



**TO:** (CLFLWD) Board of Managers

**DATE:** August 17, 2023

**RE:** Administrator's Report for the August 24, 2023, Regular Board Meeting

### Administration (1000 series)

- 1001 – Board Administration
  - On August 8<sup>th</sup> the board toured the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District and the Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District Offices.
- 1003 – General Administration
  - A special board meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:00 pm for the purpose of finalizing the 2024 budget and levy.
  - No proposed Minnesota Watersheds resolution ideas have been submitted by the board for consideration at this upcoming meeting.

### Programs (3000 series)

- 3002 – Permitting
  - Sixteen permits were closed out and seven permits became active from July 14 to August 14. A dry spring delayed vegetative growth for many permits delaying close outs.
  - A total of 667 inspections have taken place in 2023 with 133 in the last month.
- 3003 – Monitoring and Data Assessment
  - Lake monitoring continues as scheduled. Good water clarity has been noted on most lakes this year with most Secchi reading in excess of 2 meters.
  - Stream, DIY, and CAT monitoring events have been limited this season due to dry conditions and lack of large precipitation events.
- 3004 – Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement (Cost-Share)
  - Staff have begun shoreline inventories of District waterbodies using a new methodology. This shoreline inventory uses a modified Score the Shore habitat rapid assessment and captures a broader set of data that will be used to better inform the developing shoreline program. The results of shoreline inventories will be shared with the Board and the relevant Lake Associations once completed.

- Residential site assessments are continuing, and additional applications have been received for the Mini Grant and Legacy Payments programs.
  - Farmers in the District were mailed post-cards with information about upcoming grant opportunities and field days in the area.
  - Staff participated in the Natural Shoreline Partnership meeting on July 25<sup>th</sup>. The group was asked to lead a BWSR Academy session on natural shorelines; Beth Carreño is coordinating the presentation and representing CLFLWD.
- 3005 – Education and Outreach
    - Staff continue to host a booth every Tuesday at Forest Lake’s Arts in the Park. Attendees participate in a rotating selection of educational activities such as learning how to identify aquatic plants and macroinvertebrates. Staff promote the District’s various programs and answer questions about high profile projects such as the Forest Lake Alum Treatment. At the August 8<sup>th</sup> gathering, individuals were asked to share their favorite lake memory for a chance to win a \$25 gift card to Kodiak Coffee. See the end of this report for photos of some of the responses received.
    - E-mail invites for the upcoming Project Completion Celebration were sent out on August 10<sup>th</sup>. Physical invites were also mailed to key stakeholders to encourage their attendance. Due to the physical limitations of the two project sites that we will be visiting the target audience for this event is limited to District partners – LGU staff & council, lake association board members, Lower St. Croix partners, and district volunteers. A copy of the e-mail invite is attached to the end of this report.
    - The District’s annual newsletter has been submitted for print and will be mailed to all residents in the watershed beginning the week of August 21<sup>st</sup>. A digital version of the newsletter is attached to the end of this report.
    - Staff hosted a shoreline workshop at the office on July 26<sup>th</sup>. Participants received follow up and resources and were encouraged to attend the shoreline showcase.
    - Upcoming Events
 

Learn more about these events and RSVP at [www.clflwd.org/events](http://www.clflwd.org/events).

      - Alum Treatment Info Session  
Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup> | 10:00am – 12:00pm  
Hardwood Creek Library

- Project Completion Celebration  
Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> | 9:00am – 11:00am  
Lakeside Memorial Park
  - Aquatic Plants for Kids  
Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> | 3:00 – 5:00pm  
Hardwood Creek Library
  - Aquatic Plant Workshop  
Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> | 5:30 – 6:30pm  
Hardwood Creek Library
  - Resilient Shoreline Workshop  
Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup> | 4:30 – 6:30pm  
CLFLWD Office
  - Fall Yard Maintenance Workshop  
Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> | 10:00am – 12:00pm  
CLFLWD Office
  - District Open House  
Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> | 4:30 – 6:30pm  
CLFLWD Office
- Publications
    - *When gardening with native plants, be prepared for change* by Angie Hong. Published online July 28, 2023.  
<https://eastmetrowater.org/2023/07/28/when-gardening-with-native-plants-be-prepared-for-change/>
    - *St. Croix River – Wild and Scenic, Close to Home* by Angie Hong. Published online August 4, 2023.  
<https://eastmetrowater.org/2023/08/04/st-croix-river-wild-and-scenic-close-to-home/>
    - *What’s happening at Moody Lake* by Denise Martin. Published online and in print August 10, 2023.  
<https://chisagocountypress.com/news/2023/aug/14/whats-happening-at-moody-lake/>
    - *Local lakes are in need of plants. Here’s how you can help.* By Angie Hong. Published online and in print August 10, 2023.

