

November 18, 2025

## LCCMR request for Emerging Issues Grant Funding

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Cedar Lake in Scott County (DOW #70009100) has recently been confirmed as infested with zebra mussel larvae (veligers) and visible zebra mussels found on recently removed lifts and docks by the Minnesota DNR. Zebra mussels are an invasive species that disrupt aquatic ecosystems by filtering out plankton, reducing food availability for native fish, and encrusting docks, lifts, and water intake systems. They also increase water clarity, which promotes excessive plant growth and harmful algal blooms. In addition, Cedar Lake faces a growing threat from **Starry Stonewort**, an invasive algae that forms dense mats, displaces native vegetation, and impedes recreation. These infestations jeopardize water quality, fisheries, and recreational use of the lake.

Until July 2025, Cedar Lake was primarily managed for curly-leaf pondweed and carp control. Zebra mussels were not detected in prior surveys, and Starry Stonewort had not been reported in Scott County. The discovery of zebra mussel (veligers) this summer was unexpected and represents a rapid ecological shift. Waiting for the next standard funding cycle would allow these species to establish and spread to connected waters, making eradication or containment nearly impossible.

The Cedar Lake Improvement District proposes installing **two high-capacity watercraft cleaning and decontamination stations** at primary public access points. These stations will provide free, high-pressure/vacuum decontamination to help prevent zebra mussels and Starry Stonewort from spreading to other lakes. The project will include signage, public education, and volunteer monitoring. This approach aligns with Minnesota DNR best practices for aquatic invasive species containment and complements ongoing herbicide treatments for curly-leaf pondweed.

Without immediate action, zebra mussels will reproduce and spread to downstream waters, causing irreversible ecological damage. Infestations lead to:

- Collapse of native mussel populations.
- Increased mercury accumulation in fish, posing health risks to anglers.
- Dense mats of Starry Stonewort that block boat access and degrade habitat.

Delaying intervention until the next funding cycle would result in higher costs, reduced recreational use, and long-term impairment of Cedar Lake water quality.

The zebra mussel infestation was confirmed in late summer 2025, after the most recent LCCMR RFP deadline. The urgency of preventing spread to other lakes and mitigating ecological harm necessitates use of the **Emerging Issues Account**, which is designed for unexpected and time-sensitive environmental threats.

- CLID has coordinated with Scott County and the Minnesota DNR to update infested waters signage.
- Public education campaigns have begun through social media and local newsletters.
- Herbicide treatments for curly-leaf pondweed continue under the Lake Vegetation Management Plan.
- CLID has identified suitable locations with the help of DNR Parks & Trails, for decontamination stations and secured preliminary vendor quotes.

**Here are the planned next steps:**

- Finalize station design and vendor contracts (by Dec. 2025).
- Install and operationalize two cleaning stations before peak boating season (by May 2026).
- Launch AIS education program and volunteer monitoring (ongoing through 2026).

**Primary Outcomes:**

- Reduce risk of zebra mussel and Starry Stonewort spread to other lakes.
- Protect Cedar Lake's water quality and recreational value.
- Increase public compliance with AIS prevention laws.

**Completion Date:**

Full implementation by **May 31, 2026**, with monitoring and reporting through the 2026 boating season.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Vollmar – CLID Board Member

[Larryvollmar2019@gmail.com](mailto:Larryvollmar2019@gmail.com)

612-402-0380

**Attachment A:**  
**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Budget**  
**Emerging Issues Budget Addendum**



**Legal Citation:**

**Project Manager:**

Larry Vollmar

**Project Title:**

Cedar Lake AIS Project

**Organization:**

Cedar Lake Improvement District

**Project Budget:**

**Project Length and Completion Date:**

Expect completion by May, 2026

**Current Date:**

11/18/2025

BUDGET ITEM	Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	Justification for Generally Ineligible Expenses (if applicable)
<b>Personnel (Wages and Benefits)</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	
<b>Services and Subawards</b>				
Spare Hand Tool Kit	\$240	\$0	\$240	
Winterization Cover	\$1,275	\$0	\$1,275	
Site Fence (DNR recommended)	\$400	\$0	\$400	
	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	\$0	\$0	\$0	
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies</b>				
CD3 Wayside Trailer Assembly	\$43,150	\$0	\$43,150	
CD3 Outpost Assembly	\$17,500	\$0	\$17,500	
Shipping for CD3	\$800	\$0	\$800	
Shipping for CD3 Outpost	\$800	\$0	\$800	
	\$0	\$0	\$0	
<b>Capital Expenditures Over \$5,000</b>				
	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	\$0	\$0	\$0	
<b>Printing and Publication</b>				

Exterior Wrap / Signage CD3	\$1,650	\$0	\$1,650	
Exterior Wrap / Signage CD3 Outpost	\$1,120	\$0	\$1,120	
	\$0	\$0	\$0	
<b>Travel Expenses In Minnesota</b>				
	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	\$0	\$0	\$0	
<b>Travel Expenses Outside Minnesota</b>				
	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	\$0	\$0	\$0	
<b>Other</b>				
Software Set-up on-line platform	\$1,600	\$0	\$1,600	
Software Annual fee	\$1,275	\$0	\$1,275	
Concrete base for CD3 Outpost	\$560		\$560	
Concrete base for CD3	\$800	\$0	\$800	
<b>COLUMN TOTAL</b>	<b>\$71,170</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$71,170</b>	

