



TO: (CLFLWD) Board of Managers

DATE: March 21, 2024

RE: Administrator's Report for the March 28, 2024, Regular Board Meeting

Administration (1000 series)

- 1001 – Board Administration
 - Special Board Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 26th at 2:00 pm.
- 1003 – General Administration
 - Staff have been reviewing the results of the energy audit, implementing strategies to save energy / dollars, and preparing recommendations for addressing larger issues.
 - Staff have been working with the building owners to address maintenance items including lightbulb replacement and plumbing repairs.
 - The 2023 audit began March 21st and 22nd. Staff have spent the weeks before preparing for the effort.

Programs (3000 series)

- 3002 – Permitting
 - Between February 18, 2024, and March 18, 2024, 79 site inspections were completed with a 95% compliance rate. 6 permits were approved, and 1 application was received.
- 3003 – Monitoring & Data Assessment
 - 2024 Monitoring plan accepted by the Board on March 14th.
 - All equipment has been serviced and is ready for deployment into the field in early April.
 - 2023 DIY/CAT report and 2023 Water Quality Monitoring Report draft complete and ready for Board review.
- 3004 – Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement (Cost-Share)
 - Staff presented shoreline inventory and cost-share information to the Comfort Lakes Association's winter meeting.



- Three site visits were conducted on Comfort Lake with a 4th site visit held at a different location; staff continue to provide planting and project support to 12 open cost-share projects.
- The Farmer-led Council meeting was held on February 28th and was attended by six area farmers.
- Staff presented on the comprehensive shoreline and cost-share programs to the Minnesota Implementers / Confluence of MN Watershed Leaders on March 20th.
- 3005 – Education & Outreach
 - A workshop for shoreline contractors was held on March 4th in coordination with EMWREP partners. The event was well attended by 26 participants. Aidan Read was one of the presenters and Adam Hjelm attended.
 - Bone Lake shoreline informational mailers were sent out. Included was the flyer for the upcoming April 3 informational meeting at the Scandia Community Center. An article on the Bone Lake delisting and the District ran on the front page of the Forest Lake Times on March 20th (“Bone Lake removed from the impaired list”)
 - Comfort Lake shoreline informational meeting is scheduled for April 23 at Lord of the Lakes Lutheran Church.
 - Forest Lake shoreline informational meeting is scheduled for April 29 at the Forest Lake Senior Community Center.
 - Six workshops have been scheduled with the Chisago Lakes Community Education. Registration will open and catalogs will be mailed out by the school district in early April.
 - On March 9th, Adam Hjelm attended the Chisago Master Gardener’s Garden Expo. Topics included Lawns to Legumes keynote, Rain Gardens, and Native Plant basics.
 - Staff attended a planning open house for the We Are Water traveling exhibit that will be hosted in Chisago County June 20th – August 12th. Staff are looking at opportunities to support the effort, participate, and promote the District.
- 3006 – Interagency Communication



- Forest Lake monthly engineer's meeting was on March 6th. CLFLWD staff are working with city staff to ensure these meetings are meaningful and result in strategic collaborations.
- The Wyoming quarterly meeting was held on March 13th. City Administrator Robb Linwood stated his appreciation for these consistent conversations.
- The Scandia quarterly meeting is scheduled for March 28th.
- The Washington Conservation District quarterly coordination meeting was held on March 19th.
- 3007 – Research
 - University of St Thomas students conducting research on the BBSLC channel as part of their Spring semester Environmental Science course.
 - The St. Anthony Falls Gulliver Group has contacted the District about research/monitoring of the CR50 IESF. They will evaluate the site this spring to determine if it is appropriate to include it in their IESF study.
- 3008 – Measurement of Progress
 - The District received a nice shoutout in the 2024 Clean Water Fund Performance Report for our work to delist Bone Lake from the impaired waters list. See page 40 and 41 of the report, which is available at www.legacy.mn.gov/2024-clean-water-fund-performance-report.
- 3009 – Grant Research & Preparation
 - Several grant applications were recently submitted or are in progress: Laura Jane Musser Fund, GreenCorps Host Site, Watershed Based Implementation Funding, Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, BWSR Water Quality & Storage Grant, PCA Local Climate Action grant.
 - Recently awarded grants: Expedited Conservation Projects, Clean Water Fund, Conservation Partners Legacy.
- 3010 – Operations & Maintenance
 - Staff are working with EOR to develop an O&M database to assist with ongoing evaluation and maintenance of past projects.
 - Staff have reached out to several contractors to assist with vegetation buffer maintenance on several past projects for this coming field season.



- The CR50 IESF system was reactivated on March 20th in anticipation of future runoff draining through the upper reaches of WJD-6.
- 3011 – Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention & Management
 - Garrett Miller has attended several DNR hosted AIS Webinars in March. Topics have included updated on the latest MAISRC research, lake access AIS prevention projects, purple loosestrife biocontrol, and many other topics.
 - On March 6th, Garrett Miller hosted a meeting with FLLA members, Blue Water Science, and Patrick Selter from PLM Lake and Land Management Corp. We discussed AIS management on Forest Lake, with a focus on developing our flowering rush management plan for 2024.
 - On April 5th, Garrett Miller will be attending a Macrophyte Revegetation Workshop hosted by the University of Minnesota. This workshop is hosted by the researchers who staff worked with to implement the Moody Lake revegetation project. Staff are expected to receive details on how they can continue to support the U of M's ongoing revegetation research.
 - The watercraft inspection program has hired 4 inspectors so far, with another 4 being sent offer letters during the week of March 18th. Staff are anticipating a full team of inspectors by the start of the watercraft inspection season.
- 3012 – Land Acquisition & Management
 - Continued landowner outreach and coordination on the Southern Bone Lake Property and Heath Ave N property.
 - The North Shore Trail Nature Area restoration phase one was completed. The removal of hazard (dead) ash trees and woody invasives, and trail creation were completed during this phase. Next steps will be to monitor spring green up and formulate vegetation management as part of phase II of the restoration.
- 3013 – Watershed Planning & Resilience
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Projects (5000 series)

