

Cormorant Lakes Watershed District

Advisory Committee Minutes

June 20, 2024

The Cormorant Lakes Watershed District's Advisory Committee was held at the Cormorant Town Hall/Community Center, District Office, 10929 County Highway #5, Cormorant, MN at 5:30 p.m.

Those present were CLWD Managers: Ellis Peterson, Jeff Moritz, Tony Nistler, Sam Blattenbauer; Colton Utecht, Shoreland Technician and Liz Larson, Administrator. Committee Members: Honorable Jay D. Carlson, Dennis Bartunek, Bryan Malone, Pete Waller, Tim Erickson, Robin Carlson, and Kyle Vareberg.

Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm.

- Introductions
- Watershed Overview by CLWD Board:
 - Blue Water Bay protection project
 - Permitting Module
 - County sending CLWD permits within district now.
 - Colton Utecht-Shared Position
 - Bullfrog Bay Channel
 - Historical Background- Cleaned out 2 times previously
 - Ability to quickly fill back up in a relatively quickly manner
 - Discussion of the best level to maintain Big Cormorant
 - Rules Discussion
 - MOU Reference
 - Better defines process between 3 entities.
 - Enforcement may need to be better defined and need for language regarding recapture of attorney's fees

- Big Cormorant Channel flow discussion
- Charon Property Discussion-Leaf Lake
- Advisory Committee Discussion
 - Tree Program Discussion
 - Tree order in August
 - Set budget for next year's program in July and figure out order
 - Have people sign up
 - Decide on cost share
 - Discussion of 2024 tree giveaway
 - Sizing of tree preferred 3-4'
 - Offering tree planting as well.
 - Jeff Moritz referred to having a tree on every 40' on lake shore.
 - Emerald Ash Borer discussion
 - Concerned about losing ash trees and preparing for replacement
 - Potentially targeting a couple lake(s) per year.
 - Campaign on media platforms about preventing Emerald Ash Borer, proper handling of cut wood, and replacement of trees if taking down.
 - Discussion of how many trees could make a difference.
 - Bryan Malone mentioned knowing budget, and how to target. Define your impact.
 - City of Minneapolis is removing ash trees as precaution.
 - Jeff Moritz discussed hosting a community Emerald Ash Borer event.
 - Tony Nistler commented that it would be easy to get people on board for trees.

- Budget
 - To be tabled for an August Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for August 6th at 5:30 PM. Budget items to be determined at a special meeting the CLWD Board in July. Budget items to be sent out early for Committee review.
- Permitting MOU with Becker County and Pelican River Watershed District
 - Motion by Jeff Moritz to approve MOU as presented. After discussion Jeff Moritz retracted the motion. Moved to call a special meeting next week on Monday June 24th to discuss MOU.
- Public Outreach
 - Lake association meetings
 - Can Coozies, signs, magnets
 - Tree Program
 - Cormorant Daze
- No Wake Zone discussion
 - Enforcement
- Lake handouts for shoreline

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be scheduled for August 6th, 2024 at 5:30 PM. Future meetings requested to be set in early spring and budget review in July or August.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Liz Larson, CLWD Administrator.