

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
COMFORT LAKE-FOREST LAKE
WATERSHED DISTRICT
Monday, October 14, 2019**

1. Call to Order

President Spence called the October 14, 2019 special board meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. in the offices of the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District, 44 Lake Street South, Suite A, Forest Lake.

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

Absent: Assistant Treasurer Wayne Moe, Secretary Jen Oknich,

Others: Jessica Lindemyer, Jason Kuennen, Trey Jonas (CLFLWD staff); Greg Graske (Emmons & Olivier Resources); Luke Rehbein (USS Solar Sources); Bob Hoernemann (Hunt Electric)

2. New Business

a) Permit 19-033 USS Solar

Engineer Graske explained that the proposed project is a solar farm on a 12-acre parcel in Scandia, draining to Forest Lake. It triggers Rule 2.0 Stormwater Management and 3.0 Erosion Control. Proposed stormwater features include an infiltration basin and a swale. Current land use is agricultural. The project will install solar panels and cover most of the lot in native vegetation such as perennial grasses. The project will result in essentially zero stormwater runoff leaving the site. The proposed project meets stormwater requirements. The site has an acceptable erosion and sediment control plant. Mr. Graske recommended approval contingent on the recommendations listed in the engineer's report.

Mr. Graske noted that several spruce trees will be planted around the site as screening from the road. This was required by the City of Scandia. Manager Anderson asked why this application was delayed, resulting in the request for a special board meeting. Luke Rehbein explained that the iterative project design process and contractor selection takes a lot of time to work through.

Manager Schmaltz noted that there seem to be several solar farms begin constructed lately. He asked about potential site contamination from chemicals in the solar panels. Mr. Rehbein indicated that the solar panels contain nontoxic materials and are fairly resilient to cracking damage such as hail.

Manager Anderson moved to approve permit application 19-033 subject to the conditions in the October 8, 2019 Engineer's Memo. Seconded by Manager Schmaltz. Upon a vote, the motion carried 3-0.

b) Permit 18-043 Jason Ave. Single Family Home

Mr. Graske noted that this application was added to the agenda since the Board was already meeting for permit 19-033. The site is located on a channel off Forest Lake's east basin. Due to the shape of the lot, the builder is unable to meet the City's setback requirements and received a variance from the City. The setback variance triggers the District's Rule 4.0 Lake, Stream and Wetland Buffers. The required minimum 25-foot buffer is included on the plans. The buffer currently contains adequate vegetation and simply needs to be protected. Mr. Graske recommended approval contingent on the recommendations listed in the engineer's report.

There was discussion about the transfer of lot ownership and existing erosion and sediment control features onsite. Jason Kuennen explained that some foundation work has occurred this year, but most of the site currently remains untouched and still in permanent vegetation. Manager Anderson asked what protection measures would be required if the site is stockpiling soil over the winter. Mr. Graske indicated that perimeter control will be required around any stockpiles. Mr. Kuennen added that there are currently some stockpiles onsite which have grown over with vegetation. He indicated that he would be inspecting the site regularly throughout construction.

Manager Schmaltz moved to approve permit application 18-043 subject to the conditions in the October 10, 2019 Engineer's Memo. Seconded by Manager Anderson. Upon a vote, the motion carried 3-0.

3. Adjourn

a) Next regular board meeting – October 24, 2019

Manager Schmaltz moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Manager Anderson. Upon vote, the motion carried 3-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

Jen Oknich, Secretary _____