

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
COMFORT LAKE - FOREST LAKE  
WATERSHED DISTRICT**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2010**

**1) Call to Order**

The President called the March 25, 2010 regular Board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Forest Lake City Offices, 220 North Lake Street, Forest Lake, Minnesota

Present: President Richard Damchik, Vice President Jackie Anderson (Manager Anderson arrived at 6:40), Secretary Wayne Moe, Manager Spence

Absent: Treasurer John Lynch

Staff: Randy Anhorn (CLFLWD), Lisa Tilman (EOR)

Other: Erik Anderson (WCD), Steve Schmaltz (Forest Lake Association)

**2) Open the Regular Meeting**

The President opened the regular Board Meeting.

**3) Reading and Approval of Agenda**

The President called for the reading and approval of the March 25, 2010 regular Board meeting agenda. Motion to approve the agenda was made by Manager Moe and seconded by Manager Spence. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**4) Reading and Approval of Minutes**

The President called for the reading and approval of the minutes of the February 25, 2010 regular Board meeting. Following discussion on the draft minutes, motion to approve the February 25, 2010 regular Board meeting minutes with edits was made by Manager Moe and seconded by Manager Spence. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**5) Public Open Forum**

Nothing presented

**6) New Business**

*a) BMP cost-share program*

Administrator Anhorn provided an update on recent BMP cost-share site visits and ongoing Board approved projects.

*b) Permits and Reviews*

Administrator Anhorn mentioned that while there were no new permit applications submitted since the last Board meeting. Anhorn further stated that there had been some pre-application discussions with various entities, and some inquiries into other ongoing projects.

## 7) Old Business

### *a) Chisago County Petition Update*

Administrator Anhorn stated that he had attended the March 17, 2010 Chisago County Board meeting where Chisago County staff sought approval to continue researching the petition process for CLFLWD to undertake a regional stormwater management facility between the City of Forest Lake and Comfort Lake (potentially on and around District-owned land) to address nutrient loading from developed areas of the City of Forest Lake and seasonal flooding along portions of the Sunrise River. Anhorn said that the Chisago County Board of Commissioners did approve their staff's request and that Chisago County staff and CLFLWD were working on potential petition language. Anhorn stated that the next phase would be for the County to adopt the petition by resolution and then the petition would be submitted to the District Board of Managers.

The Board asked that staff keep them informed on the process.

### *b) Watershed Management Plan Update*

Administrator Anhorn stated that staff had held a TAC/CAC Stakeholder meeting on March 17, 2010, as part of the District's Plan update process. The following topics/issues were discussed at the meeting:

- Plan update needs and timeline/process
- Review Goals and Objectives from CLFLWD 2001 Plan (and measureable successes)
- Present the Board's draft Mission statement
- Present the Board's thoughts on issues and goal for 2011-2021 Plan
- Discuss what TAC/CAC sees as needs/issues
- Roles—LGU vs. watershed—coordination

Manager Anderson arrives.

Administrator Anhorn and Ms. Tilman presented the minutes from the meeting (a copy is annexed and incorporated by reference), and highlighted suggested edits to the Mission Statement, and Stakeholder discussion on issue identification, potential goals to address issues, and roles/responsibilities. Ms. Tilman mentioned that the TAC/CAC had thought that they would be able to provide more input as the goals get defined into specific measurable objectives to meet the goals, and how partnerships could be formed to meet the objectives. The Board discussed the Stakeholders edited Mission and issue identification/goals.

Lisa Tilman presented highlights information gathered for the Plan's Resource Inventory section (a copy is annexed and incorporated by reference). Ms. Tilman went over information collected so far on:

- Climate and Precipitation
- Topography and Geomorphology
- Soils
- Groundwater
- Surface Waters
  - Lakes
  - Streams
  - Wetlands
- Natural Communities
- Fish and Wildlife
- Land Use
- Pollutant Sources

Ms. Tilman stated that the presented only represents a portion of what will need to be compiled, and that EOR was still working on gathering more information and asked if there were areas that the group knew there were gaps.

The Board scheduled a Manager's workshop for April 14, 2010 at 5:00 at the Forest Lake City Hall, to discuss the District's Mission, to discuss goals/priorities/objectives, methods of measuring success, and to discuss to what depth Stormwater Utilities methods, lake management districts, and fee/rate determinations should be set up in the Plan.

## **8) Report of Staff**

### ***a) Administrator***

Administrator Anhorn presented an Administrator's Report and 2010 Work Plan Update memo (a copy each is annexed and incorporated by reference). The Administrator's report detailed recent correspondence, permit and plan submittals for review, and recent meetings with local stakeholders. Other issues the Administrator highlighted included:

- Recent Presentation at the March 18, 2010 Comfort Lakes Association Annual Meeting
- Updates on the MAWD legislative day at the Capitol as well as updates on legislative issues.
- Mentioned the March 17, 2010 Plan TAC/CAC Stakeholder meeting
- Due to lack of RSVP's the first of two (February 23<sup>rd</sup>), *Planting for Clean Water* workshop was rescheduled for April 13, 2010. So, the two workshops are now scheduled for March 9 and April 13, 2010 from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm at the Forest Lake Gander Mountain
- Recent annual audit by HLB Tautges, Redpath on March 22, 2010
- Attended recent Sunrise River study meeting
- Asked for comments on the presented draft 2009 Annual Report
- Continue to work on grant contract agreements
- Working on compiling permit needs for fish barrier projects
- Working with Mr. Holtman on Cooperative Agreement with City of Forest Lake on how stormwater will be managed between the three road projects
- Working with Chuck Holtman on language for encroachment agreements/easements as part of fish barrier projects
- Recent and upcoming events including speaking at Comfort Lakes Association annual meeting and scheduled to speak at both the Forest and Bone Lake Associations' annual meetings, and setting up a booth at the April 10<sup>th</sup> Forest Lake Home Show.
- Working with Chuck Holtman on contract language for added grazing plan /buffer establishment (in addition to NRCS) as a part of the two wetland restoration/cattle exclusion projects.
- Recent permit activities and site inspections

### ***b) Emmons and Olivier Resources (EOR)***

Lisa Tilman had previously provided an update during the meeting on recent project/permit application reviews, and stated that they had updated the draft TMDL report and that it had been submitted USEPA for approval.

