



TO: (CLFLWD) Board of Managers
DATE: June 15, 2023
RE: Administrator's Report for the June 22, 2023, Regular Board Meeting

Administration (1000 series)

- 1001 – Board Administration
 - The Board held a workshop on June 14th to discuss the 2024 budget.
- 1003 – General Administration
 - The District received a Clean Water Partnership loan amendment in the amount of an additional \$750,000 earlier this year and has since disbursed the entire amount. Staff is communicating with MN Pollution Control Agency about the possibility of further amendments to include additional disbursements over the next few months/years. The loan is critical to the District's completion of the few remaining water quality capital improvement projects as well as maintaining pace on several water quality improvement programs. This topic was discussed in detail at the May budget workshop.
 - Staff submitted the Board's comments to the Forest Lake City Council regarding the wetland banking ordinances being considered.

Programs (3000 series)

- 3002 – Permitting
 - See Permitting Update attachment for updates.
- 3003 – Monitoring and Data Assessment
 - Continued Lake, Stream, and DIY/CAT diagnostic Monitoring.
 - Drought conditions are limiting stream and diagnostic data collection.
- 3004 – Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement (Cost-Share)
 - Staff continue to conduct site visits throughout the District to assist residents with project design. As of 6/12, staff have completed 13 site visits.
 - Two 2022 Plant Grants were closed out: a Reed Canary Grass replacement south of Forest Lake, and a native planting on Comfort Lake.
 - Two Mini Grants were approved: a water conservation project on Heims Lake, and a bioswale on Forest Lake.

- The haying agreement for the Castlewood priority ag fields was renewed with Integrity Farms to secure a higher compensation rate for the District, as well as guarantee a second cutting, depending on the ongoing drought conditions.
 - Staff are planning a field day in the Scandia area in cooperation with WCD and the LSC partnership. A field day will focus on demonstrating cover crops to area farmers.
 - Staff will be taking soil samples for both priority ag fields in June, including a stratified sample for the Bone Lake ag field. This information will be used to make management decisions, as well as to assess continuing progress at these sites.
- 3005 – Education and Outreach
 - District staff visited the second-grade classrooms at Wyoming Elementary on both Thursday, June 1st and Friday, June 2nd to facilitate two hands-on activities: “Watershed in a Pan” and “Clean Water Obstacle Course”. These activities were well received by both the students and their teachers. District staff have already been invited back to facilitate activities with next year’s students. A selection of photos have been attached to the end of this report.
 - Events
 - Resilient Shorelines Workshop: The District’s Resilient Shoreline workshop scheduled for May 23rd at Scandia Community Center was cancelled due to the lack of RSVPs. The Resilient Shoreline Workshop scheduled for June 10th at the Hardwood Creek Library was rescheduled to Wednesday, July 26th due to an unforeseen scheduling conflict.
 - Arts in the Park: Education & Outreach Coordinator, Jessica Lindemyer, and Water Resources Technician, Victoria D’Amico, hosted the District booth at the first Arts in the Park session of the year. District staff will be at Arts in the Park every Tuesday this summer promoting the alum treatment and hosting family-friendly water resource activities. The District booth is located on the north side of Lakeside Memorial Park near the boat launch.
 - Alum Treatment Info Sessions: Ms. Lindemyer will be hosting two alum treatment info sessions in June. More info sessions will be held in July and August, details for those sessions will be posted to the project webpage as they become available.

Saturday, June 24th	Thursday, June 29th
10:00AM-12:00PM	5:00-7:00PM
District Office	Lakeside Memorial Park

Residents can stop by anytime during the two-hour info session; there will be a 30-minute presentation beginning at 11:00am on the 24th and 6:00pm on the 29th.

