CLFLWD
WATERSHED DISTRICT

651-395-5850
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www.clflwd.org
44 Lake St. South , Suite A
Forest Lake, MN 55025

TO: (CLFLWD) Board of Managers
DATE: September 18, 2025
RE: Administrator's Report for the September 25, 2025, Regular Board Meeting

Administration (1000 series)

- 1001 – Board Administration
  - Washington County has requested an annual meeting between Commissioner Miron and CLFLWD board members to review the District's 2026 budget. This is currently scheduled for October 15th. Those CLFLWD board members who represent the watershed areas of Forest Lake and Scandia typically participate in this meeting along with staff.

- 1003 – General Administration
  - Business & Operations Manager, Brad Jernberg, started at the District on September 15th. The staff organizational chart is enclosed.
  - The District will hold a duly noticed public hearing for the 2026 Budget and Levy at the September 25th regular board meeting. The levy certification deadline is September 30th.

Programs (3000 series)

- 3002 – Permitting
  - Between August 19, 2025 and September 15, 2025 there were:
    - 167 site inspections performed with a 96.83% mean compliance rate.
    - 3 permit applications received.
    - 2 permit applications approved and 3 permits closed out.

- 3003 – Monitoring & Data Assessment
  - Continued CAMP, Cat, DIY, and stream monitoring.

- 3004 – Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement (Cost-Share)
  - A Community Water Cost-share project was closed out on Forest Lake, marking the fourth major shoreline project completed in 2025.
  - Two Mini Grants were awarded to projects on Bone and Comfort Lake that will add native plantings to reduce stormwater runoff.
  - 54 site visits have been conducted, compared to 44 for all of 2024.

- 3005 – Education & Outreach
    - September 22, 6pm, Schilling Park: The District will hold a neighborhood informational meeting for residents near Bixby Park along 8th Ave NW in Forest Lake to answer questions regarding flooding.
    - Planning continues for the upcoming Fall Alum Treatment workshop scheduled for October 2nd at the Forest lake Senior Center. (flyer attached)
    - The 2025 Fall Update (e-newsletter) is scheduled to be distributed at the end of the month, and it will also be available as a handout for events, classes, and other outreach opportunities. (attached)

- 3006 – Interagency Communication
    - Aidan Read and Adam Hjelm met with Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership outreach staff to coordinate upcoming conservation agriculture programming and discuss future cooperation.
    - Staff held quarterly meetings with the City of Wyoming on September 10th and the City of Scandia on September 17
    - Mike Sandager and Victoria D'Amico met with the City of Forest Lake September 17 at the monthly FL/Watershed Development Review Coordination Meeting.
    - Some of the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership partners have asked if CLFLWD staff could provide more assistance with respect to annual reporting, biennial work planning, and the upcoming Mid-Point Plan Evaluation and Performance Review & Assessment Program (PRAP) which are slated for 2026. Emily Heinz can assist the Partnership with these activities. This work would be funded in part by Watershed Based Implementation Funding and in part by a Mid-Point Evaluation grant through BWSR. This is estimated to amount to roughly 120 hours in 2026 which is equal to approximately $9,000 in grant revenues.

- 3007 – Research
    - UMN Alum research is ongoing for the Forest Lake Alum Treatment. Researchers joined staff during Forest Lake CAMP monitoring on Aug 20 and Sept 17 for pre-alum treatment monitoring.

- 3009 – Grant Research & Preparation
    - Staff presented two grant requests at the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund Council meeting on 8-27-25. These grants would be used to implement restoration on the Bone Lake South property and used to develop the Greenway Corridor along the Sunrise River.

- 3010 – Operations & Maintenance
    - Ongoing O&M inspections and monitoring
    - Staff attended an IESF research presentation on 9-8-25 that included O&M discussion and recommendations.

- 3011 – Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention & Management
    - Staff have completed several seedhead clippings throughout the season, with the most recent fieldwork being conducted 9/10. Overall staff have collected 591 seedhead clippings and have noticed decreased numbers of new flowering seedheads.
    - Blue Water Science (BWS) will perform the 2nd delineation for flowering rush September 15th. Once maps & GIS shapefiles are available staff will communicate with PLM for any necessary herbicide treatments.
    - Staff will begin coordinating procedures for end of season zebra mussel sampler plate collection and communicate with volunteers about plans to adjust program to better align with research currently performed by MAISRC.

