



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

**DATE:** March 19, 2026

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

### Administration (1000 series)

- 1003 – General Administration
  - The annual financial audit kickoff meeting is scheduled for 9:30am on March 25th, 2026.
  - ABDO is scheduled to present audit report on April 23rd, 2026, at the Regular Board Meeting.
  - A Minnesota Conservation Corps Member, Kennedy Kolb, will be starting with the District April 2. The serving term is April through October. The corps member will support the District's water quality monitoring, nonpoint source pollution abatement, and education & outreach programs.

### Programs (3000 series)

- 3002 – Permitting
  - Staff worked with homeowner who had begun work without a permit to get erosion control installed immediately. After-the-fact permit approved in under 3 weeks, including time spent working with permittee to correct errors on submittals.
  - Three housing developments in application phase, requiring frequent staff communication. Several government and commercial projects of higher complexity also in application phase.
  - Between Feb. 14, 2026, and March 16, 2026, the following activity took place:
    - 120 site inspections performed with a 96.5% compliance rate.
    - One permit application was received
    - One permit application was approved and one permit closed out.
- 3003 – Monitoring & Data Assessment
  - Winter monitoring halted for the year based on ice safety concerns
  - Planning and coordination for 2026 Monitoring efforts underway
- 3004 – Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement (Cost-Share)

- The first shoreline site visit of the year was held on March 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - One Clean Water Cost-Share grant, one SHIP grant, and three Mini Grants were approved.
  - A farmer breakfast event will be held 3/27 in Scandia. The event is being hosted by the Lower Saint Croix Partnership.
  - 3005 – Education & Outreach
    - Administrator Kinney recently presented at the Leadership for Midwestern Watersheds conference. His presentation, How Data and Economics Can Maximize the ROI of Conservation and Water Quality Efforts, highlighted the District’s strategic approach to water resource management.
    - EO Coordinator Hjelm presented Hands-on Butterfly Garden Design through Chisago Community Education on February 23. 9 people were in attendance.
    - The third session in the Watershed Connections lecture series, Climate-resilient Trees for a Changing Landscape, was held on March 16 at the Forest Lake Senior Center. 20 people were in attendance.
    - The Natural Shoreline Outreach Campaign continues to make steady progress and meet performance metrics.
      - Recent highlights include:
        - Facebook reels/videos are outperforming static posts. Reels/videos are achieving greater reach and visibility compared to static content.
        - Multiple reels/videos rank among the top posts by views.
- The reels/videos can be viewed on the CLFLWD Facebook page or on the Natural Shoreline webpage at: <https://clflwd.org/natural-shorelines/>
- 3006 – Interagency Communication
  - Lori Tella, the Landscape Specialist at Washington Conservation District that serves the District will be leaving at the end of the month. No disruption to programs is anticipated.
  - Administrator Kinney attended the MN Watersheds Legislative Session meetings on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- 3008 – Measurement of Progress

- The draft Year in Review, Annual Report, and Progress Report for the year 2025 are included in the March 26<sup>th</sup> board packet for managers to begin reviewing. Presentations scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup>, and approval scheduled for April 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- 3009 – Grant Research & Preparation
  - Staff shared a detailed table of active and upcoming grants with Manager Bakke upon request. Staff will provide an update on this information at an upcoming board meeting.
- 3010 – Operations & Maintenance
  - Annual revision of the Comprehensive O&M manual underway.
- 3011 – Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention & Management
  - District staff have discussed a potential carp movement study and requested quotes from Carp Solutions and Mount Hood Environmental consultants. Both organizations could perform the requested carp movement monitoring activities and have provided preliminary quotes along with details of the work that would be completed.
  - Seasonal Watercraft Inspection (WCI) job postings have been published along with staff contacting past WCI staff members. The interview process has begun, and the required training activities will have been completed before the beginning of the open water season.
  - Preliminary planning following the Board approved 2026 AIS Management Plan is ongoing as staff members are actively working with local partners and contractors to ensure all planned activities are completed as efficiently and effectively as possible.
  - Early Washington County AIS grant award notifications have been received for the following AIS activities; \$10,000 for the WCI program (Forest & Bone), \$4,000 for Curly-leaf pondweed management (Forest), and \$4,000 for Flowering rush management (Forest).
- 3012 – Land Acquisition
  - Staff submitted documentation to ensure the Tax-Exempt status of the recently acquired Heath Ave IESF Property.
- 3013 – Watershed Planning & Resiliency

- Staff prepared draft responses to city comments on the Floodplain Resilience Action Plan. Staff are reviewing internally before bringing this topic to a board meeting.

### **Projects (5000 series)**

- **Moody Lake**
  - The Moody Capstone prairie planting was snow seeded by staff on 03/12. This is the last scheduled seeding for the prairie.
- **Bone Lake**
  - Bone Lake South Nature Area: Staff are working to use the remaining phase 1 grant dollars to install/improve the perimeter fence of the Nature Area. Staff are also developing the management plan for the property with the intention to bring the management plan before the Board in April.
- **Little Comfort Lake**
  - Heath Ave Iron Enhanced Sand Filter: The project has been put out to bid. A pre-bid meeting will be held on March 26<sup>th</sup> for potential contractors, and the bid opening will be April 14<sup>th</sup>. EOR will present their contractor recommendation at the May 14th Board meeting. Project on track for implementation in late summer 2026.
- **Forest Lake**
  - North Shore Trail Nature Area – The prescribed burn permit for this spring has been approved by the DNR. Edge Ecosystems will be conducting the burn when conditions are favorable later this spring. Neighbors were notified by mail, and information has been released on the District website and social media.
- **Comfort Lake**
  - Green Infrastructure Project: Staff are coordinating with EOR on the feasibility phase of this potential project, tentatively titled the “East Comfort Pond”. EOR will provide a scope of work for project feasibility to the Board for consideration in the coming weeks.