



MEMORANDUM

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

Date: February 12th, 2024
To: CLFLWD Board of Managers
From: Mike Kinney, District Administrator
Subject: Appointment to Citizen Advisory Committee



District Wide

Background/Discussion

The Administrator has received and reviewed an application to the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) from Richard Johnson, a resident of Forest Lake. Mr. Johnson has been a participant in CAC meetings since October 2023, and brings valuable perspective and participation to the Committee. In addition to representing the rural landowner, and environmental community stakeholder groups, Mr. Johnson also provides insight as a non-lakeshore resident of the District.

Recommended Motion

Staff recommends that the Board of Managers appoint Richard Johnson to the Citizen Advisory Committee for the 2024 term.

Manager _____ moves to appoint Richard Johnson to serve on the District's Citizen Advisory Committee for 2024.

Attached

Application for the Citizen Advisory Committee from Richard Johnson



CLFLWD
WATERSHED DISTRICT

651-395-5850

info@clflwd.org

www.clflwd.org

44 Lake St. South, Suite A
Forest Lake, MN 55025

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District Citizens Advisory Committee Application

Please complete the following application if you are interested in being considered for appointment to the Comfort Lake -Forest Lake Watershed District (CLFLWD) Citizens Advisory Committee. You may attach additional sheets, if necessary. Please return the completed application to Aidan Read, Land Management Specialist, by mail to Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District, 44 Lake Street South, Suite A, Forest Lake, MN 55025, or by email to aidan.read@clflwd.org.

Name: Richard Johnson

Local Address:

Mailing Address (if different): _____

1. Do you live within the CLFLWD boundaries? Yes No
2. Are you an elected or appointed official making land use decisions (e.g. council members and planning commissioners)? Yes No
3. Which Stakeholder Group(s) do you feel you best represent?
(You may select more than one)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farming Community | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Community | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural Landowner | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Landowner |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Community | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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NAME: Richard Johnson

4. Please explain why do you wish to be appointed to the Citizens Advisory Committee?

Richard Johnson
22500 Johnson Ave N Forest Lake, MN 55029
763-254-0444
johnsonr@clflwd.com

5. Please explain why you feel you can best represent the interests and concerns of the citizens of CLFLWD.

X

X

X
X

Why do I wish to be appointed to the Citizens Advisory Committee?

Short answer: My many years of life experience have made me a passionate supporter for the protection of water rights, water conservation and water quality.

Please explain why you feel you can best represent the interests and concerns of the citizens of CLFLWD.

I feel that I can best represent the interests and concerns of the citizens of the CLFLWD because I have through my many life experiences developed an ever-deepening concern and passion for maintaining the quality of our most precious life-giving resource.

My first real lesson in water quality began as a child in the 1970's while growing up on the shore of Forest Lake's, third lake, three houses east of Tim's Marina. As a then middle school child, my main daily after school chore every summer was to take a pitchfork down to our shoreline and haul out the ever-present weeds that overwhelmed our shoreline. It was hard, smelly work and quite honestly, left me with many unpleasant memories of growing up on a lake when the opposite should be true.

After graduating college, I moved to Chicago where I lived in Evanston, Illinois two blocks from the shores of lake Michigan. It was the early 1980's and already Lake Michigan was being declared nearly unswimmable due to the toxins purposely being dumped into the lake from the many paint, steel and plastic plants that lined the southern shore of Lake Michigan.

After fifteen years of living next to a large toxic body of water, I moved to Venice, California where I purchased a home within a half a block from the Pacific Ocean. For the next ten years, I and my family often walked the shores of Venice beach doing our best to clean up the growing amount of plastic and garbage that washed ashore.

In the year 2006, our family transferred to Florida. It was there that I really started to become fully aware of how unchecked over development and the power of special interest groups was having a direct impact on the state and local water quality. I witnessed (and smelled) firsthand the effects red tide was having on our local community and the surrounding wildlife.

Last spring, I moved back to Forest Lake to help with my 86-year old mother. Upon arrival I immediately took on the task of how best to manage the water runoff issues that have plagued our new property. It was during this time that I met Aiden and learned about everything he and his team at CLFWD were doing for the community. After sitting in on a few meetings and finding myself agreeing with the mission of the CLFWD, I feel that I am ready to step up my involvement and become a good steward and local voice for the preservation of water quality and shoreline maintenance.

