



Administrators Report

For July 23, 2026



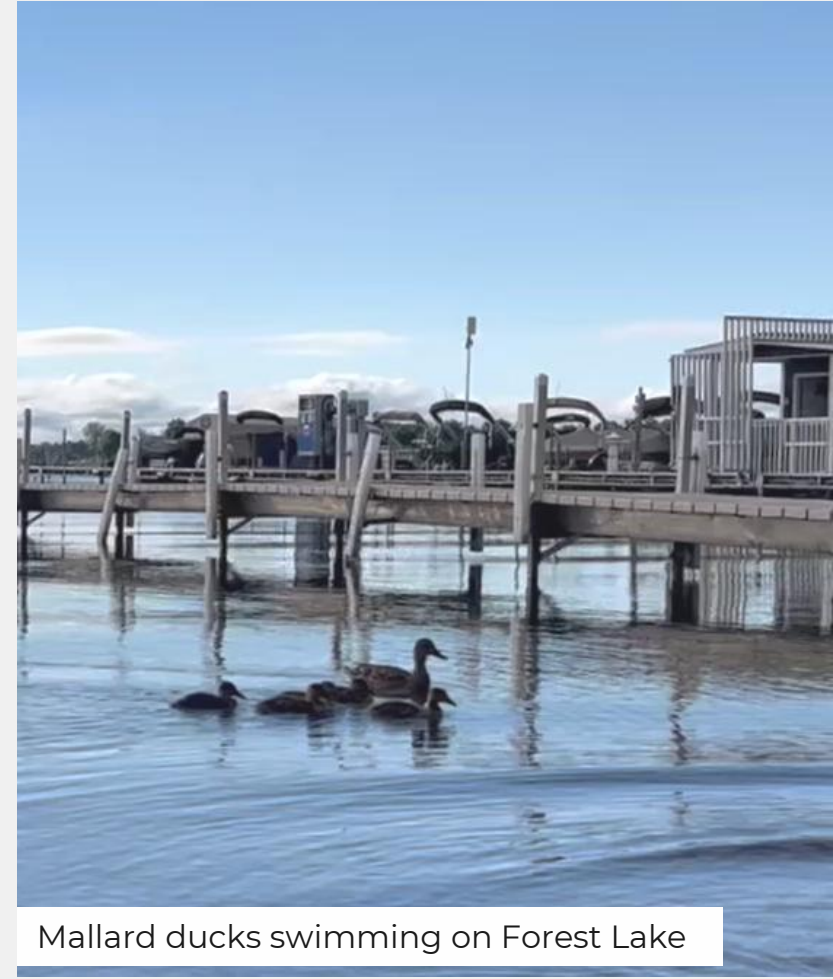
On July 23rd, the very hungry caterpillar ate one nice green leaf and after that he felt much better. Now he wasn't hungry anymore and he wasn't a little caterpillar anymore either.....he was a BIG, fat caterpillar.



Plans and Documents Detailing 2026 Staff Work

The documents linked below guide staff's work for the year:

- [**2026 Budget**](#) (last amended 12/18/25)
- [**2026 Staff Work Plan**](#) (approved 12/18/25)
- [**2026 Education & Outreach Plan**](#) (approved 2/12/26)
- [**2026 AIS Prevention & Management Plan**](#) (approved 3/12/26)
- [**2026 Cost-Share Framework**](#) (approved 3/12/26)
- [**2026 Monitoring Plan**](#) (approved 3/12/26)



Mallard ducks swimming on Forest Lake



Administration



1001 – Board Administration

- Budget Workshop #4 rescheduled to Wednesday, July 22nd starting at 6:00 PM.

1004 – Professional Services

- Biennial professional services RFP coming up in August

Watershed Event Sign at Bone Lake South Nature Area



Between June 16, 2026, and July 14, 2026, the following activity took place:

- 113 site inspections performed with a 94.42% compliance rate
- No permit applications received
- No permits approved
- Four permits closed out
- See Administrator's Report for full list of active permits



Programs – 3003 Monitoring

- Continued CAMP monitoring on District Lakes. Week 7: July 13–18.



