



TO: (CLFLWD) Board of Managers

DATE: February 19, 2026

RE: Administrator's Report for the February 26, 2026, Regular Board Meeting

Administration (1000 series)

- 1003 – General Administration
 - The annual financial audit is scheduled for March 5-6.

Programs (3000 series)

- 3002 – Permitting
 - Between Jan. 15 and Feb. 13, 2026, the following activity took place:
 - 73 site inspections performed with a 96.3% compliance rate.
 - One permit application was received
 - No permit applications approved and one permit closed out.
- 3003 – Monitoring & Data Assessment
 - District staff continue the winter lake monitoring program on many of the district lakes. The purpose of this program is to track dissolved oxygen levels and establish a baseline chloride concentration dataset. This information is also used to determine when the aeration systems are activated on Shields and Moody Lakes.
- 3004 – Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement (Cost-Share)
 - Staff continue to prepare for a busy cost-share season.
 - 6 Cost-share applications have been received as of 2/17, with two applications approved.
- 3005 – Education & Outreach
 - Staff presented an overview of the District's programs and activities to the Washington County Master Gardeners at their monthly meeting on January 22nd.
 - Watershed Connections – Loons and Local Lakes, was held on January 26th. 51 people were in attendance.
 - Staff attended the Bone Lake Association Annual Meeting and gave an update on the District's activities and programs.

- Watershed Connections – Addressing PFAS Pollution in MN, was held on February 9th. 19 people were in attendance.
- The District's events calendar can be found on the website at: <https://clflwd.org/events/>. There are many community education events scheduled for spring, including the next Watershed Connections on March 16th about climate resilient trees.
- An informational meeting on the Bone Lake South Property is scheduled for March 30th.
- 3006 – Interagency Communication
 - District staff presented on Sequential Diagnostic Assessments and legacy load identification at the Wetland Professionals Association Symposium on January 22nd.
 - District staff held a coordination meeting with the City of Forest Lake on February 4th. Topics included: flood resiliency, potential grant application/project partnerships, and the pending rule revisions.
 - Staff held a semi-annual coordination meeting with Chisago SWCD on February 24th. The meeting was to discuss collaboration on upcoming projects and review cost-share programs.
- 3007 – Research
 - District staff are collaboration with the UMN on the second year of lake user survey study of Metro Lakes – Forest Lake has been included in the study. Last year's efforts resulted in very few user responses. Staff will look to boost this number in 2026 with a targeted outreach effort.
- 3008 – Measurement of Progress
 - The 2025 Year in Review, Annual Report, and Progress Report are in progress. The District's annual calendar has these items slated for the March 26th agenda.
- 3009 – Grant Research & Preparation
 - The District was selected to receive grant-funded assistance from the Minnesota Conservation Corps in 2026 in the form of a 900-hour temporary technician plus 400 hours of crew labor for project installation/maintenance. Funding for these programs is made possible by the Clean Water Fund and MN Pollution Control Agency. The Conservation Corps Technician's term will be temporary, full-time from April 1st to September 18th.

- Staff are working on developing a grant application for a Clean Water Fund funded GreenCorps technician. This is a similar but separate program from the Conservation Corps program described above. The deadline to apply is March 24th, and staff is planning to bring more information to the March 12th regular board meeting. If awarded, this program would provide a temporary full-time GreenCorps technician from September 2026 through August 2027.
- The District was awarded a \$99,000 grant from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Water Quality & Storage Grant Program. This will provide funding for the District Engineer, EOR, to perform project modeling and concept designs for projects identified in the Floodplain Resilience Action Plan. It will also provide funding for public outreach related to flood resiliency. More information will be brought to a future board meeting – see section 3013 of this report for more information.
- The District is still awaiting a decision on its other floodplain project modeling and concept design grant to the MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Planning Grants for Resilience program.
- In November, staff submitted a grant application to the Bush Foundation for \$2.3 million for shoreline resiliency outreach, research, and projects. The Bush Foundation notified us that the grant application was not selected to move forward in the funding process. The District can re-apply to this grant program at any time. District staff met with foundation staff to learn how to improve the application. District staff is working on a new application to this grant program which we think is a better fit – Sequential Diagnostic Assessment. Staff will bring more information to a future board meeting, including a recommended action to get board authorization to apply.
- 3010 – Operations & Maintenance
 - District staff have issued two public notifications and installed thin ice signage for the Shields Lake Aeration system which was activated on January 31st. Moody Lake Aeration system was activated shortly after, on February 11th, once monitoring efforts indicated dissolved oxygen (DO) had approached the recommended threshold of 5 ppm for aeration activation.
 - District staff are compiling a summary of 2025 O&M efforts and plans for 2026. This will be shared with the Board at a coming board meeting.
- 3011 – Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention & Management

- District staff have met with Chisago County staff for the purpose of discussing 2026 WCI program planning and the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). No major changes are planned for the 2026 JPA and Chisago County will have brought it forward for their board approval at the February 18th County Board meeting.
 - Several meetings regarding potential future carp management efforts within the District have been held over the past several months with local organizations. The current Project Manager for the University of Minnesota’s “Labs to Lakes” program was met with on January 29th to discuss ongoing efforts in the Chisago Lakes. No additional funding will be available through this program and all activities regarding carp management will be finalized by 2029.
 - Additionally, staff met with the DNR Fisheries department on February 5th with the purpose of discussing a potential carp movement study and possible future management for Comfort Lake. Both the Area Supervisor, Matt Ward, and Fisheries Specialist, John Frank, indicated that Carp levels in Comfort Lake would likely not be considered an issue from a water quality perspective. They also stated that in general the DNR is not in support of adding additional barriers, in general they are supportive of removing barriers. In 2026 the DNR will be performing a fish survey for Comfort lake and results should be available around April 2027.
- 3012 – Land Acquisition
 - An informational meeting on the Bone Lake South Property is scheduled for March 30th. This is in relation to the January 8th board directive to connect with Scandia and the Bone Lake Association regarding management of this property.
 - 3013 – Watershed Planning & Resiliency
 - The City of Forest Lake provided comments on the draft Floodplain Resilience Action Plan, and District staff, EOR, and City staff discussed during staff coordination meetings. District staff and EOR are working on incorporating these comments into the Action Plan and drafting responses. This item will be brought to a future board meeting for board approval. See section 3009 for an update on floodplain resiliency grant seeking.

Projects (5000 series)

- Bone Lake
 - Bone Lake South Nature Area: Staff are in the process of planning for future land management and restoration of the property.

- Little Comfort Lake
 - Heath Ave IESF: Project on track for implementation in summer of 2026. Wetland Conservation Act permitting completed. All other permitting underway. City of Wyoming review of 90% project designs complete – all comments will be addressed in the final design. Project to be put out to bid yet this winter – after Board approval.

- Comfort Lake
 - Green Infrastructure Grant: BWSR has approved a grant work plan revision that will allow these funds to be used on a project to treat stormwater from a direct drainage to Comfort Lake. The project is referred to as the East Comfort Pond.