



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

**DATE:** January 16, 2025

**RE:** Administrator's Report for the January 23, 2025, Regular Board Meeting

### Administration (1000 series)

- 1001 – Board Administration
  - The Board has two more strategic planning workshops scheduled with Cultivate Advisors: January 21<sup>st</sup> and February 4<sup>th</sup>.
- 1002 – General Office Expenses
  - The office lease extension was finalized in December.
  - A lease extension for the copier is currently under review.

### Programs (3000 series)

- 3002 – Permitting
  - Between Dec 12, 2024 and Jan 13, 2025 the following activity took place:
    - 100 site inspections performed with a 94% compliance rate
    - Three permit applications were received
    - Four permits were approved
- 3003 – Monitoring & Data Assessment
  - Staff began the winter lake monitoring effort on 1-16-24. Staff will make monthly visits to many of the District lakes to track winter lake water quality until the ice is no longer safe to access in the spring.
  - Staff are reviewing the 2024 DIY and CAT monitoring results and working on the annual report.
- 3004 – Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement (Cost-Share)
  - Staff continue to prepare for a busy spring cost-share season. One application for a large shoreline restoration has been received for Comfort Lake.
- 3005 – Education & Outreach
  - Staff continue to schedule and promote winter and spring workshops and events.
  - The monthly lake association/group emails continue to be popular, and we have received several positive comments back from the January email. Starting this month, we also added a Moody Lake monthly email.
  - The Winter Newsletter was distributed electronically through social media, the website, partner emails, and Constant Contact.
  - CLFLWD and RCWD education and outreach staff have started a monthly collaboration meeting to review and coordinate activities and programming.



- The Shoreline RFP was sent to ten contractors and posted to the CLFLWD website. Three entities have since reached out with questions. The deadline for questions and information requests is Feb 14 and the proposal deadline is Feb 28.
- 3006 – Interagency Communication
  - Aidan Read met with agricultural staff from the Lower St Croix Partnership to discuss program needs and priorities for 2025. New ag outreach staff have been hired to assist in this effort.
  - Mike Kinney was contacted by the North American Stormwater and Erosion Control Association of WI ([www.nasecawi.org](http://www.nasecawi.org)) to speak at their annual conference on Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>. They are interested in knowing how the CLFLWD removed Bone Lake from the impaired waters list so the focus of the presentation will be on the use of sequential diagnostic monitoring and the Pareto Principle.
- 3009 – Grant Research & Preparation
  - The District was awarded both of the FY25 Clean Water Fund competitive grants for which it applied: Heath Iron Enhanced Sand Filter (\$1.499 million) and Sunrise River Headwaters Project Development (\$118,000). This item is on the January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting agenda so the Board may consider authorizing execution of the grant agreement.
  - The District has applied for three grants so far in 2025:
    - MPCA Local Climate Action Planning, Shoreline Resiliency Planning, \$35,000 (after further consideration of estimated costs associated with the shoreline PR RFP, staff lowered this grant application to better align with estimated costs)
    - BWSR Green Infrastructure Projects, Goodwin Ave Stormwater Wetland, \$225,800
    - Fishers & Farmers Partnership, Farmer-Led Council Expansion and BMP Implementation, \$80,000
  - Staff is tracking several additional grant opportunities to apply for in the coming months. More updates will be brought to future board meetings.
  - Staff is working on yearend reporting for several active grants:
    - BWSR Performance Review & Assistance Program, Strategic Planning
    - BWSR Clean Water Fund (CWF), School Lake Ag BMPs
    - BWSR CWF, Forest Lake Alum Treatment
    - BWSR CWF, Moody Lake Capstone Projects
    - BWSR CWF, WJD-6 Wetland Enhancement
    - Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund, Bone Lake South Wetland Acquisition



- MnDNR Conservation Partners Legacy, North Shore Circle Park Shoreline Restoration
- MPCA Local Climate Action Planning, Floodplain Vulnerability Action Plan
- 3010 – Operations & Maintenance
  - As per our water use permit, Staff reported to MPARS on the water use at the CR50 IESF. The IESF filtered ~70 million gallons of nutrient laden water in 2024.
- 3012 – Land Acquisition
  - Continued outreach with the heir of the Southern Bone Lake farmstead/wetland property. A new appraisal will be commissioned this winter to aid in the acquisition of the property.
- 3013 – Watershed Planning & Resiliency
  - This topic is on the January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting agenda – EOR will present the phase 3 floodplain modeling technical memo.

#### Projects (5000 series)

- Moody Lake
  - Capstone Project: Project complete and the contract is closed out. Staff continue to pursue Agriculture BMPS in the area and will be installing educational signage regarding the project at Moody Park in 2025.
- Little Comfort Lake
  - Heath Ave Iron Enhanced Sand Filter Project: Clean Water grant funds have been awarded for project construction – ~\$1.5 million. The feasibility phase has been completed with the development of the 60% design. The project is slated to be ordered at the January 23, 2025 Board Meeting. EOR will also be bring a Scope of Work to complete the engineering for the project to this same Board meeting. Staff are working with the landowners and their mortgage company to subdivide and sell part of their property to the District. Once completed, the District can complete the acquisition of the property needed to construct the project – estimated for spring 2026.
- Forest Lake
  - Alum Treatment – EOR is in the process of reviewing the water quality and sediment core data collected in 2024. This information will be used to determine if a second alum treatment is needed on Forest Lake.
  - WJD-6 Wetland Project: Project complete and the contract is closed out. Staff will work to install project signage along the property viewable from Hwy 97 in 2025.
  - North Shore Circle Park – Final plans for the shoreline restoration have been received and are being reviewed by City staff, along with an agreement. The project is on track to be installed in spring.