

**Minutes of the
Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District and
City of Forest Lake Joint Meeting
Forest Lake City Offices 1408 Lake Street South, Forest Lake, Minnesota 55025
Monday, November 20, 2017**

1. Call to Order

Councilmember Husnik called the workshop to order at 5:35 p.m.

Attendees representing Forest Lake: Mayor Ben Winnick (arrived at 5:37); Councilmembers Mara Bain, Sam Husnik; Aaron Parrish, Dave Adams, Bailey Fencil, Dan Udem (City staff); Ryan Goodman (Bolton-Menk, Inc)

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

Other Attendees: Ryan Howard (Forest Lake Times)

2. Proposed Watershed District Rule Revisions

Ryan Goodman started off the discussion by explaining the City's comments with regard to definitions of land disturbance; mill, reclamation and overlay; and reconstructed impervious surface. There was discussion about specific changes the City has requested, and how the District has addressed these concerns. Greg Graske summarized the sections where variances between the City and District opinions still exist including the stormwater management permit trigger (5,000 square feet) and redevelopment project treatment requirements (if a project reconstructs more than 50% of a site the stormwater standards apply to all impervious on the site).

The City's request is to raise the permit trigger to 10,000 square feet so as to align with that of Rice Creek Watershed District and not apply to small sites that would likely have a low return on investment for stormwater management practices. Administrator Kinney noted that Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District has a threshold of 5,000 square feet, so it isn't possible to align with all of the neighboring watershed districts and cities to the same standards. There was discussion about typical square footage of redevelopment projects in Forest Lake, small commercial site limitations, and regional stormwater management options.

Administrator Parrish described the City's philosophy of avoiding being the most restrictive on development so as to encourage growth and development of the city. President Anderson explained the District's plans for regional stormwater treatment in order to accommodate sites where onsite treatment is infeasible. She stressed the importance of collaboration between the District and the City to implement regional facilities. There was discussion about past City projects and methods for treating stormwater. Manager Schmaltz described the need for

treating existing impervious surfaces, rather than just new developments, so as to make progress in reversing the damage that was done before regulations existed. Mr. Goodman noted the importance of stormwater maintenance, and how increased street sweeping can reduce the need for maintenance.

Discussion moved on to linear projects. The District's proposed revised rules would exempt mill and overlay projects as well as reclamation, but would still require stormwater treatment for full reconstruction projects. Full reconstruction entails disturbance of the native underlying soils. Administrator Parrish explained that, due to its limited budget, the City has generally focused on mill and overlay so as to avoid triggering the stormwater requirements and incurring the associated costs. Mr. Graske noted that the new proposed rule meets the City's requests in the middle, with less aggressive standards and a narrower applicability. He explained how a full road reclamation project creates a lot of disturbance and is therefore the most ideal opportunity to incorporate the stormwater treatment that should have been installed back when the road was initially built. Administrator Parrish stated the City's opinion that the rule is still too strict and therefore results in projects avoiding the trigger altogether; this results in no treatment rather than what could have been some small amount of treatment under a less-strict rule. There was further discussion about regional stormwater treatment including grant funding limitations, City reluctance to provide the funding up front, potential siting, and the District's permit stormwater impact fund. President Anderson stressed the importance of creating a mapped inventory of the City's stormwater infrastructure, and requested that the City move forward with this effort. There appeared to be general agreement that the two organizations would work cooperatively on the regional stormwater facility mapping effort moving forward.

There was discussion about establishing annual coordination meetings between the District Board and City Council. President Anderson made note of several informational handouts that the District provided for the meeting concerning the District's water quality goals and progress toward the goals.

3. Adjourn

The workshop was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.