



MEMORANDUM

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

MEETING NOTES OF THE COMFORT LAKE-FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE Tuesday, November 19th, 2024

Attendees: Randy Schumacher, Tom Furey, Jerry Grundtner

Others: Tori Philippi

Watershed Update

Tori Philippi provided updates to the District including that monitoring wrapped up for the season, winter grants are open to residents, a flowering rush survey showed effective treatment, and there is no update on the South Bone Lake Wetland Acquisition.

Randy Schumacher asked Jerry Grundtner if he had heard anything about the treatment of flowering rush on Forest Lake. Mr. Grundtner replied that he had received the treatment maps from Steve McCommas. The CAC noted the need for an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator.

CAC Recruitment

Tom Furey mentioned he had talked to some potential candidates for the CAC and reported he had only gotten one answer; the person was low on time. Mr. Furey noted it is all about making personal connections with people; the others agreed. The committee liked the idea of “bring a friend” to the next CAC meeting.

Goals & Priorities for 2025

Mr. Schumacher started off the conversation by stating the question, “What were the 2024 successes?” should be asked before identifying goals for the future. It was then discussed that the CAC summer tour of Forest Lake was highly successful and that it was a great educational event. The CAC mentioned they wanted more of those, one to two a year. They also considered doing it on another lake with a boat access, like Comfort or Bone.

It was then discussed that the committee wants to have a single topic or initiative the CAC can give feedback on for the year, a specific topic the board wants to delegate to the CAC. Two ideas of these topics were office space planning or land acquisitions (if this is something the district wants to do).



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It was agreed that last year's priorities are still applicable.

Mr. Schumacher asked about the status of the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) position and other hiring within the District. Ms. Philippi noted there is an agenda item in the November 21st Board packet with a Business Manager position and that other staff have taken on and have adapted to not having one AIS person. Members expressed concerns about there not being a dedicated AIS Coordinator on staff and are concerned about hiring a Business Manager before the AIS position. The CAC would like to see someone hired for this position before May 2025.

Committee members discussed the topic of District Administrator Mike Kinney's retirement in the next three to five years. The CAC would like to give feedback into what they think the ideal new Administrator would look like.

Closing & Election of Chair

Randy Schumacher was elected as chair for the December 17th meeting if more than 3 people can attend.