



MEMORANDUM

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

MEETING NOTES OF THE COMFORT LAKE-FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 2025 Budget Workshop Tuesday, October 14th, 2025

Attendees: Keith Kuhnly, Tom Furey, Randy Schumacher, Ted Hansen, Mike Miron, Curt Sparks

Others: Mike Kinney, Adam Hjelm, Aidan Read, Emily Heinz, Brad Jernberg

Election of Chair

Tom Furey was elected Chair of the meeting.

Watershed Update

Aidan Read, Land Management Specialist, provided an update on programs and projects throughout the District. Updates included the conclusion of the open water monitoring season, the status of flowering rush treatments, and the status of the LSOHF grant applications. In regard to lake level monitoring, Tom Furey commented that the automated lake level monitoring has been helpful this season in coordinating with the City of Scandia to enforce no-wake restrictions on Bone Lake.

Staff Introduction

Mr. Read introduced Brad Jernberg, the District's new Business and Operations Manager. Mr. Jernberg discussed his career, relevant experience, and provided an overview of his anticipated work at the District. Administrator Mike Kinney provided additional context for the Business and Operations Manager position, including the evolving complexity of the District's funding and operations.

Budget Recap

Mr. Read provided a brief recap of previous actions before turning the conversation over to the Committee. Ted Hansen asked the first question, looking for clarification on the approved levy amounts, and projected changes in revenue and expenses. Randy Schumacher asked about the possibility of extending the loan repayments that the District has from the State. Administrator Kinney stated that he has reached out to MPCA staff to discuss and will be meeting on the topic this week. There was discussion around the merits of this idea.

Tom Furey asked a question regarding the cuts to the monitoring program, and whether this approach is prudent. Mike discussed measures that would be taken to reduce the monitoring program while still maintaining the ability to gather needed data. Curt Sparks discussed the usefulness of quality longitudinal data and how important it is for watershed work. This



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conversation continued with Mr. Sparks and Administrator Kinney adding more context for the value of monitoring, and the work that has been completed. Mr. Hansen asked for an estimate of the anticipated net position of the District for year-end 2025, which Emily Heinz was able to provide.

In concluding the conversation, Mr. Furey stated that the Committee should be involved in the budgeting process earlier next year as it seemed the Committee was not as involved initially as in the 2024 process. Administrator Kinney noted that useful numbers were not available to be distributed until August, and that an effort would be made to engage the Committee earlier.

Closing

Chair Tom Furey added a conversation on 2026 agenda items to the November meeting agenda. The meeting ended without election of a Chair. The next regularly scheduled Committee meeting will be Tuesday, November 18th.