

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
COMFORT LAKE – FOREST LAKE
WATERSHED DISTRICT
Thursday, August 25, 2016**

1. Call to Order

President Anderson called the August 25, 2016 Regular Board meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Forest Lake City Center, 1408 Lake Street South, Forest Lake.

Present: President Jackie Anderson, Vice President Jon Spence, Secretary Wayne Moe, Treasurer Steve Schmaltz, Assistant Treasurer Jackie McNamara

Others: Mike Kinney, Emily Schmitz, Mike Sorensen, Jessica Lindemyer (CLFLWD staff); Jerry Grundtner and Jack McKenzie (Citizen Advisory Committee); Mark Lobermeier (City of Wyoming liaison); Greg Graske and Meghan Funke (Emmons & Olivier Resources); Chuck Holtman (Smith Partners)

2. Setting of Meeting Agenda

Manager Moe moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Manager McNamara. Upon a vote, the motion carried 5-0.

3. Consent Agenda

a) **Regular Board Meeting Minutes – July 14, 2016**

b) **Special Board Meeting Minutes – July 19, 2016**

Manager Moe moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Manager Spence. Upon a vote, the motion carried 5-0.

4. Public Open Forum

No comments.

5. Citizen Advisory Committee Update

CAC Chairman Jerry Grundtner updated the Board on two projects that the CAC has been working on. Mr. Grundtner noted that the first project is being spearheaded by CAC member and St. Croix Master Watershed Steward candidate, Jack McKenzie. Mr. Grundtner noted that they plan on compiling 250 “welcome coolers” containing reference information such as a rules & regulations booklet, native shoreline planting information, local business info, as well as MPCA and DNR information to educate new lake residents

on Comfort Lake, Bone Lake, and Forest Lake. Each respective lake association will have representatives present the welcome cooler to the new residents, go over the info within, and reach out to them to join the lake association. Mr. Grundtner stated that the purpose of these welcome coolers is to address some of the most common questions and problems that new lake property homeowners run into. He reported that there are approximately eighty to ninety new lake property homeowners on the three aforementioned lakes each year. They calculate that their supply of 250 should last about two or three years with the first round to be distributed in October and November of 2016. President Anderson inquired about the District's participation in this project and what the sources of funding are being utilized. Administrator Kinney stated that the District is supplying printed materials and covering the cost of those printings. Mr. Grundtner noted that coolers are being funded through sources that Mr. McKenzie has arranged including sponsorship from local businesses. Mr. McKenzie noted that coolers will have the logos of the Rotary Club, the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District, and Chamber of Commerce printed on them. He also noted that they are pursuing a partnership with local real estate agents.

Mr. Grundtner explained that the CAC has also been working on developing an education program with Mike Miron, the agriculture teacher at Forest Lake High School. The idea is to expand Mr. Miron's current curriculum to include more information on watershed districts and water quality. Mr. Grundtner noted that in October they hope to have Mr. Miron bring his students out to the Forest Lake dock where they will learn about the Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP) and the techniques that they use to sample water quality.

6. New Business

a) AIS Program Update

Mike Sorensen provided a report on AIS activities in the District. The District treated 0.7 acres of Eurasian watermilfoil on Bone Lake on August 3rd. In September or October staff will be going out with Steve McComas from Blue Water Science to perform a fish survey in Sea Lake, located northeast of Bone Lake. The goal of this survey is find out how connected Sea Lake is to Bone Lake as it may be used as a breeding ground for common carp. There are also plans to conduct a fish survey on Little Comfort Lake, along with some sediment work to determine what potential Little Comfort has for hosting species such as zebra mussels and Eurasian watermilfoil.

Staff have been working on a grant application to decommission the electric fish barrier between Shields Lake and Forest Lake and install a passive fish barrier, similar to the one at Bone Lake, in its place. Mr. Sorensen explained that because staff will be able to perform the majority of maintenance needs on the passive barrier, this change will greatly reduce the annual operating and maintenance costs which are currently \$3,500-\$5,000 per year for the electric barrier.

