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**TO:** (CLFLWD) Board of Managers  
**DATE:** July 20, 2023  
**RE:** Administrator's Report for the July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Regular Board Meeting

### Administration (1000 series)

- 1001 – Board Administration
  - The Board will hold a special meeting on July 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss the 2024 budget.
- 1003 – General Administration
  - Staff is coordinating with the MN Pollution Control Agency to submit another loan application to the Clean Water Partnership loan program. Due to new limits on loan awards, the District is not able to amend its current loan to increase the loan amount. A memo with more information will be brought to a future board meeting once we receive a response from MPCA.

### Programs (3000 series)

- 3002 – Permitting
  - Eight permits will be closed out at the July 24<sup>th</sup> board meeting
  - Two conditional permits have been issued since June 17<sup>th</sup>
  - Mike Sandager passed the Minnesota Wetland Professional Certification Program Professional Exam.
- 3003 – Monitoring and Data Assessment
  - Weeks 7 and 8 of lake monitoring will be completed by the end of July.
  - Continued CAT and DIY monitoring. Few monitoring events have occurred in 2023 due to dry conditions and a lack of large precipitation events.
  - The District has found a new CAMP volunteer who will be performing water quality monitoring on Elwell Lake for the remainder of the season.
- 3004 – Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement (Cost-Share)
  - Soil samples were collected from the Bone Lake and Castlewood priority ag fields. This information will inform management decisions for the fields. Staff are exploring the interest of new cooperators for managing the fields following the 2023 growing season.
  - Two additional applications for Mini Grants were received in July and will be reviewed by staff. A 2022 plant grant, and a 2023 Mini Grant were closed out by

staff. For 2023, staff have engaged 24 residential landowners for either cost-share applications or technical assistance, compared to 25 for the entire 2022 season.

- Staff have received three applications for the Legacy Payment program and are finalizing landowner contract language for the program.
- 3005 – Education and Outreach
  - Staff informally met with Mary Pat McNeil of MP+G Marketing Solutions, the developers of the “[Low Salt. No Salt. Minnesota](#)” campaign, to get a better understanding of how public relations and marketing can serve the District. A detailed memo will be brought to the August 10<sup>th</sup> regular board meeting.
  - Events
    - Alum Treatment Info Sessions: Staff hosted three alum treatment info sessions in the last month with a total of 14 attendees. Public feedback on the project has been positive.
    - Arts in the Park: Staff continue to host a weekly booth at the City of Forest Lake’s Arts in the Park community gathering. Each week staff has featured a different family friendly learning activity and provided information on the upcoming alum treatment.
    - Resilient Shorelines Workshop: Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-5:00pm at the District Office. This workshop will include discussions on lakescaping and shoreline projects, plant selection tips, regulatory reminders, and provide access to technical and financial resources.
    - Project Completion Celebration: Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am-12:00pm at Lakeside Memorial Park. This event will celebrate the completion of the Highway-61 Sunrise River Wetland Enhancement Project and the County Road 50 Iron Enhanced Sand Filter Project. A mini-bus will take participants from lakeside park to visit both project locations. The target audiences for this celebratory event are the District’s partners and the local press. More details for this event will be released soon.
  - Publications
    - *Even with rain, lawns remain brown* by Angie Hong. Published online June 30, 2023. <https://eastmetrowater.org/2023/06/30/even-with-rain-lawns-remain-brown/>
    - *For the Love of Forests* by Angie Hong. Published Online June 23, 2023. <https://eastmetrowater.org/2023/06/23/for-love-of-forests/>

- *State of the Lakes in Washington County* by Angie Hong. Published online June 18, 2023. <https://eastmetrowater.org/2023/06/18/state-of-the-lakes-in-washington-county/>
- 3006 – Technical Resource Sharing and Interagency Communication
  - The Clean Water Council is having a field tour of selected Clean Water Fund-supported projects in the seven-county metro on September 19<sup>th</sup> and has contacted staff to discuss including the CLFLWD’s Sunrise River Highway 61 Wetland Enhancement Project in the tour.
  - The third quarter coordination meeting with City of Wyoming staff was held on July 11<sup>th</sup>. A coordination meeting with staff and City of Scandia staff is scheduled for August 1<sup>st</sup>. A coordination with City of Forest Lake was not held in July but will take place at its regular time on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- 3007 – Research
  - Staff have been in communication with the Minnesota Herpetological Society about research related to turtles and alum treatments. There doesn’t seem to be enough time to pull together a research project for the Forest Lake alum treatment, but staff will keep in contact with this organization in order to support future research of alum treatments.
  - Staff are assisting the UMN with Alum application related research on Forest Lake. Water and soil samples were collected on June 26<sup>th</sup> with additional monitoring scheduled for August - just prior to the Alum application, and then again just after the Alum application. The research will mostly focus on the bacterial response to the Alum application.
- 3009 – Grant Research and Preparation
  - The Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council approved the 2023 grant accomplishment plans on June 21<sup>st</sup>, including CLFLWD’s plan for the Bone Lake South Wetland Acquisition. We are approved to start spending as of July 1, 2023. Staff is still in the process of price negotiations with the landowner.
  - The RFP for FY24 Clean Water Fund competitive grants opened on June 29<sup>th</sup> and closes on August 24<sup>th</sup>. Staff are in the process of preparing multiple applications and will bring forward a memo with more information prior to the application deadline.
  - Staff toured the Highway 61 Wetland and County Road 50 Iron Enhanced Sand Filter projects with MN Pollution Control Agency staff in order to complete the grant review under the Section 319 Small Watersheds Focus Grant.

