



TO: (CLFLWD) Board of Managers

DATE: September 21, 2023

RE: Administrator's Report for the September 28, 2023, Regular Board Meeting

Administration (1000 series)

- 1001 – Board Administration
 - The Alum Treatment Kickoff Meeting is scheduled for September 26th at 10:00 am and has been posted as a special meeting to allow for three or more managers to be present.
- 1003 – General Administration
 - The last day for Office Manager, Bobbie Law, was September 20th and the last day for Education & Outreach Coordinator, Jessica Lindemyer, was September 22nd. Jess Hall, the Districts 2022 – 2023 Green Corps service member, completed her term with the District the first week of August. Seasonal employee, Victoria D'Amico, has joined the staff as a full-time employee as of August 31st.
 - Staff participated in a Data Practices Workshop on September 21st.

Programs (3000 series)

- 3002 – Permitting
 - Activity from August 20 to September 19
 - Six new permits were issued.
 - Three permits were closed out.
 - One hundred and forty-six inspections were completed.
- 3003 – Monitoring and Data Assessment
 - CAMP lake, CAT / DIY tributary, and Isco stream monitoring continuing as scheduled or as weather permits. The drought conditions have limited tributary and stream monitoring again this year.
- 3004 – Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement (Cost-Share)
 - Staff completed the 2023 Shoreline Inventories of Bone, Comfort, and Forest Lakes as of September 19th. Information on the inventory will be provided to the Board once the data has been processed.

- Two Mini Grant applications were approved, a 2022 plant grant and a 2023 mini grant were closed out.
- Staff have responded to 33 requests for technical assistance as of September 18th, compared to 20 requests at this time in 2022.
- Beth Carreño, Senior Program Manager, will be presenting at BWSR Academy in October with other members of the Natural Shoreline Partnership on shoreline initiatives.
- 3005 – Education and Outreach
 - District staff have been coordinating with area partners on developing a stormwater education survey targeted at homeowner’s associations.
 - District staff have been developing the initial components of a PR campaign to support the shoreline program.
 - Staff hosted a tour of the completed projects Sunrise River Highway-61 Wetland Enhancement and County Road 50 Iron Enhanced Sand Filter on August 30th. Board members and several partners attended the tour and participated in the celebration activities.
 - On September 14th, Jessica Lindemyer and Garrett Miller hosted an Aquatic Plant Workshop at the Hardwood Creek Library in Forest Lake, MN. For the first half, staff hosted a kid’s activity that showed off a variety of live aquatic plants. The second half featured an aquatic plant management presentation.
 - On September 21st, Garrett Miller and Aidan Read hosted an Aquatic Plant Scientist booth at the Chisago County Children’s Water Festival.
 - District staff hosted booths each Tuesday at the summer Arts in the Park program in Forest Lake. These events have ended for the season.
 - The District purchased a Blue Thumb roots display for events and other educational activities. The tabletop display is at the District office and is available for use.
 - Upcoming Events
 - Alum Treatment Kickoff Meeting | September 26th @ 10am
Managers received an email invite regarding this event on 9/18.
 - [Resilient Shoreline Workshop](#) | September 25th @4:30pm
 - [Fall Yard Maintenance](#) | October 21st @ 4:30pm

