

# Cormorant Lakes Watershed District

## Advisory Committee Minutes

July 17, 2025

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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, 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, and Karl Koenig.

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Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm.

- Introductions
- Karl Koenig-AIS Presentation
  - AIS Explorer-what data collectors use to collect data
  - AIS invasive plants -can have treatment options
  - Rake toss
  - Starry Stonewort-Macro Algae
    - First found in 2015
    - Monitoring
    - Can be managed by minimizing the impacts
  - Zebra Mussels
    - Very little economic impact
  - Eurasian Milfoil
    - Minimal in our area
    - A lot of money spent locating
    - Herbicide
  - Funding
    - Half the amount of funding projected in 2027.
    - Monitoring will continue to expand
  - Starry Trek 2025
    - University of Minnesota
    - Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>
    - Citizen's training
    - Volunteer online
  - Mystery Snail
  - Swimmer's Itch discussion

- Prevention and treatment methods
    - Pelican Lake discussion
  - AIS Scuba inspections
    - Some also map all the aquatic life on the lake.
      - Detailed enough to be usable maps.
- Watershed Overview by CLWD Board:
  - Ellis Peterson
    - Blue Water Bay (BWB) Project
      - Angie discussed the BWB project and the next phase of the project.
      - 19 trees added from CLWD tree program.
      - BWB Channel Discussion
  - Jeff Moritz
    - Discussion of the chain of lakes in CLWD
    - Violation issues
      - Contractor training-SWCD, next spring potentially
    - Discussion of services CLWD provides
    - Highlights the mission of CLWD to be water quality oriented.
  - Mike Foley
    - Tree program discussion
    - Additional employee
      - Noted he would like to see a full time employee or at least a half time technician.
      - Managers noted more or hiring a part time technician would be great to keep up with the flow of work.
    - Inspections
- Advisory Committee Discussion
  - Budget
    - Members would like to see what current levy is per \$100,000 in value and other amounts like per 500,000 or 1,000,000.
    - Expansion of CLWD boundaries.
    - Discussion of increasing for a part time or half time position.
    - To be tabled for an August Advisory Committee meeting pending information gathering.
  - Cormorant Daze
    - Bar coasters from SWCD discussion
    - Pamphlets from SWCD
  - Heartland Trail discussion
    - Expansion from Detroit Lakes to Lake Park possibly through the lakes area including CLWD area.

- Jay Carlson asked if CLWD would ne interested in supporting the route and come through Cormorant, connecting from Detroit Lakes to Lake Park.
- Need CLWD to research and entertain a motion to support the expansion through. Will be an open house in August through Becker County.
- Mike Foley asked Jay to write up a motion for CLWD to review.
- Tim DeJong had comments about CLWD and publicizing successes.
  - Community Award or Project of the Year awards-incentivizing conservation projects in District.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be scheduled for August. Future meetings requested to be set in early spring and budget review in July or August.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Liz Larson, CLWD Administrator.