

Cormorant Lakes Watershed District

Advisory Committee Minutes

August 20, 2025

The Cormorant Lakes Watershed District's Advisory Committee was held at the Cormorant Town Hall/Community Center, District Office, 10929 County Highway #5, Cormorant, MN at 5:30 p.m.

Those present were CLWD Managers: Ellis Peterson, Jeff Moritz (via phone) and Mike Foley; Owen Reding, Shoreland Technician and Liz Larson, Administrator. Committee Members: Honorable Jay D. Carlson, Bryan Malone, Pete Waller, Robin Carlson, Angela Skogen, Tim DeJong, Dennis Bartunek and Ed Clem.

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm.

- Introductions
- Budget
 - Budget discussion for increase due to new staff position
 - Staff Position needed for:
 - Permit Administration
 - Inspections
 - Site Visits
 - Grant Writing
 - Education
 - Miscellaneous
 - Jeff Moritz commented and made summary about CLWD needs
 - Mike Foley & Ellis Peterson discussed about CLWD position and budget options
 - Reviewed spreadsheet about potential options for CLWD staff expansion
 - Bryan Malone discussed about making a full time with SWCD excepting permit system.
 - Jay Carlson noted he liked a full time position option, with allowing a comfortable reserve.
 - Bryan Malone noted having 3-6 months in reserves before money influx.
 - Discussion of Owen's position and his duties. Noting the new staff person will not be taking duties from Owen and his position remains intact with shared funding with Otter Tail Watershed.
 - Boat discussion-buying for CLWD and storage options.

- Tim DeJong-discussion of grant writing
- Discussion about staff position being part time or full time.
- Jay Carlson made a motion for setting budget levy amount for 200,000 for position, at least 25 hours a week or as needed. 2nd Dennis Bartunek. All in favor.
- Pete Waller noted that the managers at CLWD are very hands on, BWSR would prefer the Board be policy makers.
- Discussions
 - Dennis discussed common sense application of the Rules with further discussion about permit system.
 - Retaining walls discussion
 - Showed Committee permit system and ran through recent permits.

Next Meeting: Future meetings requested to be set in Spring 2026.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:02 PM.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Liz Larson, CLWD Administrator.