



TO: (CLFLWD) Board of Managers

DATE: July 16, 2026

RE: Administrator's Report for the July 23, 2026, Regular Board Meeting

Administration (1000 series)

- 1001 – Board Administration
 - Budget Workshop #4 rescheduled to Wednesday, July 22nd at 6:00 PM.
- 1004 – Professional Services
 - Biennial professional services RFP coming up in August

Programs (3000 series)

- 3002 – Permitting
 - Between June 16 and July 14, 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 Appendix A for list of current active permits
- 3003 – Monitoring & Data Assessment
 - Continued CAMP and CAT monitoring. Week 7 of CAMP took place July 13 through 18th.
- 3004 – Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement (Cost-Share)
 - 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.
- 3005 – Education & Outreach
 - Staff are working on edits to the Crisis Communication Plan per board direction at the July 9th regular meeting.

- EO Coordinator Hjelm, in coordination with Hardwood Creek Library, presented “Build Your Own Lures” family event on June 18th. 30 people were in attendance. The June 30 edition of the Forest Lake Laker featured an article about the event. (Attached to end of this report).
- June 16 marked the start of the Forest Lake Arts in the Park series. CLFLWD will host an interactive information booth each week throughout the event season. Board members are welcome and encouraged to assist staff at the booth on Tuesday evenings from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., beginning June 16 and continuing through August 25. Let Adam know when you would like to help cover the information booth with staff.
- The June 30 Laker publication featured several articles about the CLFLWD activities and events. (Attached to the end of this report).
- Notable upcoming events:
 - Heath Avenue Iron-enhanced Sand Filter Open House
Monday, July 27th from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
(adjacent to) 24989 Heath Avenue North, Forest Lake MN 55025
 - Comfort Lake Pontoon Shoreline Tour
Tuesday, August 11th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
RSVPs due by August 7th
- 3006 – Interagency Communication
 - Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership: Next Policy Committee meeting is July 29th. 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>.
 - Quarter 2 coordination meetings with Wyoming and Scandia took place on July 14th and 17th, respectively.
- 3007 – Research
 - A UMN Master’s student contacted the District regarding lake and wetland denitrification research. He is looking for funding for his research and could include the CLFLWD in his study area. Staff met with him and will be assisting him with making connections to fulfill his funding request and research efforts.
- 3009 – Grant Research & Preparation

- A detailed summary of active grants, pending grant applications, and in progress grant applications is provided as an attachment to the Administrator's Report.
 - Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund grant agreement execution in progress. Accomplishment plans were approved by the council, and staff have provided necessary pre-award assessment documentation to DNR as required.
 - Final reporting and final reimbursement requests submitted by June 30th for: MN Pollution Control Agency Local Climate Action Grant (Shoreline Resiliency Action Plan) and MN Department of Natural Resources Conservation Partners Legacy Grant (Bone Lake South Property Acquisition and Fencing).
 - Grant applications submitted for 2027 Conservation Corps Crew Assistance, BWSR Managing Invasives for Resilient Landscape (partnership w/ Washington Conservation District), BWSR Buffer Law Grant (partnership w/ Washington Conservation District), National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Five-Star Grant Program, St. Croix Valley Foundation.
 - Staff are making progress coordinating with partners to prepare the Bush Foundation grant application for Sequential Diagnostic Assessment, as authorized by the Board at the March 26th regular meeting. We have been communicating closely with multiple partners and the foundation itself to prepare the best proposal possible. We anticipate submitting this grant application sometime in July.
- 3010 – Operations & Maintenance
 - Continued O&M inspections on all past projects.
 - The City of Forest Lake again assisted with vegetation removal at the CR50 IESF (July 8).
 - 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.
 - 3011 – Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention & Management
 - Purple loosestrife beetles were successfully released at three locations; 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.
 - Staff joined Blue Water Science on a EWM & Flowering rush survey for Forest Lake & an EWM survey for Comfort Lake.

- Once final EWM delineation 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.
- The annual Aquatic Plant ID workshop hosted by MAISRC and the DNR was held on July 16th. Live samples of both invasive and native aquatic/wetland plants were available for a hands-on learning experience.
- CLFLWD watercraft inspectors have been performing inspections at all five of the public launches within the District. With July & August being two of the busier months Inspection rates will likely continue to rise, though this can be weather dependent.

