

**MEETING NOTES OF THE
COMFORT LAKE-FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, May 16th, 2023**

Present: Curt Sparks, Tom Furey, Ted Hansen, Mike Miron, Randy Schumacher

Others: Manager Jackie Anderson, Aidan Read, Emily Heinz

1. Watershed Update

Aidan Read, Land Management Specialist, provided an update on activities throughout the District. This update included information about the project status of the highway 61 wetland project, and the county road 50 iron enhanced sand filter.

In the conversation on upcoming events, Tom Furey inquired about whether there would be an opportunity for CAC members to participate in the Arts in the Park tabling events this summer. Mr. Read reported that he would consult with the appropriate staff member to get more information on that topic.

A further question was asked by Randy Schumacher on the status of the WJD6 wetland restoration. Staff responded that the wetland project is slated for construction in February of 2024 depending on agreements with the landowner.

2. 2022 Progress Report Discussion

Emily Heinz, Planning Coordinator, provided a presentation and discussion on the 2022 progress report. The presentation summarized the status of the major lakes in the watershed and their progress towards delisting. In response to a question from Mr. Read and Mr. Furey, Ms. Heinz highlighted the benefits of delisting a lake, indicating that not only is it an accomplishment for the District, but it is an important measurement of progress showing that projects implemented have been effective.

Another question came from Jerry Grundtner regarding the rationale for performing an alum treatment on the middle basin of Forest Lake, when the data seems to indicate that the East basin has a worse trend. Ms. Heinz responded that an analysis of the basins shows that a treatment of the middle basin will have the largest impact from a whole lake approach and should be sufficient to improve the trend on the East basin.

Manager Jackie Anderson added emphasis to the idea that delisting lakes is a great achievement, and also that Forest Lake is an important example of the work that needs to be done to prevent lakes from being listed for impairments in the first place. Manager Anderson noted the importance of considering long-term data in viewing the trends in District waterbodies.

3. CAC Field Day Discussion

Mr. Read introduced a tabled discussion item: what would the Committee like to do for hosting a field day or field trip this year? In discussing goals for the year, the Committee had previously stated they would be interested in an event similar to their trip to the North Shore Trail Nature Area last year. Mr. Read solicited suggestions and comments so that staff can begin the planning process for potential events.

Ted Hansen mentioned that the Highway 61 wetland restoration has been a very visible project that it would be interesting to see in completion. The idea of visiting a selection of shorelines on Bone Lake was also raised. Mr. Read stated that he would continue to explore options for the Committee and further suggestions or requests should be sent to him.

4. Closing and Selection of Chair

Randy Schumacher was elected chair for the June meeting, and Ted Hansen will be the chair for July.

*Next regular meeting of the Citizen's Advisory Committee will be Tuesday, June 13th at 5:00pm.
There is no Manager scheduled to attend the June meeting. The meeting will be held remotely
via Zoom.*