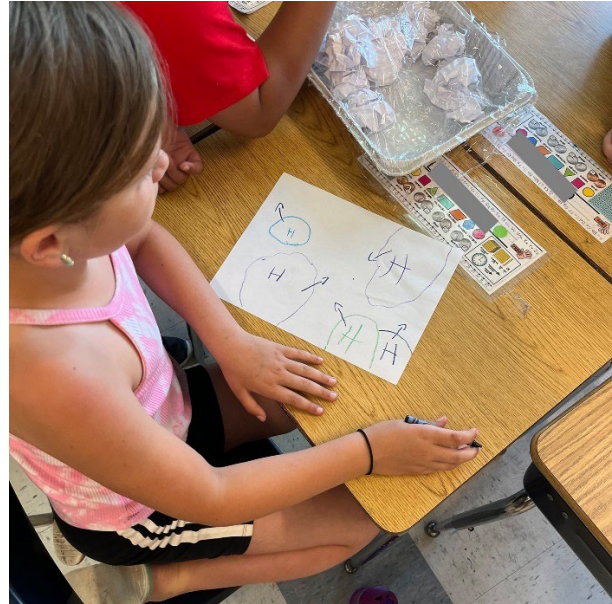
- Publications
 - [Watershed District to host community education and feedback events](#) By Jessica Lindemyer. Submitted for print publication and posted to the District website on May 26th, 2023.
 - *Watershed District to host info sessions* published in Forest Lake Times, June 9th, 2023. Attached to end of report.
 - *Forest Lake alum treatment scheduled for September* By Angie Hong. Published in Forest Lake Times, June 9th, 2023. Attached to end of report.
 - [Native Gardens for Sun and Shade](#) By Angie Hong. Published online May 18, 2023.
 - [Debunking myths about raingardens](#) By Angie Hong. Published online June 6, 2023.
- 3006 – Technical Resource Sharing and Interagency Communication
 - Administrator Kinney presented on the NE Bone Lake Legacy Load Project, Sequential Diagnostic Monitoring, and Historic Land Management issues to the Washington County Water Consortium on June 7.
 - Staff participated in the monthly coordination meeting with Forest Lake and partners. Staff are collaborating with Forest Lake city staff to prioritize potential projects sites associated with “dead end streets” and North Shore Circle Park.
 - Beth Carreno and Administrator Kinney met with the City of Scandia’s new city administrator and are establishing quarterly coordination meetings.
- 3009 – Grant Research and Preparation
 - 319 Small Watersheds Focus: Staff is coordinating with MN Pollution Control Agency to organize site visits to the CR50 Iron Enhanced Sand Filter and Sunrise River/Highway 61 Wetland Enhancement project sites as part of the grant reconciliation. This is a standard procedure for 319 grants.
- 3010 – Operations and Maintenance
 - Staff continues to develop and implement the O&M Program.
 - Eight O&M inspections were conducted in the past month.
- 3011 – Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Management

- On June 13th, Garrett will be meeting with a U of M researcher to put together a scope of work for the proposed Moody Lake aquatic planting project. Two researchers have communicated to staff that they would be available to help implement the project later this summer.
- Garrett will be meeting with Chisago County on June 15th to discuss the Watercraft Inspection Program. Discussion will focus primarily on scheduling and how to obtain more law enforcement support at the lake accesses.
- During the week of June 19th, District staff anticipate performing the first of two veliger tows in Bone Lake. The DNR has communicated they will again waive the lab processing fees for the samples.
- Before the 4th of July, the Watercraft Inspection Program will be having an in-person meeting to prepare for the holiday weekend. In addition to job and safety training, inspectors will be given a bag of fun handouts for the 4th. Feedback from previous years has shown this to be very popular and well received by lake visitors.
- The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) has selected Forest Lake as a test location for their new eDNA detection monitoring. They are seeking 10 volunteers to test the program and determine its effectiveness and utility as a potential citizen science project. District staff worked with the Forest Lake Lake Association to advertise the program and find volunteers. In addition, staff will reach out to watercraft inspectors and CAMP volunteers to fill any remaining positions if needed. The project will take place between June 30th and July 9th.
- 3012 – Land Acquisition
 - Appraisal contract executed for the Southern Bone Lake Farm and Wetland property. Deliverables expected mid to late July.
 - The District hosted an Office Space Open House on Tuesday, June 6th from 4:30-6:30pm. Staff prepared background information on the District and it's progress toward clean water goals and staff from ISG were present to obtain feedback from the public. No members of the public attended. Photos of the event have been added to the end of this report.

