

Comfort Lake – Forest Lake Watershed District

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CLFLWD Overview

Origin

- **Established by the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) on September 23, 1999 in response to a citizen petition**
- **Petitioners included agricultural landowners and lakeshore landowners.**
- **Petition was supported by the communities and county boards.**
- **Special purpose unit of local government**

Purpose

Minnesota Watershed purpose:

- **To protect public health and natural resources through:**
 - *Land use planning*
 - *Flood control projects*
 - *Other conservation projects using sound scientific principles*

Comfort Lake – Forest Lake Watershed District

- **Protect and improve water resources through adaptive management and community education**

Facility Feasibility Study

Background

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the feasibility of a new facility within the Comfort Lake – Forest Lake watershed District based upon communication feedback and support of the project, a proforma statement, and site criteria.

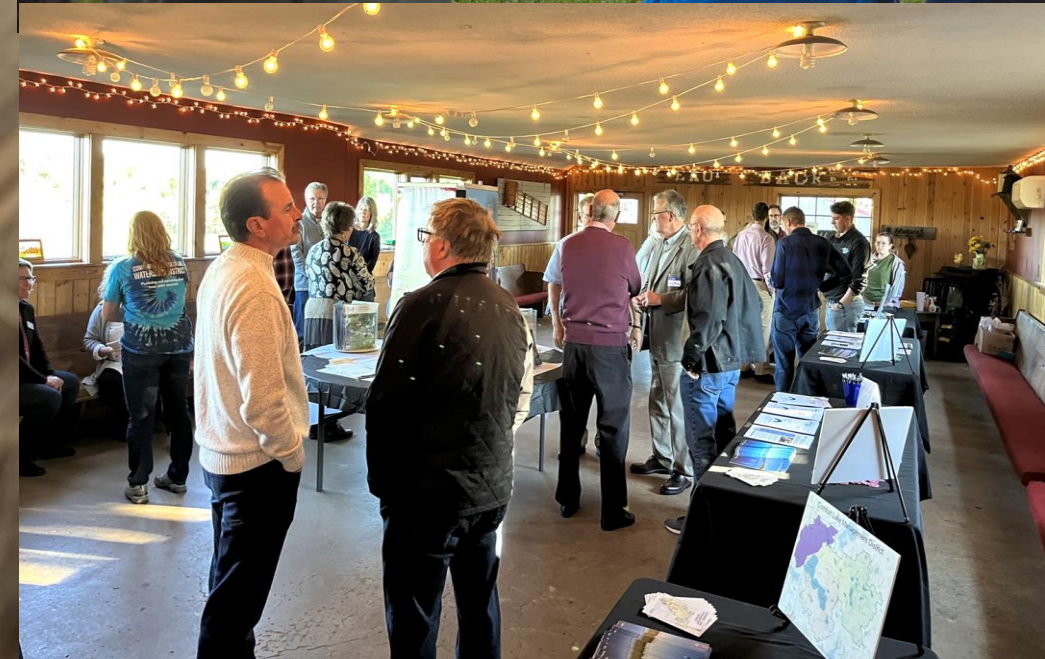


Need

- **Outgrown current facility**
- **Current facility has been sold - uncertain future**
- **District is being proactive in new location exploration**



