

1 **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE**
2 **COMFORT LAKE–FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT**
3 **Thursday, June 22, 2023**

4
5 **1. Call to Order**

6
7 Manager Anderson called the June 22, 2023, regular board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
8 at 44 Lake Street South Forest Lake and via online video conference.

9
10 **Managers Present:**

11 Christopher Loth, Vice President (remote attendance)
12 Dave Bakke, Secretary (remote attendance)
13 Jackie Anderson, Treasurer
14 Douglas Toavs, Assistant Treasurer

15
16 **Absent:**

17 Steve Schmaltz, President

18
19 **Staff Present:**

20 Mike Kinney, Administrator
21 Aidan Read, Land Management Specialist
22 Bobbie Law, Office Manager
23 Emily Heinz, Planning Coordinator
24 Garrett Miller, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator

25
26 **Others Present:**

27 Greg Graska, Emmons & Olivier Resources
28 Cecilio Olivier, Emmons & Olivier Resources
29 Chuck Holtman, Smith Partners
30 Arik Lokensgard

31
32 **2. Setting of Meeting Agenda**

33 Item 8b – Budget Meeting Schedule was added to the agenda.

34
35 Manager Loth moved to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Manager
36 Toavs, Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 4-0.

37

Manager	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Dave Bakke	X			
Christopher Loth	X			
Doug Toavs	X			

Jackie Anderson	X			
Stephen Schmaltz			X	

38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46

3. Consent Agenda

- a) Regular Board Meeting Minutes – May 11, 2023
- b) Special Board Workshop Minutes – May 24, 2023
- c) Regular Board Meeting Minutes – May 25, 2023

The consent agenda was proposed to be adopted by unanimous consent. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 4-0.

Manager	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Dave Bakke	X			
Christopher Loth	X			
Doug Toavs	X			
Jackie Anderson	X			
Stephen Schmaltz			X	

47

4. Public Open Forum

There were no comments.

48
49
50
51

5. Citizen Advisory Committee Update

[6:35 pm]

Administrator Kinney noted that the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) has recently been discussing research pertaining to wake boats. Aidan Read explained that the CAC is specifically interested in research done by the University of Minnesota St. Anthony Falls Laboratory (SAFL) and the regulatory implications associated with the impacts wake boats have on shoreline erosion.

52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62

Manager Bakke moved to direct the District Administrator to research the impacts of wake boats on the health of District waterbodies. Seconded by Manager Toavs.

63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71

Manager Toavs asked if Manager Bakke has noticed wake boat impacts on Bone Lake. Manager Bakke indicated he’s observed wake boats on Bone Lake and believes they are having erosion impacts. Manager Anderson noted she’s observed similar things on Comfort Lake. She supported the idea of regulation in order to mitigate the erosion effects of wake boats. Administrator Kinney recommended that staff bring back a proposal to work with SAFL to do this research. Manager Bakke supported that approach. Manager Anderson noted that Minnesota Lakes & Rivers (MLR) has presented to lake associations throughout Minnesota on this topic. She suggested that Mr. Kinney look into this as well. She recommended the Forest Lake Lake Association meeting location at the

72 local high school as a potential location to hold wake boat presentations to lake
73 associations.

74

75 Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 4-0.

76

Manager	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Dave Bakke	X			
Christopher Loth	X			
Doug Toavs	X			
Jackie Anderson	X			
Stephen Schmaltz			X	

77

78 Resources with respect to wake boats and shoreline erosion were shared in the Zoom
79 meeting chat:

- 80 • <https://www.kare11.com/article/sports/outdoors/new-lake-minnetonka-speed-limit-rule-to-take-effect-in-2023/89-f934d083-105d-4753-bf76-001dffbdb5>
- 81 • <https://mnlakesandrivers.org/minnesota-lakes-and-rivers-webinar-draws-national-audience/>

82

83

84

85 6. Aquatic Invasive Species Update

86

[6:47 pm]

87

88

89

90

91

92

93

94

95

96

97

98

99

100

101

102

103

104

105

106

107

Manager Anderson asked if the Chisago County decontamination unit could be staged at the Comfort Lake boat launch sometime. Mr. Miller indicated he has spoken with Chisago County staff about this. He explained that the County is having trouble staffing the decontamination unit but will hopefully be up and running soon.

108 Manager Bakke asked for Mr. Miller to keep him updated with the results of the Bone Lake
109 point-intercept survey.

110

111 7. New Business

112

113 a) Permit #23-007 Mister Carwash

114 [6:57 pm]

115 Greg Graske provided an overview of the proposed project. The site is located on
116 Broadway Avenue in Forest Lake. The proposed project meets stormwater
117 management standards and erosion and sediment control requirements. Manager
118 Anderson asked about the routing of car wash water to sanitary sewer. Mr. Graske
119 explained that the dirty car wash water is being routed to the sanitary sewer system
120 and is being treated separately from the stormwater.

121

122 Manager Toavs moved to approve permit application #23-007 with conditions
123 stated in the engineer's memorandum. Seconded by Manager Anderson. Upon a roll
124 call vote, the motion carried 4-0.

125

Manager	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Dave Bakke	X			
Christopher Loth	X			
Doug Toavs	X			
Jackie Anderson	X			
Stephen Schmaltz			X	

126

127 8. Old Business

128

129 a) Forest Lake Cooperative AIS Agreement

130 [7:03 pm]

131 Administrator Kinney explained that the agreement is similar to last year's
132 agreement, with the addition of a spending carryover component. Mr. Miller
133 explained that the carryover component was a suggestion by the Forest Lake Lake
134 Association and the City of Forest Lake.