Table 1: 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	436	2.94 Inspection/hr

Table 2: Additional Inspection hours performed at public launches (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

- 3012 – Land Acquisition
 - Staff began outreach to the landowners withing the Greenway corridor, targeting properties upstream of shallow pond. Staff hope to begin land appraisals later this summer and move to close on several of these properties in 2027.
 - Administrator Kinney has been in contact with staff from both the MN Land Trust and the Trust for Public Land as it relates to their ability and capacity to assist the CLFLWD in land easements and acquisitions.

- 3013 – Watershed Planning & Resiliency
 - EOR scope of work for floodplain resiliency project development approved at June 11th regular board meeting. Work is in progress and will be coordinated between EOR, staff, and local partners.

Projects (5000 series)

- Bone Lake
 - 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.
 - A local farmer will be haying portions of the BLSNA in July. The haying will control annual weeds and reduce nutrient levels in future planting areas.
- Little Comfort Lake
 - Heath Ave IESF: Contracting with D&D Construction LLC is complete. A pre-construction meeting will be held July 21. 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 2027.
- Comfort Lake
 - 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.

Appendix A – Active Permit Details

Active Permits			
Permit No.	Permit Name	Address	Rules
20-011	Cavalry Cemetery	4647 232nd St	3.0, 9.0
20-025	Forest Hills Farm Development	10161 North Shore Tr N	2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 9.0, 10.0
21-005	Heims Lake Villas II	25409 H Lake Cie	2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 9.0
22-039	Miller SFH	North of 13351 Oakhill Road N	3.0, 9.0
22-041-T	Katies Glen Transfer	East Side of Goodview Ave. at its's intersection with Glen Oak	2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 9.0, 10.0
22-043	Rolling Acres 61	SE of intersection of 199th and Keystone	2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 9.0, 10.0
22-043-P1	Block 3, Lot 1- Rolling Acres 61	SE of intersection of 199th and Keystone	3.0, 9.0
22-043-P3	Block 1, Lot 1 Rolling Acres 61	10350 198th St. N	3.0
23-003	McGrath SFH	N of 7460 N Shore Circle	3.0, 9.0
23-009	Downtown FL Stormwater BMPs	N. Shore Trail N from Hayward Ave N to 233rd Street N	3.0
23-010	Ingersoll Subdivision	East across the road from 20810 Ingersoll	2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 9.0, 10.0
23-010-P1	Ingersoll Lot 4	20805 Ingersoll Ave N	3.0, 9.0
23-020	Erickson Shop	13263 240th St N	3.0, 9.0
23-030	Tempo Homes	7880 Scandia Trail	3.0, 9.0
24-006	Larson Addition	1099 17th St SE	3.0, 9.0
24-007	Chase Bank	1232 W Broadway Ave	2.0, 3.0, 9.0
24-010	Vicki & Chris SFH	21577 Novak Ave N	3.0, 9.0
24-013	Gaiovnik Subdivision	East of 7902 N. Shore Tr	3.0, 4.0, 9.0
24-014	Parenteau SFH	20460 Jewel Ave	3.0, 9.0

24-016	Ingersoll Lot 3	20859 Ingersoll Ave N	2.0, 3.0, 9.0
24-021	9879 206th St N	9879 206th St N	3.0, 9.0
24-023	Dalbec SFH	21320 Manning Trail N	3.0, 9.0
24-024	Ziegler SFH	228th St.	3.0, 9.0
24-028	McPhee Garage	7710 235th Street N.	3.0, 9.0
24-029	Freemore Residence	Lot 1 Aadland Shores (PID 21.10765.00)	3.0, 9.0
24-033	Wetterlund SFH	8239 Pioneer Rd.	3.0, 9.0
24-034	Knippenberg SFH	Next to 880 18th St. SE	3.0, 9.0
24-037	Criego SFH	13566 230th St N	3.0, 9.0
25-004	North Shore Trail Maintenance	North Shore Trail	3.0
25-007	Klehr Residence	2563 255th St.	3.0, 9.0
25-008	Stephens SFH	21015 Juno Ave N	3.0, 9.0
25-009	Forest Lake Sportsmen's Club Berm 2	4480 240th St. N	3.0, 9.0
25-010	Obst Garage	10604 230th St. N.	3.0, 9.0
25-013	Kuschke SFH	8393 200th St. N	3.0, 9.0
25-014	Xcel 2025	Near 24875 Olinda Trail	3.0, 9.0
25-016	Popa SFH	9940 North Shore Trail	3.0, 9.0
25-017	Worcester Home	7451 255th St.	3.0, 9.0
25-018	Gaynor SFH	891 19th St. SE	3.0, 9.0
25-021	Burch SFH	7323 North Shore Trail N.	3.0, 9.0
25-022	Schilling SFH	25930 Comfort Lake Dr.	3.0, 9.0
25-025	Brown SFH	26488 Hunter Ave	3.0, 9.0
25-026	Roche Garage	25516 E Comfort Drive	3.0, 9.0
25-029	Lesnau SFH	24775 Itasca Ave	3.0, 9.0
25-030	Montoya Garage	55 4th Ave NW	3.0, 9.0
26-001	Forest Lake 2026 Street Improvement Project	207th St. Cir, Greystone Ave., Granada Ave. N	3.0

