



MEMORANDUM

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

MEETING NOTES OF THE COMFORT LAKE-FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE Tuesday, April 15th, 2025

Attendees: Randy Schumacher, Gary Kramlich, Keith Kuhnly,

Others: Manager Jackie Anderson, Administrator Mike Kinney, Adam Hjelm, Julia Grabow, Aidan Read

The meeting came to order with Randy Schumacher as Chair.

Watershed Update

Aidan Read, Land Management Specialist, provided updates on District programs and projects, including activation of lake level loggers, the beginning of the monitoring season, and progress on the South Bone Lake Wetland acquisition. The Committee requested additional information about whether the grant for the Bone Lake acquisition had been threatened at all by federal actions. Administrator Kinney provided more details on the grant, and assured the group it was highly unlikely the funding would be impacted. Manager Jackie Anderson volunteered information about a potential donated property on part of Shallow Pond, south of Comfort Lake.

Regarding the upcoming volunteer event at North Shore Trail Nature Area, questions were asked concerning long-term management of the property and whether the boardwalk would remain.

2025 Staffing Update

Administrator Michael Kinney provided an update on staffing at the District, specifically on the role of AIS coordinator. A summary of the role of AIS coordinator at the District was provided as background, and overview of staff development tools such as the DISC profile, and SMART goals was discussed. Mr. Kinney stated that an existing seasonal employee had expressed interest and knowledge in AIS programming, and so a decision was made to proceed with hiring that employee to a full-time permanent role upon completion of their college work. In the meantime, previous staff took on management duties of the AIS program, specifically of the interagency coordination and grant management tasks. There were questions from Keith Kuhnly about whether the current setup was long-term or whether it was thought to be temporary. There was a question from Gary Kramlich regarding whether the opportunity for



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funding that position would close if not filled. There were additional questions regarding sustainability of increasing work load for senior staff, and whether the work load changes would be long-term. Manager Anderson stated that the District has a longstanding goal of providing competitive compensation to recruit and retain high-performing staff.

Office Space Search Update

Mr. Read provided a brief update on recent Board action on the office space search. Materials presented at the last board meeting included the result of interview conducted by the Administrator, and a Board motion to engage an architect in conceptual design and site planning for the new office space. Manager Anderson added that the information from the architect will be essential for selling the project to the public and is still an early step in the process. The Committee expressed concern about public input and perception of the project but was encouraged by progress being made.

Monitoring Report

The 2024 monitoring report was discussed briefly, and several sections of the report were reviewed. Mr. Read encouraged further questions to be submitted, and the final report be reviewed when it is posted later this week. There were several questions from the Committee regarding how this information is used to direct District resources. Administrator Kinney provided background on how this process works, referencing sediment cores, etc. The report is used to craft monitoring plan for the year ahead, and to direct additional resources as needed.

Closing & Election of Chair

The meeting closed with Keith Kuhnly elected Chair for the May meeting, which will be held on Tuesday May 13th.