



**TO:** (CLFLWD) Board of Managers

**DATE:** July 18, 2024

**RE:** Administrator's Report for the July 25, 2024, Regular Board Meeting

### Administration (1000 series)

- 1001 – Board Administration
  - The Board has special meetings scheduled on July 24<sup>th</sup> and August 6<sup>th</sup> for budget workshops.
- 1003 – General Administration
  - Garrett Miller has accepted a new position with the DNR. His last day will be July 26<sup>th</sup>. Staff are working with Garrett to put together an offboarding plan so that all tasks are accomplished.

### Programs (3000 series)

- 3002 – Permitting
  - From June 16, 2024, to July 16, 2024:
    - 188 site inspections were performed with a 95.27% compliance rate.
    - 8 new permit applications were received and 1 permit was approved.
    - 2 permits closed out.
- 3003 – Monitoring & Data Assessment
  - Continued lake, stream, and diagnostic monitoring (DIY & CAT).
  - Mid-season monitoring update to be provided at the 7-25 Board meeting.
- 3004 – Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement (Cost-Share)
  - Shoreline inventories of Shields, School, Moody, and Birch Lakes were completed. The results of these inventories will be provided to the Board once analysis has been completed.
  - Four Mini Grants were closed out including two shoreline plantings, a low-mow turf installation, and a wetland buffer.
  - Site visits for technical and cost-share assistance have continued across the District.



- 3005 – Education & Outreach
  - Staff have been covering an informational booth at the Forest Lake Art in the Park on Tuesday evenings. There have been several weather cancellations this spring and summer for the event. But, staff have covered two of the events. June 25<sup>th</sup> Jackie B and Aidan did a booth focused on aquatic insects and natural shorelines. July 9<sup>th</sup> Garrett and Matthew did a booth focused on AIS. If Board members are interested in helping out at the booth, please contact Adam.
  - Summer community education classes are in full swing. Several classes have been well attended, but we have also cancelled a few classes due to low enrollment, which is not atypical for summer community education events. The more popular classes this summer have been the family classes. Fall and spring, when we have most of our events scheduled, traditionally have much better attendance.
  - We are partnering with Hardwood Creek Library and the MPCA to hold two Get The Lead Out collection events. These will run in early August and again in early September. There will be social media awareness and general outreach by all the partners to promote the collection events.
  - State of the Watershed planning continues by District staff. The event is scheduled for September 18<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Forest Lake American Legion.
- 3006 – Interagency Communication
  - Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership: The next Policy Committee meeting is July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Staff has continued to attend Planning Team and Steering Committee meetings. Staff is also supported the development of the 2025-2026 biennial work plan, including FY25 Watershed Based Implementation Funding grant.
  - Administrator Kinney was invited to participate in a small group discussion with the MPCA as it relates to watershed decision support tools. Mr. Kinney provided several key suggestions for improvement based on the CLFLWD’s sequential diagnostic monitoring efforts along with the corresponding improvements made to all District lakes.
- 3007 – Research
  - Continued collaboration with STAFI on iron-enhance sand filter research. They have been collecting water samples from the CR50 IESF.



- Presentation from Katie Polk for the UMN on research associated with the FL Alum treatment. Her research has found a relationship between ALUM application and both phosphorus and nitrogen levels.
- Administrator Kinney attended the MN Stormwater Research Council’s meeting that highlighted current research project updates along with future research priorities.
- 3009 – Grant Research & Preparation
  - BWSR Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP): \$10,000 grant awarded. The staff is working with BWSR on grant contracting and associated contracting with Cultivate Advisors for strategic planning.
  - Laura Jane Musser Fund: Grant application not selected for funding. Staff met with City of Forest Lake staff and engineer to review project budget and design. The District still has an Expedited Conservation Project (ECP) grant which will fund the majority of this project.
  - Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants: The RFP has been released. The grant application deadline is August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Staff is preparing a recommendation for grant applications to be brought to the August 8<sup>th</sup> board meeting.
- 3010 – Operations & Maintenance
  - Water quality monitoring at many of the O&M sites.
  - CR50 IESF – filter bed maintenance and optimization of this system is ongoing.
  - District staff have continued to actively monitor District weirs to ensure the flow of water remains unimpeded during these times of high waters.
- 3011 – Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention & Management
  - On June 27<sup>th</sup>, District staff collected EWM samples from Forest Lake and submitted them to the University of Montana labs to have them genetically tested. These results will confirm whether the Forest Lake EWM population is the hybrid variant and if there are any known herbicide resistant strains present.
  - On July 9<sup>th</sup>, District staff met with Anne Wilkinson and Steve McComas to discuss pure/hybrid EWM management. The details of this discussion are summarized in the Summary of Board Direction. In short, McComas does not believe there are any major management differences between pure and hybrid EWM.
  - During the week of July 15<sup>th</sup>, District staff plan to collect additional Forest Lake 2<sup>nd</sup> basin EWM samples for UMN researcher, Katie Polk. The EWM samples will be



dried and analyzed for percent nutrient composition. This may provide insight into post-ALUM nutrient cycling.


- 3012 – Land Acquisition & Management
  - Continued outreach on the Southern Bone Lake property. Meeting on July 25<sup>th</sup> on potential collaboration and next steps.
  - Contracting for Phase II of the North Shore Trail Nature Area restoration has begun. The contracting for this project is being managed by Great River Greening, with assistance from District staff. Phase II will include continued invasive species management paired with fall and spring seeding. A volunteer event will be planned for the project in spring or fall of 2025.
- 3013 – Watershed Planning & Resilience
  - EOR is working on floodplain modeling and will bring an update to a future board meeting. Staff is working on contracting with Zan Associates for the community engagement phase to begin in late July.

### Projects (5000 series)

- Moody Lake
  - Capstone: majority of punch list items completed. Final walk thru needed before project closeout.
- Bone Lake
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- Little Comfort Lake
  - Heath Ave IESF: Survey of property complete. Staff working with mortgage company to release the property. Staff working through the rezoning and subdivision process with the City of Wyoming. EOR will use the completed survey to begin the design process. Staff to apply for grant funding for project implementation.
- Shields Lake
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- Lake Keewahtin
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- Forest Lake
    - WJD6 Wetland: All punch list items completed. Final walkthrough needed prior to project closeout.
    - North Shore Circle Park Shoreline Restoration: A meeting was held for District and City of Forest Lake staff to review preliminary plans for the shoreline restoration project. This project is still in the planning stages, but installation is planned to begin in spring of 2025.
  - Comfort Lake
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