CLFLWD Events



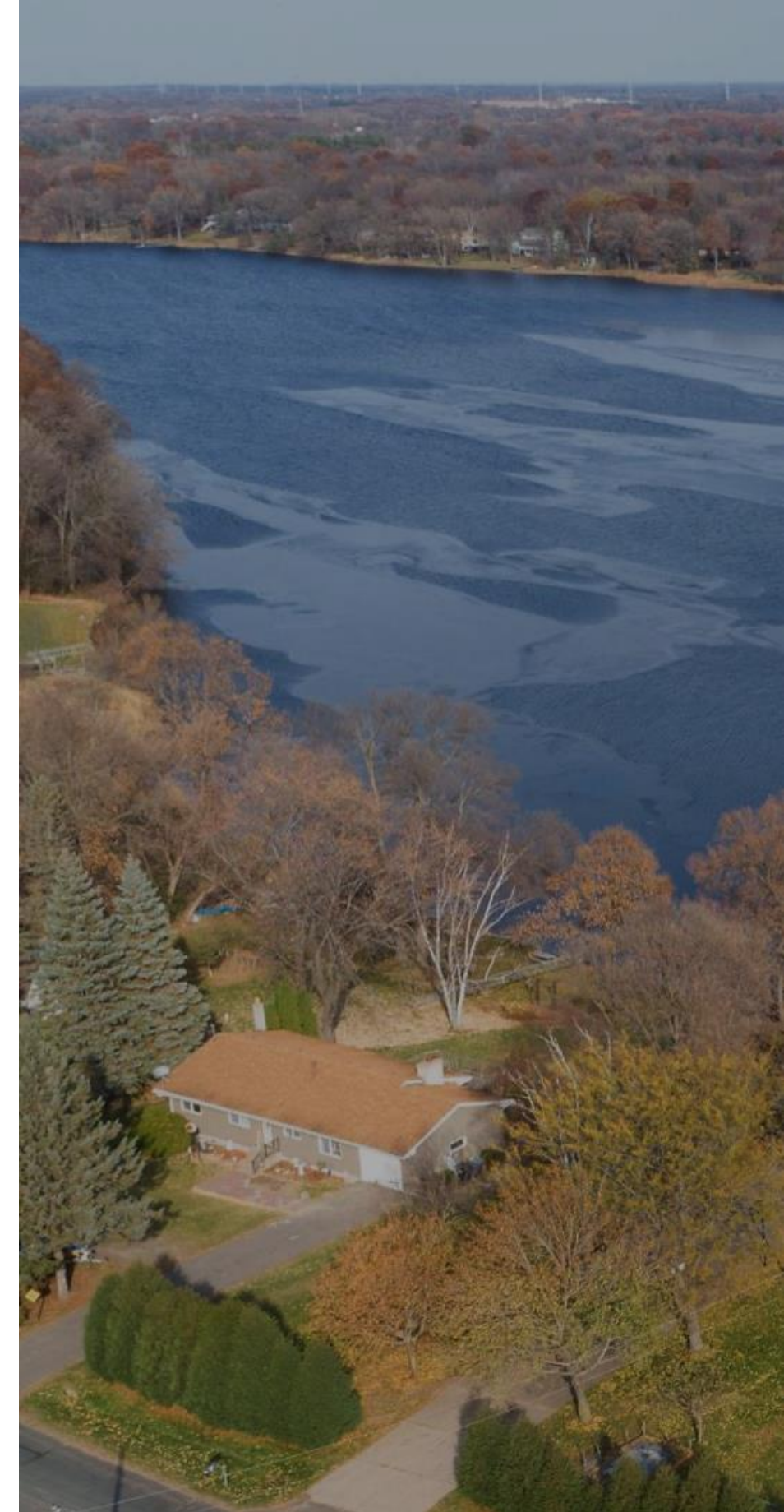
Preliminary Survey Results

On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 is the least important, and 10 is the most important), how important is clean water to the quality of life in your community?

- **Average Response: 9.0**

How successful do you think the Watershed District is at preserving and improving water quality?

- **Average Response: 6.9**



Preliminary Survey Results

Please rank the most important aspects of a CLFLWD facility for the community?

