



TO: (CLFLWD) Board of Managers

DATE: August 20, 2026

RE: Administrator's Report for the August 27, 2026, Regular Board Meeting

Administration (1000 series)

- 1001 – Board Administration
 - The Board held budget workshops #5 and #6 on July 30th and August 17th. Budget workshop #7 will be held September 2nd. There will be limited staff coverage at the Sep 2nd meeting due to planned vacations.
- 1004 – Professional Services
 - The 2027–2028 biennial professional services RFP was sent out on August 14th, following approval at the August 13th regular meeting. Multiple new firms have reached out for more clarifying information to prepare proposals.

Programs (3000 series)

- 3002 – Permitting
 - Between July 14 and August 17, the following activity took place:
 - 157 site inspections performed with a 96.31% compliance rate
 - Four applications received
 - Three permits closed out
 - See Appendix A for list of current active permits
- 3003 – Monitoring & Data Assessment
 - Continued CAMP monitoring on District Lakes. Week 10: Aug 24–30.
 - Continued CAT monitoring when applicable – storm event based. Two events have been sampled to date.
- 3004 – Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement (Cost-Share)
 - Four cost-share grants were approved in August, all of which were for shoreline plantings. 18 grants have been approved as of 8/17, compared to 18 approved for all of 2025
 - Staff continue to conduct site visits, including soil tests. To date, 18 soil tests have been completed so far, compared to 15 in 2025.

- 3005 – Education & Outreach
 - The Heath Avenue on-site open house was held on July 27. Five people stopped to discuss the upcoming project, including Chisago County Commissioner Montzka.
 - CLFLWD continues to host an interactive information booth each week at the Forest Lake Art in the Park. 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.
 - On August 10 CLFLWD hosted a macroinvertebrate station at the Hooks and Heroes event held at Memorial Park in Forest Lake. Approximately 40 kids and adults attended the event.
 - EO Coordinator Hjelm attended the August 6 Comfort Lakes Association monthly meeting.
- 3006 – Interagency Communication
 - Recent quarterly city coordination meetings: Wyoming (July 14), Scandia (July 22), Forest Lake (August 5)
 - Lower St. Croix (LSC) Watershed Partnership
 - The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 26. Anticipated agenda items include: Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) presentation by BWSR, Mid-Point Evaluation Summary presentation by staff, 2027–2028 Biennial Work Plan presentation by staff, and LSC policies.
 - The Steering Committee met on August 12 and discussed: project funding requests less than \$50,000, biennial work plan, LSC policies.
 - The Advisory Committee will meet on September 9 to review the biennial work plan and mid-point evaluation summary.
 - [Metropolitan Council's White Bear Lake Area Comprehensive Plan Work Group](#)
 - Investigating methods to prevent drinking water and surface/ground water level depletion while supporting population growth in the White Bear Lake area. The group is considering feasibility of redirecting water from stormwater ponds, other lakes, or County Ditch 1 into White Bear Lake and implementing tiered increasing block water utility rates. The DNR estimates 780 million gallons would be needed.

- Identified stormwater ponds within two miles of White Bear Lake and the potential challenges, issues, and concerns. Evaluated use of Bald Eagle Lake, Ramsey/Washington Counties Ditch 1, areas of the City of Grant and Centerville Lake as sources to White Bear Lake. This could potentially involve pumping water from outside of Rice Creek Watershed District. Results found approximately 100 million gallons of water available annually within the 2-mile radius, though pumping the water to the lake would present a significant challenge. Sourcing from Bald Eagle Lake and Ramsey/Washington Counties Ditch 1 was found to be most likely to be effective, though they could only provide ~170 million gallons per year. It is recommended that additional study is conducted.
 - Assessed the effectiveness of tiered increasing block water utility rates as a tool to promote residential water conservation. Case studies from the White Bear Lake communities and across the U.S. were analyzed. It was found that tiered rate structures are generally successful in achieving usage reductions ranging from 12% to 45%. However, results varied with income level, being more effective in areas where water bills were between 0.15–0.46% of median household income.
 - The working group will meet next on September 30th, 2026. More details can be found on the [White Bear Lake Comprehensive Plan Working Group Agenda July 29, 2026](#)
- 3007 – Research
 - Staff assisted UMN PHD candidate Catherine Polik with her research regarding post Alum treatment ecological lake response. Her research focus is on Nitrogen cycling and ecological lake dynamics.
 - 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.
 - So far in 2026, the CLFLWD has submitted grant applications totaling \$1.5 million. The District has been working to expand its grant-seeking radius and has applied to 5 new grant programs in 2026.
 - \$15 million in grants has been awarded to CLFLWD between 2010–2026 which fund major water quality improvement projects, natural resources protection

initiatives, shoreline restoration projects, aquatic invasive species prevention and management, and many other watershed protection efforts.

