



MEMORANDUM

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

MEETING NOTES OF THE COMFORT LAKE-FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE Tuesday, May 19th, 2026

Attendees: Ted Hansen, Gary Kramlich, Randy Schumacher, Robert Hervig, Tom Furey

Others: Manager Jackie Anderson, Dave Vold, Aidan Read, Brad Jernberg, Adam Hjelm, Emily Heinz, Kennedy Kolb

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 this month open water monitoring season, and the results of curly leaf pondweed (CLP) delineations and treatments. Bob Hervig asked about the method of delineation and application for CLP and Randy Schumacher was able to provide some information.

Staff Introductions

Kennedy Kolb, Conservation Corps member, introduced herself to the Committee and briefly described her background as well as an explanation of the Conservation Corps program.

Audit Report

Mr. Read introduced the audit report agenda item. Ted Hansen had specific questions about the report, but suggested Emily Heinz, Planning Coordinator, proceed with sharing the highlights of the audit report. Ms. Heinz began by presenting and discussing the 2025 audited year-end numbers. On this topic, Mr. Hansen added his opinion that the organization should strive to achieve a balanced budget as indicated in the revenue over/(under) expenditures item. Other members concurred, and Ms. Heinz noted that this was a priority that was discussed by the Board of Managers at their budget workshop in May.

There was a question on the increase in project expenses for 2026, which Ms. Heinz discussed was largely due to the scheduled construction of the Heath Avenue Iron Enhanced Sand Filter. Gary Kramlich noted that the increase in the levy for this year's budget has likely left little taste for expansion of programming and increased budget expenditures amongst the community. Randy Schumacher agreed and added the context of the planned double-digit levy increases that the Board is anticipating for the following years. President Jackie Anderson as well as some of the Committee members discussed specific examples of the levy impact on individual tax assessments, and a discussion was had on the different ways the counties present tax information to residents. Brad Jernberg, Business and Operations Manager,



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added some context for what information the staff is considering in the planning for the 2027 budget.

President Anderson added additional discussion around the budget conversation that the Board of Managers is preparing for in the upcoming months.

Mr. Kramlich proposed that the discussion from the CAC indicates that the Board may need to consider the idea that their operating assumptions are not aligned with those of the community, and that the broader community may be unwilling to support further spending despite the well thought out justifications of the Board of Managers. Robert Hervig suggested that quarterly briefings for the CAC may provide a valuable sounding board on the topic.

Closing

Randy Schumacher was elected Chair for the June 16th meeting, Gary Kramlich for the July 14th meeting, and Tom Furey for the August 18th meeting.