



TO: (CLFLWD) Board of Managers
DATE: May 18, 2023
RE: Administrator's Report for the May 25, 2023, Regular Board Meeting

Administration (1000 series)

- 1001 – Board Administration
 - A special board meeting is scheduled for May 24, 3:00 pm to begin discussing the 2024 budget.
- 1003 – General Administration
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Programs (3000 series)

- 3002 – Permitting
 - See Permitting Update attachment for updates.
- 3003 – Monitoring and Data Assessment
 - Continued lake, stream, CAT, and DIY monitoring.
 - All District staff gages were installed/set on 4-21 or 5-10.
- 3004 – Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement (Cost-Share)
 - Aidan Read and Jess Hall continued to conduct site visits with District residents to assess shoreline issues and provide other technical assistance. As of May 15th, staff have received the first Mini Grant application of the year, as well as the first application for the pilot Watershed Legacy program.
 - A Farmer Coffee hour was held on May 1st with several area farmers at Kodiak Coffee. Topics of discussion included future District ag programs, and the outlook for conservation farming practices in 2023.
- 3005 – Education and Outreach
 - District staff presented at the Forest Lake Lake Association annual meeting on Wednesday, May 17th.
 - District staff presented at the Comfort Lakes Association annual meeting on Thursday, May 18th.
 - District staff hosted a booth at the Forest Lake High School Ag Day on Friday, May 12th. The "[Soil Your Undies](#)" display was a big hit with the students. See photo below:



- Events

- Resilient Shorelines Workshop

- Tuesday, May 23rd from 6:00pm-8:00pm at Scandia Community Center
Learn the fundamentals of protecting your shoreline property! This workshop will include discussions on lakescaping and shoreline projects, plant selection tips, regulatory reminders, and share resources for technical and financial assistance.

- RSVP Encouraged: <https://forms.gle/hCSGLPJJNnkei2MN8>

- Arts in the Park

- Every Tuesday in June, July, & August at Lakeside Memorial Park
Watershed District Staff will be out at Arts in the Park every Tuesday evening this summer! Stop by for hands-on demonstrations, information regarding Forest Lake's upcoming alum treatment, and learn more about the work of the watershed district. The watershed

district booth is typically located on the north end of the park near the public boat launch.

- Community Open House

Tuesday, June 6th from 4:30pm-6:30pm at the Watershed District Office
Stop by the Open House to learn more about the work of the Watershed District and share your thoughts on the priorities for the District's future office space. If you have not already taken the survey and/or you cannot attend the open house, please consider taking the survey at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P7CMXCP>

- Resilient Shorelines Workshop

Saturday, June 10th from 10:00am-12:00pm at Hardwood Creek Library
Learn the fundamentals of protecting your shoreline property! This workshop will include discussions on lakescaping and shoreline projects, plant selection tips, regulatory reminders, and share resources for technical and financial assistance.

RSVP Encouraged: <https://forms.gle/hCSGLPJJNnkei2MN8>

- Publications

- [*A modern day Lorax or two*](#) by Angie Hong. Published online May 5, 2023
- [*Anti Being "Anti No Mow May"*](#) by Angie Hong. Published online May 9, 2023
- [*Be AIS smart this fishing season*](#) by Angie Hong. Published online May 12, 2023
- [*Feeling Loony in Forest Lake*](#) by Angie Hong. Published online May 15, 2023

- 3006 – Technical Resource Sharing and Interagency Communication

- The Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership Policy Committee met on April 24th. The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for July 24th.

- 3008 Measurement of Progress

- The 2022 Annual Report and the 2022 Progress Summary were submitted to the Board of Water and Soil Resources and Department of Natural Resources on April 28th. These materials will be shared with the Bone Lake Association, Comfort Lakes Association, and Forest Lake Lake Association later this month.

- 3009 – Grant Research and Preparation

- Expedited Conservation Projects Grant Program: District staff had been working with City of Forest Lake staff on a grant application to restore a shoreline buffer in the city park at North Shore Circle. The City has put the effort on pause for

now, as discussions about other inter-governmental topics occur. We expect to pick this project back up later this year and apply for future rounds of grant funding in order to restore city-owned shoreline parcels around Forest Lake.