26-002	Dill SFH	23643 Granada Ave. N	3.0, 9.0
26-003	Beltz Park Volleyball	720 11th Ave SE	3.0
26-004	Annunziata SFH	21431 Iverson Ave N.	3.0, 9.0
26-005	Ramirez Garage	25505 E Comfort Dr	3.0, 9.0
26-006	Ambli SFH	7536 North Shore Cir N.	3.0, 9.0
26-007	Hubert SFH	7346 255th St.	3.0, 9.0
26-008	2026 Wyoming Street Project	257th St., Forest Blvd Trl, Forest Blvd Ln, Forest Blvd Cir, Freeport Ave, 258th St., Friesland Ct, Goldfinch Ave	3.0
26-012	B Olson SFH	22975 Mallard Ave N.	3.0
26-014	Granberg Septic	14250 Scandia Tr. N	3.0, 9.0

Account	Lake Management District	Title and Description	Total Grant Award or Grant Request	2025	2026	2027	Grant Period Start Date	Grant Expiration Date	Cumulative Grant Amount Spent to Date (as of 6/30/26)	Comment
		ACTIVE/CONFIRMED GRANTS	Total Grant Award or Grant Request	2025 Earned Grant Revenue Yearend	2026 Earned Grant Revenue Est. Yearend	2027 Earned Grant Revenue Estimated				
Various	District-Wide	Section 319 Small Watersheds Focus	\$279,583	N/A	Likely in FY27	\$85,000	estimated 1/1/2027	6/30/2030	\$0	Slated to receive next 4-yr installment of federal grant funds in Dec 2026/Jan 2027. Can be used to cover the match portion for state grants, as well as new projects and program work.
3-001	District-Wide	BWSR PRAP - Permitting Program Review	\$8,400	\$0	\$8,400	\$0	2/3/2026	12/31/2026	\$159	2026 initiative- staff and engineering time to review permitting program effectiveness and improve efficiency
3-004	Forest LMD	BWSR Buffer Law Grant - Shoreline Restoration partnership with Washington Conservation District	~\$6,600 thru WCD	N/A	N/A - WCD funds work	N/A - WCD funds work	7/1/2026	7/1/2027	N/A	Partnership with Washington Conservation District to implement shoreline restoration on Forest Lake. CLFLWD contribute \$8,000 in budgeted levy funds. WCD contribute up to \$6,600 of BWSR buffer law grant
3-004	District-Wide	MN Conservation Corps Individual Placement (900 hrs) and Crew Labor (400 hrs)	Technician and Crew for 2026 season	N/A	Technician and Crew	N/A	1/28/2026	9/30/2026	N/A	2026 initiative. Grant awarded in time/labor, not in dollars.
3-004, 3-005	District-Wide	Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership Grant - Shoreline Restorations and Outreach	\$60,000	\$46,023	\$13,977	\$0	10/1/2024	9/30/2026	\$46,410	Shoreline projects and shoreline-related public outreach. Will be completed in 2025/2026.
3-004, 3-005	District-Wide	MPCA Local Climate Action: Shoreline Resiliency Planning - Moore Engineering	\$35,000	\$29,327	\$5,673	\$0	6/17/2025	6/30/2026	\$35,000	Completed and closed out 6/30/26.
3-005	District-Wide	No Child Left Inside Grant: Outdoor Experience Kits for Local Schools	\$5,000	N/A	\$5,000	\$0	7/1/2026	6/30/2027	\$0	2026 initiative - direct purchase cost of education kit materials.
3-006	District-Wide	LSC Mid-Point Evaluation Grant - Mid-Point Eval	\$2,310	\$0	\$2,310	TBD	12/29/2025	12/31/2026	\$2,234	Assist with Lower St. Croix 10-year plan mid-point evaluation. Potential for Phase 2 in 2027, TBD.