- \$6.6 million of which comes from the Clean Water Fund Projects & Practices competitive grant program, meaning that, cumulatively, the CLFLWD has been awarded more grant funds under the Clean Water Fund Projects & Practices program than any other unit of government in the state since 2014. These projects have been instrumental in the lake improvements we've seen to date, including the delisting of Bone Lake in 2024 and planned delisting of Comfort Lake later this year.
- 3010 – Operations & Maintenance
 - Continued O&M inspections on all past projects.
 - Staff have completed minor repairs on the Bone Lake Outlet fish barrier to ensure the structure functions as intended.
- 3011 – Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention & Management
 - Two more potential volunteers have expressed interest in assisting with future purple loosestrife biocontrol efforts for the 2027 season. District staff will continue to engage with community members with concerns regarding purple loosestrife and provide any necessary guidance.
 - Flowering rush management efforts on Forest Lake began in July with the initial Blue Water Science (BWS) delineation survey. Most of the heavy growth was observed on 2nd and 3rd lakes and staff collected 3880 seedheads as of August 17th. Additionally, two rounds of treatments have been coordinated with the herbicide applicator. This included an initial spot treatment performed in July, and a shoreline backpack walk treatment in August. The next BWS survey is planned for the end of August which will be used for determining a potential September flowering rush treatment.
 - District staff performed an aquatic invasive species assessment survey for Little Comfort Lake and Shields Lake. Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) was observed at one location. EWM is likely being suppressed by the heavy native aquatic vegetation that was observed, such as Coontail. Purple loosestrife was also observed but in light density along portions of the natural shoreline.
 - CLFLWD watercraft inspectors have been performing inspections at all five of the public launches within the District. Two Inspectors will be going back to school

during the month of August but the District will still have a remaining team of 6 WCI and 1 Conservation Core team member to through the end season.

Table 1: CLFLWD Watercraft Inspection Data (as of August 20th)

	CLFLWD Hours	Inspections	Inspection Rate
Forest Lake	960 hrs	3,003	3.1 Inspection/hr
Comfort Lake	251 hrs	582	2.3 Inspection/hr
Bone Lake	285.5	521	1.8 Inspection/hr

Table 2: Additional Inspection hours performed (as of August 20th)

	Conservation Core	Chisago County	DNR
Forest Lake	48 hrs	379 hrs	370 hrs
Comfort Lake	0	214 hrs	0
Bone Lake	0	116 hrs	0

- 3012 – Land Acquisition
 - Staff have begun work on the Greenway Corridor through landowner outreach. Staff are working to arrange appraisals on two properties along the Sunrise River and hope to acquire these properties in 2027.
 - Staff continue to work with the Audubon Society and City of Wyoming to acquire the 66-acre Audubon property in Shallow Pond. There is a minor issue with the property deed that needs to be resolved before closing on the property. Staff are working with the City and legal counsel to resolve the issue.
- 3013 – Watershed Planning & Resiliency
 - Floodplain resiliency project development is underway and funded by a BWSR Water Quality & Storage grant.

Projects (5000 series)

- Bone Lake
 - BLSNA: EOR has begun work on the BLSNA Wetland Restoration Feasibility Study. Wetland delineations occurred on Aug 14th. All of this work is covered by the LSOHF Phase 2 implementation grant.

- Little Comfort Lake
 - Heath Ave IESF: A pre-construction meeting was held on July 21st with D&D Contracting LLC. A public open house was held on July 27th at the project site. Five residents stopped over to chat about the project. The District will hold a groundbreaking ceremony in late August / early Sept. Date TBD. This grant funded project will begin construction in late September.
- Comfort Lake
 - East Comfort Pond: The project was ordered at the Aug 13th Board meeting. Staff and EOR will begin landowner and City coordination in August. EOR will work under the first two tasks approved in the Design SOW to further vet the project and evaluate potential risk. The District has a grant to cover all of EOR's time as well as for any potential construction.

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
24-028	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
24-034	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
25-021	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

Grant Summary Table - August 2026

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 7/31/26)	Comment
		ACTIVE/CONFIRMED GRANTS	Total Grant Award or Grant Request	2025 Earned Grant Revenue Yearend	2026 Earned Grant Revenue Est. YE	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 (2024) - Shoreline Restoration partnership with Washington Conservation District	~\$7,500 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 \$7,500 of BWSR buffer law grant funds.
3-004	District-Wide	MN Conservation Corps Individual + Crew	Technician and Crew	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. Individual (900 hrs) and Crew Labor (400 hrs)
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	\$35,000	\$29,327	\$5,673	\$0	6/17/2025	6/30/2026	\$35,000	Completed and closed out 6/30/26. Worked with Moore Engineering.
3-005	District-Wide	No Child Left Inside: Schools' Outdoor Experience Kits	\$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	\$2,290	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	\$3,800	TBD	12/29/2025	12/31/2027	\$2,530	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	\$63,270	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	\$35,026	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	\$14,810	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 OHF: Greenbelt Phase 1	\$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. Easements + acquisitions
Multiple	Multiple	Grants Closed out in 2025		\$2,279,667						
		ACTIVE/CONFIRMED GRANTS	\$5,840,893	\$2,832,200	\$1,810,641	\$756,935			\$702,775	

Grant Summary Table - August 2026

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		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
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)	\$150,000		\$0	\$80,000			\$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	\$260,000			\$0	