135

136 Manager Bakke asked if there was unspent money last year. Mr. Miller indicated that
137 any unspent funds last year would have gone back into the respective organization's
138 general fund. The newly revised agreement would require that the organization track
139 and dedicate those funds for future aquatic invasive species use, rather than going
140 into the general fund.

141

142 Manager Anderson asked who would be overseeing the management of these
143 carryover funds. She expressed concern about the restrictions being applied to the

District's spending. She stated that this methodology seems to be taking something simple and making it very complex. Mr. Kinney noted that Legal Counsel Holtman has been involved in the drafting of the text to incorporate the request of the City to include the carryover component. Mr. Miller explained how he tracks the expenditures in a spreadsheet and how the carryover would **work**. Manager Loth obtained clarification from staff that the District's spending commitment under this agreement isn't above and beyond normally planned spending; the District would normally spend this amount on Forest Lake, and this agreement is a matter of accounting for that spending. He indicated that this is a way for each of the three parties to have accountability and transparency with respect to their spending on Forest Lake aquatic invasive species management, and specifically that it is a means to ensure that the City will meet its spending commitment.

Manager Anderson indicated she is concerned about some of the wording in the agreement and how the reserve funds will be managed. Mr. Holtman clarified that the reserve funds that any entity is required to designate under the agreement would remain the funds of that entity. He noted that the agreement is the same as last year's with the addition of paragraph 6.

Manager Anderson moved to postpone this item until the next meeting. Seconded by Manager Bakke. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 4-0.

Manager	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Dave Bakke	X			
Christopher Loth	X			
Doug Toavs	X			
Jackie Anderson	X			
Stephen Schmaltz			X	

b) Budget Meeting Schedule

[7:45 pm]

Administrator Kinney indicated that the July 13th regular board meeting agenda is currently very light. He suggested using that meeting time to review the floodplain vulnerability assessment questions brought up at the last budget workshop. The board could also utilize this existing meeting time to hold the next budget workshop, rather than holding a separate special meeting. Per the scheduling survey, July 20th is the best time to hold a special meeting for a budget workshop, and this date could be used as a backup, in case more discussion is warranted after the July 13th meeting.

9. Report of Staff

a) Administrator

180 [7:50 pm]

181 Administrator Kinney noted that staff is getting connected with a herpetologist who
182 is interested in researching turtle impacts from alum treatments. Manager Anderson
183 indicated it is remarkable that there have already been 13 site visits under the newly
184 revamped cost-share program. Manager Bakke asked for more details on the Bone
185 Lake South Wetland Acquisition project. Mr. Kinney noted that the Lessard-Sams
186 Outdoor Heritage Council approved the District’s accomplishment plan for the grant.
187 He explained that he is continuing price negotiations with the landowner in order to
188 reach an agreement that fits within the grant requirements. He indicated he is
189 encouraged by the progress being made. Manager Anderson asked for an update
190 on the tree planting for the Sunrise River Highway-61 Wetland Enhancement Project.
191 Mr. Kinney explained that weather is affecting the landscaping schedule.

192
193 **b) Emmons & Olivier Resources**

194 [7:55 pm]

195 Mr. Grasko reported that things are going well. The permitting program has been
196 active. The Forest Lake Alum Treatment Project, WJD-6 Wetland Restoration Project,
197 and Moody Lake Capstone Project are all going out for bid this year. The pumps are
198 up and running on the County Road 50 Iron Enhanced Sand Filter.

199
200 **c) Smith Partners**

201 Nothing to report.

202
203 **10. Report of Treasurer**

204
205 **a) Approval of Bills and Treasurer’s Report**

206
207 Treasurer Anderson reported income for the period of \$770,447.62 and expenses in
208 the amount of \$271,280.17.

209
210 Manager Bakke moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report and pay the bills in the
211 amount of \$271,280.17. Seconded by Manager Toavs. Upon vote, the motion carried
212 4-0.

Manager	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Dave Bakke	X			
Christopher Loth	X			
Doug Toavs	X			
Jackie Anderson	X			
Stephen Schmaltz			X	

214
215 **11. Report of Officers and Managers**

216
217
218
219
220
221
222
223
224

[8:00 pm]

Manager Bakke reported that he, Manager Anderson, and staff toured the old Ameriprise office location within the District’s current building. Manager Toavs reported that he attended the MN Watersheds Summer Tour and attended an interesting talk on multipurpose drainage management. He noted that he had some interesting conversations with other conference attendees about street sweeping. Manager Anderson reported that the Highway 8 road reconstruction project is progressing, and there is a public comment period coming up.

12. Summary and Approval of Board Direction

225

[8:05 pm]

227
228
229
230
231
232
233
234
235
236
237
238
239
240
241
242

Board directives were summarized:

- Manager Anderson asked staff to look into wake boat presentations to lake associations.
- Manager Anderson asked Mr. Miller to look into stationing the Chisago County decontamination unit at Comfort Lake.
- Manager Bakke asked Mr. Miller to keep him updated with the results of the Bone Lake point-intercept survey.
- Manager Anderson asked staff to provide information on the greenway corridor visioning and natural resources inventory at the next meeting.
- Manager Anderson asked staff and counsel to review section 6 in the Forest Lake AIS cooperative agreement and explain the thinking behind the wording.
- Manager Anderson asked staff to keep an eye out for the Highway 8 roadway project environmental assessment worksheet.
- Manager Anderson asked staff to keep in touch with the lake associations during the heavy recreational use periods of the year.

243

13. Adjourn

244

245

a) Next regular board meeting – July 13, 2023, 6:30 pm

246

247

Manager Toavs moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Manager Bakke. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 4-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

248

249

Manager	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain
Dave Bakke	X			
Christopher Loth	X			
Doug Toavs	X			
Jackie Anderson	X			
Stephen Schmaltz			X	

250

251

Dave Bakke, Secretary _____