3-006	District-Wide	LSC WBIF Grant - Reporting and Work Planning	\$1,800	\$0	\$1,800	TBD	12/29/2025	12/31/2027	\$1,624	Assist with Lower St. Croix annual reporting and biennial work plan/budget. Potential to continue in 2027+
3-011	Forest LMD, Bone LMD	Washington County AIS Prevention Aid - three grants	\$18,000	\$19,884	\$18,000	\$16,000	3/26/2026	12/31/2026	\$0	2026 grants include Bone/Forest Watercraft Inspections (\$10,000), Forest Lk Flowering Rush (\$4,000), Forest Lake Curly-leaf Pondweed (\$4,000). Grant awards declining over time.
5-100	Comfort LMD	BWSR Water Quality & Storage Grant - Floodplain Project Modeling & Concept Design	\$99,000	\$0	\$49,500	\$49,500	2/26/2026	12/31/2027	\$0	Awarded in Feb 2026. Grant period begin in March/April 2026, end December 2027. Critical pre-project/project development step before applying for project construction grants.
5-224-A	Little Comfort LMD	FY24 CWF School Lake Ag BMPs	\$90,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	4/5/2024	12/31/2026	\$3,280	Project entails multiple BMPs. Roof runoff management completed in 2024. Remaining feedlot and ag field BMPs must be completed by end of 2026, pending landowner cooperation.
5-225-C	Little Comfort LMD	FY25 CWF Heath Ave Iron Enhanced Sand Filter	\$1,499,000	\$21,825	\$1,349,100	\$128,075	2/18/2025	12/31/2027	\$55,319	Project to be completed in 2025-2027. Grant expires 12/31/27. Aiming to time construction so that CWF match can be covered by Section 319 grant.
5-229-A	Comfort LMD	FY25 CWF Accelerated Implementation Grant - Sunrise River Headwaters Project Development	\$118,000	\$10,640	\$59,000	\$48,360	2/18/2025	12/31/2027	\$21,596	Project to be completed in 2025-2027. Grant expires 12/31/27.
5-229-B	Comfort LMD	FY25 BWSR Green Infrastructure Projects: East Comfort Pond	\$225,800	\$715	\$50,000	\$150,000	6/9/2025	12/31/2027	\$13,294	Grant amended to accommodate project location change per landowner agreements. Complete project by December 31, 2027.
5-420-C	Bone LMD	Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund: Bone Lake South Phase 2 (Restoration)	\$1,432,000	N/A	\$135,000	\$130,000	7/1/2026	6/30/2031	\$0	Grant execution in progress. Anticipated to be active in July 2026.
6-000-F	Bone LMD	Conservation Partners Legacy Bone Lake South Wetland Acquisition (and fencing)	\$500,000	\$424,119	\$75,881	\$0	7/14/2025	6/30/2026	\$500,000	Completed and closed out 6/30/26.
6-000-I	Comfort LMD	Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund: Greenbelt Phase 1 (Easements & Acquisitions)	\$1,467,000	N/A	\$25,000	\$150,000	7/1/2026	6/30/2030	\$0	Grant execution in progress. Anticipated to be active in July 2026.
Multiple	Multiple	Grants Closed out in 2025		\$2,279,667						
		ACTIVE/CONFIRMED GRANTS	\$5,840,893	\$2,832,200	\$1,808,641	\$756,935			\$678,916	

