

1 **MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE**
2 **COMFORT LAKE–FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT**
3 **Tuesday, June 2, 2026**
4

5 **1. Call to Order**
6

7 President Anderson called the Tuesday, June 2, 2026, special board meeting to order at
8 6:00 p.m. at the CLFLWD office, 44 Lake Street South, and via online video conference.
9

10 **Managers Present:**

11 Jackie Anderson, President
12 Steve Schmaltz, Treasurer
13 Jim Schottmuller, Vice President
14 Dave Bakke, Secretary (virtual attendance)
15

16 **Managers Absent:**

17 Douglas Toavs, Assistant Treasurer
18

19 **Staff Present:**

20 Mike Kinney, Administrator
21 Brad Jernberg, Business and Operations Manager
22 Emily Heinz, Planning Coordinator
23 Tori Philippi, Office Manager
24

25 **2. Budget Workshop #2 – First Review**
26

27 Planning Coordinator Emily Heinz presented an overview of the proposed draft 2027
28 Budget. The draft budget aligns with the Board’s priorities discussed at the May 12th
29 budget workshop:

- 30 • Balanced budget
- 31 • Minimal levy increase (less than 10%)
- 32 • Pay off loan debt
- 33 • Manage fund balance to ensure operating expenses are covered
- 34 • Project signage
- 35 • Projects in Comfort and Little Comfort Lake Management Districts
- 36 • Greenbelt & Open Space
- 37 • Partnerships with MN Land Trust and/or Trust for Public Land
- 38 • Track employee benefits & wages
- 39 • Track grant vs levy spending
- 40 • Review year-to-year spending
- 41

42 Manager Schmaltz stated the following priorities should be added to the list: floodplain
43 resiliency, natural shorelines, and expected impaired waters delistings to be submitted
44 in 2027.

45 President Anderson indicated the District should reference the impaired lakes listed in
46 the 2010 Six Lakes Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report which include: Bone Lake
47 (delisted in 2024), Comfort Lake (to be delisted in 2026), Little Comfort Lake, Shields Lake,
48 Moody Lake, and School Lake.

49 [6:30 pm]

50 Manager Schottmuller noted the District's past wetland restoration projects have
51 resulted in water quality improvements. He asked if such projects help achieve other
52 goals as well, such as the 99 acre-feet of added floodplain storage goal. Administrator
53 Kinney explained there are different types of wetland restoration projects, which provide
54 varying benefits, and some projects may provide more flood storage than others. Mr.
55 Kinney noted the District's Watershed Management Plan has a framework to evaluate
56 potential land acquisitions. He noted that, while the District does thoughtfully prioritize its
57 efforts, it still has the ability to evaluate other opportunities as they arise.

58 President Anderson noted that man-made ditches have drained wetlands and
59 negatively impacted local water resources and water quality. She indicated that the
60 District aims to bring lakes back to their healthy condition prior to agricultural impacts
61 and urban development, as much as possible. Manager Schottmuller stated goals
62 should be attainable, and the District should keep this in mind when goal setting.

63 [7:00 pm]

64 Ms. Heinz presented additional highlights from the proposed 2027 budget, including
65 grant revenues which help balance the budget. She presented more detail on projects
66 located in the Comfort Lake and Little Comfort Lake Management Districts.

67 President Anderson noted that much of the District's work results in multiple benefits, and
68 the District should highlight those benefits whenever possible.

69 [7:45 pm]

70 Manager Bakke mentioned the mining operation located just west of the Bone Lake
71 South property, which has a water use permit from the MN Department of Natural
72 Resources. He suggested the District be aware of how the mining operation and
73 associated water usage could affect the CLFLWD. Mr. Kinney mentioned the District may

someday consider a boundary review to determine whether this area might drain into the CLFLWD.

Managers confirmed their availability for the next budget workshop on Monday, June 15, 6:00–8:00 pm.

Manager Bakke left the meeting at 8:00 pm.

The following directives were stated in preparation for the next budget workshop:

- President Anderson requested a pro forma showing administration, overhead, and total staff wages and benefits. She stated she would also like to see a breakout of staff wages and staff benefits. She indicated she would like to meet separately with District staff to discuss the fund balance calculation and how the District will cover overhead costs during the first six months of the year.
- Manager Schmaltz requested that the Board go through the budget packet in detail at the next meeting, particularly the Budget Projection page.
- Manager Schottmuller also indicated an interest in having staff explain the Budget Projection in greater detail at the next workshop.

3. Adjourn

a) Next regular board meeting – June 11, 2026

Manager Schmaltz moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Manager Schottmuller. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 3-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Manager	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Jim Schottmuller	X			
Dave Bakke			X	
Doug Toavs			X	
Stephen Schmaltz	X			
Jackie Anderson	X			

Dave Bakke, Secretary _____