

**MINUTES OF THE STAKEHOLDER MEETING  
FOR THE COMFORT LAKE -FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT (CLWD)  
WATER QUALITY MODELING AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT STUDY REPORT  
MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2008**

**Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The CLFLWD Load Allocation Modeling and Design Services Project Stakeholder Committee Meeting convened at 1:00 p.m. on January 7, 2008, at the Forest Lake City Offices, 220 North Lake Street, Forest Lake, Minnesota. Randy Anhorn, Administrator for CLFLWD, welcomed the group to the fourth and last of a planned series of four stakeholder meetings to present portions of the load allocation model and design project as well as seek input from the group throughout the project process.

Anhorn further stated that following the stakeholder meeting, the project list will be reviewed by the CLFLWD Board of Managers to develop a final list of projects to be advanced for preliminary designs and estimates. Anhorn said that the study and prioritized list of projects for the District (Capital Improvement Plan [CIP]) will be used to develop its MPCA funded TMDL study. Mr. Anhorn gave way to Pamela Massaro and Andy Erickson of Wenck & Associates who provided the outline for the meeting.

Ms. Massaro introduced herself and asked for those in attendance to introduce themselves and indicate their affiliation and interest in CLFLWD's CIP. Following introductions, Ms. Massaro stated that the purpose of the meeting was to present:

- The CLFLWD's CIP;
- Provide a summary of the estimated lake goals and results after the projects in the CIP are undertaken; and
- Schedule, preliminary design and cost estimates of the proposed projects.

Ms. Massaro provided background on the watershed-wide water quality modeling effort study and reiterated the project's emphasis on an adaptive management approach. Ms. Massaro further provided some background information on goal setting for the District's lakes.

Ms. Massaro then discussed the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) sections of the *Watershed and Lake Water Quality Modeling Investigation for the Development of a Watershed Capital Improvement Plan*, providing insight into the Board's project prioritization process. Ms. Massaro stated that the Board decided that projects should start at the upper portions of the watershed first where all downstream waterbodies will receive a benefit. Massaro discussed the three upstream watercourses; 1) the Moody-Bone lake area which flows through Birch, School, and Little Comfort lakes prior to entering Comfort Lake, 2) the Sylvan- and Shields-Forest lake area which flows to the sunrise river prior to entering Comfort Lake, and 3) the City of Forest Lake area which flows to the abandoned JD1 to the Sunrise River prior to entering Comfort Lake.

Massaro further mentioned that projects fit into three main categories, BMPs, Capital projects, and in-lake projects (curly-leaf pondweed and rough fish control and in-lake alum treatments).

Mr. Massaro went through a PowerPoint presentation (a copy of each report is annexed and incorporated by reference) recapping the study and project selection, prioritization process and each particular project (including year to be undertaken, initial cost, 20-year annuity cost, and actual annual benefit shown as pounds phosphorus removed).

After Ms. Massaro went through each of the projects in the CIP, she gave way to Administrator Anhorn to provide an update on recent and ongoing District activities.

Administrator Anhorn updated the committee what the District will be undertaking in 2008 including;

- Special legislation to be designated a 103B (metro) watershed;
- Watershed Plan Amendment (as either a major revision to revise the current plan to support 103B needs if the District's special legislation is successful, or a minor amendment to include CIP and management districts/ stormwater utility if the special legislation is not successful);
- Transforming the presented study into a TMDL study;
- Development of District rules; and
- BMP cost-share incentive program.

Mr. Anhorn asked the committee for discussion and questions on either the District update or the presented CLFLWD CIP.

### **Discussion**

Dan Seemon (Army Corp of Engineers [ACOE]) asked about specific wetland restoration projects and how specific needs and water quality benefits we determined. Andy Erickson (Wenck & Associates) stated that in order to get specifics, each of the projects would need to have a diagnostic/feasibility or engineers study to determine exact needs for each particular project.

Beryl Halldorson (Bone Lake Association) stated that it was great that the District had a BMP cost-share program for home/shoreland owners, but what about areas around lakes such as Lofton Avenue in Scandia where the road abuts the lake without a real "home/shoreland" owner. Ms. Hurlburt (City of Scandia) mentioned that Lofton is a County road and they should be contacted to try to partner on such an area. Ms. Halldorson also mentioned that many on the Bone Lake Association are somewhat apprehensive about the piped Moody to Bone Lake project. The perception is that they did not want the dirty Moody Lake Water. Discussion was held as to the point that the Moody Lake water was already flowing to Bone Lake and the project, if shown through further study, would eliminate the potential negative impact the wetland may have on the nutrient load to Bone Lake.

