

1 **MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE**
2 **COMFORT LAKE–FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT**
3 **Tuesday, May 26, 2026**

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5 **1. Call to Order**

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7 President Anderson called the Tuesday, May 26, 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.

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10 **Managers Present:**

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

16
17 **Staff Present:**

18 Mike Kinney, Administrator
19 Brad Jernberg, Business and Operations Manager
20 Emily Heinz, Planning Coordinator

21
22 **Others Present:**

23 Anne Wilkinson, Emmons & Olivier Resources
24 Erik Megow, Emmons & Olivier Resources

25
26 **2. Floodplain Resilience Action Plan Framework**

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28 Anne Wilkinson and Erik Megow presented an overview of the planning process which
29 led to the draft Floodplain Resilience Action Plan Framework.

30
31 Dr. Wilkinson clarified that the plan framework provides some options for flood storage
32 projects, gives the District the most accurate information for priorities for vulnerable
33 infrastructure, brings awareness to vulnerable infrastructure under extreme storms, and
34 provides options for projects with multiple benefits. The plan framework does *not*
35 prescribe a jurisdictional floodplain, impact permitting, lock in projects on developable
36 land, impose a floodplain standard, nor update FEMA floodplain maps where floodplain
37 insurance is required.

38
39 Mr. Megow provided additional background information regarding rainfall estimates,
40 and Dr. Wilkinson recapped the planning process.

42 President Anderson indicated that flood prevention is one of the reasons why the District
43 was founded, and it is a high priority for the District.

44
45 Manager Bakke stated it is important to have buy-in from the City of Forest Lake. Mr.
46 Megow explained staff have undergone three rounds of comments with City staff, and
47 the City primarily seemed concerned about the prospect of additional regulations being
48 imposed. Mr. Megow said indicated staff are hopeful that there is a path ahead for some
49 of these projects and possibility for a partnership with the City. Administrator Kinney
50 added that the City doesn't want the District to use any developable land for flood
51 storage or impede the City's ability to use undeveloped land to meet watershed
52 stormwater regulations.

53
54 Manager Schmaltz indicated the District doesn't want to back the City into a corner on
55 any projects but wants to seek a partnership. Dr. Wilkinson explained that the plan
56 framework contains a map book showing flood scenarios under both current rainfall
57 estimates (Atlas 14 median value) and the estimated future rainfall scenarios (Atlas 14
58 90% confidence interval). Under current rainfall estimates there are not many houses or
59 roads that are affected by flooding. Manager Schmaltz stated the District shouldn't over-
60 design or over-build projects for a need that isn't there.

61
62 Dr. Wilkinson clarified this data doesn't impact the District's rules or permitting program.
63 Manager Schmaltz said it is important to establish roles and responsibilities and to work
64 with partners like the City of Forest Lake.

65
66 President Anderson asked how much flood storage can be created on a piece of
67 privately owned property just north of the City of Forest Lake. Dr. Wilkinson indicated this
68 question can be addressed through the feasibility work under the next phase.

69
70 Manager Schottmuller asked what percentage of the proposed projects the District
71 needs to construct in order to achieve the benefits it wants to achieve. Dr. Wilkinson
72 indicated that this is one of the questions that will be addressed in the next phase after
73 further cost-benefit analysis, modeling, project feasibility, and concept design.

74
75 Mr. Megow presented an overview of potential roadway and building flooding, as well as
76 stormwater conveyance network limitations. He presented overall conclusions from the
77 planning and modeling process:

- 78 • The stormwater network is undersized for current standards
- 79 • No critical infrastructure is anticipated to be affected by flooding
- 80 • There is a significant increase in number of buildings and roadways flooded
81 under future rainfall scenarios
- 82 • An increase in Sunrise River flow and velocity (greater than 15%) is estimated
83 under future conditions if no action is taken
- 84 • Proposed actions will significantly mitigate anticipated flooding impacts

- Role identification, coordination and buy-in from cities, counties, MnDOT, and landowners are key

Dr. Wilkinson stated the following additional conclusions and future steps:

- Flooding poses a risk to water resources and infrastructure
- This plan provides a framework for flood planning
- Resiliency planning saves money in the long-term
- Potential projects provide floodplain storage as well as other additional benefits
- The plan framework has a long shelf life and can be used for planning well into the future
- The District has a grant in-hand to further investigate project concepts outlined in the framework

President Anderson requested staff look into projected insurance rates if the District implements flood resiliency measures. Dr. Wilkinson indicated this could be considered as part of the cost-benefit analysis in the next phase. Manager Schottmuller hypothesized the District's impact is relatively small on the state-wide scale and may be too small to convince insurance companies to adjust their rates.

President Anderson asked staff to keep the Board apprised of any updates that may arise from future discussions with the City.

Dr. Wilkinson recommended the Board consider accepting the plan framework at the May 28th regular board meeting.

3. Adjourn

a) Next regular board meeting – May 28, 2026

Manager Schmaltz moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Manager Schottmuller. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 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 _____