

1 **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE**
2 **COMFORT LAKE–FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT**
3 **Thursday, May 2, 2024**
4

5 **1. Call to Order**
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7 President Schmaltz called the May 2, 2024, special board meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
8 at the Comfort Lake–Forest Lake Watershed District offices, 44 Lake Street South, Suite A,
9 Forest Lake, MN.
10

11 **Managers Present:**

12 Steve Schmaltz, President
13 Christopher Loth, Vice President (virtual attendance)
14 Jackie Anderson, Treasurer
15 Douglas Toavs, Assistant Treasurer
16 Dave Bakke, Secretary (virtual attendance)
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18 **Staff Present:**

19 Mike Kinney, Administrator
20 Emily Heinz, Planning Coordinator
21 Adam Hjelm, Education & Outreach Coordinator
22

23 **Others Present:**

24 Camilla Correll, Emmons & Olivier Resources
25
26

27 **2. Floodplain Vulnerability Assessment Workshop**
28

29 Emily Heinz and Camilla Correll presented an overview of the Floodplain Vulnerability
30 Assessment purpose, objectives, recommended priorities, and desktop analysis work
31 done to date. Ms. Heinz explained the flood risk maps that Emmons & Olivier Resources
32 (EOR) developed. The flood risk maps evaluate various flood-related risks including
33 environmental risks, social risks, infrastructure risks, and flood hazard.
34

35 Manager Anderson indicated that the District should always consider projects with
36 multiple benefits when it comes to climate resiliency. She stated that the District must
37 collaborate with partners and educate them about good development practices.
38

39 Manager Loth joined the meeting.
40

41 Manager Anderson indicated that the District should focus more on the environmental
42 factors and the flood hazard map. She indicated that the pollution sensitivity of near
43 surface materials should be categorized under “environmental”, not “social”.

44
45 President Schmaltz asked why the CLFLWD wouldn’t take the same approach as the Rice
46 Creek Watershed District and focus primarily on creating flood storage in the red zones
47 on the map. Ms. Correll explained the District could implement flood storage projects in
48 the red zones, but it can’t do it all at once. She recommended that the District prioritize
49 which factors, and therefore which areas it would like to start on first.

50
51 Manager Anderson reiterated that collaboration with partners is necessary. She
52 indicated that watershed districts are focused on water, and community partners have
53 a lot of other issues to worry about which mostly fall under “infrastructure” and “social”.
54 Manager Anderson stated that the District should not be taking on infrastructure
55 responsibilities that are the responsibilities of cities, townships, counties.

56
57 Manager Bakke noted private industry may have a role to play in flood mitigation as well.
58 He noted the Martin Marietta gravel pit is located in a red area on the flood risk map, just
59 outside of the District’s boundaries. He noted the gravel pit operation uses a lot of water
60 for gravel cleaning. Ms. Correll noted that community feedback will be useful to evaluate
61 this point further.

62
63 President Schmaltz indicated communities overlap with multiple watershed districts. Ms.
64 Correll clarified that the District is coordinating with neighboring watershed districts, and
65 the neighboring watershed districts will be invited to community engagement
66 workshops. Manager Anderson and President Schmaltz noted that partnerships can be
67 used to leverage funding and pool resources to achieve shared objectives. Manager
68 Toavs pointed out that implementing flood mitigation upstream of another
69 subwatershed could reduce the flood risk of the downstream subwatershed.

70
71 Ms. Correll noted that the District reviewed the preliminary maps with city engineers, and
72 the city engineers agreed with the District evenly weighing environmental, social, and
73 infrastructure factors. Manager Anderson indicated the District’s statute-mandated
74 mission is related to surface water and groundwater, and the District should not concern
75 itself with the social impacts. She indicated that it is the cities’ responsibility to plan for
76 infrastructure and social impacts. Manager Toavs indicated he doesn’t see how the
77 District could take any of these factors out of the planning process. Ms. Correll noted that
78 the City of Forest Lake is in the process of updating its hydrologic & hydraulic model;
79 another approach would be to wait until the City has finished updating that model.

80
81 Next steps were summarized:

- 82 ○ Pollution Sensitivity of Near Surface Materials will be re-categorized under
83 Environmental.

- 84 ○ EOR will revise the maps to show the top 5 highest risk subwatersheds in each
- 85 category and overlay the maps with city boundaries
- 86 ○ EOR and staff will review the revised maps with city engineers and solicit
- 87 further feedback regarding prioritization and roles.
- 88 ○ The Board will schedule the next workshop in early June to review these
- 89 follow-up items.

90
 91 Manager Bakke requested that one of the presentation slides be revised to be more
 92 sensitive to those for whom English is not their first language.

93
 94 **3. Adjourn**

95
 96 **a) Next regular board meeting – May 9, 2024, 6:30 pm**

97
 98 Manager Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Manager Toavs.
 99 Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:46
 100 p.m.

101

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

102

103 Dave Bakke, Secretary -----