



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: Gary Kramlich, Randy Schumacher, Robert Hervig, Tom Furey, Jerry Grundtner, Mike Miron, Curt Sparks, Ted Hansen

Others: Dave Vold, Aidan Read, Brad Jernberg, Adam Hjelm

Questions

Randy Schumacher brought the meeting to order with a new agenda item, Committee questions. This will be an opportunity to discuss questions the Committee may have regarding District and Board of Managers activities from the last month.

One question Mr. Schumacher presented was regarding the Board's loan approval at their previous meeting. It was asked how the Board planned on avoiding a draw on the loan beyond what was included in the 2026 budget. Gary Kramlich seconded this question and suggested that a contingency plan should be considered based on budget realities in quarters 3 and 4. Tom Furey added his thoughts on the topic, agreeing that some efficiencies may result in a decrease in expenses.

Brad Jernberg, Business and Operations Manager, added some context on initial budget discussions. He acknowledged the Committee's ideas, stating that the feedback received is appreciated and is being incorporated into ongoing budget discussions.

Watershed Update

Aidan Read, Land Management Specialist, provided an update on District programs and projects from last month. One update included that the automated lake level logger on Forest Lake has been replaced and is now active. Mr. Furey pointed out that there had been some discrepancies in the automated level data for Bone Lake, and that this seems to have been resolved with maintenance. It was suggested that when lake levels are indicated to exceed ordinary high-water levels, the data should be confirmed by staff inspection of existing elevation gauges.

Soil Update

Mr. Read provided an overview of the District's residential soil testing program with the most recent data. In response to data indicating elevated phosphorus in District soils, Curt Sparks provided some historical context for some of the soil work the District has done in the past.



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Specifically, it was described how Forest Hills Golf Course had been approached for soil testing and ultimately began saving approximately \$30k a year by reducing phosphorus applications.

Mr. Furey asked about the testing methods that were used on the property. Other members of the Committee asked questions about the budget for the soil testing, how the program was being promoted, and what the uptake of the program had been. Adam Hjelm, Education and Outreach Coordinator, added that from his perspective the soil testing program added a valuable opportunity to meet with residents.

CAC Outreach / Arts In The Park

Mr. Read presented an overview of the CAC's current composition, and the need to recruit some additional members, including representatives from other groups and entities. Mr. Schumacher brought up the idea that the Committee could be part of ongoing efforts to maintain and improve the relationship with partner organizations, including the City of Forest Lake. Mr. Read also invited CAC members to join District staff in tabling at Arts in the Park on Tuesdays throughout the summer.

Closing

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