Mr. Sorensen provided an update on the Sylvan Lake purple loosestrife biological control efforts. Back in June, staff and volunteers collected beetles and weevils from a site in the City of White Bear Lake which were then released at several sites on Sylvan Lake in hopes that the beetles would act as a biological control agent and reduce the population of purple loosestrife on the lake. He noted that he and Ms. Schmitz visited Sylvan Lake earlier that day to inspect the status of the plants around the release sites. They found some visible damage to the plants as well as some egg masses at the release sites. Mr. Sorensen noted that he expects to see large scale control of the plant take hold in two or three years as the beetles and weevils become more established in the area.

The first herbicide treatment of flowering rush on Forest Lake was administered by PLM Lake and Land Management on August 3rd when 36 acres of the plant were treated with Diquat by boat. One week later PLM came back and treated the shoreline with backpack sprayers. Mr. Sorensen noted that they will be back again on August 31st for the second round of treatment. Mr. Sorensen noted that the treatment of flowering rush is largely occurring in Forest Lake's east basin (a.k.a. 3rd Lake) and middle basin (a.k.a. 2nd Lake) where the plant is most prevalent. No treatment has occurred in the west basin (a.k.a. 1st Lake) this year. Mr. Sorensen explained that there has been no herbicide treatment of the flowering rush located by the 2nd Lake boat access as this site is being used for an experimental hand cutting exercise. Mr. Sorensen also touched on the efforts the District has been making to engage the residents of Forest Lake on the treatment of flowering rush. He notes that the District used grant money to boost a Facebook post detailing the flowering rush treatment activities which has reached over 1,400 users in the area.

Mr. Sorensen gave an update on the watercraft inspection hours. He noted that the DNR has watercraft inspectors at Forest Lake 1 which frees up time for the District inspectors to cover Forest Lake 2 and 3 more frequently. In the next couple of weeks, the inspector in charge of covering the accesses at Bone Lake and Comfort Lake will be spending more time at the Comfort Lake access to get the inspection hours for that access point closer to its goal.

The Memorial Muskie Tournament is requiring boaters to have their watercrafts inspected before entering their tournament. The organizers contacted District staff to get the time and location availability of local watercraft inspectors.

Manager Schmaltz inquired about the effectiveness of the flowering rush treatment on Forest Lake. It was explained that Mr. McCommas has not done the follow up delineation yet and that another round of herbicide treatment will be conducted on August 31st.

Manager Moe inquired if staff had seen any purple loosestrife growing along the north side of Highway 97 by Sylvan Lake. While Mr. Sorensen was unsure of the exact area Manager Moe was referring to, he did note that they had seen purple loosestrife growing along the side of Highway 97 in that general area. President

Anderson also added that she has observed purple loosestrife popping up along Highway 8 as well.

President Anderson asked Mr. Sorensen to list the Secchi depth readings in feet as well as meters in the next AIS update.

b) FY2017 BWSR Grant Proposals

Administrator Kinney reported on the different grants that the District applied for for the fiscal year 2017, giving a brief overview of the related projects:

- Shields Lake Stormwater Harvest, Irrigation Reuse System, and Alum Treatment: Administrator Kinney noted that the District has been collaborating with the Forest Hills Golf Club for this project and received a letter of support from the golf club superintendent to supplement the grant application.
- Bone Lake Partially Drained Wetland Restoration Project: Administrator Kinney noted that six wetlands have been identified in the drainage area that may be well suited for diagnostic work. In addition to this work, the District will partner with the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts to develop a complete assessment and prioritization of the agricultural fields in the area in order to locate those best suited for BMPs.
- Forest Lake South Best Management Practices (BMPs): Administrator Kinney explained that this project entails three BMPs that may be implemented in cooperation with the City of Forest Lake.
- Forest Lake Enhanced Street Sweeping Plan: Administrator Kinney noted that the initial focus will be on the development of the plan itself with the City, with the financing portion to be worked on next year. Administrator Kinney also noted that the grant for this project is an Accelerated Implementation Grant.
- Forest Lake Priority Subcatchment Implementation: Administrator Kinney noted that review of the diagnostic work completed by EOR has resulted in the identification of three priority areas contributing the most nutrient loading into Forest Lake. Work for this grant would be focused on identifying shovel ready projects within the previously identified areas. The grant for this project is also an Accelerated Implementation Grant.

