

1                                   **MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE**  
2                                   **COMFORT LAKE–FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT**  
3                                   **Monday, June 23, 2025**  
4

5   **1. Call to Order**

6    President Anderson called the June 23, 2025, special board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.  
7    at the Comfort Lake–Forest Lake Watershed District offices, 44 Lake Street South, Suite A,  
8    Forest Lake, MN.

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10   **Managers Present:**

11    Jackie Anderson, President  
12    Steve Schmaltz, Treasurer  
13    Dave Bakke, Secretary (virtual attendance)  
14    Douglas Toavs, Assistant Treasurer (virtual attendance)

15  
16   **Managers Absent:**

17    Christopher Loth, Vice President  
18

19   **Staff Present:**

20    Mike Kinney, Administrator  
21    Tori Philippi, Office Manager  
22    Emily Heinz, Planning Coordinator  
23

24   **2. Budget Workshop**  
25

26    Planning Coordinator Emily Heinz presented an overview of the draft 2026 budget with  
27    potential expense cuts. She noted that the Board discussed this topic at its last budget  
28    workshop and asked staff to prepare a version of the budget with expense cuts to  
29    consider.  
30

31    Manager Bakke suggested having cities and lake associations help pay for aquatic  
32    invasive herbicide treatments to allow adequate funding for such work. Manager  
33    Schmaltz emphasized the importance of maximizing permit revenues so that taxpayers  
34    aren't covering the cost of private developers' permits.  
35

36    President Anderson indicated she doesn't want to cut anything from the budget as she  
37    doesn't want the District to lose momentum on its programs and projects. She indicated  
38    she wanted more time to review the budget before voting on any cuts. President  
39    Anderson noted that she recently spoke with Jessica Hoard at Redpath Accounting,  
40    and Ms. Hoard had indicated that Redpath can provide a high level 5-year budget  
41    projection for the District.  
42

43 Manager Bakke recapped some of the assumptions associated with the draft budget  
44 cuts. He noted that the reduced expense budget will still require a 20% levy increase to  
45 be balanced. He questioned whether at 20% levy increase is desirable. Manager Bakke  
46 also indicated that budget cuts may not necessarily mean wholly dismantling the  
47 District’s work. He indicated that there could be some budget cuts that make sense.

48  
49 President Anderson noted the District can always apply for Clean Water Partnership loan  
50 funding to help finance the District’s work.

51  
52 Manager Schmaltz noted the District’s estimated year-end expenditures for 2025 will  
53 have a big impact on the fund balance position at the start of 2026. He indicated he  
54 would like to review 2025 spending in greater detail and discuss with staff. President  
55 Anderson indicated she would also like to meet with staff to discuss the budget further.

56  
57 Manager Schmaltz recommended the Board be prepared to discuss and gain  
58 consensus on budget cuts at the next workshop. He noted the Board should discuss  
59 potential levy increases at the next workshop as well.

60  
61 President Anderson indicated she would reach out to Redpath to set up the high-level  
62 budget projections and schedule a presentation by Redpath staff at a future budget  
63 workshop in late July.

64  
65 Managers scheduled the next budget workshops on July 14<sup>th</sup> and July 28<sup>th</sup>.

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67 **3. Adjourn**

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69 **a) Next regular board meeting – June 26, 2025, 6:30 pm**

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71 The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:45 pm.

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74 Dave Bakke, Secretary -----

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