

**MEETING NOTES OF THE
COMFORT LAKE-FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, June 14th, 2022**

Present: Curt Sparks, Randy Schumacher, Tom Furey, Ted Hansen, Jerry Grundtner,

Others: Manager Christopher Loth, Aidan Read, Beth Carrano, Geneva Kubal

Chair: Tom Furey

1.) **Welcome and introductions**

The committee provided introductions as Beth Carrano was attending for the first time.

2.) **Watershed Update**

An update on watershed activities was provided by Aidan Read, land management specialist. Topics included potential acquisitions of the McNamara property, and the South Bone Lake wetland. Jerry Grundtner asked for an update on the JD6 project, and Mr. Read informed him that the Board of Managers had authorized the solicitation of bids at the last meeting. Manager Christopher Loth confirmed this.

3.) **Introduction and Program Updates**

Beth Carrano, senior program manager, provided a personal and professional introduction to the committee, and answered several questions about her role and what she will be doing with the District.

4.) **Shoreline Restoration**

Mr. Read provided a brief presentation outlining the District's shoreline restoration goals, and some potential programs on which to model a District shoreline program. Randy Schumacher made the point that it is unclear who is responsible for enforcing shoreline rules and regulations. Curt Sparks cautioned that a one size fits all approach to shoreline work is difficult as there are a wide variety of conditions on different shoreline parcels. Tom Furey stated that from his experience many landowners are interested in improving their shoreline, while there is strong opposition from a minority.

Mr. Grundtner believed that the goals outlined in the ten-year plan were unrealistic, and that it is counterproductive to set goals that likely are unachievable in the given timeframe. Given the number of parcels that need to be improved, a much larger amount of money needs to be allocated, and the District needs to offer more than a \$500 plant grant. Mr. Sparks agreed that likely more is needed than the small plant grant, and that part of a shoreline program needs to address changing attitudes on each lake. A carrot and stick method may be appropriate, shorelines could be viewed similar to other housing regulations in that they should be inspected and brought "up to code" at sale. Mr. Grundtner agreed that a cultural shift is needed, and more funding is required to make that happen. Manager Loth stated that he was familiar with the program that was introduced from the Lakes and

Stream Association, and that he would be interested in doing something similar through the District.

5.) **Cranberry Field Trip Logistics**

A final time and date was selected by the committee for a special meeting at the Cranberry Lake channel property. Due to everyone's schedules, Tuesday July 12th at 5:00pm was the best available date. It was decided the agenda will include a guided walk with District staff, and an informal discussion of the future of the property. It was decided members will meet at the Third Lake boat launch and walk together to the property, while rides will be available for those with accessibility needs. The committee also chose to invite the Board of Managers to attend.

6.) **Closing**

The chair schedule was reviewed, and Randy Schumacher confirmed he is available to chair the July meeting.

*Next regular meeting of the Citizen's Advisory Committee will be Tuesday, July 19th at 5:00pm.
The meeting will be held remotely via Zoom. The Manager in attendance will be Manager
Stephen Schmaltz.*