



## MEMORANDUM

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

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### MEETING NOTES OF THE COMFORT LAKE-FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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

**Others:** Emily Heinz, Aidan Read

#### 1. Watershed Update & New Staff Introduction

The meeting was convened by the Chair, Tom Furey. Land Management Specialist Aidan Read provided an update on activities around the District. Tom Furey added more information on the Bone Lake delisting event. There was a brief discussion on the AIS rapid response plan that has been developed, and Jerry Grundtner added more details on the plan and its purpose.

#### 2. Budget Presentation

Emily Heinz, Planning Coordinator, presented information on the budgeting process for 2025. This was a follow-up to last month's presentation and included comments that the CAC had provided. Several comments were discussed and elaborated on during the conversation. Questions from the committee included clarification on loan repayments, delinquent taxes, and the suitability of levy increases. Discussion was had on whether it is better to have a small levy increase in 2025 or defer an increase until a larger levy is needed. Details on historical FTEs were provided since 2013, along with discussion of likely staffing levels, and the target of 11.5 FTEs.

#### 3. Office Space Discussion

Aidan Read led a brief discussion of the office space process. An update was provided on the study done in 2023, and the process and criteria for identifying office space needs. Discussion from the Committee included the need to engage the public consistently throughout any process.



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### **4. Summer Excursion**

Mr. Read provided several options for a summer excursion, including the potential for a shoreline tour of Forest Lake or Comfort Lake, a CAC cookout, or a project fieldtrip. Discussion focused on a shoreline tour, and it was proposed to organize a tour of one of Forest Lake's basins. Mr. Read will be organizing the tour and will provide an update at the July meeting.

### **5. Closing & Election of Chair**

Ted Hansen was elected chair for July. Items to discuss will be a budget update, water level update, and the results of the wake boat phase II study (if available)?