



## MEMORANDUM

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

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### MEETING NOTES OF THE COMFORT LAKE-FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Present:** Mike Miron, Randy Schumacher, Jerry Grundtner, Ted Hansen, Tom Furey

**Others:** Aidan Read, Rich Johnson

#### 1. Watershed Update

Randy Schumacher opened the meeting as Chair. Aidan Read provided an update on activities around the watershed, including continuing efforts to fill vacant staff positions, the conclusion of AIS field work for the year, and the completion of the first phase of the Forest Lake alum treatment. More details were provided on the upcoming Fall Yard Maintenance workshop on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Read also gave an update on the status of upcoming grants that the District has applied for. The Committee had requested to be better informed of the status of various grants and projects. Randy Schumacher requested clarification on the Bone Lake South Wetland acquisition grant. Mr. Read reported that \$1.9 million had been granted for the initial request, and that the acquisition is still in process.

#### 2. Residential Cost-Share Update and Discussion

As part of review of the pilot residential cost-share program, the Committee was given an update on the status of year one of the program. Mr. Read shared preliminary results, and his thoughts on various aspects of the program. Mr. Read shared that there had been a significant increase in site visits and grant applications, but that the larger Community Water Cost-Share program had not been successful at this point with only one application (under staff review). Following the brief presentation, the Committee was solicited for their comments and suggestions.

Jerry Grundtner inquired what type of outreach had been done to local lake associations regarding these programs. Mr. Read described outreach at LA meetings, newsletters, and direct communications. Further outreach at lake association meetings will be done, in conjunction with the results of the shoreline inventories.

Both Mr. Grundtner and Ted Hansen described increasing amounts of shoreline being clad in landscape rock on their respective lakes. The increase in rock shoreline seems to indicate that the regulatory environment of shoreline work does not facilitate the District's restoration goals.



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One potential improvement Mr. Grundtner offered was to host a local contractor's workshop. This was a topic that was recommended previously but was not implemented in 2023. Mr. Read agreed that a contractor's workshop should be hosted in winter.

The Committee largely concurred that more outreach may be the solution to low interest in the Community Water program, and that raising the maximum funding amount to \$10k may also be needed. Larger amounts may solicit more applications, and the priority should be getting eligible projects completed.

### **3. Closing & Election of Chair**

Randy Schumacher brought up the topic of winter meetings, and whether some meetings should be cancelled during the holidays. Mr. Grundtner proposed cancelling the December meeting. It was agreed that Mr. Read would put together a proposed meeting schedule for the November meeting. Ted Hansen was elected Chair for the November meeting.