

MEMORANDUM
Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

To: Board of Managers

Date: August 29, 2022

From: Mike Kinney

Subject: Comfort Lake Point Intercept Surveys

Background/Discussion

This topic was last discussed at the June 9th regular meeting. The Comfort Lakes Association's (CLA) whole lake fluridone treatment performed by Lake Management Inc., began on June 22, 2022. Prior to the initial fluridone dosing, the CLA obtained an invasive aquatic plant management permit from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Due to the scale of the treatment, the DNR permit required pre- and post-treatment point intercept surveys. Not all DNR invasive plant management permits require this level of surveying, but since the whole lake was being treated, DNR required the extra surveying to track impacts to native aquatic plants.

The District historically schedules annual delineations for curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil, whereas point intercept surveys are scheduled once every five years. Blue Water Science last performed a point intercept survey on Comfort Lake in 2019, with the next being scheduled for 2024. Due to this rotation, the District's 2022 AIS budget for Comfort Lake did not include funds to cover the additional expenses of a point intercept survey. Additionally, District staff are not anticipating a surplus of unspent AIS funds this year to transfer from.

Ultimately, the CLA relied on the District to coordinate with Blue Water Science to schedule the PI survey so the CLA could obtain their DNR permit. On June 1st, District staff confirmed via email with the CLA President, Jeanine Hansen, that their survey was scheduled. It was also mentioned at that time the question of who would cover the additional expenses would need to be discussed later. This question is now coming to the Board as Blue Water Science communicated with staff that they are beginning to prepare invoices. Steve McComas of Blue Water Science estimated over the phone to staff that each point intercept survey would cost \$2,700, for a total of \$5,400 for both surveys.

Recommended Action

Staff recommends the Board discuss how the District should handle the invoices for the CLA's fluridone treatment point intercept surveys. Below are a couple of options to consider.

- Option 1: The Board may choose not to fund the surveys. Cost-share programs and grant programs almost always function on an "approval first" basis. This means that grantees cannot do the work/encumber the funds until they have an approved application. There is not an approved application associated with this project because the program outline/application form haven't been completed yet. However, prior to the work, there were discussions with the CLA which inferred this consideration for future discussion about District funding.
- Option 2: The Board may partially or wholly fund the surveys. If so, it may authorize a budget transfer from 3-004-D Community Grant Program to 3-011-29-F Comfort Lake Point-Intercept Macrophyte Survey.

Hyperlinks:

[June 9, 2022 Regular Board Meeting – Memo: Commercial/Community Grant Program](#)

[June 9, 2022 Regular Board Meeting – Meeting Minutes](#)