



MEMORANDUM

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

MEETING NOTES OF THE COMFORT LAKE-FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE Tuesday, April 14th, 2026

Attendees: Tom Furey, Ted Hansen, Jerry Grundtner, Gary Kramlich, Randy Schumacher, Bob Hervig, Mike Miron

Others: Manager Stephen Schmaltz, Administrator Michael Kinney, Aidan Read, Brad Jernberg, Adam Hjelm

Watershed Update

Aidan Read, Land Management Specialist, provided an update on activities around the watershed. Updates included information on the status of the Heath Ave IESF project, the start of open water monitoring season, and the results of a prescribed burn at North Shore Trail Nature Area. One question from Tom Furey clarified that curly leaf pondweed delineations will be occurring on Bone Lake, as well as Comfort, Shields, and Forest Lakes.

Annual Report

Emily Heinz provided highlights from the 2025 annual reports, which had been reviewed by the Board of Managers at the April 9th meeting. Ms. Heinz also included an update on the 2025 financials from the annual report and provided details on that topic.

Monitoring Report

Aidan Read provided highlights of the comprehensive monitoring report, which was accepted by the Board of Managers at the April 9th meeting. Highlights included an overview of the letter grades of major lakes, and a discussion of which metrics are improving or declining. Jerry Grundtner asked a question regarding the Secchi disk metric declining compared to improving Chlorophyll-a and total phosphorous improving. Mr. Read and Administrator Mike Kinney provided some potential explanation of the diverging metrics. Mr. Kinney added that the MPCA looks for two of the three metrics to meet state standards when making impairment decisions.

Further discussion on the report included the impact of climate on results, and what changes the District could see in the future. From this point, the conversation turned into a variety of topics, including changing design requirements to account for changes in precipitation, the need to reforest parts of the watershed, and an overview of the reasoning behind District



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permitting rules. Gary Kramlich returned to the report discussion and provided comments on the ability of the reports to demonstrate progress on multiple fronts.

Mr. Kinney provided comments on the ability of the District to acquire grant funding for projects and operations and characterized the District's waterbodies as the economic driver of the area.

As the discussion concluded, Mr. Kinney suggested the agenda for the April 23rd Board Meeting be reviewed. The Committee reviewed the agenda for the upcoming Board meeting, and Mr. Kinney provided explanation of some of the items, especially the proposed Floodplain Resilience Action Plan agenda item.

Closing

Ted Hansen was elected Chair for the May 19th meeting; Randy Schumacher was elected Chair for the June 16th meeting.