



TO: (CLFLWD) Board of Managers

DATE: January 16, 2024

RE: Administrator's Report for the January 25, 2024, Regular Board Meeting

Administration (1000 series)

- 1003 – General Administration
 - The Board will hold a special meeting to conduct the Administrator's yearly performance review.
 - Tori Philippi, the District's new Office Manager, joined the CLFLWD on January 2nd.
 - Our new Education & Outreach Coordinator, Adam Hjelm, will join the staff on January 24th. We will schedule a time for this person to meet the Board shortly afterwards.

Programs (3000 series)

- 3002 – Permitting – December 18, 2023 to Jan 17, 2024
 - Three permits were approved and became active
 - Three permit applications were received
 - 54 site inspections completed with 98% compliance rate
- 3003 – Monitoring and Data Assessment
 - Off season maintenance of monitoring field equipment.
 - Staff working on 2023 CAT & DIY monitoring report.
- 3004 – Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement (Cost-Share)
 - Evaluations of dead-end streets and city owned property terminating at Forest Lake were begun. The purpose of this effort is to catalog existing site conditions and prioritize these areas for future projects, including shoreline restorations.
- 3005 – Education and Outreach
 - Staff is completing the 2024 Education and Outreach Implementation Plan. Prioritization will be on the shoreline restoration effort, but it will include a wide variety of PR and outreach efforts. It will be shared with the Board soon.
- 3006 – Technical Resource Sharing and Interagency Communication



- Aidan Read met with technical staff from Washington Conservation District to review 2023 projects and plan coordination and workflow process for 2024. Specific items discussed included more engagement on agricultural BMPs and support for shoreline restoration projects.
- District staff met with Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District staff to review projects from 2023, and coordinate efforts for 2024.
- District staff participated in a subregional workshop on water supply hosted by Met Council and attended by regional community representatives. CLFLWD was requested to ensure watershed perspective in the planning process.
- Beth Carreño presented and participated in a panel on the Natural Shoreline Partnership and CLFLWD efforts to protect and restore shorelines at DNR's "The Roundtable" on January 19th.
- 3009 – Grant Research and Preparation
 - DNR Conservation Partners Legacy: The District received the DNR's award decisions for three recent grant applications under this program:
 - Bone Lake South Wetland Acquisition, \$500,000: Awarded! This grant will help fund a large land acquisition south of Bone Lake, in addition to a grant from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund. Landowner discussion regarding the acquisition is in progress.
 - Heath Avenue Iron Enhanced Sand Filter Acquisition, \$140,000: Not awarded. DNR staff indicated that the Technical Review Committee was mainly concerned about the parcel's small size, and the limited habitat benefits that are associated with smaller parcels.
 - North Shore Circle Park Shoreline Restoration, \$40,000: Not awarded. DNR staff indicated that the Technical Review Committee felt that the project footprint was far too small for the amount of funding requested. Staff has since revised the proposal and re-submitted it to the 3rd round of funding offered under this program. We revised the grant request to simplify the project scope, while maintaining minimum shoreline restoration specifications, and lowering the requested grant amount to \$26,000. The revised proposal has been submitted, and the award decision will be announced on February 16th.
 - LCCMR Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund: The grant RFP has been released. Staff will meet again with several other Lower St. Croix partners and



Minnesota Lakes and Rivers to continue developing a partnership grant proposal to this program in order to implement shoreline restorations and aquatic invasive species prevention.

- Access Philanthropy: Staff continue to meet with Access Philanthropy and receive updates on the office space fundraising feasibility effort. The report will be brought to the February 22nd regular board meeting.
- 3010 – Operations and Maintenance
 - Aerator newspaper notification submitted by Mr. Miller as per the requirements of the DNR aerator operation permit. Staff anticipates activating the aerators after ice is safe to access. Anticipated mid to late January this year.
- 3011 – Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Management
 - District staff are updating materials and preparing to start advertising the watercraft inspector positions for the 2024 season.
 - Staff have finished an initial draft of the AIS Comprehensive Plan and are working internally to review and improve it before bringing it to the board.
 - Garrett has confirmed with the Bone Lake Association that he will be attending their February 6th meeting to discuss the AIS yearend reports.
- 3012 – Land Acquisition & Management
 - Continued outreach and coordination with the Southern Bone Lake Wetland landowner and Heath Ave N. landowners. An appraisal update is underway for the Bone Lake property.
 - The partnership with Great River Greening to restore the North Shore Trail Nature Area moved forward with the selection of a contractor for the removal of hazard trees, invasive woody species, and the development of a woodchip hiking trail system. This work will be completed this winter.
- 3013 – Watershed Planning & Resilience
 - Staff and EOR continue to make progress on the Flood Risk Assessment, including an initial meeting with local city engineers to do a preliminary review of desktop analysis findings. These findings will be brought to a board meeting in February.



Projects (5000 series)

- Moody Lake:
 - Capstone Project: Final DNR permit received. Pre-construction meeting held on the 4th - Chisago Lake Township staff was in attendance. The contractor is scheduled to begin work on the Moody Park project elements on January 22. The Moody Wetland excavation is scheduled for February 5th, and the Moody Park improvements scheduled for April 1st. All dates are weather dependent and thus tentative.
 - Within the grant budget / work plan, \$8,500 was transferred from the construction line item to the engineering line item to cover additional project engineering. The project is still currently under budget and thus these funds are available. The \$8,500 is under the 10% (of the grant total) that can be reallocated without an official grant workplan revision or needed BWSR approval.
- Little Comfort Lake:
 - Staff are continuing feasibility of the iron enhanced sand filter (IESF) concept along Heath Ave N. An appraisal of the property was completed and shared with the Board at the January 9th special meeting. Next steps would be to meet with the landowners to negotiate a purchase price.
- Forest Lake:
 - WJD-6 Western Wetland: Site Preparation began in mid-December. Wetland excavation is scheduled to begin the week of January 22nd but is ultimately dependent on weather conditions and frost depth in the wetland. All vegetation restoration work will occur in the spring.