

CLFLWD CAC Meeting

October 3, 2017

Meeting Summary

5:00 – 6:30 PM

Attending: Jerry Grundtner, Mike Sorensen, Jackie Anderson, Bruce Anderson, Jack MacKenzie, Sam Hathaway, Chris Mann, Randy Schumacher

- Update on WSD activities
 - Mike S. handed out the Administrator's Report from the October 5th Board of Managers meeting packet. The Administrator's Report will now be handed out monthly so that CAC members can stay up to date on District activities.
 - The agenda for the October 5th Board of Managers meeting was presented and Mike S. pointed out agenda items "6b) St. Croix Watershed Research Station – Paleolimnology Report" and "7a) Street Sweeping Plan" as items that may interest the CAC members. He offered to print out copies of the Paleolimnology Report and Street Sweeping Plan for interested CAC members.
 - Jackie Anderson arrived at this time and was introduced to the CAC members.
 - The CLFLWD submitted two nominations this year for the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD) annual awards:
 - Program of the year: Watercraft inspection program
 - Project of the year: Moody Lake Wetland Rehabilitation projectThe Moody Lake Wetland Rehabilitation project has been chosen as a finalist for this award and is competing against two other programs from other watershed districts. The award winner will be announced at the MAWD annual banquet on December 1st in Alexandria
 - The District's formal boundary revision is now complete. The largest change to the boundary is the inclusion of an area around Judicial Ditch 6 that is south of Forest Lake. This area, which previously fell under Rice Creek Watershed District's jurisdiction, is one of the largest loaders of phosphorus into Forest Lake. Now that the area is under CLFLWD's jurisdiction, diagnostic monitoring and water quality improvement projects can be initiated.

- Concordia College, in conjunction with Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, recently published a study that characterized the lake associations in Minnesota. The study found that Minnesota lake associations contribute more than 1.2 million volunteer hours and \$6.3 million to protect and improve Minnesota's lakes each year.
- Updates from Jack MacKenzie
 - Trails, Parks and Lakes commission updates
 - Jack mentioned that the City of Forest Lake has a seldomly-used park in the Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) portion of Forest Lake and Jack has encouraged the commission to consider giving that land to RCWD so that they can use it for a water quality improvement project.
 - Stenciling event
 - The stenciling project on September 23rd was a success. Jack was able to find the following sponsors for the event: Kodiak Coffee, Big Apple Bagels, Target, the Forest Lake Lake Association, and the St. Croix Master Watershed Stewards program. In all, approximately 25 volunteers attended the event. The volunteers came from a number of sources including: Forest Lake Rotary, the Forest Lake Lake Association, 4H, and a newly-formed volunteer Facebook group called Forest Lake Good Samaritans. Approximately 200 storm drains were stenciled as part of the event.
 - After the event, CLFLWD staff built stenciling kits with the stenciling equipment and safety equipment that can be checked out by volunteer groups whenever they would like to stencil drains. One week after the main event, a group of football players from a local high school checked out some of the kits and stenciled approximately 100 more storm drains.
- Update on 2018 levy and next steps
 - The District Board of Managers continues to consider bonds and loans as ways to supplement their 2018 budget. Their conversation regarding these options will continue at their meeting on Thursday, October 5th.
 - President Anderson mentioned that the Board of Managers has a goal to bring the quality of District lakes back to pre-European settlement conditions. She noted that this is an aggressive goal and a substantial budget will be needed to attain the goal.
 - The District's annual budgets are based on the projects and programs that are outlined in the 2012-2021 Watershed Management Plan (WMP). Due to changing staff and other unforeseen circumstances, the District has fallen behind on the

implementation table outline in the WMP. The levy increase will allow the District to maintain progress toward achieving its ambitious water quality goals.

- The 2018 levy is currently set at \$1.6 million, but the Board of Managers is potentially interested in obtaining a \$500,000 bond or loan and decreasing the levy to \$1.2 million. For reference, the 2017 levy was approximately \$998,000. The proposed 2018 levy can be lowered between now and its December 15th due date, but it cannot be raised.
- President Anderson mentioned that the CLFLWD, in its early years, focused on intensive monitoring and diagnostic work. Now, the CLFLWD is moving into a period of water quality improvement project construction and this shift is consistent with what was forecasted in the 2012-2021 WMP. In 2019 and beyond, the levy will drop, as the District will not be constructing many new projects, but maintaining existing projects.
- Chris M. mentioned that our District likely has a lower human population density than other metro-area Districts, and thus may have less funding per lake to complete projects. No one else knew of any figures to either support or refute this observation.
- Randy S. noted that the CAC seems generally supportive of the idea of trying to accomplish all of the projects outlined in the Watershed Management Plan, but he worries that the proposed levy increase may attract negative attention to the District.
- There was discussion about the tax impact that the proposed levy would have on the average homeowner in the CLFLWD. Under the currently-proposed \$1.6 million levy, it is likely that the average homeowner would pay \$75-100 more to the District in 2018 than they did in 2017. Randy S. mentioned that many of the homes on Forest Lake and other District lakes are valued much higher than the average home property value and thus would see a higher increase.
- 2018 Potential Projects
 - Native wildflower plantings
 - The CAC worked with Mike Miron at Forest Lake High School to complete a native planting project at the District office earlier this year. The CAC expressed interest in expanding the scope of this program to potentially include more sites in 2018. The dead end streets around Forest Lake were talked about as potential project sites. The Forest Lake Lake Association may have funding or volunteers to help support this effort.
 - CAC members at board meetings

- Jerry encouraged the CAC members to try to attend at least one Board of Managers meeting per year. The next Board of Managers meeting is this Thursday, October 5th, at 6:30 pm at Forest Lake City Hall.
- Other types of community outreach
 - Jack M. told the group about his Turf Talks that he offered earlier this year. He plans to offer them again in 2018, but hopes to schedule them for March rather than May, hoping that more people will attend if the weather outside is still cold.
 - There was discussion about starting a boat ride program, where District lake residents take interested elected officials or other people out on the lakes as a way to teach them about water resources stewardship.
- Discussion on Watershed Steward Award for 2018
 - There was not enough time to discuss this item.
- Other discussion