

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
COMFORT LAKE – FOREST LAKE
WATERSHED DISTRICT
Thursday, September 22, 2016**

1. Call to Order

President Anderson called the September 22, 2016 Regular Board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Forest Lake City Center, 1408 Lake Street South, Forest Lake.

Present: President Jackie Anderson, Vice President Jon Spence, Secretary Wayne Moe, Treasurer Steve Schmaltz

Absent: Assistant Treasurer Jackie McNamara

Others: Mike Sorensen, Jessica Lindemyer (CLFLWD staff), Greg Graske (EOR), Jerry Grundtner (Citizen Advisory Committee)

2. Setting of Meeting Agenda

Manager Spence moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Manager Moe. Upon a vote, the motion carried 4-0.

3. Consent Agenda

- a) **Special Board Meeting Minutes – June 14, 2016**
- b) **Board Workshop Minutes – July 28, 2016**
- c) **Regular Board Meeting Minutes – July 28, 2016**
- d) **Board Workshop Minutes – August 4, 2016**
- e) **Board Workshop Minutes – August 23, 2016**
- f) **Regular Board Meeting Minutes – August 25, 2016**

President Anderson indicated that she had a few comments on the minutes, but they were not significant enough to add.

Manager Moe moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Manager Spence. Upon a vote, the motion carried 4-0.

4. Public Open Forum

There were no comments.

5. Citizen Advisory Committee Update

Jerry Grundtner, Chairman of the CAC, explained that the CAC met a few weeks ago and continued its discussion on education and involvement with the local high school. He indicated that the CAC is trying to increase its membership, as meeting attendance is consistently low. Mr. Grundtner intends to work with District staff to increase outreach in order to find new members.

6. New Business

a) AIS Update

Mike Sorensen, Program Assistant, introduced a presentation on the current status of the AIS program. He indicated that activity is winding down as autumn approaches, and that he plans to give a yearend presentation at the next board meeting summarizing all of the AIS activity in 2016.

Mr. Sorensen gave an update on activities being performed by Blue Water Science within the past two weeks. A fish survey was performed on Little Comfort Lake to determine if the lake serves as a spawning ground for carp coming out of Comfort Lake. Mr. Sorensen assisted with this survey. Blue Water Science also recently performed follow-up assessment surveys for Eurasian watermilfoil on Forest, Comfort and Bone Lakes, and for flowering rush on Forest Lake. Final reports for these surveys have not yet been compiled. Mr. Sorensen indicated that he will bring the reports to a board meeting once they are finished. A fish survey on Cranberry Lake, just north of Forest Lake, is upcoming. The purpose of this survey is to determine if the lake is a spawning ground for carp coming out of Forest Lake. A fish survey and spawning investigation was performed on Sea Lake within the past few days. Preliminary results suggest that there are no carp in Sea Lake, and that the lake is not hydrologically connected to Bone Lake. These findings would support a future carp harvest in Bone Lake, as the carp would not be able to find refuge in Sea Lake. When asked, Mr. Sorensen confirmed that Sea Lake is located directly east of Bone Lake.

Mr. Sorensen reminded the Board that a grant application was submitted to the DNR for retrofitting the Shields Lake fish barrier. The existing fish barrier is an electric model that requires approximately \$35,000 in repairs and \$3,500 to \$5,000 in annual service fees. Construction of a passive barrier would cost approximately \$30,000, and long-term operation and maintenance costs would be lower as District staff could perform these tasks.

Mr. Sorensen provided an update on flowering rush on Forest Lake. PLM Lake and Land Management Inc. performed the second round of herbicide treatment on August 31st. They treated 36 acres via boat and backpack spraying. Mr. Sorensen explained that two rounds of treatment are necessary to reduce the belowground plant biomass, which reduces the long-term health of the plant. He went on to describe progress on his experimental hand-cutting project near the 2nd Lake public

boat access. He cuts a patch of flowering rush by hand on a weekly basis to keep the plant below the water's surface. The idea behind this is to prevent the plant from being able to photosynthesize, causing it to use up all of its stored energy. Mr. Sorensen indicated that there is interest in evaluating the effectiveness of this technique, because herbicide treatments on small patches have not been very effective. He went on to describe a seed germination experiment that he recently performed to determine if the flowering rush population on Forest Lake produces viable (grow-able) seeds. He explained that this is important information because all of the other flowering rush populations within the state of Minnesota do not produce viable seeds; they spread through their rhizomes (roots). With the help of Mr. Grundtner, he collected all of the flowers from the plants on Forest Lake, then attempted to grow the seeds in the District office. He went on to describe his experimental process for germinating the seeds. Preliminary results suggest that the seeds are, in fact, viable. He explained that since a single stem can produce thousands of seeds, the District should consider adjusting its management strategy to remove the flowers from the plants two or three times per year. This would be in addition to herbicide treatment on large patches. Findings from this experiment could increase the District's ability to obtain grants for treatment. Since the Forest Lake population of flowering rush can spread in two ways (seeds and roots), it is more of a threat to spreading to other waterbodies. Mr. Sorensen has communicated the preliminary results of the experiment to several grant agencies such as Washington County and the DNR. President Anderson inquired as to how we know that other populations of flowering rush don't have viable seeds. Mr. Sorensen explained that populations with non-viable seeds generally don't produce flowers. There was discussion about how this special type of flowering rush was introduced to Forest Lake. Since some people use it as an ornamental plant, it may have been introduced by a new homeowner on the lake.

