



MEMORANDUM

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

MEETING NOTES OF THE COMFORT LAKE-FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE Wednesday, December 18th, 2024

Attendees: Randy Schumacher, Tom Furey, Ted Hansen, Rich Johnson, Mike Miron

Others: Manager Stephen Schmaltz, Administrator Mike Kinney, Emily Heinz, Adam Hjelm, Aidan Read

Watershed Update

Randy Schumacher brought the meeting to order, and the agenda began with a watershed update. Aidan Read, Land Management Specialist, provided an update on District programs and projects. Updates included information on the South Bone Lake Wetland, the highway 8 reconstruction, plans for aerator operation, and an update on the work plan. Michael Kinney, Administrator, was able to answer some questions regarding the contractors and consultants used in the AIS program. In reviewing the 2025 staff work plan, questions were asked about the role of the proposed business manager position. Administrator Kinney was able to provide additional details on the topic, explaining more about the role of a business manager and how the position would fit in the work plan. Tom Furey asked for more details on the replacement of an AIS coordinator. Administrator Kinney explained that AIS duties were being taken on by existing staff and this would be reflected in the 2025 work plan. Administrator Kinney further explained the ways that staff take on multiple roles as a way of building contingencies and developing expertise in various areas.

Strategic Planning Draft Review

This topic was introduced by Manager Stephen Schmaltz who provided some context for the Vision, Mission, and Values Statements that the Board of Managers has been working on. The Committee was asked to provide any comments on the statements.

Ted Hansen provided some comments and explained his thought process behind his edits, which included rearranging the priorities of the values statements. Tom Furey provided comments as well, noting that the mission of the District has been very water quality focused, so the new mission statement may not feel as familiar with aspects such as community engagement and flood mitigation. Further discussion was had on the statements, and other committee members were asked to submit additional comments on the statements.



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Cost-Share Policy Review

Mr. Read provided an overview of proposed changes to the 2025 cost-share policy. The Committee offered some comments and asked for clarifying details on some items. Feedback was positive, especially about the effort to improve woody debris for aquatic habitat

Closing & Election of Chair

Tom Furey was elected chair for the month of January, and Ted Hansen was elected chair for February.