



MEMORANDUM

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

MEETING NOTES OF THE COMFORT LAKE-FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE Tuesday, September 16th, 2026

Attendees: Dave Vold, Tom Furey, Ted Hansen, Jerry Grundtner, Mike Miron.

Others: Emily Heinz, Brad Jernberg, Adam Hjelm, Aidan Read, Mike Kinney

Watershed Update

Tom Furey brought the meeting to order. Aidan Read provided an update on District programs and projects. Updates included the status of the cost-share program, staffing changes, upcoming education events, the recent ordering of projects, and the ongoing AIS work. On the topic of flowering rush, Jerry Grundtner discussed long-term management of flowering rush and the exceptionally high growth rate in 2026 mostly due to drought conditions.

Budget Discussion

Emily Heinz led off the discussion about the budget with an overview of recent Board action to certify the preliminary budget. The 2027 budget overview included \$3,283,657 in expenses and \$3,298,478 in revenues with a levy of \$2,341,052 that results from a 4.8% increase from 2026 for 2027. She also presented the 2027 budget priorities.

Jerry Grundtner asked what portion of the 2027 budget was specifically for staffing. Emily Heinz shared that approximately 1.2 million of the 2027 budget will be allocated to staff wages and staff benefits.

Mike Kinney discussed the history of the low-interest loans that the District has received, and the benefits and implications of these loans to the District's work and improved water quality results.

Mike Kinney discussed the use of sequential diagnostic assessments and provided a handout outlining the approach. He reviewed background information and supporting materials and discussed how the assessment process has been effectively applied within the District, specifically highlighting Moody Lake as a case study.

Mr. Kinney also discussed previous efforts by himself and President Anderson to work with project partners, state agencies, and potential funding organizations to secure financial support for diagnostic assessments completed in the past.



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Mid-season Monitoring Update

Aidan Read reviewed the monitoring update that was presented at the August 27th Regular Board meeting. He indicated that overall water quality trends at the mid-season point have mostly shown better water quality and clarity than 2025.

Closing

The CAC members present thanked Adian Read for his time and service at the District and wished him well in his future endeavors. Gary Kramlich was elected as chair for October 13th, and Bob Hervig for November 17th.