Mr. Sorensen went on to provide an update on the watercraft inspection program. He explained that the DNR has been conducting inspections at the Forest Lake 1 (Lakeside Park) access, so the District's inspectors have been focusing mainly on the other four public accesses within the District. He indicated that there is still about a month left in the inspection season.

He then provided information on the invasive species, starry stonewort that was recently discovered in several Minnesota lakes. He explained that it is a macro algae that forms dense mats and looks similar to a native plant genus, *Chara*. It was discovered in Lake Koronis in 2015, and has been discovered in several lakes in the Bemidji area this year. Mr. Sorensen explained that it may not be spreading rapidly, as the discoveries might suggest, but people are just starting to identify it now. He indicated that the University of Minnesota is currently researching management strategies. Currently, it has not been discovered in any lakes near the District.

Manager Schmaltz asked if Steve McComas could provide the report on Forest Lake Eurasian watermilfoil soon, because the lake association is interested in the

results and wanting to plan for next year. President Anderson indicated that she was under the impression that Blue Water Science was being overseen by the District's engineering firm. She explained that EOR might be able to provide assistance in report writing so that the reports can be finalized faster. Engineer Graske indicated that he would coordinate with Jason Naber and Mike on this matter.

7. Report of Staff

a) Administrator

President Anderson called to the Board's attention the fact that, since the grant verification process went so smoothly, the grant reporting for the Bixby Park project is being used as an example for training purposes. She then inquired about the decision on finalists for the 2016 MAWD Awards. Staff responded that they have not yet been notified of the decision. Mr. Sorensen added that they have been notified that the Bixby Park project was chosen to be a presentation at the annual MAWD conference.

b) Emmons & Olivier

Engineer Graske explained that with the latest big rain event, EOR should have enough data to complete their monitoring objectives for the year. Monitoring reports for Forest Lake and Little Comfort Lake will be compiled this winter. Project design and permitting are moving forward for the Moody Lake Wetland Rehabilitation and Forest Lake Wetland Treatment Basin projects. Project construction is slated to begin this winter. A permit application was received for Lorenz Concrete, but was deemed incomplete. Engineer Graske indicated that the application may come to the next board meeting if the applicant is able to submit all of the required materials in time. He and Mike Kinney met with the City of Wyoming earlier that day to discuss the City's proposed 2017 street improvement project. He commended the City for being proactive and meeting with the District well in advance of the project. Because of this they were able to identify potential issues well before the permitting process.

Manager Spence asked if there were any surprises with regard to the wetland soil borings for the Moody Lake Wetland Rehabilitation Project. Engineer Graske responded that there were no surprises. The soils in wetlands A and B had much higher phosphorus concentrations than wetland C, which is located further to the south. There is uncertainty whether or not much excavation will be required within wetland C. More detailed data collection will guide decision-making with regard to moving forward with work on wetland C. It was concluded that excavation of wetlands A and B is planned for this winter. When asked, Engineer Graske confirmed that wetlands A and B are located in the northwest corner of the project area.

c) Smith Partners

Nothing to report.

8. Report of Treasurer

a) Approval of Bills and Treasurer's Report

Before presenting the Treasurer's Report, Manager Schmaltz encouraged staff to start invoicing other organizations for contributions to District programs. He explained that we shouldn't wait much longer, or else the reimbursement may not come in until 2017.

Manager Schmaltz presented the Treasurer's Report and invoices to be paid and recommended approval.

Manager Spence moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the bills in the amount of \$159,773.83. Seconded by Manager Moe. Upon vote, the motion carried 4-0.

9. Report of Officers and Managers

Manager Schmaltz reported that Administrator Kinney sent out additional information for accounting firms to supplement the 2017-2018 request for proposals for professional services. He explained that the information contained a statement of the desired submittals and an example of the level of detail desired for monthly accounting reports.

Manager Schmaltz also suggested that staff provide updates for ongoing projects such as progress evaluation metrics and AIS policy development. He asked that staff put together a list of such projects that will be worked on during the winter months.

10. Adjourn

a) Next regular board meeting – October 27, 2016

Manager Spence moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m. Seconded by Manager Schmaltz. Upon vote, the motion carried 4-0.

Wayne S. Moe, Secretary _____