

# **CAC Meeting**

**April 5, 2016**

## **Agenda and Notes**

**6:00 – 7:30 PM**

- Update on Comfort Lake – Forest Lake Watershed District (CLFLWD) activities
  - CLFLWD signed contracts with Board of Water and Soil Resources for two grants – Forest Lake Wetland Treatment Basin and Moody Lake Wetland Rehabilitation
  - Bid opening occurred on Friday for the Hilo Lane Stormwater Retrofit Project
  - Received proposals from SEH and Barr Engineering for assistance with District capital improvement projects
  - Mark Peterson, Engineering Technician for the City of Forest Lake is leaving his position with the City to return to the engineering field
  - CLFLWD received 3 DNR grants for AIS Control Projects on Bone Lake, Comfort Lake and Forest Lake
  - CLFLWD received 3 grants from Washington County for AIS Prevention projects including:
    - Flowering rush outreach and management on Forest Lake
    - Watercraft inspections on Forest Lake
    - Boat launch improvements at public accesses on Forest Lake (installation of informational kiosks and/or compost bins)
  - Received decision that application for DNR watercraft inspection grant was denied to due high volume of applicants and prioritization of popular accesses
  - CLFLWD is continuing preparation for aquatic plant treatments this spring/summer. Coordinating with DNR, Blue Water Science and contractors.
  
- Brian Johnson (Metropolitan Council) – Presentation on Elementary education on water quality.
  - Brian is involved in limnology, report writing and the Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP) at Metropolitan Council. He is also involved in education and outreach activities.

- He talked about an educational model that he presents to elementary school students. The model focuses on surface water quality and how lakes and streams become polluted. Presentation is in the form of a plastic model of a watershed. Folds up into a suitcase for transportation. It has various land uses and watershed features including a residential area, farm, industrial area, waste water treatment plant, golf course, lake, streams, roads, storm sewer pipes. Describe difference between point source pollution and non-point source pollution. Concept of how runoff is generated and picks up pollutants on the way toward waterbodies. Use food products such as soy sauce and cocoa to illustrate pollutants such as oil spills and livestock manure. Use a squirt bottle to mimic rain over the model. Water runs over “pollutants” and into waterbodies changing the color of the water and illustrating pollution. Can use tape or other materials to illustrate BMPs such as silt fence or buffer strips. Takes about 30-45 minutes to complete the presentation. Brian has given this presentation to 4<sup>th</sup> graders at a school event in Farmington previously. EnviroScape is the company that makes the model for Metropolitan Council and has different models for different themes such as wetlands, wastewater treatment, etc.
- During discussion of potential uses for a model like this it was mentioned that Chisago County hosts an annual Children’s Water Festival for 5<sup>th</sup> graders
- Develop Master Education/Communication Program for CLFLWD
  - Need to assess current state of water education in school programs around the District. Are kids already taking field trips to Warner Nature Center or reading publications by Project WET?
  - Jack MacKenzie suggested using his Master Water Stewards capstone project on turf grass management as an outreach program for local homeowners. Project would address issues such as how to fertilize properly, how to compost properly, getting your soil tested etc.
  - Outreach to adults to change the social/cultural idea of how lakes should look. Current ideology around green grass mowed all the way to the lakeshore. Want to instill priorities of reducing negative impacts to the lake.
  - Focus on making events free or very cheap. Give people information on actual steps that they can take and use. Don’t overwhelm them.
  - Programs geared toward adults should also engage children
  - Possibly hold an event in conjunction with Arts in the Park at Lakeside Park in Forest Lake
  - Forest Lake Lake Association (FLLA) has a big barbeque and paddleboard event in August in Lakeside Park – could potentially piggyback education event onto that

- Advertise events via newspaper and social media
- Brochure for new lakeshore homeowners – work with realtors to know who moves in. District has been working with EMWREP on a Shoreline Homeowners Tools and Rules packet for past few months. Still in draft stages.
- Homework: come back to next meeting with some more ideas for a 1-5 year plan, big picture, what would we like to see from this program? What type of modules? Can work through timetable in future meetings. Want to settle on one piece we can implement this year.
  
- Establish next meeting dates
  - Meetings are usually held on the first Tuesday of the month
  - Next meeting - May 3, 2016
  - Future meetings scheduled as follows:
    - June 7, 2016
    - July 12, 2016 (push back one week because of holiday)
    - August 2, 2016
    - September 6, 2016
  - New members
    - Jerry will check with Mark Peterson to see if he still wants to participate on CAC
  
- Upcoming CLFLWD board meetings and attendance
  - April 14, 2016 – Special Board Meeting at CLFLWD offices at 3:00 pm
  - April 20, 2016 - Joint Board Meeting at Warner Nature Center at 6:00 pm
  - April 28, 2016 - Regular Board Meeting at Forest Lake City Hall at 6:30 pm
  
- Other discussion topics
  - None