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CLFLWD Watercraft Inspection Program Yearend Summary

The 2017 watercraft inspection season ended on October 15th. Below is a summary of the season’s metrics:

Total Inspection Hours

This summer we hired four full-time level 1 inspectors, four part-time level 1 inspectors (approximately 20 hours per week), and three rotating level 2 inspectors operating a decontamination unit. As in previous years, the decontamination unit was mobile and rotated between 11 accesses in Chisago and Washington Counties, including Forest 1 and Forest 3. The level 1 inspectors were not permitted to use the decontamination unit, and instead completed visual inspections of the watercraft.

The following table summarizes the number of inspection hours completed by District-hired inspectors this summer (including Chisago joint program inspectors, excluding DNR inspectors):

	Total Inspections	Paid Hours	Inspection Rate (Inspections/Hour)	Target Hours	Percent of Target Hours
Forest 1 (Lakeside Park)	2,972	994.50	3.0	833.3	119%
Forest 2 (Willow Point)	1,144	741.75	1.5	833.3	89%
Forest 3 (Hagberg)	2,501	1,015.50	2.5	833.3	122%
Bone Lake	277	315.00	0.9	300.0	105%
Comfort Lake	610	659.50	0.9	650.0	101%
Total/Average (CLFLWD)	7,504	3,726	2.0	3,450	107%

Since Forest Lake is a high-traffic and high-priority lake for the state of Minnesota as a whole, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) hired their own inspectors to conduct inspections throughout the summer at Lakeside Park in Forest Lake at no additional cost to the District. In 2017, the DNR contributed 310 hours of level 2 inspections which all took place at Forest Lake 1.

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The following table summarizes the combined number of inspection hours completed by District-hired staff and DNR-hired staff this summer:

	Total Inspections	Total Hours	Inspection Rate (Inspections/Hour)
Forest 1 (Lakeside Park)	3,708	1,304.50	2.8
Forest 2 (Willow Point)	1,144	741.75	1.5
Forest 3 (Hagberg)	2,501	1,015.50	2.5
Bone Lake	277	315.00	0.9
Comfort Lake	610	659.50	0.9
Total/Average (CLFLWD + DNR)	8,240	4,036.25	2.0

For comparison, during the entire 2016 season, a total of 4,033 inspections were performed over 3,077.5 hours. This resulted in an average inspection rate of 1.3 inspections per hour.

Survey Results

As mentioned above, a total of **8,240** surveys have been performed on CLFLWD lakes this season. Below are some findings from the compiled inspection survey data for all three District lakes (Forest, Bone, Comfort):

- **5.4%** of boaters **entering** the water had **plants, animals, water, mud**, etc. on their boat at the time of inspection. This can be compared to 2.4% in 2016 and 1.6% in 2015.
- **3.8%** of boaters **arriving** at the launch had their **drain plug in** at the time of inspection. This can be compared to 3.1% in 2016 and 4.8% in 2015.

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Days Worked

Below is a summary of the day distribution of hours worked during the 2017 season:

Monday	9%
Tuesday	11%
Wednesday	10%
Thursday	11%
Friday	21%
Saturday	21%
Sunday	16%

Last Lake Visited

As part of the inspection process, incoming and outgoing watercraft users are asked which lake they last visited. The following table summarizes the ten most frequent previous lakes for watercraft users that were inspected at CLFLWD lakes. Note: CLFLWD lakes were excluded from this list.

Lake	Number of Occurrences
Big Marine	170
Coon	147
White Bear	137
Green	112
St. Croix River	109
Minnetonka	87
Mille Lacs	85
Bald Eagle	80
Clear	80
Chisago	73

Risk of New Aquatic Invasive Species

Starry stonewort and the spiny water flea are two examples of aquatic invasive species found in Minnesota that are not yet in CLFLWD lakes. Starry stonewort is an invasive algae that forms dense mats in lakes that impede boating and prevent the establishment of native (beneficial) plants. Starry stonewort was discovered in Lake Koronis near Paynesville, MN in 2015 and has since been discovered in ten additional lakes across the state.

The spiny water flea is an invasive species of zooplankton which is about the size of a grain of rice that competes with small fish for the same food resource (other zooplankton). The spiny water flea was first discovered in Lake Superior in the early-1980s and has since spread to more than 35 inland lakes in Minnesota including: Mille Lacs Lake, Lake Vermilion, Lake of the Woods, and others. Both of these invasive species are thought to be transported primarily by recreational watercraft.

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Part of the inspection survey involves asking the boaters which lake they visited last. I looked through this data to determine the risk of introduction for CLFLWD lakes from lakes infested with starry stonewort and the spiny water flea. Here is what I found:

- 171 boats launching into CLFLWD lakes came from lakes infested with the spiny water flea. In 2016, this number was 231 boats.
- 14 boats launching into CLFLWD lakes came from lakes infested with the starry stonewort. This number was 83 in 2016.

These and more data will be presented at the December 21st regular meeting of the Board of Managers.