[https://www.hometownsource.com/forest\\_lake\\_times/opinion/local-lakes-are-in-need-of-plants-here-s-how-you-can-help/article\\_b8f8375c-37b6-11ee-b701-efe0f21c2687.html](https://www.hometownsource.com/forest_lake_times/opinion/local-lakes-are-in-need-of-plants-here-s-how-you-can-help/article_b8f8375c-37b6-11ee-b701-efe0f21c2687.html)

- 3006 – Technical Resource Sharing and Interagency Communication
  - The coordination meeting with the City of Scandia was held on August 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - The coordination meeting with City of Forest Lake was held on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Staff also met with Forest Lake staff on August 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - Staff provided additional project details to one of our One Watershed One Plan partners, upon request. Isanti SWCD is in the process of implementing a wetland restoration project similar to the CLFLWD’s Moody Lake South Wetland Dredging project. We shared our calculation methods for nutrient reductions in wetland systems such as this.
  - Staff met with Washington County planning staff members and discussed future collaborations such as signage along trails/roadways, future trail and park corridors, and the District’s goals and priority areas from the Watershed Management Plan.
  - Administrator Kinney spoke at the Soil & Water Conservation Society conference on Conservation Economics and Policy
  
- 3009 – Grant Research and Preparation
  - Several grant applications are in progress, with multiple being brought forward to the August 24<sup>th</sup> regular meeting for board authorization to apply.
  - Staff met with Great River Greening (GRG) to begin planning implementation of the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) grant that GRG recently received. GRG will work with staff to perform invasive species removal and native plant restoration on the North Shore Trail Nature Area property. Though the District will not handle the finances and contracts associated with this grant, it is accounted for in the Grant Summary sheet in the budget packet.
  
- 3010 – Operations and Maintenance
  -
  
- 3011 – Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Management
  - On August 1<sup>st</sup>, the Moody Lake native plant transplanting project was implemented. Across seven locations around the lake, more than 700 clay balls with attached native plants were deployed. Staff are currently working on a write

up for the University of Minnesota Researchers to aid them in their study. Next year, staff will survey the planting locations and look for signs of establishment.

- The Moody Lake native plant transplanting project was highlighted on the front page of the Chisago County Press paper, August 10<sup>th</sup> edition. Additionally, this project was also mentioned in an Angie Hong article in the August 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Forest Lake Times.
  - Garrett Miller will be attending the August 15<sup>th</sup> CAC meeting to give a brief District-wide AIS update. Flowering Rush management has been a topic of interest and will be discussed at the meeting.
  - The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) recently announced their annual AIS Research and Management Showcase event. This year, the event will be entirely online on Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. Garrett Miller will be in attendance.
  - On August 11<sup>th</sup>, Garrett Miller and Matt Downing of the WCD, performed the second and final veliger tow for the season on Bone Lake. Results are expected to be available sometime this Fall from the DNR.
  - On July 20<sup>th</sup>, Blue Water Science found 3 juvenile zebra mussels in Bone Lake while performing a point intercept survey. District staff have since then been communicating with the DNR and consultants. Given its distance from the 2019 treatment area, long-term monitoring is the District's primary option. News of this discovery will be sent to the Bone Lake Association, along with instructions on how to help monitor for zebra mussels.
- 3012 – Land Acquisition
    - A second appraisal for the Southern Bone Lake Agriculture and Wetland Property has been received. Staff will be sharing the report with the Board at the August 24th Board meeting.

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

- 5200 Lakes
  - Moody Lake:
    - Capstone: Project permitting and 90% design is underway. The project should be ready to go out to bid mid-September.
    - Soil samples of the spoils site were taken to establish baseline site conditions.