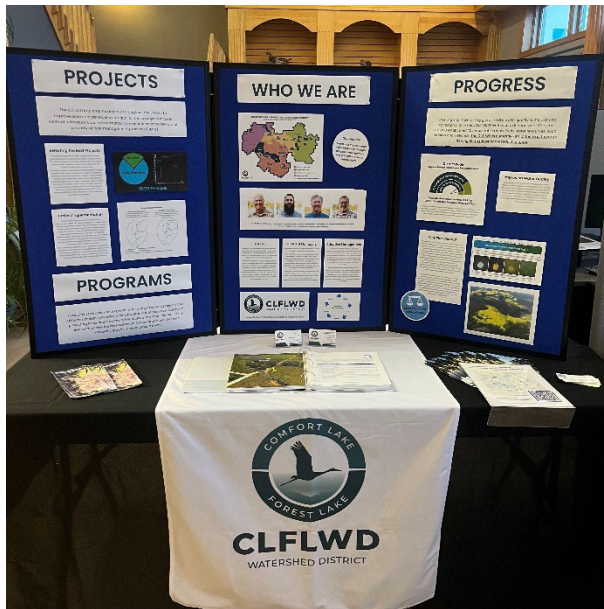
Projects (5000 series)

- 5200 Lakes
 - Moody Lake:

- Capstone: All landowner agreements in place. EOR completing design and permitting. Bid solicitation to occur mid-summer with a winter 2023 / spring 2024 implementation in mind.
- Bone Lake:
- Little Comfort Lake:
 - Continued outreach with the owner of the Gravel Pit property. There are some ownership / inheritance issues that the landowners need to work through. We should know if the property is available for sale by mid-June.
 - Staff investigating alternative projects for this lake management district (LMD).
- Shields Lake:
- Lake Keewahtin:
- Forest Lake:
 - CR50 IESF: All project elements completed. Several small punch list items remain before the construction contract can be closed out. System tested on June 8th and is fully operational. Dry conditions are currently not allowing automated operation of the facility. A ribbon cutting ceremony is being planned for early August.
 - WJD6 Western Wetland: Landowner agreement executed. Permitting complete. Bid solicitation to occur mid-summer with a winter 2023 / 2024 implementation in mind.
 - Alum Treatment: Education & Outreach Coordinator, Jessica Lindemyer, will be holding several alum treatment info sessions this month. See 3005 events section for more information. Ms. Lindemyer will also be presenting at the workshop of the Forest Lake City Council on Tuesday, June 20th as part of the Alum Treatment's Education & Outreach Plan.
- Comfort Lake:
 - Sunrise River Hwy 61 Wetland: All project elements completed. Planting and final restoration occurred the week of June 5th. A few minor punch list items remain before the construction contract can be closed out. EOR to survey As-Built conditions the week of June 12th. A ribbon cutting ceremony is being planned for early August.



Second grade students at Wyoming Elementary learning how to read a basic watershed map (left) and how to draw a very basic topographic map (right)



Welcome display (left) and public feedback stations (right) at the Office Space Open House.



Education & Outreach Coordinator, Jessica Lindemyer, hosting the District's booth at Arts in the Park.



Opinion

Hannah Davis | 763-233-0709 | hannah.davis@apgecm.com

Forest Lake alum treatment scheduled for September

On the Water

Angie Hong



This fall, the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District will be conducting an alum treatment on Forest Lake to address phosphorus in the lake bottom sediments that contribute to algae growth. This project will be a major milestone for the lake, after more than a decade of research, planning, community engagement, grant-writing, and stormwater management efforts. The goal is to further reduce phosphorus levels in Forest Lake by 527 lbs. per year to prevent harmful algae blooms.

"A lot of lake management actually ends up being phosphorus management," said John Holz, a limnologist with Solitude Lake Management who has worked with the watershed district on previous alum treatments. "Lakes accumulate phos-

phorus from their surrounding watersheds for decades. When alum is applied, it draws phosphorus out of the water column and seals sediment on the lake bottom so that the nutrient can no longer feed algae." Local residents can expect to see clearer water in Forest Lake after the alum treatment virtually overnight.

Alum (potassium aluminum sulfate) is a nontoxic compound that you may even have in your kitchen cupboard. Used as an additive in pickling and canning, it helps to keep fruits and vegetables crisp and firm. It is the primary ingredient in Maalox (say goodbye to heartburn!) and is also used for drinking water clarification in cities like Minneapolis that get their water from a lake or river. "For

lake treatment we use the exact same formulation as for drinking water," explained Holz. "It is completely safe and doesn't kill anything. In fact, it doesn't even kill the algae; it merely binds the phosphorus so that it is no longer available to support algal growth."