Account	Lake Management District	Title and Description	Total Grant Award or Grant Request	2025	2026	2027	Grant Period Start Date	Grant Expiration Date	Cumulative Grant Amount Spent to Date (as of 6/30/26)	Comment
		GRANT APPLICATIONS PENDING		2025 Earned Grant Revenue Yearend	2026 Earned Grant Revenue Est. Yearend	2027 Earned Grant Revenue Estimated				
Various	District-Wide	MN Conservation Corps Crew Labor	Crew for 2027 season	N/A	N/A	N/A	spring 2027	fall 2027	N/A	Application deadline anticipated in June 2026
Various	District-Wide	St. Croix Valley Foundation: General Operating Support for Education & Outreach	\$25,000	N/A	TBD	\$25,000	8/1/2026	8/1/2027	\$0	New grant program for the CLFLWD. Max \$25,000 grant request for general operating support. Grant applications due in mid-June.
3-004	TBD	MDA AGRI grants (ag demonstration and partners grants) - TBD work with Farmer Led Council	TBD	N/A	TBD	\$30,000	TBD	TBD	\$0	New grant program for the CLFLWD. Multiple AGRI programs available. Staff is reviewing possibilities with partners and farmer-led council.
3-005	Comfort LMD, Forest LMD, Bone LMD	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Five Star Grant: Outreach and shoreline restoration projects	\$150,000	N/A	Likely in FY27	\$50,000	estimated 1/1/2027	6/30/2028	\$0	New grant program for the CLFLWD. Brought to April 23, 2026 regular board meeting for application approval.
3-006	Comfort LMD, Forest LMD	MPCA Clean Sweep Program: Free street sweeping materials testing - apply for Forest Lake and Wyoming	Free testing	N/A	N/A	N/A	estimated fall 2026	N/A	\$0	New grant program for the CLFLWD. MPCA offers new grant program to provide free testing of street sweeping materials to identify harmful pollutants like phosphorus, metals, and hydrocarbons. Results can be used to document pollutant removal and compare to calculator/model estimates.
6-000	Forest LMD	BWSR Managing Invasives for a Resilient Landscape Program - phramites mgmt partnership w/ WCD	Phragmites mgmt by WCD	N/A	N/A	N/A	November 2026	December 2029	\$0	New grant program for the CLFLWD. Partnered with Washington Conservation District to apply for funds to treat nonnative phragmites
6-000	Comfort LMD	Great River Greening - support GRG proposal to Lessard-Sams OHF	\$200K thru GRG	N/A	N/A	N/A - GRG contracts work	7/1/2027	6/30/2032	\$0	Partner with GRG to fund land management and restoration/enhancement work on CLFLWD properties. Funds handled by GRG.
		GRANT APPLICATIONS PENDING (NOT INCLUDED IN TOTAL ABOVE)	\$175,000		\$0	\$105,000			\$0	

		GRANT APPLICATIONS IN PROGRESS		2025 Earned Grant Revenue Yearend	2026 Earned Grant Revenue Est. Yearend	2027 Earned Grant Revenue Estimated				
3-003	Forest LMD, Bone LMD	Bush Foundation: Sequential Diagnostic Assessment Process Testing, Deployment, Spreading	TBD, \$500,000-\$1 million	N/A	FY27	\$100,000	estimated 1/1/2027	12/31/2031	\$0	New grant program for the CLFLWD. Brought to March 26, 2026 regular board meeting for application approval. Application development in progress with partners and EOR.
3-006	District-Wide	Esri Conservation Grant: Significantly discounted rates for three ArcGIS licenses (total \$11,400 discounted to \$300)	Discounted GIS = \$11K in savings	N/A	N/A	N/A	annually recurring	N/A	\$0	CLFLWD has been using this program for several years to obtain ArcGIS licenses for District staff use. The discounted rate is significant, and the District would have difficulty affording GIS licenses without it.
		GRANT APPLICATIONS IN PROGRESS (NOT INCLUDED IN TOTAL ABOVE)	TBD \$1 million+	\$0	\$0	\$310,000			\$0	

		RECENT GRANTS NOT AWARDED								
Various	District-Wide	MN GreenCorps Individual Placement	FTE Sep '26-Aug '27				8/1/2026	9/30/2027		One full-time temporary technician paid for by this grant program to assist with CLFLWD programs
3-004, 3-005	District-Wide	Fishers & Farmers Partnership: Farmer-Led Council Support and Best Management Practices	\$80,000				7/1/2026	6/30/2028		Apply in January 2025, preliminary decision in March 2025, final award in March 2026 (after goes through federal grant review process)
5-222-D	Bone LMD	Bone Lake Northeast Agricultural Practices	\$30,000				7/1/2026	12/31/2029		Apply in March 2026, funds available in July 2026 if awarded
5-229-H	Comfort LMD	Broadway Iron Enhanced Sand Filter Replacement Project	\$599,000				7/1/2026	12/31/2029		Apply in March 2026, funds available in July 2026 if awarded
		RECENT GRANTS NOT AWARDED	\$0						N/A	

Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District Soil Testing

Soil testing is one of the most effective tools available for protecting local lakes while also maintaining healthy lawns and landscapes.