- Bone Lake:
  - NE Bone Lake Legacy Load Project: Staff removed the erosion control silt fence from the spoils area (Dahlin filed) as vegetation establishment has reached the appropriate levels.
- Little Comfort Lake:
  - Staff are investigating a potential location for a treatment facility or iron-enhanced sand filter along Heath Avenue North. Landowner outreach and evaluation against Watershed Management Plan criteria are underway.
- Shields Lake:
  - Shoreline Restoration: Staff are continuing to maintain the planted area to suppress non-native vegetation during the establishment phase. Due to the dry spring/early summer, most of the seed will be dormant until the fall or next spring.
- Lake Keewahtin:
- Forest Lake:
  - CR50 IESF: Staff continue to irrigate the project plantings. A project completion event is scheduled for August 30<sup>th</sup>. A tree will be planted at the event to commemorate the project. Project will be closed out soon after all punch list items are completed.
  - Alum Treatment: Contracting underway with the selected applicator. Project on schedule for implementation this fall. Continued outreach with the general public, lake shore landowners, and Forest Lake Lake Association (FLA).
- Comfort Lake:
  - Hwy 61 Sunrise River Wetland: A project completion event is scheduled for August 30<sup>th</sup>. Staff have planned a native seed dispersal with invited guests to commemorate the project. Project to be closed out soon after all punch list items are completed.



# Newsletter



## Living in our lakes

District staff have been hosting a weekly booth at Forest Lake's Arts in the Park. We're providing an opportunity for people of all ages to learn about the plants and animals that call our lakes home, like the damselfly featured in this issue's cover photo.

Learn more about upcoming activities and workshops on page 4.



## A new look

The District adopted a new logo and website earlier this year to improve the usability and accessibility of District materials. Explore the new website at [www.clflwd.org](http://www.clflwd.org).



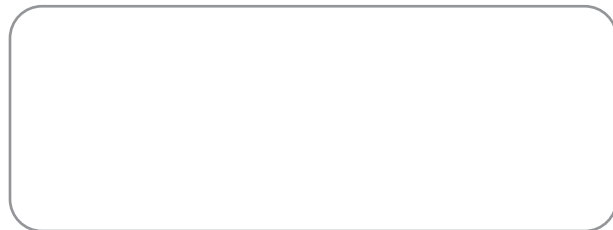
**CLFLWD**  
WATERSHED DISTRICT

## More native plants coming to Moody Lake



Moody Lake, located north of Bone Lake in Chisago City, is the focus of a native aquatic plant research project. The CLFLWD partnered with researchers from the University of Minnesota to transplant a variety of native aquatic plants into Moody Lake in early August. The goal of this project is to improve the diversity of the lake's plant community which had been previously damaged by invasive species.

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake  
Watershed District  
44 Lake St. South, Suite A  
Forest Lake, MN 55025







# Watersheds & Watershed Districts

## About Us

The Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District (CLFLWD) is a special purpose unit of local government that was formed by citizen petition in 1999. The District covers 49 square miles in northern Washington county and southern Chisago county. The District is tasked with maintaining and improving the area's water resources.



Learn more about our history online!

A watershed is an area of land where all water falling or flowing will drain to a common point. Watersheds aren't divided by political boundaries but by topography and flow of water. In the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed, water flows through a series of lakes, rivers, and public drainage systems to the Sunrise River and finally the St. Croix River.

In Minnesota, water resources are managed by watershed districts and watershed management organizations. Watershed districts work to solve and prevent water-related problems. Watershed districts are special purpose units of local government authorized by the 1955 Watershed Act (MSA103D).

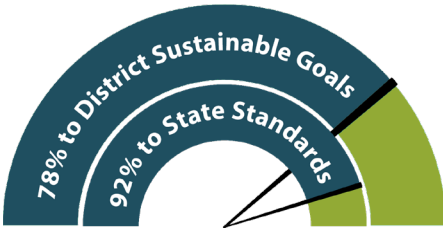
Watershed districts exist because water management issues frequently cannot be addressed solely within a single municipality or county. Solving these issues requires prioritization based on geographic and hydrologic needs and not political boundaries. The interconnected nature of waterways means that dollars spent in one city or county result in benefits for all other cities and counties in the watershed.

TOTAL GRANT DOLLARS

**\$5,000,000**

2023 GRANT DOLLARS

**\$533,600**



## Progress

As a whole, the District is 92% of the way to meeting the state standards for phosphorus reductions and 78% of the way to meeting the District's phosphorus goals.

The District's goals often exceed the state standards. Based on historic lake data that provides realistic and sustainable phosphorus data, the District's goals ensure our local lakes reach their full potential.