Brad Wozney (Board of Water and Soil Resources [BWSR]) asked if the the District had any thoughts of increasing its monitoring in upcoming years. Administrator Anhorn stated that currently the District is working with WCD in order to help maintain their baseline stream monitoring program and will be monitoring at new locations in 2008 in order to specifically help provide better resolution on where loadings may be coming from in certain areas and help locate future projects. Anhorn further mentioned that because the District currently has quite a bit of in-lake data for its major lakes, they have started to use volunteers to collect in-lake water quality data which allows for more dollars for the watershed load monitoring. Mr. Wozney also asked if due to the projected workload, if the District had

any intentions on hiring staff. Administrator Anhorn stated that the Board has discussed looking into part-time office help if funding becomes available.

Wally Ostlie (Comfort Lake Association) questioned if sediment loads were used to prioritize projects. Mr. Ostlie stated that Comfort Lake receives large amounts of sediments during heavy rains. While it was stated the sediment loads specifically were not used to prioritize projects, nutrient loads and reduces stormwater rates and volumes were and the reduced stormwater rates and volume would reduce the energy of the flowing water reducing erosion and thus reducing sedimentation loads.

Jay Riggs (Washington Conservation District [WCD]) asked if the study produced any idea or techniques for monitoring and analysis of resulting data in order to determine the success of projects. Administrator Anhorn stated that the report did not, however it is a good point that the District and WCD should continue to work on, because by simply gauge success by the responses in-lake, it would be years before successes or failures are noticed. Administrator Anhorn stated that he would continue to work with WCD in order to try to undertake such monitoring. Mr. Erickson mentioned that his post-graduate work at the U of M was the development of a MPCA funded manual on the Assessment of Stormwater BMPs. Mr. Erickson stated that chapter 12 of the manual specifically covers the data analysis. Mr. Erickson said that he would forward the link to the manual on to Mr. Riggs.

Jon Spence (CLFLWD) discussed the District looking into the development of Lake Management Districts and stormwater Utilities to help fund some projects. Mr. Spence stated that Utility fees may be a more fair way to assess parcels as to the actual runoff they produce as opposed to taxing by the value of the property. Mr. Riggs also asked if there had been any thought on how to quantify the pounds of phosphorus removal through education.

Jerry Spetzman (Chisago County) stated that the projects were all set to manage nutrients that were already in the watershed, but wondered if there had been any thought to trying to reduce the phosphorus load coming into the watershed from outside sources (i.e, low phosphorus dish soap and animal feed etc.) Mr. Spetzman stated that maybe if an education program could be set up to let people know that by reducing the amount of phosphorus brought into the watershed, it reduce the costs of managing it once it is in.

Bruce Anderson (CLFLWD CAC) asked about the potential for projects on the District owned land along the Sunrise River. Anhorn mentioned that while specific projects are not mentioned for the land in the report, the potential is raised and could include the development of a wetland bank or additional regional stormwater treatment/storage in association with a wetland bank and maybe a park system.

Jack Frost (Metropolitan Council) asked about if the report asked if the final report with models will be available. Administrator Anhorn stated that the report with model results and technical memorandums and assumptions will be posted on the District's website. Mr. Frost further stated that it would be for the District to try to schedule projects in order to keep the annual CIP expenditures somewhat flat as opposed to going through peaks and valleys. If a big project is on the horizon it could be scheduled out a ways in order to collect smaller portions for the project years in advance thus reducing the big hit the year the project is to be undertaken.

### **Adjournment**

Randy Anhorn again thanked all those who attended the stakeholder meeting, and thanked Wenck & Associates for the informative presentation. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

**List of Attendees**

Bruce Anderson	CLFLWD CAC
Randy Anhorn	CLFLWD
Andy Erickson	Wenck & Associates
Earth Evans	City of Forest Lake
Jack Frost	Metropolitan Council
Amanda Goebel	Washington County
Anne Hurlburt	City of Scandia
Beryl Halldorson	Bone Lake Association
Pamela Massaro	Wenck & Associates
Wally Ostlie	Comfort Lake Association
Jay Riggs	WCD
Dan Seemon	ACOE
Jon Spence	CLFLWD
Jerry Spetzman	Chisago County
Casey Thiel	Chisago County SWCD
Neil Vanderbosch	MNDNR
Fred Weck	Wyoming Township
Brad Wozney	BWSR