- Watershed Based Implementation Funding: The City of Wyoming executed a grant agreement with the Lower St. Croix Partnership grant fiscal agent, Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District. The City will receive up to \$5,000 per year in Watershed Based Implementation Funding over a 3-year period to implement the enhanced street sweeping plan that the CLFLWD created.
 - Clean Water Fund: The Forest Lake Alum Treatment Clean Water Fund grant agreement was executed in April, and the District received the initial 50% grant installment of \$266,800. All of this is currently categorized as unearned revenue and will switch to earned revenue later this year when the District spends the funds on the alum treatment itself.
 - Stormwater Resiliency Planning: Earlier this year the District applied to the second round of funding offered under this relatively new grant program. The grant would have funded the completion of a floodplain vulnerability assessment, but the District was not selected for funding. The program prioritizes sections of the state identified as Environmental Justice Areas of Concern, and the District does not overlap with any of these areas. However, floodplain vulnerability is still a very important topic within our borders. Staff will recommend budgeting for this effort in 2024 with funding from the District levy.
 - Shoreline Partnership Grant: As authorized by the Board at the April 13th board meeting, the District Administrator signed a letter of support for a partnership grant application with MN Dept. of Natural Resources and other organizations. The grant proposal, titled Protecting Freshwater for the Future – Shoreline Restoration in Minnesota will be submitted to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.
 - USDA Rural Grants & Loans: After almost a year of waiting, staff received confirmation from the USDA that the District is eligible to apply for USDA's Rural Community Facilities Loan and Grant Program. These programs could help fund or finance a new office space for the District.
 - Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund: The District is still waiting to receive confirmation that the bill associated with this grant program has been approved by the legislature. The most recent version of the bill still has CLFLWD slated to receive \$1.942 million for the Bone Lake South Wetland Acquisition project.
- 3010 – Operations and Maintenance

- Bone Lake Fish barrier – weir boards added to the Bone Lake inlet fish barrier on 5-8-23, later than usual due to high water. No weir boards were added to the Bone Lake outlet.
- Bixby Wetland Weir: weir boards added on 5-8-23; later than usual due to the late spring and localized flooding.
- Edell Wetland – the District was contacted by a landowner regarding flooding around the project. Staff inspected the project and removed a beaver dam to allow proper drainage from this project.
- O&M Rapid Assessment tool developed in Survey 123 (online GIS app) for annual O&M inspections. Two sites have been inspected so far to test the system.
- 3011 – Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Management
 - Watercraft Inspectors began inspecting on Friday, May 11th prior to fishing opener on May 12th.
- 3012 – Land Acquisition
 - Staff continue to communicate with the landowner of the Bone Lake South Wetland in order to seek consensus on selling price and acreage.

Projects (5000 series)

- 5200 Lakes
 - Moody Lake:
 - Mood Capstone: Project design underway. Continued coordination with landowners. Mortgage company consent granted, close to securing easement for the legacy load wetland excavation project element. Wetland delineation of spoils area for the Legacy Load wetland excavation took place on 5-15-23.
 - Bone Lake:
 - Little Comfort Lake:
 - Gravel Pit Infiltration Basin: EOR is continuing to work on the feasibility phase. Staff are continuing outreach and coordination with the landowner regarding purchase of the gravel pit parcel. Staff have also reached out to BWSR on a grant extension.
 - Shields Lake:
 - Shields Lake Park Outlet restoration: Restoration of the channel completed late April. Staff will monitor the planting to ensure vegetation is established prior to the end of the grant period June 30th.

- Lake Keewahtin:
- Forest Lake:
 - CR50 IESF: Control panel and pumps were installed in early May. The Conexus electrical connection will be made mid-May and the project should be operational shortly thereafter. Tree and shrub planting will occur in late May or early June. A change order was issued to allow an extension of the substantial completion date due to the late spring and wet localized conditions that delayed project progress.
 - Wester WJD6 Wetland: Project permitting and design underway. Continued outreach with the landowners and mortgage company regarding project easements.
 - Alum Treatment: The District held a public hearing for this project on May 11th. A recording of the public hearing presentation is available on the District's YouTube channel here: <https://youtu.be/qYIq1aFD7WQ> Staff will be presenting on the alum treatment at the annual meeting of the Forest Lake Lake Association on Wednesday, May 17th and at the June 19th workshop of the Forest Lake City Council. Staff will also provide alum treatment information at the District's weekly Arts in the Park booth.
- Comfort Lake:
 - Sunrise River Hwy 61 Wetland: Hwy 61 guardrail extended late April. The direct drilling of the culvert under Hwy 61 to occur in late May when conditions allow. All planting and final restoration to occur later this spring when the site has dried out enough to allow access by a skid steer or similar machinery.
- 5400 Wetlands
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