- 3012 – Land Acquisition
    - Continued progress on the Bone Lake South property. An administrative application to adjust lot lines on the property was submitted to the City of Scandia on August 12 and is currently under review by City staff.

- 3013 – Watershed Planning & Resiliency
    - District staff and City of Forest Lake staff met on September 12th to continue reviewing the potential mitigation actions in the draft Floodplain Resilience Action Plan. City engineers will provide additional commentary on the list of mitigation actions which will inform prioritization.

Projects (5000 series)

- Moody Lake
    - Capstone Ag BMPs -Site preparation began on the two acre row crop conversion on September 8th. Planting is scheduled for late October or early November, weather dependent.

- Little Comfort Lake
    - Heath Ave Iron Enhanced Sand Filter – 60% design submitted to the City of Wyoming on 9-20-25 for review – awaiting comments.

- Forest Lake
    - Alum Treatment – implementation of the second half of the split dose scheduled for the Week of October 6th. Staging will be at the DNR 3rd lake boat launch – special use permit granted by DNR.

- Comfort Lake
    - EOR is continuing to work on the Sunrise River Headwaters Project Development project under the District's Accelerated Implementation Grant.

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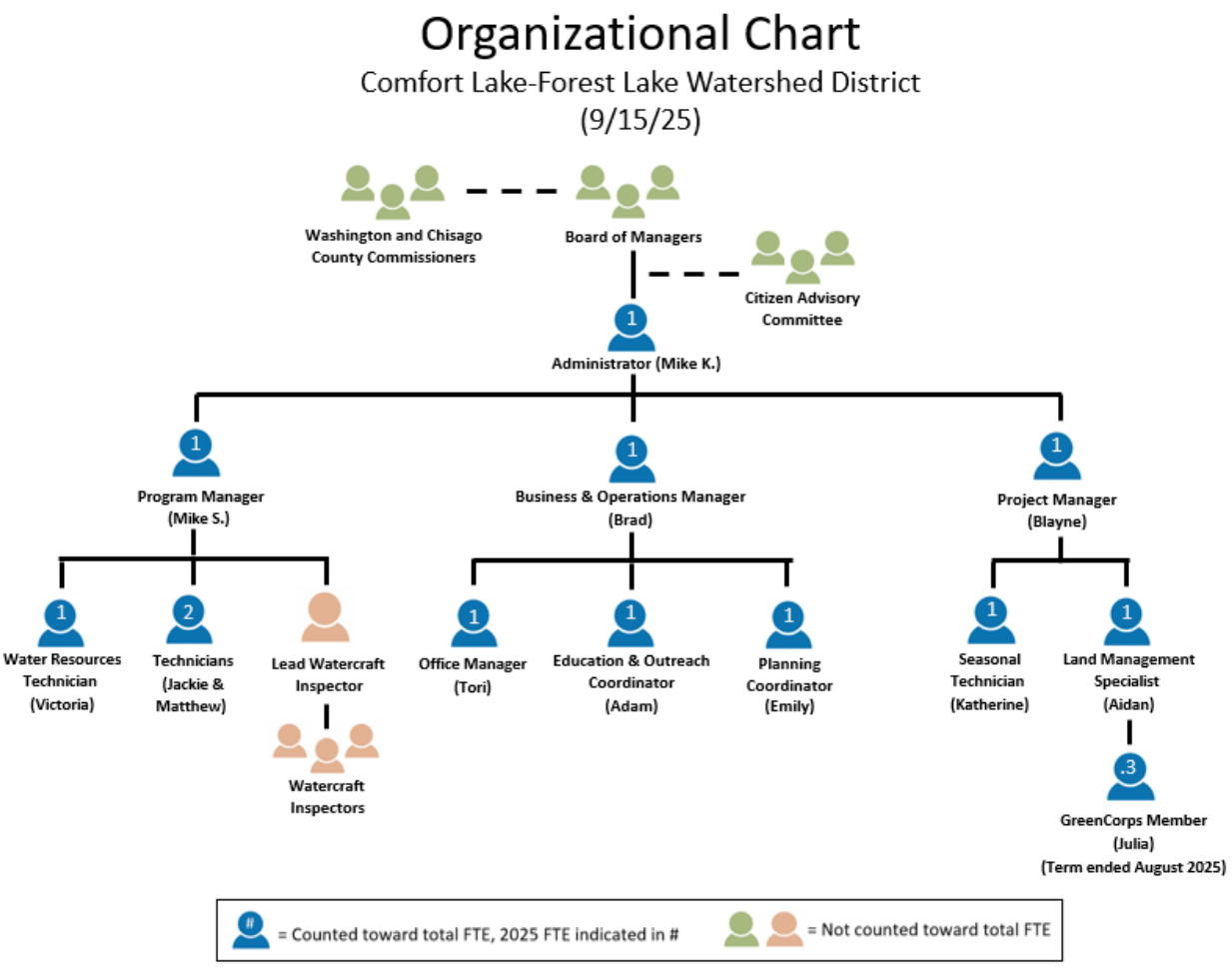
Staff Organizational Chart



