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TO: Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District (CLFLWD) Board of Managers  
DATE: March 21, 2019  
RE: District Administrator's Report for the March 28<sup>th</sup> Regular Board Meeting

### **General Fund – Administration (1000 series)**

- 1001 – Board Administration
  - Tentative dates for the MAWD Summer Tour have been suggested to be within the range of June 24 – 28, likely to be held in the Red River Valley, possibly Fargo.
- 1003 – General Administration
  - The 2018 audit office visit was completed on March 4, 2019.
  - The District's draft 2018 Annual Report will be handed out at either the March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting or sent out the week after. Managers are encouraged to start reviewing the report early on and provide any comments or questions to staff, preferably via email or in another written format. We will aim to approve the report at the April 18<sup>th</sup> regular board meeting so it can be submitted before the April 30<sup>th</sup> deadline.

### **Programs (3000 series):**

- 3002 – Permitting
  - See Permitting Update Attachment
  - The first meeting of the Metro Watershed District Regulatory staff will be held on March 27<sup>th</sup>. This initiative has been led by Erin Edison who has coordinated with other metro area watershed district permitting and regulatory staff to convene quarterly meetings.
- 3003 – Monitoring & Data Assessment
  - Staff contacted the District's Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP) volunteers from 2018 to confirm continuing involvement. All lakes from 2018 will continue to be monitored with the exception of Sea Lake.
  - Mike is working with EOR, LimnoTech and the WCD to start working on the three tasks approved by the Board on March 4<sup>th</sup> related to new technology for monitoring.
- 3004 – Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement Program
  - Mike has met with EOR and BWSR staff along with District staff to discuss a potential framework for ag related activities. The current sub watershed analysis (SWA) reports typically offers only one solution for any resource issue identified per field. Presently, the Chisago SWCD has a staff member now being funded by BWSR to complete "conservation plans" for priority farms within the LSC basin. As such, a draft approach is for the SWCD to provide at least two management change options in addition to a structural BMP so as to compare the cost per unit of reduction with the goal of improving both the profitability to the farmer as well as reducing the cost to get water resource improvements.

- 3005 – Education and Outreach
  - 3005A Ongoing Initiatives
    - Events
      - Staff continue to work diligently to prepare for the State of the Watershed Public Meeting scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup>.
      - CAC Member, Jack MacKenzie, continues to host the educational Turf Talk workshops. Upcoming dates include April 6<sup>th</sup>, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, and May 4<sup>th</sup>. More details: <https://www.clflwd.org/education.php>
    - Publications
      - *Tap into resources for water-friendly planting projects* By Angie Hong. Published March 2019 online and in print. [https://www.hometownsource.com/forest\\_lake\\_times/tap-into-resources-for-water-friendly-planting-projects/article\\_a7fb87ac-45b6-11e9-bbe1-8bf15230d226.html](https://www.hometownsource.com/forest_lake_times/tap-into-resources-for-water-friendly-planting-projects/article_a7fb87ac-45b6-11e9-bbe1-8bf15230d226.html)
      - *Teachers set sail with free workshops on the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers* by Angie Hong. Published February 2019 online. <https://eastmetrowater.org/2019/02/26/teachers-set-sail-with-free-workshops-on-the-mississippi-and-st-croix-rivers/>
- 3006 – Technical Resource Sharing and Interagency Communication
  - The Board adopted resolutions at the March 4<sup>th</sup> regular meeting to approve, or conditionally approve the Forest Lake and Scandia Local Water Management Plans (LWMPs). Since that time, Rice Creek WD has provided additional comments and requested revisions to the Forest Lake LWMP. As such, the CLFLWD Board will have to re-approve the (RCWD-responsive) revisions. Staff have requested that the City provide a redlined version of the LWMP for the CLFLWD to review. We don't anticipate the revisions to affect the CLFLWD's requirements, and as such, plan to simply write up a short resolution for inclusion in a future consent agenda (in April or maybe May). We have not yet received the revised LWMP. If the revisions seem to cause any issues, this will be brought to the CLFLWD Board's attention.
  - Staff is working on a presentation abstract for the 2019 MN Water Resources Conference which is scheduled for October 15-16 at the Saint Paul RiverCentre. The presentation is tentatively titled "The Future of Water Resources Management: Merging Diagnostic Monitoring, Adaptive Management and Economics," and will likely be another iteration of the multiple conference presentations from last year.
  - Mike met the Warner Nature Center staff along with the administrators for the BCWD and the CMSCWD. A contract for continued partnership between all the entities will likely be in the April board packet.
- 3007 – Research
  - Deep sediment cores: Researchers from the St. Croix Watershed Research Station and University of St. Thomas were out on Bone Lake Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> collecting core samples. Some photos of their process are attached.
- 3008 – Measurement of Progress
  - Staff is still awaiting a few pieces of information to be finalized (i.e. board acceptance of water monitoring report and audit financial report) before we can present a final draft 2018 Progress Report. Like the Annual Report, managers are encouraged to provide any comments or questions to staff via email or in another written format.