Many homeowners apply fertilizer without knowing whether their soil actually needs additional nutrients. A soil test provides important information about nutrient levels, soil composition and pH, allowing property owners to apply only the fertilizer that is necessary.

Reducing unnecessary fertilizer use is especially important because excess nutrients in lakes can contribute to algae blooms, reduced water clarity, low oxygen levels and overall declines in water quality.

In addition to protecting water quality, soil

In addition to protecting water quality, soil testing often saves homeowners money by reducing the overapplication of lawn products.

testing often saves homeowners money by reducing the overapplication of lawn products. When fertilizer is

applied based on actual soil needs, lawns are typically healthier, stronger, and better able to resist drought, disease and weeds. Healthy turfgrass develops deeper root systems that help stabilize soil and absorb rainfall more effectively.

Reducing erosion is another important benefit

of maintaining healthy lawns and landscapes. Soil erosion carries sediment, nutrients and other pollutants into lakes and wetlands, where they can negatively impact fish habitat, aquatic plants and overall ecosystem health. Dense, healthy vegetation acts as a natural filter by holding soil in place and slowing stormwater runoff.

Through soil testing and proper lawn care practices, property owners can play an important role in improving water quality, protecting natural resources and supporting the long-term health of local lakes and waterways.

Residential property owners within the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District



(CLFLWD) are eligible for free soil testing once every three years. As part of the program, CLFLWD staff will collect a soil sample from your property, submit it to a certified soil testing laboratory and help interpret the results—all at no cost to the resident. This program is

designed to provide residents with simple, practical information that supports both healthy landscapes and cleaner lakes throughout the watershed. If you are interested or would like more information, contact the CLFLWD at info@clflwd.org or by phone at 651-395-5850.



CLFLWD
WATERSHED DISTRICT

44 Lake Street South, Suite A
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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.

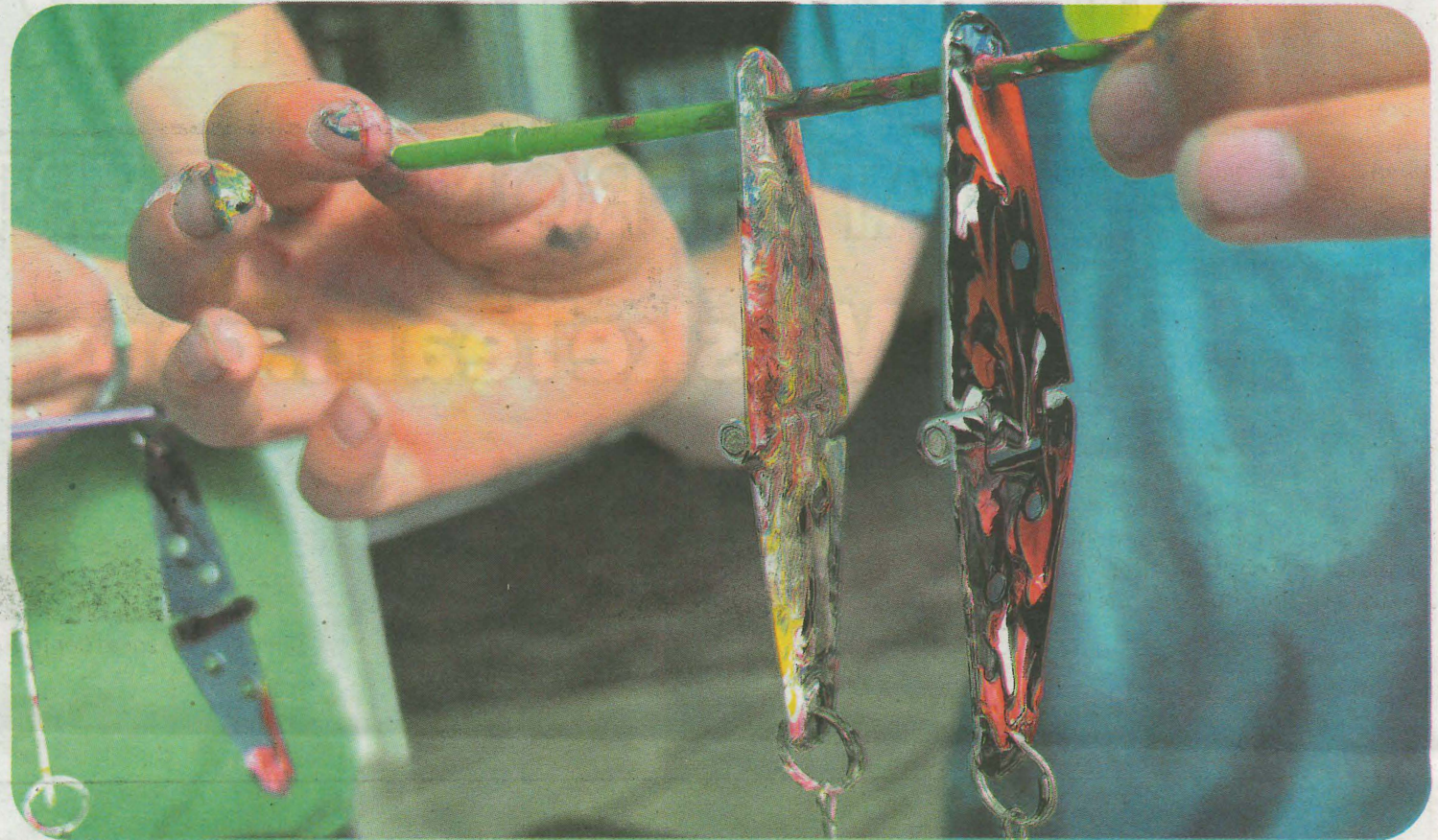
"I kinda think I have the coolest job ever. I get to do this every day," said Hjelm.

