heinz noted that the Clean Water Fund grant program is very familiar to the District. This grant application was submitted last fall and the District has been awarded a grant. The District is in the process of getting the work plan approved and executing the grant agreement. She noted that the background of the proposed Forest Lake Alum Treatment project is documented in the memo and the Board will continue to hear more about this project in the future. She highlighted the importance of education and outreach for the coming alum treatment. She explained that Ms. Lindemyer has written an education and outreach plan specific to the project.

Ms. Lindemyer gave a summary of the outreach plan that has been created. She highlighted the development and process of creating an outreach plan. She noted that more details will come to the Board in the future.

Manager Schmaltz moved to adopt resolution 23-02-01. Seconded by Manager Toavs.

President Schmaltz suggested that District staff should attend the upcoming Forest Lake Lake Association annual meeting and present information on the alum treatment. Ms.

81 Lindemyer explained that the staff plan to do this. She added that the Forest Lake Lake
82 Association is a priority audience for communication, and staff will be coordinating with
83 other organizations as well.

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85 Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.
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Manager	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Dave Bakke	X			
Christopher Loth	X			
Doug Toavs	X			
Jackie Anderson	X			
Stephen Schmaltz	X			

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88 **4. Old Business**
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90 **a) Eurasian Watermilfoil Management Considerations & Watershed**
91 **Management Plan Amendment**
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93 President Schmaltz gave an overview of the past meeting discussion that led to a
94 consensus to consider whether and how the District should include Eurasian
95 watermilfoil (EWM) management in its AIS program. He noted that there is a
96 recommendation from staff. He offered that once the Board decides the scope of
97 District involvement in EWM management, this will present the question of whether
98 a watershed management plan (WMP) amendment is needed. Finally, there is an
99 outstanding issue regarding a request by the Comfort Lake Association for a District
100 contribution to offset costs incurred in the 2022 whole lake EWM treatment.
101

102 Mr. Miller presented EWM management options. Topics included:

- 103 • Recreational management vs. ecological management definitions
- 104 • Broad view of EWM management
 - 105 ○ Long term strategy
 - 106 ○ Research
 - 107 ○ Seasonal control
 - 108 ○ Stem density effects
- 109 • CLFLWD in-house EWM management versus funding others' efforts. Mr.
110 Miller gave an example regarding Forest Lake.
- 111 •

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113 Mr. Miller presented the staff recommendation as follows:
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- 115 • The District would engage in treatment where EWM stem density has
116 reached 180 stems per square meter, a density that Steve McComas of Blue
117 Water Science indicates as impairing fish habitat.
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- The District would treat such densities as recommended by Blue Water Science or other experts, where they should exist as continuous beds of measurable size, but only at least 150 feet from shore.
- Lake associations can perform EWM treatment as they choose, within or beyond the 150-foot mark. The District would not fund but would provide technical advice and assist with grant applications, as requested.

President Schmaltz reviewed the options still available to lake associations to provide additional EWM treatment. Residents and/or lake associations would still be able to treat additional EWM growth closer to shore, if desired and if permitted by the Department of Natural Resources. Manager Loth asked for additional treatment scenarios on multiple District lakes. He noted that he appreciated seeing the area recommended for treatment versus what the lake association treated on Forest Lake.

President Schmaltz asked if the staff's recommended option for EWM management would require a WMP amendment. Mr. Miller clarified that this option would not require a plan amendment because the District would be treating only under conditions that would provide for ecological benefit (i.e., treating EWM beds with densities exceeding 180 stems per square meter), which the WMP already contemplates.

Manager Anderson spoke about the issue of cross-pollination and hybrid Eurasian watermilfoil. She requested additional information on this topic, and emphasized that phosphorus loading is not the only AIS impact with which the District is concerned. Managers discussed the management approach and how aggressive the District should be.

Manager Toavs moved to adopt the staff recommendation for District EWM management. Seconded by Manager Loth.

Manager Bakke asked for clarification on why the Board is discussing the topic of EWM management. He noted that the discussion started after the approval of the lake association grant program. It is his understanding that the District still hasn't received any applications to that program. He understands the program involves a two-step approval process that includes staff review of project merit followed by a Board review. President Schmaltz explained that if EWM is part of the District's aquatic invasive species program, a lake association grant isn't essential to manage it, because the District would fund and assist through the aquatic invasive species program. Manager Bakke asked if the question of EWM management is what has been holding up the lake association grant program. President Schmaltz offered that this has been the main reason.