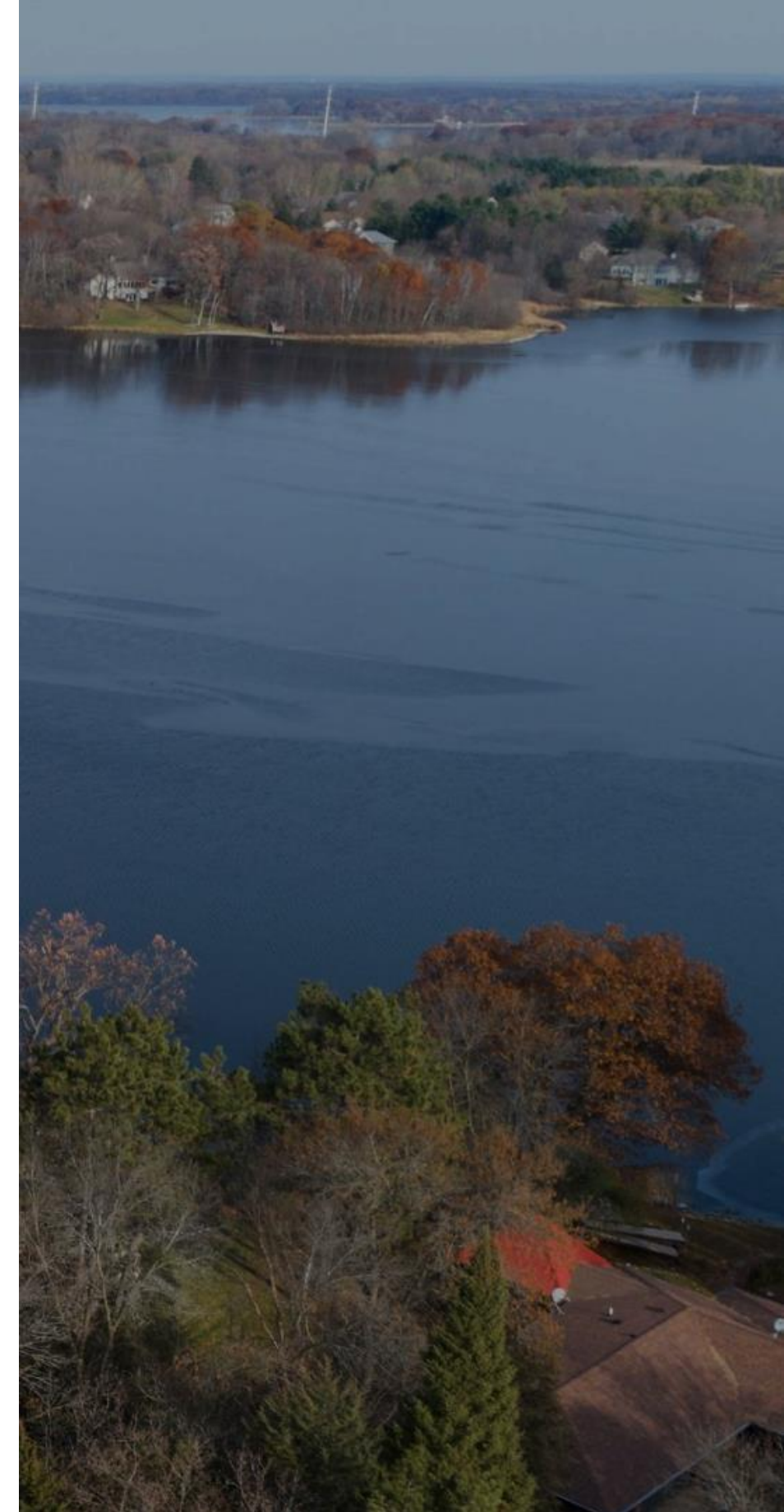
The first ranked is the highest priority, highest is most preferred

- **Meeting spaces for public use - 5.8**
- **Interactive educational installations for children and adults - 4.9**
- **A mix of indoor and outdoor educational experiences - 4.7**
- **Maintain lowest possible cost for facility - 4.6**
- **Educational programming space for children and adults - 4.2**
- **Office space for CLFLWD staff - 4.0**
- **Demonstration projects for stormwater treatment, shoreline protection, and land stewardship - 4.0**
- **Laboratory and storage facilities for staff to cost-effectively conduct field work and water quality monitoring - 3.6**