- [Open House](#) | November 8th @ 4:30pm
 - Publications
 - *Cleaner Water Has Arrived* by Jessica Lindemyer. Submitted to the Forest Lake Times and Chisago County Press on September 8th 2023. <https://www.cflwd.org/2023/09/cleaner-water-has-arrived/>
 - *Building resiliency, one garden at a time* by Angie Hong. Published online September 12th 2023. <https://eastmetrowater.org/2023/09/12/building-resiliency-one-garden-at-a-time/>
 - *Minnesota moves toward cleaner water, one storm drain at a time* by Angie Hong. Published online August 24th 2023 <https://eastmetrowater.org/2023/08/24/minnesota-moves-toward-cleaner-water-one-storm-drain-at-a-time/>
- 3006 – Technical Resource Sharing and Interagency Communication
 - Staff attended the monthly City of Forest Lake Engineers meeting on September 6th.
 - Staff hosted a coordination meeting with staff from Chisago County to discuss shared goals and priorities.
 - Staff coordinated efforts with staff from the City of Forest Lake to obtain their support for the Expedited Conservation Projects grant for Forest Lake North Shore Circle Shoreline Restoration (see below).
 - Staff attended a northeast metro kickoff discussion for the Met Council’s water supply planning efforts on August 28th.
 - The Clean Water Council (CWC) tour was held on September 19th and included a stop at the Sunrise River Highway – 61 Wetland Enhancement. In addition to speaking to the CWC and other attendees, District staff provided resource materials and site coordination.
- 3009 – Grant Research and Preparation
 - Grant applications submitted, as authorized by the Board:
 - Conservation Partners Legacy, Heath Avenue Land Acquisition: grant request \$140,000; match \$14,000.
 - Conservation Partners Legacy, Bone Lake South Land Acquisition: grant request \$500,000; match \$50,000.

- Expedited Conservation Projects, Forest Lake North Shore Circle Shoreline Restoration: grant request \$40,000; match \$4,000.
 - Staff sought out more information and contacted several organizations/agencies with respect to several new grant programs, as identified by Manager Anderson as a follow-up to budget discussions. Manager Anderson, Administrator Kinney, Emily Heinz and Beth Carreño met and discussed Manager Anderson's grants list on September 18th.
 - Staff submitted an application for the Department of Agriculture's Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Grant. The grant request of \$10,000 would be for equipment, restoration materials, staff time, and contracted services for buckthorn treatment on District owned properties, and other public property such as the DNR boat launches. There is no required match for this grant.
- 3010 – Operations and Maintenance
 - Staff have continued to evaluate all completed projects to assess project function and identify maintenance needs. Minor maintenance will be completed by staff and major maintenance will be planned for completion in 2024. To date, only buffer vegetation maintenance has been identified for two projects.
- 3011 – Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention & Management
 - Staff will be performing purple loosestrife treatment assessment surveys on Forest and Keewahtin Lakes during the week of September 18th.
 - District staff are working with PLM to include whole lake backpack spraying to our final flowering rush treatment, which is set to take place at the end of September.
 - The Forest Lake common carp survey began on September 6th and will be completed by the end of September. A population estimate report will be made available shortly after. Initial survey work indicates a fairly low population density.
 - Garrett Miller completed a write up on the Moody Lake native plant transplanting project and sent the U of M researchers a copy to aid in their study. Staff will check in with them next year to see if there are any updates or progress made on their study.
- 3012 – Land Acquisition & Management

- Staff continue to work on the Bone Lake South Wetland Acquisition, including landowner communications, additional grant application, partner coordination, and Lessard-Sams OHF grant administration. As noted earlier, an additional grant has been submitted and staff are coordinating with the MN Land Trust as a potential additional partner.
- 3013 – Watershed Planning & Resiliency
 - This topic was discussed at the September 14th meeting, and a scope of work is being brought forward for consideration.

Projects (5000 series)

- Moody Lake:
 - Capstone Projects: Project is out for bid, as authorized by the board on September 14th. Staff are working through the final permitting needs which should be secured by early October.
- Little Comfort Lake:
 - Staff are working on landowner outreach and the development of project concepts. These concepts will determine the footprint and land needed to be secured for the project. The associated concept modeling will offer estimates of phosphorus and TSS reduction as well as project cost benefits.
- Forest Lake:
 - Alum Treatment is scheduled for the week of September 25th. A small gathering informational demonstration is scheduled for Tuesday, September 26th. Board members from CLFLWD and the Forest Lake Lake Association, as well as members of the press, have been invited.
 - WJD-6 Western Tributary Wetland: Construction contracting underway, as authorized by the Board on September 14th.
- Comfort Lake:
 - Sunrise River/Highway 61 Wetland Enhancement: Project closeout is slated for this October. Project presentation to occur at the September 28th CLFLWD board meeting and then the October 23rd Lower St. Croix Policy Committee meeting. Staff attended the Clean Water Council tour on September 19th that featured a stop at the River/Highway 61 Wetland Enhancement project.