

## MEMORANDUM

To: **Comfort Lake - Forest Lake Watershed District Board of Managers**  
From: **Michael Welch**  
RE: **Smith Partners' chloride legislation support**  
Date: **October 18, 2023**

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Smith Partners has engaged with a small working group to support legislative and other efforts to reduce chloride pollution in lakes and streams of the state. The group – Sue Nissen and Barb Thoman, private citizen activists with a particular interest and significant experience in chloride reduction, and representatives of Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy – has focused on a final push in the 2024 legislative session for passage of a bill limiting liability for property owners and managers who are certified in and follow smart-salting practices. The group is also, however, assessing the viability and likely effectiveness of municipal licensing and other structural legal mechanisms to reduce chloride use. Smith Partners' primary role in the group has been and will continue to be legal analysis (e.g., assessing textual flaws in prior bills) and drafting legislation.

To date, Smith Partners' participation in the group has been supported by Nine Mile Creek Watershed District. Smith Partners is gauging other watershed district clients' interest in joining NMCWD to fund our engagement in the work.

I look forward to any questions and thoughts the managers may have at the October 26 meeting.

**Request:** *Authorize not-to-exceed \$3,000 for 2023-24 services developing and lobbying for legislation providing certified salt applicators with a limitation on property owner's liability and other efforts to reduce chloride pollution in Minnesota rivers and lakes.*

c/ Mike Kinney, Administrator