



Administrators Report

For September 25, 2026



District Staff August 2026



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)



Plantain and Birdsfoot Trefoil



Administration



Bumblebees on goldenrod
outside of the District office

1003 – General Administration

- The 2027 budget and levy were adopted on September 10th by a 4-0-1 vote. The levy certification documents have been sent.
- The last day for Land Management Specialist, Aidan Read, was September 15th and the last day for Conservation Corps member Kennedy Kolb was September 18th.

1004 – Professional Services

- 2027-2028 Biennial RFP The 2027-2028 Biennial professional services RFP was distributed to and sent to the official newspapers on August 14th. The RFP closes on September 27th.



Programs – 3002 Permitting

Activity Summary

Between August 18 and September 14, 2026, the following activity took place:

- 96 site inspections performed with a 96.25% compliance rate
- Four permit applications activated
- Six permit applications received
- Three permits closed out
- See Administrator's Report for full list of active permits

Partridge pea blooming at a new garage construction in Scandia/Little Comfort Lake Management District





Programs – 3003 Monitoring

- Continued CAMP monitoring on District Lakes. Week 12: September 21-28.
- Continued CAT monitoring when applicable – storm event based.
- Staff presented a Mid-Season Monitoring Update at the 9-10-26 Board Meeting.





Programs – 3004 Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement



One of the first plantings completed under the revised cost-share program, pictured in 2023.

- 21 cost-share projects have been approved this year, the highest amount ever!
 - Compared to 18 projects in 2025 and 2 projects in 2021.
 - The program has allocated \$39k in grants YTD, compared to \$1000 in all of 2021.
- Soil testing continues across the District, with 23 tests completed YTD.



Programs – 3005 Education & Outreach – Events



2026 STATE OF THE WATERSHED

 **SEPTEMBER 29TH, 5:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.**

 **FOREST LAKE AMERICAN LEGION**
355 West Broadway Ave, Forest Lake, MN 55025

The State of the Watershed provides an opportunity for community members, partners, and stakeholders to learn more about the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District's programs, projects, accomplishments, and ongoing efforts to protect and improve local water resources. The evening will highlight the District's work over the past year, share updates on current and future initiatives, and provide insight into the partnerships and investments that support long-term watershed health.

 The event will begin with a social half hour, providing guests an opportunity to connect with District staff, board members, and fellow community members.

 Following the social hour, District staff and board members will present an overview of recent accomplishments, current projects, and upcoming priorities.

 After the presentation, guests are invited to stay for a complimentary buffet-style dinner and reception.

During the reception, the 2026 Watershed Champion Award recipients will be recognized for their outstanding contributions and commitment to protecting local water resources.
A cash bar will be available throughout the evening.

 **CLFLWD**
WATERSHED DISTRICT

Please RSVP via email to adam.hjelm@clflwd.org or by phone to (651) 395-5850 by September 18th.

*Share with your neighbors;
make the Watershed Connections.*

Fall community education has begun for the season. Upcoming CLFLWD classes include:

- **September 17**, Wildflowers for Soggy Soils with Hardwood Creek Library
- **September 21**, Fall Lawn Care with Forest Lake Schools
- **September 28**, Fall Perennial Planting with Chisago Schools
- **October 5**, Build Your Own Lures Family Class with Forest Lake Schools
- **October 15**, Eco Grasses and Bee Lawns with Chisago Schools

For the full schedule of events, visit the CLFLWD events page at: <https://clflwd.org/events/>



Programs – 3006 Interagency Communication

Quarterly Coordination Meetings with Cities

Wyoming and Scandia Quarterly meetings on 9-9 and 9-16, respectively

Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership (LSCWP)

- Advisory Committee met on September 9 and approved biennial work plan to be recommended to the Policy Committee
- Policy Committee next meeting: Monday, October 26
 - Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) presentation by BWSR
 - Mid-Point Evaluation Summary presentation by staff
 - 2027-2028 Biennial Work Plan presentation by staff
- Meeting materials are available at <https://www.lsc1w1p.org/meetings-committees>.





Programs – 3007 Research

- Staff are assisting UMN researcher Catherine Polik collect data on the Forest Lake Alum Treatment on 9-16-26.
- Staff are helping to coordinating University of Iowa Research on Little Comfort Lake on 9-21-26 – Students are trying to characterize and quantify the role of vivianite ($\text{Fe}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$) in permanently removing P from the lake water during summer stratification.