- The District will complete final reporting to close out its Conservation Partners Legacy grant for the Shields Lake City Park Shoreline Restoration Project by the end of July.
- 3010 – Operations and Maintenance
  - Staff continued monthly vegetative maintenance of the Shields Lake Park planting.
- 3011 – Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Management
  - On July 11<sup>th</sup>, Garrett Miller passed the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Pesticide Applicator Exam. Contracted applicators will continue to do the majority of the District's herbicide applications, with staff assisting where needed within the program. Specifically, staff will primarily assist with small spot treatments of flowering rush.
  - District staff began flowering rush seed head collection during the week of July 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - Purple loosestrife and early detection surveys will be conducted on a couple of the District's lakes by the end of July. Staff anticipate purple loosestrife treatments on Forest and Keewahtin Lakes again this year.
  - The Moody Lake native plant transplanting is set to begin within the next few weeks. Staff have received a permit from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and are now just waiting for landowner permissions before implementing the project.
  - While conducting a survey for existing AIS and early detection on Lake Keewahtin district staff observed a growth of wild rice on the lake. A photo has been attached to the end of this report.
- 3012 – Land Acquisition
  - A second appraisal of the Southern Bone Lake Agricultural area is underway. Deliverables are due at the end of July. Upon receipt of the appraisal, staff will reengage the landowner regarding purchase of the parcels.
  - Staff are planning a facilities tour on August 8<sup>th</sup> for the Board to visit other watershed district offices.

### **Projects (5000 series)**

- 5200 Lakes
  - Moody Lake:
    - Capstone: All landowner permissions acquired. Project permitting underway. Pre-permitting meeting with the DNR conducted on 6-13-23.

- Bone Lake:
  - Delisting: MN Pollution Control Agency staff have reviewed the data and agree with the District's recommendation to delist Bone Lake, noting that the work done for Bone Lake is considered to be the "gold standard" for delisting. The draft list will be released by MPCA this fall, and the final official list will be released by the Environmental Protection Agency in spring of 2024. A presentation regarding the status of the Bone Lake delisting will be brought to a future board meeting. Staff have begun internal discussions regarding the plans for a community delisting celebration in the spring of 2024. Staff have reached out to the Bone Lake Association regarding their interest in partnering on said celebration and will begin collaborative discussions with the City of Scandia, the Citizen Advisory Committee, and the East Metro Water Resource Education Program (EMWREP) in early August.
- Little Comfort Lake:
  - Infiltration Basin: The infiltration basin concept is no longer feasible as the gravel pit is no longer available for sale. Staff are working on alternatives to achieving phosphorus reduction goals for this watershed.
- Shields Lake:
- Lake Keewahtin:
- Forest Lake:
  - CR50 IESE: All project elements completed. A few minor punch list items associated with the pump system need to be addressed before project closeout. Staff are actively watering the project plantings to ensure survival during the current drought.
  - Western WJD6 Wetland: Landowner access acquired. Project will be ready to be put out to bid later this summer.
  - Alum Treatment: Permission to use the DNR 3<sup>rd</sup> Launch for the project staging area has been acquired. The project was put out to bid in late-June. One bid has been received. The Bid award will be presented to the Board at the July 27<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Staff have held several public outreach meetings on the Alum treatment and, in general, have found that the public is in support of the upcoming project.
- Comfort Lake:
  - Sunrise River Hwy 61 Wetland: All project elements completed. A few minor punch list items need to be addressed before project closeout.



**Left:** Jess Hall assists young children identify macroinvertebrates at Arts in the Park



**Right:** Alum Treatment Info Session at Lakeside Memorial Park



**Above:** Wild rice growing in Lake Keewahtin. Spotted by District Staff on July 18<sup>th</sup> while completing an existing AIS and early detection survey.