## Using Clean Water Fund grants to improve local water quality

The Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District (CLFLWD) is the biggest winner of Clean Water Fund Projects & Practices grants over the past ten years with a cumulative award of \$5 million between fiscal years 2014-2023.

In 2022 the District submitted 13 grant applications for a total request of \$1.4 million in grant funds. \$1.35 million in grant funds was awarded. The District was awarded a \$533,600 Clean Water Fund grant for the Forest Lake Alum Treatment Project (page 4) in fiscal year 2023.

The District's use of diagnostic monitoring to identify the most cost-effective water quality

projects has been key to its success in winning Clean Water Fund grants.

The District implements water quality projects based on the economic principles of cost-benefit. This process ensures that only the best projects, with the highest water quality benefits and return on investment, are brought forward and constructed.

The District has also received grant funding from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund, the Section 319 Small Watersheds Focus Program, and the Lower St. Croix Partnership's Watershed Based Implementation Funding.



## Love your lake? Love your shoreline.

Many of Minnesota's lakes are in trouble. Nearly half of Minnesota's natural shorelines have already been lost, and natural shoreline continues to vanish at an alarming rate.

Mowed shorelines allow 7 to 9 times more pollutants to enter the lake than a naturally vegetated shoreline. These pollutants accumulate in lakes, often creating serious water quality problems while also promoting algal blooms.

In addition to removing pollutants, Natural shorelines provide valuable habitat for fish and loons, frogs, butterflies, and more.

### Resources for protecting your local lakes & wetlands

Interested in supporting the health of your local lakes and wetlands? Want to stop or prevent shoreline erosion? Restoring your shoreline or wetland buffer may be the solution for you!



#### Mini Grant

**What:** Up to \$500 reimbursement to improve water quality within the watershed, either directly or through targeted education and outreach. Examples include: native plantings, buffer strips, water spout diversions & rain barrels, turf replacement, etc.

**Who:** Residents, homeowner associations, schools, non-profits, and businesses



#### Community Water Cost-Share

**What:** A competitive grant offering funding of up to 75% of approved costs, for highly ranked projects with a maximum of \$7,500. Eligible projects must improve water quality in the watershed district. Examples include: shoreline restorations, wetland restorations, raingardens, and/or labor conducted by an approved contractor.

**Who:** Residents, homeowner associations, schools, non-profits, and businesses



#### Legacy Payment Program

**What:** Landowners who meet the criteria outlined in this program can receive payments of up to \$300/yr. Criteria include the presence of high quality natural resources, compliance with all District rules and local ordinances, and shoreline or streambank buffers where applicable. Contact the District for the full criteria list.

**Who:** Residential land owners

#### Protecting and Restoring

The CLFLWD launched its new Comprehensive Shoreline Program in the spring of 2023. This program provides technical and financial resources to lake shore owners looking to restore and protect their shorelines. Technical resources include free site visits, planting maps, and tool rentals. Financial assistance includes grants, cost-sharing, and tax rebates.

To learn more about this program scan the QR code or visit our website [www.clflwd.org](http://www.clflwd.org).



### The search for a new office continues

The District's current office space has transferred ownership and no longer meets our needs. Attend our upcoming open house to learn more about the District's search for an office space and provide your feedback.

November 8th | 4:30 - 6:00pm  
44 Lake St. South, Suite A, Forest Lake

## Coming Soon! A cleaner and clearer Forest Lake

The CLFLWD will be conducting an alum treatment on Forest Lake in mid-September. This is an exciting milestone project that will result in cleaner and clearer water throughout all three basins of Forest Lake.

The lake will be treated with alum, a non-toxic chemical compound, that will bind to phosphorus in the water and make it unavailable for algae growth.

The watershed district targets phosphorus, because in excess amounts, it can promote algae growth and lower water quality. One pound of phosphorus can support the growth of up to 500 pounds of algae.

### Information Session

The District will be holding an alum treatment information on Saturday, August 26th from 10:00am to 12:00pm at the Hardwood Creek Library in Forest Lake. Stop by to learn more about this exciting project!

## Alum Facts

- ✓ Alum is safe for people, pets, and wildlife
- ✓ Alum has been used to treat drinking water for hundreds of years.
- ✓ Alum is applied by licensed professionals
- ✓ Only the middle basin will be treated, but all three basins will see benefits.
- ✓ Recreation will not be restricted during the treatment.
- ✓ Benefits are expected to last 10-15 years. Shoreline restorations can extend these benefits even longer (page 3).