Catherin Polik
8-17-26



Programs – 3009 Grant Research & Preparation

- Conservation Partners Legacy grant application submitted for Willow Point Shoreline Restoration Project on 9/15 (grant: \$93,000; match: \$9,300)
- Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership Lake Conservation Grant on 9/24 consent agenda, due 10/9
- Bush Foundation Community Innovation Grant application close to completion and submittal, no deadline
- Continuing to review other foundations for potential grant applications (seek grants beyond the usual state/federal grants the District typically applies to)





Programs – 3010 Operations & Maintenance

- Continued O&M inspections and maintenance.
- The City of Forest Lake will continue their contracted monthly maintenance of the CR50 IESF in late September.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

CLFLWD O&M Schedule - thru 2030																												
				Effectiveness Monitoring										Scheduled Maintenance										Maintenance Task				
Project	Imp Yr	Annual Inspection	Operation Task	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030							
3rd Lake Pond	2017	July			X			X			X				X			X							X	Riparian Buffer maintenance		
Bixby Park Wetland	2016	May and October	stop logs	X			X			X																as needed based on inspection		
Bone Lake Fish Barrier	2012/14	May and October	stop logs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-														as needed based on inspection		
Bone Lake - DCB Wetland	2021	June				X			X			X														as needed based on inspection		
Bone Lake - Edell Wetland	2019	June		X			X			X																as needed based on inspection		
Bone Lake - NE Legacy Load Wetland	2022	June				X			X			X														as needed based on inspection		
Broadway IESF	2012	July		EOR			X			X								X								replace IESF media? (City responsibility)		
CR50 IESF	2023	April and Nov	Activate or winterize							X						X		X		X						Rake and weed filter media, replace IESF media in 2040?		
Forest Lake outflow fish barrier	2021	July				-	-	-	-	-	-	-														as needed based on inspection		
Hilo Ln IESF	2014	July			X			X		X		X												X		replace IESF media? Coordinate all maintenance with City		
Moody Capstone Projects (3)	2024	June										X														as needed based on inspection		
Moody Lake Aerator	2015	January thru March	Activate Aerator	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		X						X						service pumps and aerators		
Moody Lake - Mattson Wetland	2017	May			X			X			X															as needed based on inspection		
Moody Lake - Peterson Wetland	2020	May			X			X			X															unknown		
North Shore Trail IESF							X			X														X		replace IESF media?		
Penshorn IESF	2014?	June		X			X			X														X		replace IESF media?		
Shields Lake Aerator	2020	January thru March	Activate Aerator	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				X									X	service pumps and aerators		
Shields Lake - FHGC Stormwater Reuse Pond	2019	July				X			X			X				X				X				X	XX	(XX) excavate pond sediments, (X) riparian buffer maintenance		
Sunrise River HWY 61 Wetland	2023	July								X																as needed based on inspection		
Target IESF	?	July				X			X			X														all maintenance done by Target		
WJDK Tributary Wetland	2024	July									X															as needed based on inspection		

Table 1. CLFLWD O&M Schedule.

O&M Schedule from the Comprehensive O&M Manual



Programs – 3011 AIS Prevention & Management

CLFLWD Watercraft Inspection Data (as of September 14th)

	CLFLWD Hours	Inspections	Inspection Rate
Forest Lake	1,205.5 hrs	3,537	2.9 Inspection/hr
Comfort Lake	305.5 hrs	663	2.2 Inspection/hr
Bone Lake	349 hrs	649	1.9 Inspection/hr

Additional Inspection Hours (as of September 14th)

	Conservation Corps	Chisago County	DNR
Forest Lake	52 hrs	425 hrs	407 hrs
Comfort Lake	0	245 hrs	0
Bone Lake	0	139 hrs	0



Programs – 3011 AIS Prevention & Management



Moody Lake AIS assessment survey

- Following the 10-year watershed management plan District staff performed a full **Point-intercept macrophyte survey** for **Moody Lake**.
 - **Moody:** Staff observed heavy native aquatic plant growth at many of the survey points, with Coontail being the dominant species.
- Staff assisted researchers from the **University of Minnesota's Lab to Lakes** with a new eDNA testing lab pilot program. Samples from **Lake Keewahtin** were submitted and the target species was **zebra mussels**.
 - The objective of the pilot program is to further develop sampling procedures, increasing sampling capacity and improving early detection of AIS.



Programs – 3011 AIS Prevention & Management

- Flowering rush management efforts on Forest Lake begin in July & most of the heavy growth was observed on 2nd and 3rd lakes.

July 11th: Initial Flowering Rush Delineation Survey (BWS)

Late July: Flower Removal #1 (District Staff)

July 29th: Shoreline Walk, Spot and Area Treatments (PLM)

Early August: Flower Removal #2 (District Staff)

August 19th: Shoreline Walk, Spot and Area Treatments as (PLM)

August 31st: Second Delineation/Assessment Survey (BWS)

Early September: Flower Removal #3 (District Staff)

September 17th: Shoreline Walk, Spot and Area Treatments as (PLM)

Mid-October: Final Assessment Survey (BWS)

- District staff have collected **6,661** seedheads as of September 14th.

Note: in 2025 staff collected **591** in total for the entire growing season.



Flowering rush & Purple loosestrife
(Forest Lake)



Projects

BLSNA

EOR has begun work on the BLSNA Wetland Restoration Feasibility Study. Wetland delineations occurred on Aug 14th.

East Comfort Pond

Staff met with landowners and shared the feasibility report. Both landowners are excited about the project. Staff and legal council have begun drafting project agreements with the landowner and City to allow project implementation.

Heath Ave IESF

The District will hold a groundbreaking ceremony in late Sept. Date TBD. The original groundbreaking date of Sept 14 was canceled due to inclement weather. The project is slated to begin construction in mid-October. [See schedule on next slide](#)



Heath IESF Pre-Con meeting