Ms. Tilman presented a memo detailing the findings from their diagnostic/feasibility assessment of the FL44 subwatershed and former DNR fish rearing pond (A copy of the memo is incorporated by reference and annexed within). Ms. Tilman stated that because the study determined that internal loading from the pond was not an issue, alum treatment and/or excavation for removal of high-nutrient soils is not

recommended or needed. Also, Ms. Tilman stated that because the wetland does not appear to be negatively impacted by fish populations, a fish barrier is also not recommended. Ms. Tilman stated that recommendations stemming from the study included:

- Conduct ongoing monitoring of the wetland's water quality and outflow in order to:
  - Evaluate the average annual loading from the FL44 subwatershed to Forest Lake in years with different hydrologic conditions
  - Review and calibrate the District's water quality model for FL44
  - Evaluate the impact of the livestock exclusion project
- Leverage and target the CLFLWD cost-share program toward projects in the FL44 subwatershed that will:
  - Increase the width and quality of wetland buffers
  - Construct water quality treatment BMPs for roadways and developed areas that discharge to the wetland with no current treatment
- Provide education for landowners adjacent to the FL44 wetland on the benefits and stewardship of wetlands.

The Board asked specific questions as to the low loadings determined from the 2009 monitoring as compared to that modeled as part of the Wenck Study. Staff stated that the Wenck model relied on 2005-2006 grab and flow data (which was a wetter year), and the 2009 data included inflow and outflow data from the pond, but that there was little flow due to the dry year.

The Board held discussion on where BMPs could be sited in the FL44 subwatershed area. They thought that because the wetland was determined to be of such high quality, that it is important to educate area residence of its importance and connection to receiving water quality and that their actions (i.e., dumping of yardwaste) can cause a detriment to the overall health of the wetland. The Board also thought that it may be beneficial to contact the DNR, (owners of the wetland complex) to see if we could partner with them in incorporating educational signage promoting the importance and high quality of the complex, and that it could also be used by area schools as an education tool.

Administrator Anhorn said that he and EOR were in the process of finalizing the report for submittal to MPCA in order to fulfill requirements of their grant and that they would bring the full report back to the Board once it is finalized.

#### ***c) Washington Conservation District (WCD)***

Erik Anderson handed out draft report and flow chart detailing the draft results of the 2009 water quality monitoring within the District and highlighted areas of interest. Mr. Anderson said that he was hoping to finalize the report by the Board's April 22, 2010 Board meeting and to do so he would like comments from the Board and staff by April 9, 2010.

The Board asked Mr. Anderson and Administrator Anhorn questions on the 2009 lake monitoring results and tributary loads presented and highlighted areas of concern and areas which may need further study.

The Board discussed the potential and importance of additional monitoring sites between the County line site and the Comfort Lake inlet site to determine where the increased loading may be coming. Administrator Anhorn mentioned that 2008 monitoring showed an increase from the County line site to the pre-Shallow Pond site at Greenway Ave., and then a decrease to the Comfort Lake inlet site. The Board thought it may be beneficial to look at re-establishing the Greenway Ave. site with another site immediately after Shallow Pond, but before the Comfort Lake inlet site. Administrator Anhorn said that he and Erik Anderson will look at seeking grant funds in 2011 for the additional sites. Administrator Anhorn

stated that he would be posting the tributary monitoring results and lake information sheets on the District's website.

*d) Smith Partners*

Prior to the meeting, the President and Administrator determined that due to there being no issues on the meeting agenda requiring immediate legal consultation, there was no need for the District Attorney to attend the meeting.

**9) Report of Treasurer**

*a) Approval of Bills*

In Treasurer Lynch's absence Administrator Anhorn discussed the Treasurer's Report (A copy of which is annexed and incorporated by reference) and bills totaling \$26,920.42 for March, 2010.

Motion was made by Manager Spence to approve the March 2010 Treasurer's Report and pay the bills as presented. Manager Moe seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Manager Anderson asked that the table column headings on the expense/budget worksheet be carried over to the subsequent pages as opposed to having the headings just on the first page.

**10) Reports of Officers and Manager**

**Manager Anderson–**

Nothing to Report

**Manager Damchik–**

Manager Damchik mentioned that the water was flowing over the Forest Lake outlet weir.

**Manager Moe –**

Manager Moe discussed issues and his concerns on the gaining popularity of geothermal systems. Manager Moe wondered if the closed vertical loop systems could cause a groundwater contamination problem if the pipes ever eroded/split. The Board held discussion on geothermal systems.

**Manager Spence –**

Manager Spence thanked the Administrator for presenting on the recent achievements and future plans of the District at the Comfort Lakes Association Annual Meeting.

**11) Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the CLFLWD regular Board meeting was made by Manager Anderson and seconded by Manager Moe. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

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Wayne S. Moe, Secretary