Preliminary Survey Results

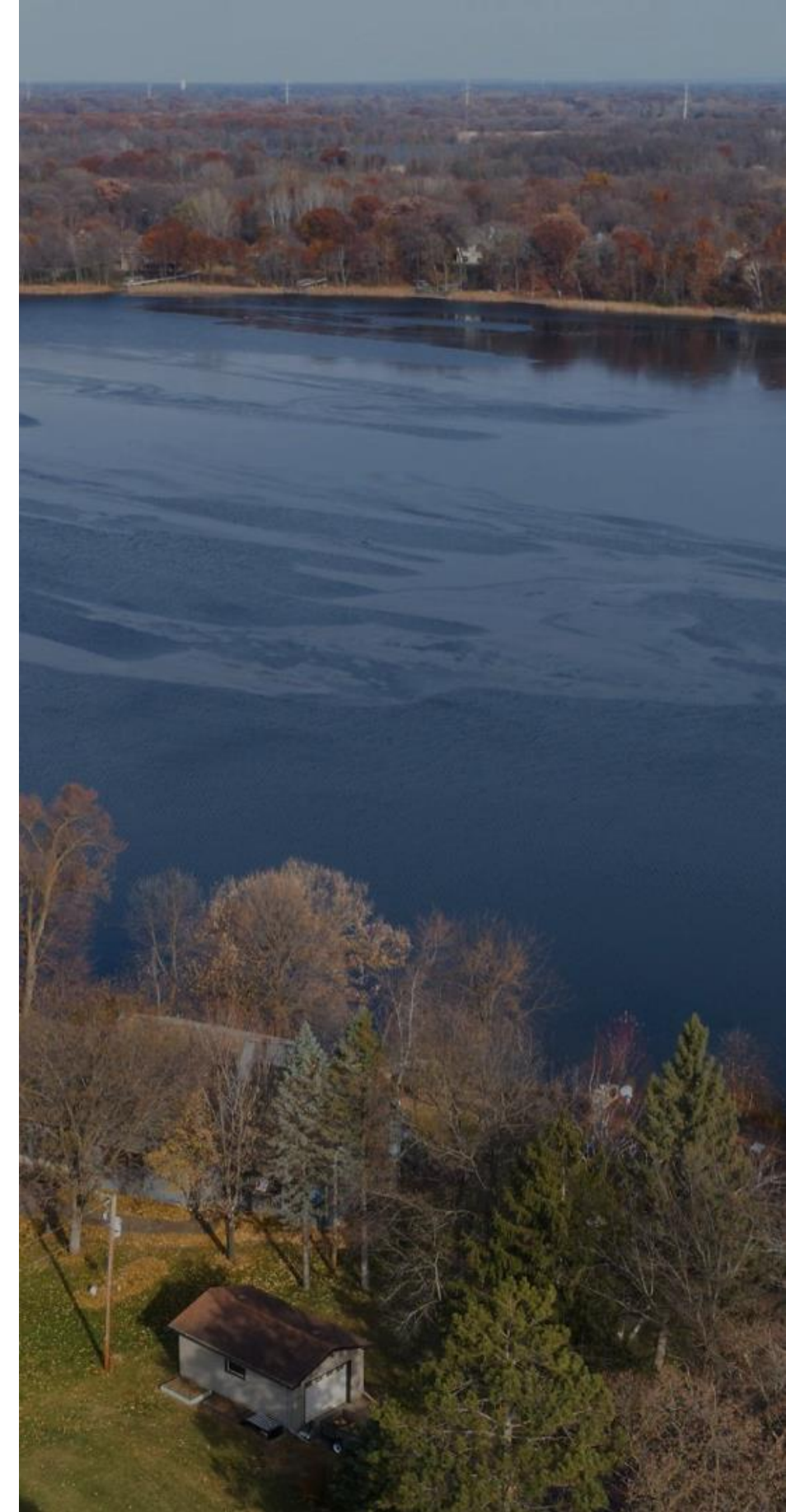
Which option below would you prefer for a CLFLWD facility?