c) BWSR Grant Verification Results

Administrator Kinney brought to the attention of the board a letter addressed to President Anderson from the BWSR Grants Compliance Specialist, Linda Donnay which detailed the results of her grant verification visit this spring. Administrator Kinney noted that he has received further communication from Ms. Donnay requesting the use of project documentation and grant reporting material as training material for the new Clean Water Partner specialist due to the superb organization of the materials. The Managers commended the staff on their grant

work. Manager Schmaltz inquired about the letter's request for staff time reports. Administrator Kinney clarified that staff time reports were not a required submittal item, however, BWSR will be requiring them in the future and therefore would like the District's staff time reports for training purposes.

President Anderson asked Administrator Kinney if he would like to talk about the projects District staff has submitted for award to the MN Association of Watershed Districts. Administrator Kinney noted that the submissions will be discussed in the Program and Project Update later in the meeting.

d) MAWD Resolution Packet

Administrator Kinney reminded the board that the MN Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) is now accepting resolution submissions for consideration of policy changes. President Anderson gave staff direction to provide the managers with a fillable digital version of the resolution packet. Manager Spence spoke to the question of whether these resolutions are not necessarily just for proposed legislative changes, but could also address the way in which MAWD operates.

e) WCD Buffer Law Letter

Administrator Kinney informed the Board of a letter that the Washington Conservation District will be sending to residents whose property may need adjustments to be in accordance with the state's new buffer law. He noted that he does not believe any residents within the District will be affected by this law. Manager McNamara inquired as to what type of property would be affected. Administrator Kinney responded that any property owner who is performing any type of cropping activity within the designated buffer area will be affected, clarifying that this letter is mostly geared toward the agricultural industry.

7. Old Business

a) Program & Project Update

Administrator Kinney introduced a presentation given by staff detailing the various activities that District has been working on. He noted that the presentation will act as a precursor to a more detailed presentation planned for the budget hearing.

Ms. Schmitz started off the presentation by reporting some permitting statistics. The District has issued 13 permits with several more under review and conducted 52 site inspections. Mr. Sorensen then reported briefly on the District's monitoring efforts, noting that the Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP) is going along smoothly. He then provided an update on the cost-share program, reporting that he has performed 17 site visits with interested homeowners. Of those 17, nine have applied and been approved for plant grant projects. Mr. Sorensen continued

with a report on the District's education and outreach efforts. He touched on the District's planned involvement with Forest Lake High School, Master Watershed Steward projects, and lake association communication. Jessica Lindemyer continued reporting on the District's education and outreach efforts, explaining the different social media efforts the District has been pursuing in hopes of reaching wider audiences. Ms. Lindemyer also touched upon the District's interagency communications and Ms. Schmitz talked about the District's grant research and preparation work. Administrator Kinney then took over the presentation to speak briefly about several of the District's ongoing projects. Ms. Schmitz concluded the presentation by speaking briefly about the programs and project submitted to MAWD for award consideration. The District submitted their AIS Prevention Program and Plant Grant Program for consideration of 2016 Program of the Year and the Bixby Park Water Quality Improvement Project for consideration of 2016 Project of the Year.

8. Report of Staff

a) Administrator

Nothing to report.

b) Emmons & Olivier

Engineer Graske reported that the two diagnostic studies on Little Comfort and Forest Lake are moving along. He also reported that they are beginning work on the tasks outlined in the rule revisions scope of work that was approved by the board at the last meeting.

c) Smith Partners

Nothing to report.

9. Report of Treasurer

a) Approval of Bills and Treasurer's Report

Manager Schmaltz presented the Treasurer's Report and invoices to be paid and recommended approval.

Manager Spence moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the bills in the amount of \$117,659.52. Seconded by Manager Moe. Upon vote, the motion carried 5-0.

10. Report of Officers and Managers

Nothing to report.

11. Adjourn

a) Next regular board meeting – September 8, 2016

Manager Spence moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Seconded by Manager Moe. Upon vote, the motion carried 5-0.

Wayne S. Moe, Secretary _____