

**MEETING NOTES OF THE
COMFORT LAKE-FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, November 5th, 2019**

Present: Curt Sparks, Jack MacKenzie, Tom Furey, Jerry Grundtner
Others: Jessica Lindemyer (CLFLWD Staff)

1. Watershed Activities Update

a) Administrator's Report

The October 24th Administrator's report was handed out to the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) members present. Watershed Assistant, Jessica Lindemyer, highlighted several items from the report providing the Committee with an overview of the alum treatments recently completed on Shields Lake and Moody Lake, carp removal efforts on Shields Lake, and the watercraft inspection season totals.

Ms. Lindemyer reminded the CAC of upcoming meeting dates including special board meeting scheduled for November 6th and December 12th. She made note of two upcoming educational workshops on the topics of septic maintenance and salt pollution.

b) MAWD Annual Meeting

Ms. Lindemyer informed the CAC that this year's Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) would have a session on Citizen Advisory Committees. She noted that the District has the funds to send two CAC members to the conference, covering all registration, hotel, and mileage expenses. Committee Member, Curt Sparks, expressed his enthusiasm for the Drainage Seminar and some information regarding the recent supreme court decision on the topic of ditches. There was further discussion about the dates of the conference and available sessions. It was clarified that most sessions are held on Friday, December 6th. Ms. Lindemyer noted that interested Committee members would not be required to attend the whole conference, or even stay overnight. She asked that any members interested in attending get in contact with her by November 8th if they would like their arrangements made by the District. Jerry Grundtner and Curt Sparks indicated they would be unable to attend. Tom Furey mentioned that he would check his calendar to potentially attend the conference on December 6th.

c) Watershed Management Plan Update - Listening Sessions

The Committee was presented with a list of the upcoming listening session dates. Ms. Lindemyer indicated that the purpose of these listening sessions is to gather input from the District's stakeholders. A meeting facilitator has been hired to run the sessions. Mr. Grundtner expressed his support for the meeting facilitator, mentioning that the same facilitator was recently used by the City of Forest Lake and was very good. Ms. Lindemyer stated that Committee members are encouraged to attend these sessions and help spread the word. Mr. Grundtner indicated he would be attending the November 13th session and Mr. Furey

indicated he would try to attend the January 25th session. Committee Member Jack MacKenzie stated that he is unavailable to attend any of the sessions but would help spread the word.

d) Other

Mr. MacKenzie provided the Committee with an update on his communications with potential CAC member, CJ Carlson, and the Forest Lake High School Environmental Club. While Ms. Carlson is very interested in the CAC, she has a conflict with the regular meeting times and as such is not able to join the Committee at this time. The Environmental Club is interested in potentially taking on the Adopt-a-Drain program. Mr. MacKenzie will be attending their meetings once a month to provide encouragement and assistance.

Mr. Grundtner shared some information he had received from District Administrator, Mike Kinney, regarding educational signage. He noted that Mr. Kinney had proposed that the Forest Lake Lake Association could be involved in an effort to put out signage on various topics such as proper disposal of leaf litter (i.e. not dumping in wetlands and keep storm drains clear). Mr. Grundtner expressed his opinion that such an effort would be best implemented under the coordination of the Watershed District with local lake associations as the sign distributors. There was a general consensus among the Committee to add this item to the list of potential 2020 initiatives.

2. 2020 Goals and Initiatives

Ms. Lindemyer brought the Committee's attention to the information and worksheet on S.M.A.R.T. goals provided in the meeting packet. She suggested that the Committee could use this meeting to brainstorm some initial ideas to move forward, working on the details of those ideas at the December CAC meeting. The Committee was in agreement with this plan.

Mr. Grundtner inquired about the work being done by Angie Hong of the East Metro Water Resource Education Program (EMWREP) and how her articles are being communicated. Ms. Lindemyer indicated that Ms. Hong's articles are uploaded to the EMWREP blog eastmetrowater.org and are emailed out to various newspapers for publication at their discretion. Ms. Hong also drafts articles more specific to the CLFLWD which are published in local newspapers. Ms. Lindemyer indicated that she does not typically receive an email notification for these articles but rather scans the papers for their publication. Angie Hong intends to attend the next CAC meeting to discuss CAC and EMWREP plans for 2020.

Mr. Furey provided the Committee with an update on the Enviro DIY Monitoring program stating that while progress is being made, the program is not yet at an implementation stage where the CAC could get involved in a meaningful way. He noted that he would continue to provide the Committee with updates on the program as it moves forward.

The Committee discussed the District's need for support at events such as Forest Lake's Arts in the Park. Mr. MacKenzie proposed early reservations for booths at Arts in the Park and if possible, timing those reservations with the live music dates. Mr. Grundtner confirmed that the Forest Lake

Lake Association has used this method for planning their attendance at Arts in the Park and has found it to be a much more productive use of time.

Mr. Grundtner suggested getting input from the Board on what initiatives they may have in mind for the CAC to work on in 2020. Ms. Lindemyer indicated that she would bring it up during the CAC update at the November 21st regular meeting.

Mr. Sparks provided the Committee with an update on the most recent meetings with the Jeffers Foundation and the school district. He noted that they are looking to get together a work group of local “movers and shakers” to help get the right people involved in this process. Mr. Grundtner noted that Administrator Kinney is working on getting volunteers from the Watershed District Board to be part of this Committee. Ms. Lindemyer stated she would follow-up with Mr. Kinney on this topic and have it added to the November 21st agenda if needed.

3. Election of Chairperson

Over the past several meetings the CAC has chosen to defer the election of a Chairperson until such time that a member is interested in the position. Mr. Furey having previously indicated his interest in taking over the position at the first of the year, retracted this interest due to workload. There were no other volunteers for the position. The item will be brought forward again at the December meeting.