DRAFT MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMFORT LAKE–FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Thursday, June 25, 2026

1. Call to Order

President Anderson called the June 25, 2026, regular board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the CLFLWD office, 44 Lake Street South, and via online video conference.

Managers Present:
Jackie Anderson, President
Steve Schmaltz, Treasurer
Jim Schottmuller, Vice President (virtual attendance)
Dave Bakke, Secretary (virtual attendance)
Douglas Toavs, Assistant Treasurer (virtual attendance)

Staff Present:
Mike Kinney, Administrator
Adam Hjelm, Education and Outreach Coordinator
Aidan Read, Land Management Specialist
Blayne Einechner, Project Coordinator
Brad Jernberg, Business and Operations Manager
Emily Heinz, Planning Coordinator
Matthew Hendrickson, Technician
Mike Sandager, Permitting and AIS Coordinator
Tori Philippi, Office Manager

Others Present:
Greg Graske, Emmons & Olivier Resources (EOR)
Chuck Holtman, Smith Partners
Ted Hanson, Community Advisory Committee
Michael Miller

2. Setting of Meeting Agenda

Manager Schmaltz moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Manager Toavs. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

Manager	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Jim Schottmuller	X			
Dave Bakke	X			
Doug Toavs	X			

Stephen Schmaltz	X			
Jackie Anderson	X			

3. Consent Agenda

a) **Regular Board Meeting Minutes – May 28, 2026**

b) **Special Board Meeting Minutes – June 2, 2026**

Manager Schottmuller moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Manager Toavs. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

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

4. Public Open Forum

[6:32 pm]

5. Advisory Committee Updates

[6:33 pm]

Aidan Read reported that the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) met on June 16th and discussed soil testing, membership recruitment, Arts in the Park attendance, and meeting discussion format.

President Anderson asked Mr. Read to confirm whether CAC member Gary Kramlich resides within the watershed. Mr. Read noted Mr. Kramlich moved recently, and that he brings to the District a background in environmental engineering and financial analysis. President Anderson indicated the District should make sure it is abiding by the statute related to the residency of CAC members. Mr. Read will report back to the Board on President Anderson's question.

6. New Business

a) **Floodplain Resiliency Project Development Budget Amendment**

[6:39 pm]

Ms. Heinz introduced the subject and advised that the requested budget amount is entirely grant funded.

Manager Schmaltz moved to amend the 2026 budget for account 5-120-C Floodplain Resiliency Implementation to $49,500 and to transfer $49,500 from account 000-3300 Grants Receivable to account 5-120-C. Seconded by Manager Toavs. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

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

b) Bone Lake South Property Management Plan Scope of Work

[6:40 pm]

Manager Bakke asked when the Board will be able to review the management plan. Mr. Eineichner indicated he estimates the plan will be ready for review by the end of the summer.

President Anderson asked if staff has enough input from the Board to develop the plan. Mr. Eineichner indicated the draft plan has been prepared based on past Board discussions on this topic. Mr. Kinney added that the basis for site management is the grant proposal that originally was submitted to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC). He noted the District must adhere to LSOHC requirements because the District acquired the property with grant funds. President Anderson instructed that the Board have an opportunity to comment on site management before it is finalized.

Manager Bakke moved to direct the Administrator, on advice of counsel, to enter into an agreement with EOR in accordance with the June 12, 2026, scope of work in an amount not to exceed $3,461.50, and to direct EOR not to begin work until the grant start date of July 1st, 2026. Seconded by Manager Toavs. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

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

7. Old Business

a) Eurasian Watermilfoil Policy

[6:49 pm]

Mike Sandager explained that the Board has discussed this topic several times in the past, and historic memos are included in the board packet. He noted that, in the past, the Board decided the District would not treat Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) due to its limited impact on water quality and low probability of eradication. Staff presented estimated costs related to EWM herbicide treatment.

Manager Schottmuller asked if chemical treatment poses any risks to lake health or habitat. Mr. Sandager indicated that these chemicals are non-selective and therefore harmful to native plants, and because of this impact on habitat they can also be harmful to fish species. He noted also there is some research suggesting a direct effect on fish. He noted there are prescribed treatment rates for these herbicides.

President Anderson stated EWM growth on Comfort Lake has been so dense that it is a recreational nuisance and poses a risk to native plant growth. She stated that the District shouldn't pick and choose which aquatic invasive species (AIS) it treats; rather, the District should treat all AIS that are present in District lakes.

Manager Schmaltz explained the Forest Lake Lake Association (FLLA) has aggressively treated EWM on Forest Lake in an attempt to contain it to the lake's west basin. He stated that the FLLA's treatment program has been expensive for the lake association, but it has been effective.

Manager Bakke indicated that local counties and cities have a stake in the health of local lakes and should therefore play a role in the management of AIS. Manager Schmaltz noted the District's tri-party AIS agreement with the City of Forest Lake and the FLLA as a model for managing other lakes.

Managers asked staff to look into funding partnerships with the City of Wyoming, City of Scandia, Chisago County, Washington County, Comfort Lakes Association, and Bone Lake Association for AIS management on Comfort Lake and Bone Lake.

President Anderson moved that the District seek to engage with the Cities of Scandia and Wyoming, and with the Bone Lake and Comfort Lake Associations, toward agreements similar to the Forest Lake Tri-Party AIS Agreement. Seconded by Manager Bakke. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

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

Jackie Anderson	X			

b) Comfort Lake Delisting Event Recap

[7:11 pm]

Adam Hjelm noted the June 17th event had 41 people in attendance. He recapped event costs including food/beverages, printing/postage, and Emmons & Olivier Resources (EOR) staff time totaling $1,240.

Manager Bakke congratulated President Anderson on the delisting of Comfort Lake and commended staff on a successful event.

8. Report of Staff

a) Administrator

[7:15 pm]

Administrator Kinney highlighted a few items and then District staff presented an update on recent staff activity, including several photos. More information is provided in the monthly Administrator's Report.

b) Emmons and Olivier Resources

[7:53 pm]

Nothing to report.

c) Smith Partners

[7:54 pm]

Mr. Holtman reported that the MN Plumbers Board has been working on rulemaking that would prohibit stormwater reuse, even for non-potable purposes. MN Watersheds and several watershed districts, in conjunction with a number of interest groups and the League of Minnesota Cities, have reacted quickly on learning of this and worked together to file letters of concern and present testimony to the Plumbers Board. On Tuesday, it rescinded authorization for the rule and pledged to perform more outreach with interested parties on this topic.

9. Report of Treasurer and Approval of Bills

[7:57 pm]

Treasurer Schmaltz reported income for the period of $42,029.79 and expenses in the amount of $303,207.71.

Manager Schmaltz moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, transfer funds in the amount of $530,000 and pay the bills in the amount of $303,207.71. Seconded by Manager Bakke. Upon vote, the motion carried 5-0.

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

Brad Jernberg presented a cash flow summary for the period of January-June 2026. He noted that the District will have sufficient funds in the fund balance to cover expenditures before the District receives its first levy settlement in early July.

10. Report of Officers and Managers

[8:01 pm]

Nothing to report.

11. Summary and Approval of Board Direction

[8:02 pm]

The following board directives were summarized:

- Staff will return next meeting to frame out the board's consideration of whether Mr. Kramlich should stay on the advisory committee.
- Mr. Kinney will pass on Clean Water Council materials to the managers.
- Staff will think about how to educate owners about purple loosestrife and purple loosestrife-eating beetles.

12. Adjourn

a) Next regular board meeting – July 9, 2026

Manager Schmaltz moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by President Anderson. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 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 _______________________________________