

1                   **DRAFT 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 12<sup>th</sup>  
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

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

76 Managers confirmed their availability for the next budget workshop on Monday, June  
77 15, 6:00-8:00 pm.

78  
79 Manager Bakke left the meeting at 8:00 pm.

80  
81 The following directives were stated in preparation for the next budget workshop:  
82

- 83 • President Anderson requested a pro forma showing administration, overhead, and  
84 total staff wages and benefits. She stated she would also like to see a breakout of  
85 staff wages and staff benefits. She indicated she would like to meet separately with  
86 District staff to discuss the fund balance calculation and how the District will cover  
87 overhead costs during the first six months of the year.
- 88
- 89 • Manager Schmaltz requested that the Board go through the budget packet in detail  
90 at the next meeting, particularly the Budget Projection page.
- 91
- 92 • Manager Schottmuller also indicated an interest in having staff explain the Budget  
93 Projection in greater detail at the next workshop.
- 94

95 **3. Adjourn**

96 **a) Next regular board meeting – June 11, 2026**

97  
98 Manager Schmaltz moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Manager  
99 Schottmuller. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 3-0, and the meeting was  
100 adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

101

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

102

103 Dave Bakke, Secretary -----