CLFLWD CAC Meeting Minutes – Nov. 3, 2015

Attending:

- Jerry Grundtner (Forest Lake)
- Curt Sparks and Jack MacKenzie (Sylvan Lake)
- Sam Hathaway (Bone Lake)
- Nicole Meis
- Mike Kinney (CLFLWD)
- Angie Hong (EMWREP)

Review Oct. 6 meeting minutes: Jerry distributed the meeting minutes from October. There were no comments or corrections.

Update on CAC members: Kathy Blomquist has decided to step down from the CAC. Nicole Meis is interested in joining. She lives near Comfort Lake and runs the environmental division for Royal Concrete, a local business.

Update on CLFLWD activities:

- The district is working on strategies to mitigate beaver issues on Bone Lake.
- The bid is open for the Bixby Park Project and they have 7 proposals so far. The low bid is $420,000; all the others are over $550,000. The project involves installing two weir structures in an abandoned ditch to direct more water to a wetland complex. They will be removing 5000 cubic acres of material. The project will improve wildlife habitat and reduce phosphorus flowing downstream to Comfort Lake by 206 pounds per year.
- There will be some realignment of boundaries between Rice Creek WD and CLFLWD in the coming year.
- The district is currently looking to hire a program assistant.
- AIS education signs will be installed at entrances and exits to two boat launches on Forest Lake (1st and 3rd) in November.

Presentations of action item subcommittees:

1. Cost-Share Program: Jerry distributed a document prepared by himself and Bruce Anderson with recommended changes to the CLFLWD cost-share program. A lengthy discussion ensued.
   a. Earlier this year, the CLFLWD board changed its cost-share formula to a performance-based model. This fall, they decided to change back to the previous formula which provides 50% funding for eligible practices, up to $3000.
   b. There is a sense that communications problems between interested residents, CLFLWD, and Washington Conservation District (WCD) staff over the years have resulted in fewer projects within the district, despite high levels of interest each spring. Most years only 3-4 projects are completed, despite high attendance at workshops and many site visit requests. The high cost of shoreline projects is also a problem, as are concerns about ice heaves along Forest Lake.
i. Angie said that she will pull out data from the 2010 and 2015 BMP project surveys conducted by EMWREP to see if they can gain insight into motivations and barriers for CLFLWD residents.

c. Mike wondered if the district should focus on a wider range of BMPs, including changing lawn care practices. Curt shared a story from several years ago when the district worked with a golf course in FL to reduce fertilizer application rates. After soil testing was conducted, the golf course stopped applying phosphorus to the course (applying only N and K fertilizer). As a result, they were able to save $5000 per year.

d. Curt suggested that the district could offer residents with a range of practices they could adopt; Angie suggested the WCD landscape designers could create illustrations showing how a typical lakeshore yard might look with different practices in place (ie. trees, raingarden, upland shoreline planting, emergent shoreline planting, etc.).

e. There was a lengthy discussion about ice heaves. Might there be landowners willing to let the district experiment with different approaches to ice heaves in their yards? Mike said that he would go out with WCD staff the next week to survey the condition of the FL shoreline now that most of the boats and docks are out for the season.

f. Jerry asked the rest of the CAC to review and comment on the document he and Bruce had created.

2. Communication and Education Plans

   a. After the October meeting, Angie provided Jerry and Curt with information about k-12 and other education programs happening in Washington County and nearby.

   b. Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District has used school BMP projects as a way to educate students, as well as their parents, in addition to reducing stormwater runoff from school properties. There was a discussion about how a similar program might work in CLFLWD.

   c. Nicole suggested that CLFLWD could borrow educational resources from local businesses, such as Royal Concrete (royalenterprises.net to learn about their water flow models).

   d. Laura Jester will attend the Dec. 1 CAC meeting.

   e. Mike will demo website upgrades at the Dec. meeting as well.

3. Forest Lake Parks Plan

   a. The Parks Commission is interested in working with the CLFLWD on water projects but needs time to address basic concerns first.

   b. Mike suggested they look for opportunities for stormwater retrofits when parks are being upgraded and under construction anyway.

4. AIS

   a. Jerry distributed a document with information and reflections on the district’s approach to AIS.

   b. Mike stated that the district spent about $80,000-100,000 on AIS in 2015.

5. Next Meeting: Dec. 1, 6-7:30pm

   a. The group decided that the cost-share program, communications/education, and AIS should be the focus of the next few CAC meetings.