Scan the QR code to learn more about this exciting project!



Alum application barge on Shields Lake

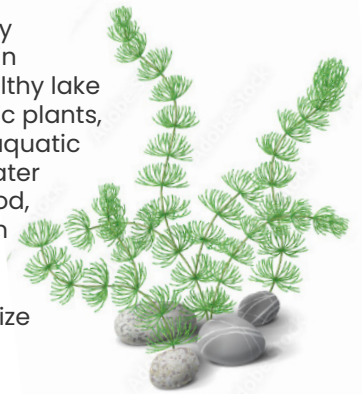


Moody Lake before (left) and after (right) alum treatment

## More Aquatic Plants?

Some additional aquatic plant growth may occur after the alum treatment. However, it is not expected to be a significant increase in plant abundance or distribution.

Aquatic plants play an important role in maintaining a healthy lake ecosystem. Aquatic plants, especially native aquatic plants, improve water quality, provide food, shelter and oxygen for fish, protect shorelines from erosion, and stabilize lake sediments.



## We're going digital! Sign-up for our online newsletter.

Beginning in 2024 the CLFLWD will be switching from one annual newsletter to four quarterly newsletters. These newsletters will be distributed digitally to reduce costs and provide more in-depth updates on watershed activities. Scan the QR code below to sign-up for the digital newsletter.

You can also follow us on social media @clflwd to receive the latest updates.



### August

8/26 Alum Info Session  
10:00am - 12:00pm  
Hardwood Creek Library

8/30 Project Celebration  
9:00 - 11:00am  
Lakeside Memorial Park

### September

9/14 Aquatic Plants for Kids  
3:00 - 5:00pm  
Hardwood Creek Library

9/14 Aquatic Plant Workshop  
5:30 - 6:30pm  
Hardwood Creek Library

9/25 Shoreline Workshop  
4:30 - 6:00pm  
CLFLWD Office

### October

10/21 Fall Yard Maintenance  
10:00am-12:00pm  
CLFLWD Office

### November

11/8 Open House  
4:30pm - 6:00pm  
CLFLWD Office



Learn more & RSVP online  
[clflwd.org/events](http://clflwd.org/events)

## Upcoming Activities & Workshops

The District hosts free workshops and hands-on activities for audiences of all ages including classroom visits, adult education, and service learning. If you're interested in learning more about these educational opportunities contact our Education & Outreach Coordinator, Jessica Lindemyer, at (651) 395-5858 or [jessica.lindemyer@clflwd.org](mailto:jessica.lindemyer@clflwd.org).



**CLFLWD**  
WATERSHED DISTRICT

# You're Invited!

## Project Completion Celebration



Join us on **Wednesday, August 30th from 9:00am-11:00am** to tour and celebrate two recently completed water quality improvement projects. Visit the project sites, see how they work, and learn about the benefits they have for our local lakes, rivers, and wetlands!

**RSVP Today!**

### The Projects:

#### **County Road-50 Iron Enhanced Sand Filter**

Located along County Road-50 on the south side of Forest Lake, this project treats nutrient rich water from Washington Judicial Ditch-6 keeping an estimated 97lb/yr of phosphorus from entering Forest Lake.

#### **Sunrise River HWY-61 Wetland Enhancement**

Located along HWY-61 just north of HWY 8 in Wyoming, this project provides numerous benefits to the Sunrise River and Comfort Lake including increased flood storage, restored wetland habitat, and estimated phosphorus reductions of up to 89lb/yr.

### Logistics:

Board a transit bus at Lakeside Memorial Park in Forest Lake at 9:00am on August 30th. Visit both project sites where you'll be given the option to disembark, learn how the project works, and join us in a celebration. The bus will return to the park at 11:00am.

Due to the physical constraints of the project sites and the proximity to high traffic roadways, individuals participating in the project tour and celebration must take the provided bus. If you need special accommodations please let us know.

**RSVP Today!**

### Questions?

#### **Jessica Lindemyer (She/Her)**

Education & Outreach Coordinator

**Phone** (651) 395-5858

**Email** [jessica.lindemyer@clflwd.org](mailto:jessica.lindemyer@clflwd.org)