Forest Lake's Willow Point



Programs – 3004 Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement



- Two Mini Grant applications were approved this month for a shoreline project and a raingarden project in Forest Lake.
- The summer application deadline for the Community Water Cost-share program is July 31st
- A demonstration of an agricultural drone was hosted by the District at Bone Lake South Nature Area on June 30th.

Local farmers and ag professionals attended a drone demonstration



Programs – 3005 Education & Outreach – Events

Forest Lake Art in the Park

June 30th



July 7th

Hardwood Creek Library Build Your Own Lures

June 18th – 30 people in attendance

THE RIGHT FISHING LURE

can help keep your waterways safe

By Emma Masso
Contributing Writer

While Minnesota's numerous lakes serve many uses, fishing is by far one of the more popular activities.

Adam Hjelm, a member of the Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed Conservation District (CLFLWD), recently hosted "Build Your Own Lure" at Hardwood Creek Library to educate community members on how the make-up of your lures can affect the environment, while also giving tips on how to create the most effective lures.

"I kinda think I have the coolest job ever. I get to do this every day," said Hjelm.

Hjelm explained that the CLFLWD's mission is to improve water quality, increase habitat and educate. Education is where Hjelm works most often. He tries to make people aware that their actions and decisions affect water quality and the environment around them. Hjelm said he prefers





Programs – 3006 Interagency Communication



Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership (LSCWP)

- Policy Committee next meeting: Monday, July 29
- Steering Committee last met on July 8 and discussed biennial work plan and grant budget
- Meeting materials are available at <https://www.lsc1wlp.org/meetings-committees>.
- Wyoming and Scandia Q2 coordination meetings July 15 and July 17.



Programs – 3007 Research

UMN Masters student, Ian Roback, contacted the District regarding lake and wetland denitrification research. He is looking for funding for his research and willing to include the CLFLWD in his study area. Staff met with him and will be assisting him on his funding quest and research efforts.



Ian Roback



Programs – 3009 Grant Research & Preparation



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund Grants

FY27 LSOHF Grants – Grant Agreements in Process

- FY27 Accomplishment plans approved
- Project work can begin July 1st
- Grant agreement execution in progress – staff has necessary documentation to DNR
- Total \$2.9 million awarded
 - Bone Lake South Phase 2: \$1,432,000
 - Greenbelt Phase 1: \$1,467,000



Programs – 3009 Grant Research & Preparation

Other Grant Updates

- Final reporting and final reimbursement requests submitted for two grants – Local Climate Action and Conservation Partners Legacy
- Grant applications submitted: 2027 Conservation Corps Crew Assistance, BWSR Managing Invasives for Resilient Landscape, BWSR Buffer Law Grant, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and St. Croix Valley Foundation.
- Making progress w/ partners to prepare Bush Foundation grant application and anticipate submitting application in July.
- A detailed summary of active grants, pending grant applications, and in progress grant applications is provided as an attachment to the Administrator's Report.





Programs – 3010 Operations & Maintenance

- The City of Forest Lake was commissioned to assist with monthly maintenance of the CR50 IESF. The second maintenance action took place on July 8th.
- Staff will begin minor repairs on the Bone Lake Outlet fish barrier later this month. The structure was again impacted by ice heave this past winter.



CR50 IESF Sand filter Maintenance



Programs – 3011 AIS Prevention & Management

Photos: Galerucella Beetles rearing & release at FL public launch #3



Beetle release occurred on July 1st

- Forest Lake Public Launch #3
- Keewahtin Ave & Hwy 97
- Shallow Pond

Several potential community volunteers have expressed interest in assisting with future biological control efforts.





