

**MINUTES OF THE STAKEHOLDER MEETING  
FOR THE COMFORT LAKE -FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT (CLFLWD)  
LOAD ALLOCATION MODELING DESIGN SERVICES PROJECT**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2007**

**Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The CLFLWD Load Allocation Modeling and Design Services Project Stakeholder Committee Meeting convened at 1:00 p.m. on June 21, 2007, at the Forest Lake City Offices, 220 North Lake Street, Forest Lake, Minnesota. Randy Anhorn, Administrator for CLFLWD, welcomed the group to the second 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. Mr. Anhorn stated that the purpose of the meeting was to provide background on the methodology and calibration of the hydrology and phosphorus loading models and present the results. Anhorn further stated that after discussing each lakes' existing conditions, ecological review, model results and load response, and prospective lake phosphorus goals, the Districted wanted input from the stakeholders on lake goals.

After stakeholder introductions, Mr. Anhorn gave way to John Thene of Wenck & Associates who provided the outline for the meeting.

Mr. Thene provided background on the load allocation model and calibration efforts as well as some background information on goal setting for the District's lakes. Thene stated that the initial goal derived from the CLFLWD Board of Managers was for in-lake phosphorus summer mean of 30.0 µg/L for each of the six major lakes, while resulting MPCA water quality standards are 40.0 µg/L and 60.0 µg/L for shallow lakes. Thene provided the MPCA's definition of a shallow lake.

Mr. Thene then discussed the relationship between phosphorus, chlorophyll-a (algal abundance), and Secchi transparency (water clarity) and the use of algal bloom frequency in the process of goal setting.

Joe Bischoff (Wenck & Associates) presented an ecological review for each of the lakes. The ecological review consisted of the results of each lakes' macrophyte and fisheries surveys, and zooplankton analyses. Mr. Bischoff then discussed the importance of each lakes' biology to the overall health of the lake, especially shallow lakes (i.e. the influence of large bodied Daphnia on reduced algal bloom frequency and increased water clarity.

Mr. Thene further provided the specifics of the modeling process including the District's previous Hydrologic and Hydraulic model completed by SRF. This also included a windshield animal unit/feedlot survey throughout the watershed conducted by Manager Wayne Moe and Administrator Anhorn. Wayne Moe mentioned that he found reference that on average, one 1,500 pound dairy cow can produce 75 pounds of phosphorus per year. John Erdmann

(Wenck & Associates) said that as of now, the model is set up that 25 % of the animal waste load actually makes it to a receiving water body.

Mr. Thene then went through the characteristics and resulting model results (phosphorus loads) for each of the lakes included in the study (Birch, Bone, Comfort, Forest, Little Comfort, Moody, School, Shields and Sylvan lakes). Mr. Thene mentioned that there is still a need to “tweak” some of the modeled loads. In some cases the modeled loads are greater than that representing the lake’s current condition, and in other cases the modeled loads are less. An example of the over estimation of a lakes’ phosphorus load could be the use of too high of a percentage of animal waste load actually making it to a lake. Wenck & Associates will be re-evaluating this.

The analysis also included lake response graphs detailing the needed phosphorus load reduction in order to reach the MPCA in-lake water quality goal as well as the Board goal of 30.0 µg/L.

Discussion then centered around MPCA and Board recommended goals and recommendations from the stakeholders. The general consensus of the stakeholders that it is hard to determine the overall goals at this time without knowing the associated costs involved.

Jack Frost (Met Council), stated that no matter the goal, it will be a long process to achieve said goal. The District should take care of what it can, and after prioritizing and implementing potential project(s), the lake(s) should be monitored in order to determine the results and what else is needed. It was brought up that the District may want to look at having short-term goals and long-term goals for some lakes.

Beryl Holldorson (Bone Lake Association), asked the possibility of Shields Lake actually meeting any stated phosphorus goal, and if we should even try. It was stated that the potential project list will be prioritized and any project around Shields Lake may not be of high priority. It was also mentioned while the goals are presented in terms of phosphorus concentrations, the outcomes are trying to reduce the frequency of nuisance algal blooms and increase water clarity. In shallow systems like Shields, algal blooms and water clarity goals can sometime be achieved through biological means as opposed to strictly reducing phosphorus.

Ms. Holldorson further mentioned agricultural sources and the need for BMPs (i.e. vegetative swales) in order to slow the flow of the agricultural runoff and allow particulates to settle out and water to infiltrate into the soil prior to discharging to receiving water bodies.

Ms. Holldorson also asked about toxic algal blooms. Manager Wayne Moe stated that his dog died of internal hemorrhaging a few years back and after researching the subject feels as though his dog died as a result of drinking lake water with toxic algae. He further stated that the difficulty is that the same blue-green algae which can become toxic, can just as easily become non-toxic. John Erdmann and Administrator Anhorn stated that the common algal species that can become toxic are Anabena, Aphanizomenon, and Microcystis. It is rare, however, that they do become toxic.

Dan Seemon (ACOE) stated that some of the lake reductions presented seemed awfully aggressive. He mentioned the difficulty of the St. Croix watershed meeting its goal of 20% reduction by 2020. Here, some of the lakes are looking at a 50-80% needed reduction in order to meet their goals (MPCA or CLFLWD Board derived). Mr. Seemon also stated the importance of plants in the process and the need for lakes to have a proper buffer.

### **Future Stakeholder Meetings**

John Thene presented the anticipated schedule of upcoming stakeholder meetings. The next stakeholder meeting will be scheduled sometime in mid-July after a list of potential projects and strategies to protect and improve the District's lakes and meet their determined goal, is complete. Mr. Thene also stated that they plan on holding an open house following the completion of the study.

### **Adjournment**

Randy Anhorn again thanked all those who attended the stakeholder meeting, and thanked Wenck & Associates for the informative presentation. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

### **List of Attendees**

Randy Anhorn	CLFLWD
Joe Bischoff	Wenck & Associates
Doug Borglund	City of Forest Lake
John Erdmann	Wenck & Associates
Earth Evans	City of Forest Lake
Jack Frost	Metropolitan Council
Travis Germundson	MNDNR
Beryl Halldorson	Bone Lake Association
Don Jack	Bone Lake Association
Wayne Moe	CLFLWD
Wally Ostlie	Comfort Lake Association
Dan Seemon	Army Corp of Engineers
John Thene	Wenck & Associates
Casey Thiel	Chisago County SWCD
Travis Thiel	Washington Conservation District
Lisa Tilman	Emmons and Olivier Resources
Fred Weck	Wyoming Township