



TO: (CLFLWD) Board of Managers

DATE: October 15, 2026

RE: Administrator's Report for the October 22, 2026, Regular Board Meeting

Administration (1000 series)

- 1001 – Board Administration
 - Managers Hansen and Roberts took the Oath of Office at the September 24th regular board meeting.
 - Staff have started making arrangements for the MN Watersheds Annual Conference. The Board approved registration and lodging reservations for three board members and four staff members.
- 1004 – Professional Services
 - Abdo was selected as the accounting/payroll and audit firm for the 2027-2028 biennium.

Programs (3000 series)

- 3002 – Permitting
 - Between Sept. 15 and Oct. 13, 2026, the following activity took place:
 - 139 site inspections performed with a 96.26% compliance rate
 - Three permit applications activated
 - Five permit applications received
 - Six permits closed out
- 3003 – Monitoring & Data Assessment
 - The final CAMP lake Monitoring event will occur the week of October 19th.
 - Staff will be removing staff gages and lake level monitoring equipment in the last few weeks of October.
- 3004 – Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement (Cost-Share)
 - Since Sept. 15, there have been 14 new requests for soil samples, bringing the year-to-date total to 39.
 - Staff conducted 3 new prospective cost-share project site visits, approved one Shoreline Habitat Improvement Project, and closed out 3 mini-grant projects.

- One Community Water Cost-Share on Forest Lake has been completed and will be closed out once the maintenance covenant can be filed with the county.
- 3005 – Education & Outreach
 - Events
 - September 17th, Native Plants for Wet Areas at Hardwood Creek Library with 20 people attending.
 - September 21st, Fall Lawn Care class at Forest Lake Community School with 8 people attending.
 - September 22nd, Heath Avenue Iron-enhanced Sand Filter Groundbreaking Ceremony took place with various community representatives attending. <https://clflwd.org/heath-avenue-water-quality-project-breaks-ground/>
 - September 28th, Fall Perennial Planting at Chisago Wildcat Center with 10 people attending.
 - September 29th, 2026 State of the Watershed event took place at the Forest Lake American Legion with 105 people in attendance.
 - October 1st, EO Coordinator Hjelm attended the monthly Comfort Lakes Association meeting in Wyoming.
 - October 5th, Build Your Own Lure family class at Forest Lake Community School with 22 people attending.
 - October 15th, Bee Lawns at Chisago Wildcat Center with 8 people attending.
 - REMINDER...upcoming CLFLWD events and community education classes can be found on the website at: <https://clflwd.org/events/>
- 3006 – Interagency Communication
 - LSC IWIP Policy Committee meeting: Monday, October 26. 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
 - Meeting materials are available at <https://www.lsciwip.org/meetings-committees>

- Mike Kinney presented on Using Economics to Drive Rapid, Low-Cost Watershed Improvements at the 35th annual St. Croix River Research Rendezvous on Oct. 6.
- Mike Kinney presented at the U of M Water Resources Conference on Oct. 14th on How Data and Economics Can Maximize the ROI of Conservation and WQ Efforts.
- 3007 – Research
 - Staff are assisting UMN researcher Catherine Polik collect data on the Forest Lake Alum Treatment on 10-21-26.
- 3009 – Grant Research & Preparation
 - The District has applied for \$1.6 million in grants so far this year and is working with partners to prepare an application to the Bush Foundation for an additional ~\$1.3 million in the next few weeks.
 - The District submitted a grant application to the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership for \$80,000 to conduct a Sequential Diagnostic Assessment on Shields Lake.
- 3010 – Operations & Maintenance
 - Staff will be winterizing projects in late October / Early November. Staff will remove weir boards at the Bone Lake inlet and Bixby Wetland projects. Staff will winterize the CR50 IESF in early November.
- 3011 – Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention & Management
 - Forest Lake Flowering rush management efforts have concluded, and Blue Water Science will be performing final assessment surveys. 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 attended a recent Washington County workshop related to upcoming reductions to AIS funding by 50% in 2027

2026 funding provided by counties

\$10,000 – WCI (Wash co.)
 \$4,000 – Curly-leaf pondweed (Wash co.)
 \$4,000 – Flowering rush (Wash co.)
 \$5,000 – WCI (Chisago co.)

- CLFLWD watercraft inspections were performed until October 18th, which is when the season officially concluded.

Projects (5000 series)

- Bone Lake
 - BLSNA: With assistance/oversight from EOR, Staff are continuing access / parking lot design and permitting. EOR is continuing efforts toward the Wetland Restoration Feasibility phase. We anticipate a feasibility report this winter and construction of the parking lot in the Spring of 2027. Staff are continuing research into the hunting management of the property. Staff plan to bring additional information on this topic to the November Board Meeting.
- Little Comfort Lake
 - Heath Ave IESF – The project construction start date has been pushed to mid-November by the Contractor. This shift should not have a great impact on the completion of the project. Substantial completion is not until May 2027.
- Comfort Lake
 - East Comfort Pond – Continued landowner and partner outreach and permitting investigations are well underway. A Memorandum of Agreement has been presented to the City of Wyoming for use of their easement for project construction. Similarly, project implementation agreements have been developed and shared with the landowners. Staff anticipate some back and forth on these agreements (MOA and landowner agreements) before execution. Staff plan to bring the EOR SOW for project design back before the CLFLWD Board in November or December for additional approval to proceed.

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 9/30/26)	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	\$474	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
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	\$60,000	Shoreline projects and shoreline-related public outreach. Completed and closed out 9/30/26.
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	\$2,310	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	\$2,825	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	\$18,000	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	\$5,906	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	12/31/2027	\$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	\$65,817	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	\$48,877	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	\$19,176	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	\$75,861	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	\$5,781	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			\$843,307	
			Percent of total	59%	43%	23%				

Grants Summary Table

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 9/30/26)	Comment
		GRANT APPLICATIONS PENDING		2025 Earned Grant Revenue Yearend	2026 Earned Grant Revenue Est. Yearend	2027 Earned Grant Revenue Estimated				
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.
3-004	Forest LMD	Conservation Partners Legacy: Willow Point Shoreline Restoration Project	\$93,000	N/A	N/A	\$20,000	estimated 1/1/2027	6/30/2030	\$0	
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.
5-226-A	Comfort LMD, Forest LMD, Bone LMD	Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership Grant - Shields Lake Sequential Diagnostic Assessment	TBD - ~\$100,000	N/A	N/A	\$50,000	Summer/Fall 2027	September 2029	\$0	Application deadline anticipated in August 2026
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)	\$243,000		\$0	\$150,000			\$0	
Percent of total				0%	0%	5%				

		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	\$400,000			\$0	