Forest Lake Fall Alum Treatment Informational Meeting

October 2nd, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
Forest Lake Senior Center

How does an alum treatment improve water quality?

Why does Forest Lake need another alum treatment this fall?

Dr. Wilkinson is a civil engineer and limnologist at Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc. where she applies her expertise in watershed engineering, primarily focused on lake and stream water quality and ecology. She will present an introduction to lake science and discuss Forest Lake's overall water quality. She will also be discussing results from the first alum treatment on Forest Lake and the upcoming second alum treatment scheduled for mid-October.

This FREE workshop will be held at the Forest Lake Senior Community Center (767 4th St SW, Forest Lake, MN 55025) starting at 6:00 p.m. The workshop includes an hour presentation, a box supper, and time for open discussion after the presentation.

Please RSVP before noon on October 1st for this workshop, so we have an accurate headcount for food and seating.

To register, please contact the CLFLWD at 651 395 5850 or adam.hjelm@clflwd.org

CLFLWD WATERSHED DISTRICT

Fall 2025 Update

The Comfort Lake–Forest Lake Watershed District (CLFLWD or District) is a special purpose unit of local government with a mission to protect and enhance local ecosystems and natural water resources. The District covers 49 square miles in northern Washington and southern Chisago counties.

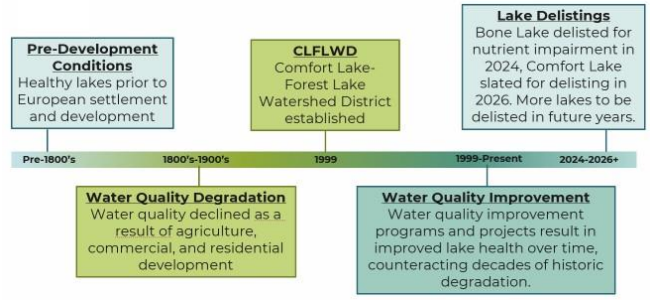
Lake Phosphorus Load Reductions Achieved to Date

State Standard Reduction Goal: 3,245 lbs
District Sustainable Reduction Goal: 5,802 lbs

1 lb phosphorus ≈ 500 lbs algae growth

Excess phosphorus can degrade a lake's water quality. One pound of phosphorus can support up to 500 pounds of algae growth in a lake. Soil erosion and sediment transport can affect a lake's health as well.

Watershed History and Lake Health Over Time



Lakes were generally healthier prior to modern development. The CLFLWD aims to bring lakes back to their pre-development water quality condition.

