

## EXHIBIT C

### Findings to Order

1. Rice County ("County") recognizes that its lakes and land are important natural resources.
2. Circle Lake is located within Forest Township of Rice County.
3. Petitioners filed their petition pursuant to Minnesota Statute §103B.521 ("Petition"), requesting consideration by the County Board for the establishment of a lake improvement district for Circle Lake with a proposed name of Circle Lake Improvement District ("CLID").
4. The Petition generally complies with Minnesota Statute §103B.521 and Minnesota Rules §6115.0970.
5. Petitioners are owners of certain parcels of real property within the appropriate natural hydrologic boundaries and tracts of real estate of the territory surrounding and abutting Circle Lake.
6. The Circle Lake Association unanimously supported the Petition and over eighty individual landowners executed signature pages in support of the establishment of the CLID as proposed in the Petition.
7. Petitioners represent the majority of property owners within the above referenced territory surrounding Circle Lake.
8. The Petition identifies the properties proposed for inclusion within the designated boundary of the CLID.
9. Circle Lake suffers from issues or threats, including, but not limited to, a hypereutrophic condition, including high nutrient loading of Chlorophyll A and phosphorus not within the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Lake Standards and an over-abundance of aquatic invasive species (AIS) and other non-native species.
10. Petitioners state that the primary purpose, objective and mission of the proposed CLID is to serve as a steward of the lake community, to protect, preserve, promote, and improve the recreational and overall quality and integrity of Circle Lake.
11. A Lake Improvement District provides a reasonable approach to lake maintenance and protection.
12. The County Board passed a resolution setting a public hearing in accordance with Chapter 103B to obtain input about the proposed CLID.

13. On November 13, 2018, the County Board conducted a public hearing at the Rice County Government Center in Faribault, Minnesota concerning the creation of the proposed CLID. Oral and written comments were received by the County Board. The hearing was continued and left open to further public comment until January 8, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.
14. Notice of the public hearing was sent to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, local units of government and all owners of property within the proposed CLID boundary. Notice was properly published and posted as required by law.
15. The response from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources regarding the establishment of the proposed CLID was read into the record.
16. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources approved the proposed boundary and purpose for the LID.
17. Written and oral comments were received both in favor of and against the creation of the proposed CLID. The majority of comments supported the creation of the LID.
18. The proposed CLID is a beneficial component in helping to preserve Circle Lake as a viable natural resource in Rice County. Efforts made to date to control aquatic invasive species and other non-native or native species, obtain funding to protect Circle Lake, and plan for the long-term health of Circle Lake have been insufficient.
19. The CLID will promote the public welfare by improving the overall quality of Circle Lake.
20. Landowners will benefit from the proposed CLID because the management and improvement of Circle Lake will allow for greater use of Circle Lake and increase real property values around Circle Lake.
21. The primary programs proposed to be undertaken by the CLID include the following:
  - a. Developing and implementing a comprehensive plan to improve water quality and monitor for potential long-term environmental effects;
  - b. Applying for private and/or public grants and/or entering into contracts with federal or state agencies for the study and treatment of pollution, water quality, and/or weed problems and related demonstration programs;
  - c. Entering into contracts with private businesses for the study and treatment of pollution, water quality and/or weed problems and related demonstration programs;
  - d. Undertaking research to determine the condition and development of the body of water included within the proposed district and to transmit the studies to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and other interested authorities;
  - e. Making cooperative agreements with the United States, State of Minnesota, Rice

- County, Forest Township or other cities to effect water and related land resource programs;
- f. Conducting programs of water improvement, conservation, and education;
  - g. Implementing and/or continuing water quality monitoring programs;
  - h. Serving as the local sponsor for grants;
  - i. Providing input to the Soil and Water Conservation District regarding water use and application as deemed necessary and reasonable;
  - j. Conducting plans, studies, developments and implementations as allowed or permitted by law and approved by the County Board; and
  - k. Coordinating with the proper government agencies for the planning and installation of cluster or community sewage and/or water supply systems.
22. The programs of the proposed CLID would be financed by any combination of:
- a. County, State, and Federal Grants;
  - b. Donations and grants from private parties, corporations, or foundations;
  - c. Loans from governmental entities;
  - d. Imposing service charges on the users of lake improvement district services within the District under Minnesota law;
  - e. Levying an ad valorem tax solely on property within the lake improvement district to be appropriated and expended on projects of special benefit to the District; and
  - f. Imposing any combination of service charges and taxes.
23. The CLID has proposed using an annual user charge to owners of property within the District as the primary means of financing programs for the CLID.
24. Delegation of the powers stated below will allow representatives of the people most directly affected by the actions of the CLID to determine the management of the CLID.
25. The proposed Directors meet the requirements of Minnesota Statute §103B.551.
26. Because of the County's residual financial responsibility under Minnesota Rule 6115.0980, the Directors will be required to maintain insurance and follow standard government accounting principles.