Manager Anderson disagreed that the lake association grant program was proposed simply or principally for EWM management. She noted shoreline management and

165 education, and outreach were examples for the program. Manager Loth asked if
 166 grant program applications would be approved or denied solely by the Board.
 167 Manager Anderson replied that District staff would only review applications for
 168 completeness.

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 170 Manager Toavs suggested that this is a dynamic situation that can be revisited as
 171 circumstances evolve. President Schmaltz agreed.

172 Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 4-0-1.
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Manager	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Dave Bakke	X			
Christopher Loth	X			
Doug Toavs	X			
Jackie Anderson				X
Stephen Schmaltz	X			

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 175 President Schmaltz suggested that consideration of the Comfort Lakes Association request
 176 be postponed as some materials arrived too late for the managers to consider properly, and
 177 further that some additional research is needed to support the discussion. The topic will be
 178 included on the February 23rd meeting agenda. Staff will compile past meeting materials for
 179 managers’ review and will upload previous meeting recordings to the District’s YouTube
 180 channel.

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 182 **5. Program/Project Update**

183 **a) Project Update**
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185 Mr. Eineichner gave an update on multiple projects including:

- 186 • Sunrise River HWY-61 Wetland Enhancement: Construction began on January
 187 31st. Project elements are being adjusted due to mis-location of utilities and a
 188 subsequent change order with unforeseen additional expense.

189 Manager Anderson asked what the lifetime of the project is. Mr. Eineichner confirmed
 190 that it is 25-30 years with some clean-out needed around the 15-year mark.

- 192 • County Road 50 Iron Enhanced Sand Filter: Implementation began in the fall
 193 of 2022, and construction was completed in November 2022. The pumps and
 194 electrical connections will be installed in the spring of 2023. The project
 195 should come online in May.

196 Manager Bakke asked what the control panel is. Mr. Eineichner explained that the
 197 control panel will operate the pump system and regulate how water flows between the
 198 two iron enhanced sand filter (IESF) cells.

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 200 Manager Loth likes the signage on the HWY-61 Project.

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 202 Manager Toavs visited the County Road 50 Iron Enhanced Sand Filter Project site. He
 203 is excited for the project’s completion.
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- Washington Judicial Ditch 6 (WJD-6) Western Tributary Wetland Enhancement: Project to be ordered within the next month. Design and implementation will follow the ordering.

b) Program Update – 3006 Interagency Communication

Ms. Carreño gave an update on the District’s interagency communication program. She referenced the quote, “If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together.” She covered multiple subjects including:

- How interagency communication plays a role in all District programs
- Ongoing initiatives of the interagency communication program
- 10-year management plan goals for the interagency communication program
- Overview of consistent engagement and coordination meetings, including:
 - monthly and quarterly meetings with communities and soil and water conservations districts
 - input and leadership on the regional and statewide level, including workgroups and taking leadership roles within those workgroups
- The importance of building relationships and telling the District’s story through interagency communication

Manager Bakke thanked staff for their interagency communication efforts. He noted that it is making an impact.

6. Summary and Approval of Board Direction

Board directives from the meeting were summarized.

- Manager Loth requested that staff compile information regarding the history of Eurasian watermilfoil treatments previously conducted by lake associations, and how much responsibility the District would hold with the new management strategy.

7. Administrator Review [closed session]

Manager Anderson moved to convene in closed session to discuss the District administrator’s review. Seconded- by Manager Loth. Mr. Holtman advised that he had spoken with Mr. Kinney, who affirmed in accordance with the Open Meeting Law that he did not wish to require the matter to be considered in open session. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

Manager	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Dave Bakke	X			
Christopher Loth	X			
Doug Toavs	X			
Jackie Anderson	X			
Stephen Schmaltz	X			

The Board convened in closed session. The Board reconvened in open session.

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8. Adjourn

a) Next regular board meeting – February 23, 2023

Manager Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Manager Loth. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Manager	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Dave Bakke	X			
Christopher Loth	X			
Doug Toavs	X			
Jackie Anderson	X			
Stephen Schmaltz	X			

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Dave Bakke, Secretary _____