- 3009 – Grant Research and Preparation
  - Washington County AIS Prevention: Grant awards were recommended to the county board on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Both of the CLFLWD’s two proposals were recommended for partial funding (which is typical). Forest Lake Flowering Rush Control - request: \$15,248; recommended award: \$9,000 (\$1,000 higher than last year). Forest/Bone Watercraft Inspections - request: \$32,500; recommended award: \$16,500 (same as last year). The Forest Lake Lake Association’s proposal for Eurasian watermilfoil chemical control was also partially funded – request: \$19,000; recommended award: \$8,000 (\$1,000 higher than last year)
  - CWF: The grant agreement for the FY19 CWF grant – Bone Lake SWA Implementation is included in this month’s agenda for board consideration of approval. As this is a routine item not requiring discussion, it has been placed under the Consent Agenda in hopes of reducing the meeting duration.
  - LCCMR: The draft LCCMR proposal for the Claros project has been submitted. LCCMR staff has indicated that over 200 draft proposals have been submitted, and that they intend to provide their comments back to us by April 10<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for final submission is April 15<sup>th</sup>. Staff will work with EOR and Claros to address any LCCMR comments and get the proposal re-submitted in time for the deadline.
  
- 3010 – Operations & Maintenance – District-Wide
  - O&M activities in the past month have included weekly inspections of the Moody Lake aerator and bi-weekly inspections of the Shields Lake aerator operated by the City of Forest Lake. Dissolved oxygen levels of both lakes were measured on March 12<sup>th</sup>. The DO levels in Moody and Shields lakes were both low. Moody Lake's average DO reading was 1.31mg/L. Shields Lake's average reading was 0.93 mg/L. The fish species found in Moody and Shields lakes start to stress at oxygen levels between 2 and 4 mg/L. Since Moody Lake has a much larger open water area being aerated, the chances of a winter fish kill on that lake are fairly low. However, Shields Lake maintains a very small area of open water and is a shallower lake, which suggests that a winter kill is more likely to occur. Additionally, the Bixby Park weir system was inspected for any signs of impact from spring melting events along with the Hilo Lane project, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Lake Pond project, the Shields Lake Stormwater Reuse project, the Moody Lake Wetland project, etc. All projects appear to be functioning as designed given the high amount of snow melt.
  
- 3011 – Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Management
  - The proposed 2019 plan is included in the meeting packet for board consideration. As explained in section 3009 above, the District was recommended for funding for two Washington County AIS grants this year.

**Projects (5000 series):**

- 5200 Lakes
  - 5226 Shields Lake: A mailer was sent out to landowners surrounding Shields Lake with project updates pertaining to: the fish barrier retrofit, stormwater harvest and irrigation system project, fall alum treatment, and curly-leaf pondweed treatment.
  - 5228 Forest Lake: Staff is working on mailers to landowners in the WJD6 and Castlewood subwatersheds for outreach regarding upcoming projects.
  
- 5800 Interagency Communication
  - One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) – Lower St. Croix (LSC) River Basin

- The next Policy Committee meeting will be Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Mike K. continues to participate in both Planning Team meetings as well as Steering Committee meetings.



**Above:** [Left to right] Dr. Kevin Theissen (UST Geology Professor), Dr. Mark Edlund (SMM/SCWRS Senior Scientist), and Ethan (UST Research Student)  
**Left:** Dr. Theissen and Ethan lowering the piston corer for sediment collection  
**Below:** Rachel Funke (CLFLWD Seasonal Technician) assists Ethan and Dr. Theissen with data collection.