Programs – 3011 AIS Prevention & Management

CLFLWD Watercraft Inspection Data (as of July 9th)

	CLFLWD Hours	Inspections	Inspection Rate
Forest Lake	789 hrs	2,343	2.97 Inspection/hr
Comfort Lake	138.5 hrs	366	2.64 Inspection/hr
Bone Lake	148.5 hrs	436	2.94 Inspection/hr

Additional Inspection Hours (as of July 9th)

	Conservation Core	Chisago County	DNR
Forest Lake	44 hrs	229 hrs	200 hrs
Comfort Lake	0	131 hrs	0
Bone Lake	0	63 hrs	0

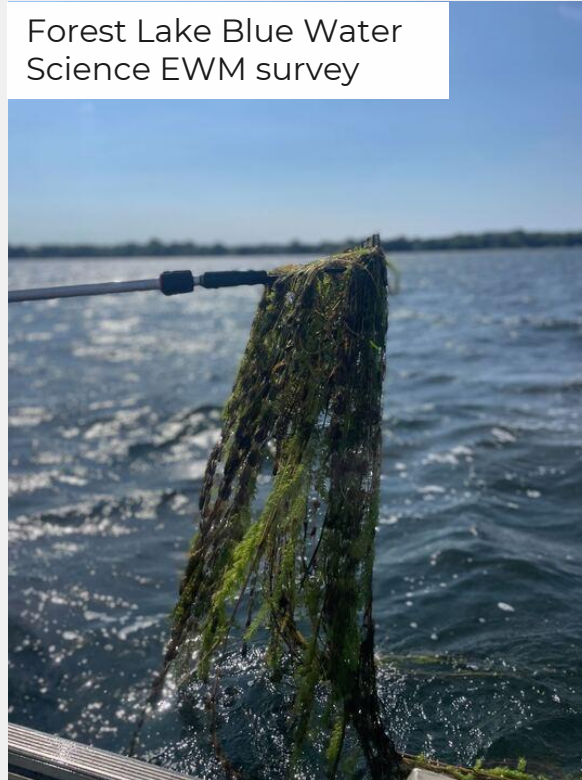


Programs – 3011 AIS Prevention & Management

Staff joined Blue Water Science on a EWM & Flowering rush survey for Forest Lake & an EWM survey for Comfort Lake.

- Once final EWM maps have been received they will be provided to the appropriate lake associations.
- Flowering rush has been observed on Forest Lake & staff will be beginning seedhead removal efforts.

Forest Lake Blue Water Science EWM survey



The annual Aquatic Plant ID workshop hosted by MAISRC & the DNR was held on July 16th.



Aquatic plant ID workshop samples provided by DNR & MAISRC

- Live samples of both invasive and native aquatic and wetland plants were available for hands-on learning experience.



Projects

BLSNA

EOR has provided a Scope of Work for the 1st phase of wetland restoration on the BLSNA for Board consideration at the July 23 Board meeting. The SOW includes H&H modeling, wetland delineations, a 30% design, and a project feasibility study.

Heath Ave IESF

Contracting complete. A pre-construction meeting will be held on July 21st with D&D Contracting LLC. A public open house will be held on July 27th at the project site from 5:30 to 6:30. We anticipate breaking ground in August 2026.

East Comfort Pond

EOR has provided a draft feasibility report for the East Comfort Pond Project. Staff are reviewing the draft and will bring this to a coming Board meeting

Iron-Enhanced Sand Filter Project Open House

The Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District (CLFLWD) invites you to an informational open house to learn about a new iron-enhanced sand filter project that will help improve water quality in Little Comfort Lake and Comfort Lake.

Stop by the future project site anytime between **5:30 and 6:30 p.m.** on Monday, July 27 to meet with CLFLWD staff, view project plans, ask questions, and learn how this innovative practice will reduce phosphorus entering Little Comfort Lake.

Construction is scheduled to begin in late summer 2026, with the filter expected to be operational before the 2027 spring snowmelt.

This project is an important step toward achieving long-term water quality goals for both Little Comfort Lake and Comfort Lake.

Meeting Location

(adjacent to) 24989 Heath Avenue North
Forest Lake, MN 55025

Date and Time

Monday, July 27
5:30–6:30 p.m.



Any questions or concerns, please contact the CLFLWD at 651-395-5850 or by email at info@clflwd.org

Heath IESF Open House Flyer