

# **CLFLWD CAC Meeting**

**September 5, 2017**

## **Meeting Summary**

**5:00 – 6:30 PM**

Attending: Jerry Grundtner, Mike Sorensen, Randy Schumacher, Sam Hathaway, Curt Sparks, Jack MacKenzie, Angie Hong (East Metro Water Resource Education Program)

- Update on WSD activities
  - An Administrator's Report from the August 24<sup>th</sup> Board of Managers meeting was handed out to each of the attendees. Mike S. explained that he plans to hand out the Administrator's Report at each CAC meeting so that CAC members can be kept up to date with District activities.
  - The 2018 public budget hearing will be taking place at 6:30 pm on Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at Forest Lake City Hall. The current 2018 expense budget totals \$2.29 million, of which \$991 thousand (43%) is expected to be spent on activities that are largely funded from grants and other income.
    - The proposed levy is \$1,600,000, which is a 63% increase from the 2017 levy. The group was surprised to see that the proposed levy had been raised from approximately \$1,200,000, where it had been during budget workshops approximately one month earlier. There was general agreement that District residents will notice this levy increase on their tax statements and will voice their opinions to District staff and managers. Jerry G. and Randy S. expressed concern that the levy increase may draw negative publicity and attention to the District that may hinder the District's activity in future years.
    - There was discussion about the history of the District and how the levy was held relatively constant for many years and has only increased recently as the District has entered a phase of implementing projects. Though the District has been successful at receiving grants, the District is often required to provide a match to the grants, which raises the annual budget.

- Randy S., a resident of Forest Lake who has recently joined the CAC, asked the group if the District Board of Managers is considering bonding as a means to increase the budget. Jerry G. mentioned that the Board has expressed an interest in bonding, but will likely not pursue it until 2019 or some later year. There was discussion about the benefits of bonding for projects versus increasing the levy.
  - Mike S. encouraged the group to bring their constructive feedback to the public hearing on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Jerry G. said that he will be out of town that evening, but Curt S. and Randy S. expressed interest in attending.
  
- 2018 EMWREP programs- Angie Hong
  - This item was moved up on the agenda so that Angie could present and then depart the meeting.
  - Angie showed the CAC the same presentation that she showed the District Board of Managers at their May 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. In it, she described EMWREP's various 2017 activities such as writing newspaper articles, holding workshops, and directing education to individual landowners via mailers. She highlighted a spring landscaping workshop, an aquatic invasive species (AIS) workshop, and a pond dipping activity as specific events that were held in the CLFLWD in 2017.
  - Jerry G. asked Angie which EMWREP activities she thinks are the most meaningful and successful. She said that her most successful events involve EMWREP catering to the specific interests of a pre-existing group of citizens, such as a lake association or a close-knit neighborhood. She said that she has better turnout at those types of events, compared to general events that are advertised to the entire community.
  - After the presentation, Angie asked the CAC for comments and feedback for EMWREP's 2018 planning. Jerry G. said that he thinks educating local elected officials such as City Council members is very important and should be planned for 2018. He also commended Angie on the recent increase in the number of newspaper articles about the CLFLWD that are being published in local newspapers.
  
- Updates from Jack MacKenzie
  1. City of Forest Lake Parks, Lakes, and Trails Commission updates
    - Jack mentioned that the City of Forest Lake owns a park called Southview Park near the airport on the south side of town that may be a good site for a wetland restoration project. Though this park is in Rice Creek Watershed

District, Jack wanted to share that he is encouraging the commission to give that property to Rice Creek Watershed District.

- Updates on other activities
  - Master Water Stewards
    - Angie said that no CLFLWD residents have expressed interest in becoming certified as a Freshwater Society Master Water Steward, despite the fact that their training would be paid for by a Clean Water Fund grant. She said that if no residents step forward between now and October, the District can train zero Stewards in 2018 and four Stewards in 2019, rather than two in 2018 and two in 2019.
  - Storm Drain Stenciling Project
    - Jack M. will be leading a storm drain stenciling project throughout the City of Forest Lake on September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. An alternative date for the event is September 30<sup>th</sup> if there is inclement weather on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Jack has found volunteers for this event from the Forest Lake Lake Association, Target, the Rotary Club of Forest Lake, the newly-formed Forest Lake Good Samaritans Club, and potentially Forest Lake High School. He reached various roadblocks while attempting to find volunteers from local scout troops. Jack hopes that ¼ of the City of Forest Lake's more than 1,700 inlets can be stenciled this year.
- After Angie left, Mike S. returned to his update on District activities presentation from above.
  - He first described that the CLFLWD recently applied for three 2018 Clean Water Fund grants, amounting a total request of \$765,000:
    - Moody Lake Alum Treatment
      - Request: \$135,000 ; Match: \$100,000
    - Bone Lake Rural Subwatershed Assessment Implementation
      - Request: \$240,000 ; Match: \$60,000
    - Sunrise River Tax Forfeit Project
      - Request: \$390,000 ; Match: \$97,500
  - The City of Forest Lake also submitted a Clean Water Fund application, with input from the CLFLWD and Rice Creek Watershed District, to implement their new enhanced street sweeping plan
    - Request: \$200,000 ; City Match: \$50,000
  - Mike S. then told the group that the District recently purchase ciBioBase, a kayak-mounted sonar unit that is capable of making highly-detailed bathymetry

maps of lakes and stormwater ponds. He mentioned that the District has over ten small lakes whose depth are unknown.

- The group discussed the benefit of using this technology to survey stormwater ponds near active constructions sites, both before and after construction activity occurs. This may help the District quantify the amount of construction site sediment runoff that flows into stormwater ponds.
- Mike S. presented a potential CAC activity for 2018 where CAC members take District residents or elected officials in their boat for a ride on the lake. District Administrator Mike Kinney has been part this type of program in the past and found it to be an effective means of educating the public about the value of preserving our shared water resources.
  - This idea may be discussed in detail at a future CAC meeting. One particular topic that will need to be discussed with District legal counsel is the level of liability involved for both the boat owner and the District in such a program.
- The group then returned to the budget and levy discussion. They expressed interest in drafting a formal letter to the District Board of Managers where they list constructive thoughts about the proposed budget and levy. They plan to send the letter to the Board of Managers prior to Thursday's meeting. In addition, at least one representative from the CAC plans to attend the public hearing on Thursday.
  - The group mentioned that staff should create educational materials that describe how the increased budget will be used to complete water quality improvement projects.
- 2018 Potential Projects
  - Native wildflower plantings
  - Storm Sewer Stenciling
  - Other types of community outreach
  - CAC members at board meetings
  - Other
    - These topics were not discussed, as there was not time.
- Discussion on Watershed Steward Award for 2018
  - This topic was not discussed, as there was not time.