

- 43 • Staff wages and benefits
- 44 • Administration/overhead
- 45 • Permitting legal and engineering review
- 46 • Project operations & maintenance

47

48 President Anderson encouraged board members to review the budget and determine
49 whether their own priorities are reflected in the budget. She indicated that if managers
50 do not see one of their priority items in the budget, that manager should reach out to
51 staff. Manager Bakke asked which budget line items are new versus which have been
52 ongoing. Ms. Heinz indicated that the District has been working on most of the items in
53 the budget for several years now. She noted the planning efforts that have been ongoing
54 for flood resiliency, greenbelt and open space, office space, shoreline resiliency, and
55 public outreach. Manager Loth noted that the Forest Lake Lake Association has been in
56 communication with the District and the landowner at Willow Point regarding a potential
57 shoreline restoration project. Ms. Heinz noted the District can facilitate grant seeking
58 if/when there is direction on a project.

59

60 Administrator Kinney indicated he met with senior staff members to discuss the
61 expense-revenue differential in the budget and consider ways to increase efficiency and
62 reduce costs. He summarized areas of the budget where the District might be able to
63 reduce expenses and/or increase revenues including rule review, permitting, and water
64 monitoring. Manager Schmaltz indicated that the District doesn't need to collect data if
65 the data aren't necessary to inform decision making. President Anderson indicated she
66 would be supportive of cutting back monitoring as long as the District isn't damaging
67 the integrity of its dataset.

68

69 Manager Schmaltz explained the District doesn't receive 100% of its levied taxes each
70 year due to delinquent taxes. He asked staff to gather more information about how the
71 counties handle delinquent taxes.

72

73 President Anderson asked if there are additional Clean Water Partnership loan funds
74 available. Ms. Heinz indicated there is additional loan funding available. She explained
75 the District's general obligation note allows the District to obtain loans up to \$5 million,
76 and the District has already taken out \$4.5 million in loans over the last few years. She
77 recommended the Board thoroughly consider future loan repayment amounts before
78 taking on more debt. She noted how the District is currently making repayments on four
79 different loans, and the repayment amounts add up. President Anderson indicated that
80 a 1.5% interest rate is a very low interest rate and that the District needs to implement
81 more projects to benefit Comfort Lake and Little Comfort Lake.

82

83 President Anderson again encouraged managers to review the budget and look for
84 anything that might be missing. The Board scheduled the next budget workshop for

85 Monday, June 16, 6:00-8:00 pm. Managers will discuss priority expenditures and work
86 toward obtaining a balanced budget at that workshop.

87

88 **3. Adjourn**

89

90 **a) Next regular board meeting – June 12, 2025, 6:30 pm**

91

92 The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:10 pm.

93

94

95 Dave Bakke, Secretary -----