Water Quality Projects & Milestones

2015
- Target Store Stormwater Retrofits
- Bone Lake Fish Barrier Upgrades
- Moody Lake Aerator

2016
- Bixby Park Water Quality Improvement Project

2017
- Hilo Lane Stormwater Retrofit
- Forest Lake Wetland Treatment Basin (aka 3rd Lake Pond)

2018
- Moody Lake Wetland Rehabilitation
- Moody Lake Alum Treatment Phase 1

2019
- Moody Lake Alum Treatment Phase 2
- Shields Lake Alum Treatment Phase 1
- Shields Lake Stormwater Harvest and Irrigation Reuse
- Shields Lake Fish Barrier Upgrade

2020
- Shields Lake Alum Treatment Phase 2
- Bone Lake Southeast Wetland Restorations

2021
- 10-Year Plan Update

2022
- Bone Lake Northeast Wetland Restoration

2023
- Sunrise River Hwy-61 Wetland Enhancement
- County Road 50 Iron Enhanced Sand Filter
- Forest Lake Alum Treatment Phase 1

2024 – Bone Lake Delisted!
- Moody Lake Capstone Projects
- Washington Judicial Ditch 6 Wetland Enhancement

2025
- Forest Lake Alum Treatment Phase 2

2026 – Comfort Lake to be Delisted!
- Heath Iron Enhanced Sand Filter

Other Notable Accomplishments

2015
Moved out of the old Forest Lake City Hall building and into a new office rental space at 44 Lake Street South, Suite A, Forest Lake.

2016
Collected paleolimnological sediment cores from Comfort Lake, Moody Lake and Shields Lake to determine pre-settlement lake conditions.

2017
Mapped lake depths and sediment hardness using sonar equipment for several lakes for which depths were previously unknown.

2018
Completed District rule revisions and a minor Watershed Management Plan amendment.

2019
Collected paleolimnological sediment cores from School Lake and Bone Lake to determine pre-settlement lake conditions.

2020
Continued to implement projects and essential programs while adhering to restrictions imposed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2021
Collected paleolimnological sediment cores from Little Comfort Lake and Forest Lake to determine pre-settlement lake conditions.

2022
Projects, programs, outreach, and education efforts resulted in meeting 92% of phosphorus reductions needed to achieve state water quality standards.

2023
Developed a comprehensive shoreline program with cost-share incentives, shoreline inventories, and public outreach.

2024
Celebrated 25th anniversary since establishment in 1999 and delisted Bone Lake for excess nutrients.

Water Quality Trends

Lake	Total Phosphorus Trend	Chlorophyll-a Trend	Secchi Disk Trend
Bone	Improving since 2015	Significantly Improving since 2001	Significantly Improving since 1984
Comfort	Improving since 1994	Improving since 1994	Improving since 1987
Forest – West	Significantly Improving since 1984	Significantly Improving since 2001	Improving since 1984
Forest – Middle	Improving since 2015	Improving since 2015	Declining since 2015
Forest – East	Improving since 2015	Improving since 2015	Declining since 2015
Keewahtin	Significantly Improving since 1993 Improving since 2015	Improving since 2001	Significantly Improving since 1974
Little Comfort	Improving since 2015	Significantly Improving since 2015	Improving since 2006 Significantly Improving since 2015
Moody	Significantly Improving since 2005	Significantly Improving since 2005	Significantly Improving since 2005
Shields	Significantly Improving since 1993	Significantly Improving since 2001	Significantly Improving since 1993

Short-term trends are noted for the most recent 10-years (since 2015)
Long-term trends are noted for the period of record for each lake, with the earliest year noted.
Red represents a declining trend that is not statistically significant
Green represents an improving trend that is not statistically significant way
Blue represents an improving trend that is statistically significant

Water quality is improving in almost all metrics for all lakes.

- Phosphorusis a major contributorto algae growth
- Chlorophyll-a is a way to measure the presence of algae
- Secchi Disk is a way to measure lake clarity and how deep you can see into the lake

The Forest Lake Secchi Disk (clarity) trend is expected to improve after the completion of the Forest Lake Alum Treatment,Phase 2, in fall 2025.

The District's water quality programs and projects have resulted in significant phosphorus load reductions They have also resulted in other benefits including:

- Sediment load reduction
- Wetland habitat restored
- Floodplain volume storage added

For more information visit clflwd.org/plans-reports-and-audits/

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Office Hours: Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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