

**Minutes of
Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District Board and
City of Wyoming Joint Meeting
Wyoming City Hall, 26885 Forest Blvd, Wyoming, MN 55092
Tuesday, December 19, 2017**

1. Call to Order

Mayor Iverson called the workshop to order at 6:00 p.m.

Attendees representing Wyoming: Mayor Lisa Iverson, Councilmembers Joe Zerwas, Don Waller, Linda Nanko/Yeager, and Claire Luger; Robb Linwood, Marty Powers (City Staff); Mark Vierling (Eckberg Lammers); Mark Erickson (WSB & Associates).

Attendees representing Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District (CLFLWD): President Jackie Anderson; Managers Jon Spence, Wayne Moe, and Steve Schmaltz; Mike Kinney, Jessica Lindemyer (District staff); Greg Graske (Emmons and Olivier Resources)

2. Proposed Watershed District Rule Revisions

Engineer Graske summarized the main objectives for the rule revisions: modifying permit applicability thresholds so that they are simpler and apply to more projects that may have water impacts, and incorporating more flexibility for certain projects such as roads and redevelopment while continuing to maintain current standards for new development. The public comment period for the proposed rules is currently open. Mr. Graske went into further detail on the proposed revisions.

Councilmember Nanko/Yeager asked why paving of gravel roads is exempt from stormwater requirements; shouldn't the creation of impervious surface trigger the rule? Mr. Graske explained that gravel surfaces are already considered impervious surface because of how compacted they are, therefore no new impervious is being created. He noted that the road would need to be left as rural section with roadside ditches in order for the rule to not apply. Creation of curb and gutter and direct line to stormwater infrastructure would trigger the rule and require stormwater treatment. Mr. Graske further explained revisions to the stormwater management rule and alternatives to meeting the standards. Alternatives to meeting the rule may include paying into the District's stormwater impact fund, stormwater credit banking, and/or regional stormwater facilities. Engineer Erickson explained the City's appreciation for some of the revisions; they would make it easier for municipalities to complete their own projects given tight financial constraints. He noted that the City is thankful to have been invited to provide comment on the rule revisions, and that it will plan to continue to work with the District moving forward, particularly on the topic of regional stormwater management facilities.

Mr. Graske explained that the permit trigger for the erosion control rule has been lowered so as to ensure proper best management practices (BMPs) are being used for projects that may be smaller, but can still have negative impacts to waterbodies. The new rule would also require BMPs for certain projects that are still below the new permit threshold.

Mr. Erichson explained that the City would prefer if the new permit trigger for stormwater management were higher. The current proposed trigger is 5,000 square feet of new or reconstructed impervious surface. Mr. Graska explained that, as part of the rule revision drafting process, the District reviewed rules and ordinances of other local watershed districts and municipalities. While 5,000 square feet is on the low end of the spectrum, it is still close to many of the others. President Anderson explained that it can be hard to compare different watershed districts apples-to-apples since they all have unique characteristics as it pertains to their respective water resources and associated needs. For example, the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District has many lakes unlike other watershed districts.

In response to a question from Councilmember Waller, Mr. Graska clarified that the 5,000 square foot trigger wouldn't apply to single-family residential projects such as a long driveway for a house. It would apply to non-residential or multifamily-residential projects such as a commercial building or parking lot expansion, for example. Mr. Erichson explained that he would recommend a threshold around 10,000 square feet as opposed to the proposed 5,000 square feet. Mr. Graska explained the current stormwater permit trigger: for projects that are greater than 1,000 feet from a public waterbody the trigger is 1 acre or 25% of the site, whichever is less; for projects within 1,000 feet of a waterbody the trigger is ¼ acre or 5% of the site, whichever is less. He noted that, for some sites, the 5% trigger would actually be less than 5,000 square feet. On the other end of the spectrum, some projects could theoretically pave 0.9 acres and not require any treatment whatsoever. These are some of the issues that the proposed revisions should remedy. Potential acceptable stormwater BMPs were discussed.

3. Area Hydrology and Future Planning

Mr. Kinney explained that regional stormwater facilities can be a cost-effective alternative to onsite stormwater treatment for certain sites. Furthermore, creating these types of facilities would likely be a substantial service to the community in that flood management would be an additional benefit. Identifying locations for these facilities is key. President Anderson explained the District's philosophy of adaptive management and its holistic watershed management process. She touched on the District's cost-share program that can help local municipalities implement BMPs. She noted that while this program has not yet been implemented it is in the District's plan and the District is working on implementing it in the near future. She went over the District's water quality goals and how those guide the adaptive management process. She then summarized some successful capital improvement projects that were recently completed by the District including the Moody Lake Wetland Rehabilitation Project and Bixby Park Water Quality Improvement Project. One of the District's main goals is to achieve pre-development conditions on its waterbodies. President Anderson explained that the District aims to achieve that goal by helping local development occur in a smart and sustainable way. There was discussion about future District projects, its tax-forfeit properties, and the multi-phase staging of the Sunrise River Water Quality and Flowage Project. Regional stormwater treatment and alternative methods for onsite stormwater treatment were discussed. President Anderson commended the cooperation of past District permittees as well as the collaborative relationship between the District and City of Wyoming.

4. Adjourn

The workshop was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.