Using a custom, specialized barge, the contractor will deliver alum to the middle basin of Forest Lake in areas that are 15 feet or deeper. The alum will be pumped into the water as a liquid formulation that forms a white, cotton-ball looking substance called flock. The flock then sinks to the bottom of the lake and forms a one-inch thick layer on the bottom. The alum flock attracts phosphorus in the water and has numerous binding sites where the phosphorus can attach. Once it has sunk to the lake bottom, it compresses and creates a seal that prevents phosphorus in the sediment from re-circulating. On average, a typical alum treatment is capable of binding 70-90% of the internal phosphorus load in a lake (the phosphorus that is

already in the water).

Recreation on Forest Lake will not be restricted during the alum treatment, but boaters will be asked to give the barge space as it navigates around the lake to avoid application disruptions. Some additional plant growth is expected to occur after the alum treatment, due to the clearer water. Aquatic plants are an important part of a healthy lake ecosystem and provide habitat for fish and wildlife.

Over the past decade, CLFLWD has completed dozens of lake improvement projects for Forest Lake. Some of the biggest include a stormwater reuse project and alum treatment on Shields Lake, an iron-enhanced sand filter along County Road 50, a wetland treatment basin on Forest Lake's third lake, and working with the City of Forest Lake to implement targeted, enhanced street sweeping. Community residents have also completed numerous small planting projects through the watershed district's cost-share program.

The CLFLWD will be hold-

ing info sessions on Saturday, June 24, from 10 a.m. to noon at the CLFLWD office, located 44 Lake St. South, Suite A, Forest Lake, and Thursday, June 29, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Lakeside Memorial Park. Stop by anytime during the two-hour sessions to ask questions and learn more about the alum treatment and watershed district projects. There will be two 30-minute presentations on June 24 at 11 a.m. and at June 29 at 6 p.m. You can also track project updates at clflwd.org/projects/forest-lake-alum-treatment, or stop by and visit with watershed district staff at Forest Lake Arts in the Park, every Tuesday in June, July and August.

Angie Hong coordinates the East Metro Water Education Program, a local government partnership with 30 members in Chisago, Isanti and Washington Counties - www.mnwcd.org/emwrep. Contact her at 651-796-2210 or angie.hong@mnwcd.org or follow her on TikTok @mnnature_awesome-ness.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Watershed District community education and feedback

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District (CLFLWD) has maintained and improved the health of our local water ways for many years. The water quality improvement projects implemented by the CLFLWD have gotten area lakes (including Forest, Comfort, and Bone) over 92 percent of the way to meeting state water quality standards. Improved water quality equals cleaner and clearer water for generations to come.

In June, the Watershed District will be hosting several community education workshops, info sessions, and feedback events. Residents are invited to attend these events to learn about and provide input on CLFLWD activities and how to improve water quality with healthy shorelines.

Shoreline Workshop: Learn the fundamentals of protecting your shoreline property! This workshop will include discussions on lakescaping and shoreline projects, plant selection tips, regulatory reminders, and provide access to technical and financial resources. Saturday, June 10 from 10am-noon at Hardwood Creek Library, 19955 Forest Rd N., Forest Lake

Alum Treatment Info Sessions: The CLFLWD will be conducting a milestone water quality project on Forest Lake this September. The non-toxic alum treatment will result in a cleaner and clearer Forest Lake. Initial info sessions will be held on Saturday, June 24 from 10am-noon at the District Office and Thursday, June 29 from 5-7pm at Lakeside Memorial Park. Residents can stop by anytime during the two-hour open house; there will be a 30-minute presentation beginning at 11am on the 24 and 6pm on the 29.

Unable to attend these events? District staff will be at Forest Lake's Arts in the Park every Tuesday this summer to answer questions, take feedback, and lead family-friendly water quality activities. Look for the District booth on the north side of the park near the boat launch.

Learn more and RSVP for these events at www.clflwd.org/events/

**Submitted by,
Comfort Lake - Forest Lake
Watershed District**

Published 6/8/23 Chicago Press



Watershed district to host info sessions

The Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District will host two info sessions from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, June 24 at the district's office and from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 29 at Lakeside Memorial Park to discuss its upcoming water quality project that will begin in September. The watershed district hopes the project will make Forest Lake cleaner and clearer. All area residents are welcome to attend either of the info sessions about the upcoming project to ask questions or learn more about the procedure.