

**MEETING NOTES OF THE  
COMFORT LAKE-FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

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

Others: Emily Heinz (CLFLWD Staff), Dr. Meghan Funke (Emmons & Olivier Resources)

**1. Watershed Activities Update**

**a) Administrator's Report Highlight**

Planning Coordinator, Emily Heinz, provided the Committee with various updates regarding District activities over the last several months. These updates included details on the Forest Lake Fish Barrier Replacement, the Bone Lake Wetland Enhancement Project, and the aeration systems on Moody Lake and Shields Lake.

Ms. Heinz went on to highlight the two clean Water Fund Grant projects that have been recommended for full funding by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR); the Little Comfort Lake Phosphorus Reduction Implementation project and the Bone Lake Northeast Wetland Restoration project.

**b) Other**

Ms. Heinz provided the Committee with a summary of upcoming board meetings including the January 19<sup>th</sup> Watershed Management Plan (WMP) Workshop where the Board will discuss the WMP in detail along with the feedback from both the CAC and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

**2. Watershed Management Plan**

Dr. Meghan Funke from Emmons and Olivier Resources (EOR) provided a short introduction of herself and her involvement in the Watershed Management Plan (WMP) process. Ms. Heinz then provided a brief overview of the contents included in the WMP and the CAC provided their feedback.

A summary of the Committee's feedback from this meeting can be found in the attached Preliminary Comment Matrix and additional information on the Watershed Management Plan update process can be found online at <https://www.clflwdplanupdate.org/>. Committee Member, Tom Furey, submitted additional comments prior to the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CAC. These comments have been received by staff and will be responded to separately.

**3. CAC Member Update**

No updates were given.

**4. Election of Chairperson**

The CAC has chosen to defer the election of a Chairperson until such time that a member is interested in the position. The item will be brought forward again at the next meeting.

**Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District Watershed Management Plan Update**

**Preliminary Review Comment-Response Matrix**

**Citizen Advisory Committee**

| Name/Organization | Date Received   | Category/ Section          | Comment # | Comment   |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------|---|
| Tom Furey         | 1/12/21 CAC Mtg | Rivers/Streams             | 1         | The southwest tributary to Bone Lake is not mentioned in the Plan, despite it having significant flows.   |
| Jerry Grundtner   |                 | LMD Profile Priority Areas | 2         | How do your priority rankings relate to the Priority Areas maps in the LMD Profiles? Do any "high" priority projects fall outside of those highlighted areas on the map?  |
| Jerry Grundtner   |                 | Priorities                 | 3         | Priority rankings aren't as clear as they could be. One way to demonstrate priority levels would be to assign timeframes to each goal (e.g., achieve in years 1-5 of the Plan, or years 6-10 of the Plan)   |
| Jerry Grundtner   |                 | Priorities                 | 4         | What is the point of indicating a goal priority level for each LMD if it is the same for each LMD?  |
| Tom Furey         |                 | Lake Keewahtin             | 5         | This Plan underrepresents Lake Keewahtin. The District should always strive to IMPROVE its lakes, not just maintain their current water quality level.  |
| Tom Furey         |                 | Chlorides                  | 6         | The chlorides goal should go beyond just establishing a baseline, but should establish an improvement/decrease in concentration that we want to achieve. The District should strive to be better than the state standard.   |
| Randy Schumacher  |                 | Lake Priorities            | 7         | How does the District evaluate/prioritize a small lake, like Birch Lake, vs a big lake, like Forest Lake. Are all the nine priority lakes listed in section 3.3.1 ACTUALLY the same priority level?   |
| Tom Furey         |                 | Lakes Goal 5               | 8         | The shoreline/streambank buffer goals should be integrated with the climate change issue. For example, the Bone Lake tornado a couple years ago resulted in significant destruction of shoreline vegetation.  |
| All               |                 | Lakes Goal 5               | 9         | The District should provide a reasonably funded cost-share program in order to assertively make progress toward the shoreline buffer goal. The current Plant Grant program is not enough incentive.   |
| All               |                 | Lakes Goal 5               | 10        | Another necessary aspect of making progress toward the lake buffer goal is outreach and behavior change. (Curt Sparks mentioned noticing a trend that northern MN lake residents have a greater emphasis on buffers/conservation than metro lake residents. Has this ever been studied?) The District needs to focus on educating citizens and changing the idea of what a shoreline should look like. (Curt Sparks suggested focusing on school-age children, who are more likely to be receptive to the message than older generations) |
| Jerry Grundtner   |                 | Lake Water Quality Goals   | 11        | Is there sufficient funding in the 10-year budget to implement the necessary projects to achieve lake water quality goals? It's going to take a significant amount of effort/funding in order to move the needle from 36 ppb down to 30 ppb P concentration on Forest Lake.   |
| Randy Schumacher  |                 | Accountability             | 12        | In the Executive Summary there is talk about providing accountability to taxpayers. The District should ensure this is done over the next 10 years. For example, the recent postcard that talked about the Forest Lake outlet rough fish barrier was very informative and was a good example of showing citizens how their tax dollars are being put to work.   |
| Tom Furey         |                 | Outreach                   | 13        | When explaining water quality goals to the public, use the Secchi disk measurement instead of phosphorus concentration. Secchi disk/water clarity (e.g., being able to see your feet in chest-deep water) is more visible/relatable than phosphorus (e.g., 30 ppb). Focus on things people can see.   |
| Tom Furey         |                 | Acronym usage              | 14        | Avoid using acronyms when possible, or if you use them, make sure they are spelled out in that same paragraph so readers don't have to keep flipping back and forth to reference the list of acronyms at the beginning of the Plan.   |
| All               |                 | Section 5                  | 15        | The budget/schedule table in Section 5 is very hard to read and virtually inaccessible in the PDF format.   |