

1 **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE**
2 **COMFORT LAKE–FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT**
3 **Thursday, July 6, 2023**
4

5 **1. Call to Order**
6

7 President Schmaltz called the July 6, 2023, special board meeting to order at 1:05p.m. at
8 the Comfort Lake Forest Lake office, 44 Lake Street South, and via online video
9 conference.
10

11 **Managers Present:**

12 Steve Schmaltz, President
13 Christopher Loth, Vice President (virtually)
14 Dave Bakke, Secretary (virtually)
15 Jackie Anderson, Treasurer
16 Douglas Toavs, Assistant Treasurer
17

18 **Staff Present:**

19 Bobbie Law, Office Manager
20 Garrett Miller, AIS Program Coordinator
21

22 **Others Present:**

23 Chuck Holtman, Smith Partners
24

25 **2. 2023 Funding Support Agreement for Aquatic Invasive Species and Lake**
26 **Management Activities on Forest Lake**
27

28 President Schmaltz introduced the agreement, noting that it contains the same terms as
29 last year’s agreement, with the addition, at section 6, of a requirement that a party hold
30 in reserve any committed funds that it has not spent, to be spent subsequently on the
31 described management activities. This provision, in particular, protects unspent City of
32 Forest Lake funds from being returned to the general fund. Manager Anderson noted that
33 she now understands why the agreement is framed this way. She explained that the
34 reserve funds may build up to \$63,750. She suggested that this constrains the board’s
35 prerogative to budget in future years, and that there isn’t a similar agreement with any
36 other of the lake associations in the District, or with respect to any other District lake.
37

38 Managers discussed the value of retaining their prerogative to direct budget dollars to
39 where they are needed the most. Manager Bakke noted that other District lakes are not
40 benefiting from this type of reserve fund. President Schmaltz noted that the issue with
41 the City is its lack of spending dollars that are originally assigned to lakes. Manager Loth

42 explained that he would like to see other lake associations utilize this agreement as a
 43 template and to see the District set up agreements similar to the one among CLFLWD,
 44 FLLA, and the City of Forest Lake. Managers discussed involvement of the cities in the
 45 Comfort Lake subwatershed. Manager Anderson noted that she doesn't agree with the
 46 idea of needing an agreement in place with the City of Forest Lake to have it act, as a
 47 partner, in good faith. Manager Loth mentioned that the District will always act in an
 48 appropriate way of spending funds to take care of needs consistent with the 10-year
 49 plan. He noted that this opportunity is available to any District lake or any city. President
 50 Schmaltz noted that this agreement was set up to ensure that funding is spent on lake
 51 matters.

52
 53 Mr. Holtman observed that the reserve clause does not commit the District to spend any
 54 more funds than it already has committed, under the agreement, to spending in the
 55 fiscal year. He also noted that if this agreement continues to be renewed on a yearly
 56 basis, the managers will have the opportunity each year to consider whether the reserve
 57 provision is operating in a satisfactory way. He noted that, in short, the District is not at
 58 risk of having budgeting decisions taken out of its hands.

59
 60 President Schmaltz asked Mr. Miller what the 2023 budget is for Forest Lake
 61 management. Mr. Miller estimated that the watercraft inspections budget is about
 62 \$50,000 and the total for the lake is likely \$100,000. Mr. Miller explained that costs are
 63 down due to the economies of treating curly-leaf pondweed with diquat, but future
 64 price fluctuations could impact the budget significantly.

65
 66 Manager Toavs moved to authorize the District Administrator to execute the 2023 Forest
 67 Lake Cooperative Agreement, on advice of counsel and with any final, non-substantive
 68 changes. Seconded by Manager Loth. Manager Bakke spoke to his interest in ensuring
 69 equity across all the lakes. He explained that he would like similar agreements in place
 70 for Bone and Comfort Lakes. Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 4-1 (Manager
 71 Anderson opposed).

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

74
 75 President Schmaltz requested that Mr. Kinney write to the City and the FLLA, to advise
 76 them that the District Board of Managers approved the agreement at a special meeting.
 77

78 Mr. Miller, after further review, clarified that \$113,000 is budgeted for Forest Lake aquatic
79 invasive species management in 2023. With grants, the District intends to spend roughly
80 \$150,000.

81

82 **3. Adjourn**

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

84

85 Manager Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Manager Toavs.
86 Upon a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:24
87 p.m.

88

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

89

90 Dave Bakke, Secretary -----