



MEMORANDUM

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

Date: May 11, 2026
To: CLFLWD Board of Managers
From: Mike Kinney, District Administrator
Subject: Impaired Waters List



District Wide

Background/Discussion:

The purpose of this memo is to update the Board regarding the latest Impaired Waters List. Normally the list is published every other year in April. The District has been planning a delisting celebration for Comfort Lake, tentatively scheduled for June 17th.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act authorizes EPA to assist states, territories and authorized Tribes in listing impaired waters and developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for these waterbodies. A TMDL establishes the maximum amount of a pollutant allowed in a waterbody and serves as the starting point or planning tool for restoring water quality. The State of MN submitted Comfort Lake to the impaired water list back in 2002.

Since we did not see the 2026 list published last month, staff reached out to the MN Pollution Control Agency for an update. MPCA staff reported that the draft 2026 Impaired Waters List will be posted to the public for comment May 19 – July 22. Until it is submitted to EPA, the delisting is not finalized. MPCA is aware of the pending Comfort Lake delisting and suggested the District could hold a delisting celebration any time after May 19 with the caveat that it is still a proposed delisting until EPA confirms the list. EPA is delayed in doing this work due to federal government slow-downs and bottlenecks. MPCA staff indicated they do not expect to receive final approval until about October.

Staff are seeking direction from the Board as to whether the CLFLWD should proceed with the delisting celebration currently planned for June 17th or wait until after the formal approval is made. It's worth noting that given the current delays, the final approval might be in November or December, or even into 2027. The District has the State of the Watershed event planned for late September so that is something to take into consideration as well.