

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

**THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2007**

1) **Call to Order**

The President called the special meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. at the Forest lake City Offices, 220 North Lake Street, Forest Lake, Minnesota

President Jackie Anderson, Vice President Richard Damchik, Secretary John Lynch, Treasurer Jon Spence, Manager Wayne Moe

Staff: Randy Anhorn, Lisa Tilman (EOR)

Others: Tom Casey (Citizens for the Responsible Growth in Forest Lake), Chip Robinson (City of Forest Lake)

2) **Reading Agenda**

Manager Anderson stated that the purpose of the special meeting was to discuss the potential support of an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) petition on the Wal-Mart expansion project that was accepted by the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB). The petition will be on the May 14, 2007 Forest Lake City Council meeting agenda to decide if the City should undertake an EAW on the project. Further, in its review of the project, the District raised several areas of concern, detailed in a letter to the City dated February 8, 2007. To date, the District has not received resolution to these raised issues.

Manager Anderson went over the planned meeting agenda. Manager Anderson stated that there would be allotted time for comments from those in attendance, then the Board would hold discussions and on whether to support the EAW petition in front of the City of Forest Lake.

3) **Open Mike**

The Chair opened the meeting for public comment.

Tom Casey stated that he represented a group called Citizens for the Responsible Growth in Forest Lake (CRGFL). Mr. Casey presented a chronological timeline of the group's EAW petition request on the Wal-Mart expansion project. The timeline included an initial petition request which was turned down by the EQB, and a second revised petition, which was accepted by EQB and forwarded on the Forest Lake City Council to decide if the City should undertake an EAW. Mr. Casey stated that CRGFL was here to seek support from the District in requesting the City of Forest Lake to order an EAW.

Mr. Casey stated that the standard for determining if an EAW should be prepared for a project is if that project “may have the potential for significant environmental effects.” Mr. Casey said, that because the downstream receiving waterbody, Comfort Lake, is listed as impaired by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), any additional stormwater and associated nutrient load to the lake has the potential to negatively impact its quality. For this reason, the CRGFL feels that an EAW on the Wal-Mart expansion project is warranted.

The Board asked questions as to the nature and make-up of the CRGFL and what the group expected to come from the EAW if ordered. Mr. Casey stated that the CRGFL was simply looking for more information in order to ensure that there would not be significant environmental impact to downstream waterbodies.

Chip Robinson, Administrator for the City of Forest Lake, stated that the City and its engineers were in the process of providing response to questions raised in the District’s February 8, 2007 comment and review letter. Mr. Robinson stated that the project has gone through some revisions to address some of the District’s concerns and apologized for the District not getting the revisions and responses in a timely matter.

Mr. Robinson further mentioned that Forest Lake is a designated municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) community, and has a stormwater ordinance. Because of it being designated as such, they are required to develop and implement a stormwater pollution prevention program (SWPPP) to reduce the discharge of pollutants from their storm sewer system to the maximum extent practicable. The SWPPP must cover six minimum control measures:

- Public education and outreach;
- Public participation/involvement;
- Illicit discharge, detection and elimination;
- Construction site runoff control;
- Post-construction site runoff control; and
- Pollution prevention/good housekeeping.

The MS4 must identify best management practices (BMPs) and measurable goals associated with each control measure.

The City of Forest Lake’s SWPPP has been submitted to MPCA.

The Board thanked both Mr. Casey and Mr. Robinson for their comments.

4) **Board Discussion**

Manager Anderson gave an overview of Comfort Lake and its degrading water quality and eventual listing as impaired due to excessive nutrients. Manager Anderson further stated that she feels that the District should focus our attention on the potential impact such projects may have on waters within the District's boundaries.

Administrator Anhorn provided a memo to the Board (a copy is annexed and incorporated by reference) detailing the unanswered issues of concern raised in the District's February 8, 2007 review and comment letter.

Manager Spence mentioned that a big concern for him is the determination of pre-expansion vs. post-expansion nutrient loads from the site. Because Comfort Lake is listed as impaired, the District needs to get resolution on projected load conditions from the proposed site.

Manager Anderson stated that this is not an issue with Wal-Mart, it is in a question of how resulting stormwater is being managed in order to avoid down stream impacts. Motion was made by Manager Spence for Administrator Anhorn to submit a letter to the City of Forest Lake stating the District's support of the City preparing a EAW for the Wal-Mart expansion project in order to answer questions raised in the District's initial review and comment dated February 8, 2007. The Motion was seconded by Manager Damchik. Upon a roll call vote, the Motion carried unanimously.

Manager	Aye	Nay
Anderson	X	
Damchik	X	
Lynch	X	
Moe	X	
Spence	X	

5) **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn CLFLWD special meeting was made by Manager Moe and seconded by Manager Lynch. Motion carried unanimously.

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John T. Lynch, Secretary