- **New facility – 3**
- **Renovated facility - 12**
- **Renting an office space and/or storage space - 13**
- **Sharing an office space with another organization – 19**
- **No opinion - 16**



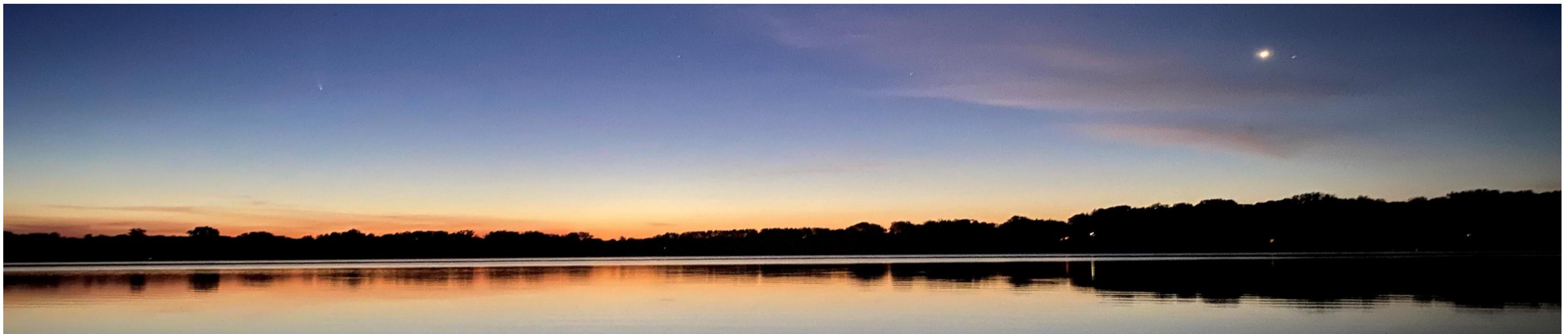
Needs – Space Analysis

- **5,782 square feet** (three-stall garage not included)
- **2 offices**
- **2 staff conference rooms**
- **8 drop-in workstations**
- **1 informal staff meeting space**
- **Board room/education room**
- **Reception/waiting area**
- **Common workroom**
- **Water lab – refrigerator/freezer, floor drain**
- **Lab storage**
- **Shower room**
- **ADA toilet**



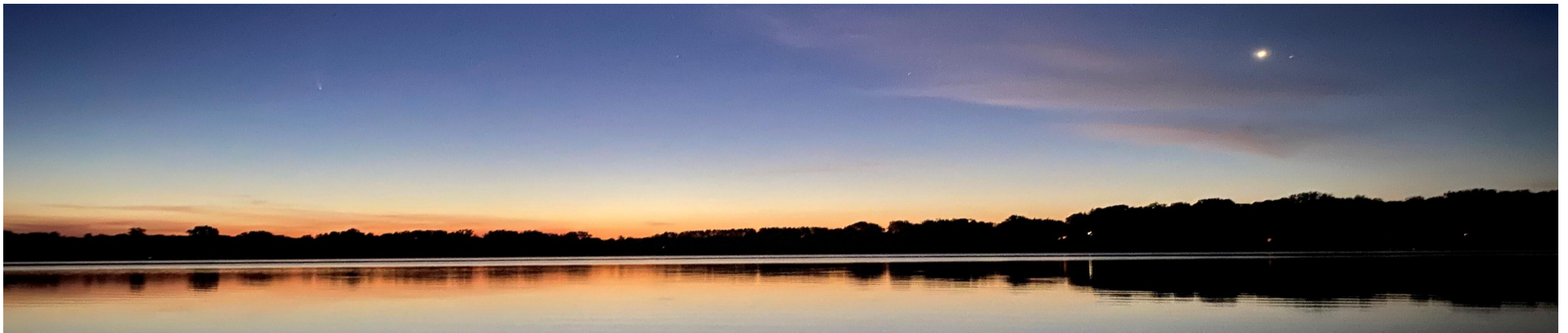
Needs – Not Included in Space Analysis

- **CLFLWD currently rents two storage units:**
 - 10x10 – file boxes, education and outreach materials
 - 10x20 – canoe, kayak, monitoring equipment
(adds 40 minutes of additional staff time each use)
- **Motor boat stored offsite at City**
- **Parking lot**



Needs – Not Included in Space Analysis

- **Indoor educational space – CLFLWD programming**
- **Outdoor spaces – neighboring watershed districts have used outdoor spaces for public engagement events and activities, and youth education**