- Moody Lake
 - Moody Capstone: The Round Barn and Moody Wetland projects are largely complete – just need final restoration and tree/shrub/plug planting this spring. The Moody Park raingarden will begin construction in late April.



- Bone Lake
 - Moody Capstone Spoils have been removed from the property near Bone Lake and the area has been seeded and stabilized with straw mulch and biologs.

- Little Comfort Lake
 - Heath Ave IESF: An appraisal and contingent purchase agreement have been completed/drafted. This information will be shared with the landowners on March 28th. We hope this meeting informs us of the potential next steps for the project.

- Shields Lake
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- Lake Keewahtin
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- Forest Lake
 - WJD6 Wetland: The project is largely complete with only final restoration and tree/shrub/plug planting to occur this spring. The excavated area has filled with water in response to spring thaw and we anticipate a quick green up in the wetland habitat.

- Comfort Lake
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Forest Lake Natural Shorelines Informational Meeting

April 29th, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Forest Lake Senior Community Center
767 4th St. SW
Forest Lake, MN 55025

Aidan Read, Comfort Lake - Forest Lake Watershed District Land Management Specialist, will be leading our discussion at this informational meeting for Forest Lake's shoreline property owners.

We will be discussing...

What are natural shorelines?

How can natural shorelines help Forest Lake?

What does the CLFLWD shoreline survey tell us?

How can landowners get involved?

How can the District help landowners with financial and technical resources and support?

Any questions about the informational meeting or about natural shorelines in general can be directed to Aidan Read at 651-583-6590 or aidan.read@clflwd.org

*Share with your neighbors;
make the Lake Connections.*



Comfort Lakes Natural Shorelines Informational Meeting

April 23rd, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Lord of the Lakes Lutheran Church
25402 Itasca Avenue
Forest Lake, MN 55025

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Education and Outreach Events with Chisago Lakes Community Education

May - August 2024



Planning and Planting a Pollinator Garden – May 13

A native wildflower garden will attract beautiful butterflies and bees to your yard and help pollinators stay healthy. You can plant a garden anywhere from the tiniest corner of your city lot to an open prairie setting and about anything in between. We will cover it all from weeds to seeds and start to bountiful blooms. Participants will receive a native plant book, and several door prizes will be given away from local plant specialists.

Pollinator Friendlier Lawns – May 23

We love our lush green lawns, maybe a bit too much? Join us to learn what else we can plant to benefit the bees and birds, while also keeping some green turf. We will discuss lawn alternatives that are more environmentally friendly that will keep your backyard buzzing. Small changes can go a long ways towards the environment while saving you time and money. Participants will receive a native plant book, and several door prizes will be given away from local plant specialists.

Native Plants for Wet Ground – June 6

Do you have a ditch, shoreline, or wetland on your property you want to spruce up beyond cattails and swamp grass? Do you have an area of yard where the grass just won't grow because it is wet most of the time? There are lots of varieties of natives and non-native perennials that can be used to add color, texture, and eye-appeal that don't mind having wet toes. Let's figure out how to add an aesthetic splash into that soggy site. Participants will receive a native plant book, and several door prizes will be given away from local plant specialists.



The Many Minnesota Milkweeds – June 27

We have over a dozen Milkweeds that are native to Minnesota. Let's chat about the wide variety of these great pollinator plants! Some are wildly popular and very common growing in gardens and local sceneries. We also will discuss where to buy milkweed plants and seed, plus how and where to add these pollinator magnets to your landscapes. Participants will receive a native plant book, and several door prizes will be given away from local plant specialists.

Rain Barrels – July 15

Rain barrels harvest rainwater from roofs and other structures that can then be used to water gardens, lawns, and potted plants. Installing a rain barrel is an excellent way to reduce run-off and pollution as well as save MONEY! As much as 40% of residential water is used for irrigation in the summer. Participants will learn the ins and outs of rain barrels, site selection, and other tips to use rain barrels most efficiently. We will also talk about the pros and cons of many of the commercially available rain barrels and how to make your own. Participants will receive a native plant book, and one lucky participant will win a rain barrel!



Rain Gardens – July 25

Do you want a rain garden that looks beautiful year-round, requires little maintenance, and will look great year after year? Learn about the latest trend in landscaping including sizing, location, installation and plant selection for your rain garden and rainwater harvesting. With the wide variety of plants and materials available you can create a rain garden with a natural wild look or an organized planting suitable for the most refined settings. Participants will receive a native plant book, and several door prizes will be given away from local plant specialists.

All classes will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Wildcat Community Center located at:
29330 Olinda Trail, Lindstrom, MN 55045.

Registration can be done through the Chisago Lakes School District's Community Education website at
<https://ce.isd2144.org/> or by calling 651-213-2600.

Questions about the classes can be directed to Adam at adam.hjelm@clflwd.org or calling 651-395-5858.