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 fun activities like lure building to get people involved and thinking about the environment.

Hjelm's simple lure building technique only takes a few easy-to-buy items, making it so you can do it at home. He used a door hinge, a split ring, a fishhook and paint to decorate it. All you have to do is thread the split ring into the eyelet of the door hinge, like you're putting a key onto a keyring. Then thread the split ring through the fishhook and you're set to decorate it with whatever paint colors you prefer.

While it seems too simple to be good at attracting fish, Hjelm explained



Photos by Emma Masso/Contributed

All you need for a fishing lure is a door hinge, split ring, fishhook and paint.

how the door hinge actually has all the important components that make up a good lure. Door hinges are shiny, which attracts fish since they look like minnow scales. The paint grabs the attention of fish with its vibrant colors. The movement of the hinge works well to draw fish to it in. Hjelm explained that fish do not hear noises how human

ears do. Instead, they have lateral lines, which allow fish to feel the vibrations from movements around them.

In his three years working for the CLFLWD, Hjelm says he has found hands-on events to be the most effective way to outreach with the community.

"I'd rather do an event than, you know, send out a flier or mail," said Hjelm. "Something to get people out, walking around so they can see what's in front of them and identify the plants, the wildlife. Then they can see, 'Oh yeah, I can do that on my own property,' or, 'Oh, I'm interested in this.' It's getting them to connect it back. You can do this. You can make a difference."

In addition to collaborating with the CLFLWD, Washington County libraries have partnered with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to promote their Get the Lead Out program.

Even in small amounts, lead is lethal to many forms of wildlife, especially loons. Lead is the leading cause of

death for adult loons, as 25% of loons die from lead poisoning from eating fish that have lead lures in their stomachs or stuck to them. Lead is also toxic to humans, both when consumers use lead products and when workers manufacture them. And chances are, if you own any older lures, they will likely contain lead, based on the trends of the tackle production industry.

When buying a new lure, the packaging should state if it contains lead. If you are having trouble finding lures without lead, you can visit Get the Lead Out's website at www.bit.ly/GTLO_LeadFreeList for a list of lead-free tackle manufacturers. Hardwood Creek library also is offering free exchanges if you bring in your lead or suspected-lead lures to replace them with lead-free lures they have on-site.

For more information about the CLFLWD, visit clflwd.org. For a full listing of library events, visit washcolib.libcal.com/calendar/events. ■