Space Analysis

Space #	Space Name	# of Areas	Space Standard	Net Sq. Ft.	Gross Factor	Gross Sq. Ft.	Remarks
1.00							
1.01	offices	2	120	240	1.30	312	
1.02	staff conf rooms	2	120	240	1.30	312	4 seats, future offices?
1.03	large conf room	1	160	160	1.30	208	6-8 seats
1.04	Informal collaborative staff meeting space	1	170	170	1.30	221	includes small kitchenette
1.05	13 staff 8 drop in work stations	8	36	288	1.30	374	6 x 6 work stations
1.06	central files	0	64	0	1.30	0	central to work stations
1.07	Board Room/education Room	1	1,346	1	1.30	1,750	45-50 seats in classroom, 70-100 seats in lecture. Would likely need additional toilets
1.08	Table/chair storage	0	200	0	1.30	0	table carts and stackable chairs
1.09	Reception/waiting area	1	250	250	1.30	325	8 x 8 reception desk and seating for 4-6, mail and deliveries
1.10	Common work room	1	250	250	1.30	325	printer/scanner, office supplies, files
1.11	Water Lab	1	160	160	1.30	208	counter/bench height, sink, refrigerator
1.12	lab storage	1	400	400	1.30	520	includes off site storage
1.13	Toilet Room	1	64	64	1.30	83	1 private shower/toilet room,
	Shower Rm	1	45	45	1.30	59	Accessed through Toilet Rm
1.14	ADA Toilet	1	64	64	1.30	83	1 fixtures, 1 lavs
	Sub-Total					4,780	
	Wall Factor (12%)					574	
	Mechanical Factor (8%)					428	
	Total					5,782	
	does not include 3 stall garage						

Neighboring Watershed District Examples

Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

- **New headquarters on Mississippi River in Minneapolis**
- **Redevelopment of brownfield area**
- **Community example: applied best practices for brownfields remediation and ecological stormwater management**



Mississippi Watershed Management Organization

- **Roof runoff is collected, stored, and used to water trees. It also flows into a rain garden that treats the water and slowly releases it to the Mississippi River.**
- **Connecting to surrounding trails and green spaces the facility provides access to the Mississippi River and serves as an outdoor classroom for school groups.**



Capital Region Watershed District Headquarters

Refurbished Building

- **Stormwater management and energy-saving practices to conserve natural resources and create a healthy workplace**
- **Including a watershed learning center, a pocket park, and interactive features designed to engage users**



Nine Mile Creek Watershed District

- **A unique educational facility**
- **Visitors learn best practices in water management and conservation in a natural setting**
- **5.3 acre site connects to walking trails and a wetland**



Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District

- **Demonstrates sustainable design and stormwater management, green architecture, Minnesota native plants**
- **Captures 100 percent of rain and snowmelt, stopping runoff pollution from entering the creek and downstream waters**
- **Funding source: District funds \$2.4 million**



Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District (cont.)



Watershed Facility Repeating Themes –survey, interviews

- **Buildings are living, brick and mortar examples of a possible bright future**
- **Demonstrate concepts in sustainability; solar, rain gardens, green roofs, permeable pavement/surfaces, native plant use**
- **Collect stormwater runoff preventing pollution of surface water**
- **Connect residents to nature/green space**
- **Provide education on protection of water and natural resource conservation**

Process and Next Steps

- ✓ **Review of current plan documents**
- ✓ **Identify stakeholders, conduct interviews**
- ✓ **Needs assessment**
- ✓ **Space analysis**
- ✓ **Proforma**
- ✓ **Community meeting space survey**
 - **Promote survey response <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P7CMXCP>**
 - **62 responses too date**
 - **Optional CLFLWD Board of Directors visioning exercise**
 - **Community engagement events May 9th, June 15th**
 - **Comparison of building, renting**
 - **Identify critical path for decision making**
 - **Final deliverable – June 30th**

Closing Remarks + Questions

A facility that educates the community and inspires staff is essential to the implementation of the Administrative and Programming aspect of the Comfort Lake – Forest Lake Watershed Plan.