<b>SOURCE AND USE OF OTHER FUNDS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Status (secured, pending, or potential)</b>
<b>Non-State:</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	
<b>State:</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	
<b>In kind:</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	

<b>OTHER ENRTF APPROPRIATIONS AWARDED IN THE LAST SIX YEARS</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Amount legally obligated but not yet spent</b>
	\$0	\$0	\$0	

November 18, 2025

## **AIS Shielding and Containment on Cedar Lake**

### **Organization Description**

The Cedar Lake Improvement District (CLID) was established in 1981 by the Scott County Board of Commissioners at the urging of residents within the Cedar Lake area. The CLID consists of 7 volunteer board directors and includes properties in both Cedar Lake and Helena Townships. The mission and focus of the CLID is to undertake and manage activities to improve the water quality in Cedar Lake.

Over the years, the CLID has successfully initiated several projects, including the Cedar Lake Area Sanitary Sewer Project and improvement to the major water inlet located at the south end of the lake. Since 2012, the CLID board has been actively engaged with the Scott County Watershed Management Organization (SCWMO) and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to implement a multi-year effort to reduce Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP), a non-native aquatic invasive species, in order to restore native plants that were greatly impacted by the overwhelming dominance of the CLP for many years. Additionally, many efforts have been made to reduce the population of common carp, also a non-native aquatic invasive species, since they severely impact the water quality in shallower lakes. Due to their bottom feeding habits, carp dig up shallow rooted plants, muddy the waters which then release phosphorous into the lake and thus increase algae.

At the CLID's 2012 annual meeting, the board presented a lake treatment plan to reduce and control the CLP and to remove carp from Cedar. The large number of residents attending the meeting overwhelmingly voted in support of the plan (83% in favor) by approving a 10-year tax levy to fund the program along with matching funds from SCWMO and possible grants from the DNR and others. Great strides have been made in reducing the CLP with many native plants returning.

Strong volunteer efforts have allowed for a variety of projects to be completed and cooperation with the DNR assures that space at DNR landings is committed and striping and signage will be supplied.

### **Project Description**

We at Cedar Lake Improvement District propose to install (2) CD3 Wayside Solar units, a waterless boat cleaning station with wet/dry vacuum, air blower, and cleaning implements, at the (2) DNR public boat launches on Cedar Lake, Scott County, Minnesota in the spring of 2026. Aquatic invasive species pose a threat to the health of aquatic ecosystems in Cedar Lake and the CD3 units will provide recreationists with the tools they need to clean, drain, and dry their watercraft and trailers, which are primary sources of AIS and Zebra Mussel spread.

They can outcompete and displace native plant and animal species, thereby disrupting food webs and impacting natural resource use by humans. Measures are required to prevent their spread and mitigate their harm. With this project, we propose to install (2) CD3 stations at the (2) DNR public boat launches in the Northeast and Northwest corners of Cedar Lake, Scott County, Minnesota, which will provide recreationists with the tools they need to clean, drain, and dry their watercraft and trailers.

Boaters and other aquatic recreationists are encouraged to “clean, drain, dry, and dispose,” to ensure that they do not spread invasive species on their watercraft or other equipment. Much of the risk of spread can be addressed by providing day use boaters with the tools to follow best management practices. A CD3 system station is a waterless self-service station with tools that boaters can use to effectively clean, drain, and dry their watercraft and trailer. CD3 Systems, when combined with DNR provided signage, have been shown to reduce AIS violation rates by greater than 70%. In addition, research studies by the University of MN, University of WI, and Three Rivers Park District have shown the effectiveness of CD3 Systems to remove water from live wells and bilges to be as effective at removing AIS as a trained inspector. CD3 Systems are accepted by the public as an easy-to-use solution.

The goal of a CD3 stations at Cedar Lake boat launches is to augment the MN DNR’s AIS prevention education and to provide an on-site, easy-to-use, self-serve facility that day boaters can use to clean their boat with a vacuum, removing water and aquatic invasive species.

We have selected the (2) boat access locations on Cedar Lake for the CD3 station sites. The CD3 unit will be placed utilizing MN DNR long-term lease on these sites. Cedar Lake Improvement District’s AIS program will provide ongoing maintenance and promotion of the project.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Vollmar – CLID Board Member

[Larryvollmar2019@gmail.com](mailto:Larryvollmar2019@gmail.com)

612-402-0380

*CD3, General Benefit Corporation*

*PO Box 4213 Saint Paul, MN 55104*

*www.CD3Systems.com*

*612-568-8310*

*TO: LCCMR: Emerging Issues Grant*

*FROM: CD3, General Benefit Corporation*

*RE: AIS Shielding and Containment at Cedar Lake*

*Greetings,*

*We are pleased to provide this letter of support for Cedar Lake*

*Improvement District's emerging issues project to provide invasive*

*species prevention equipment for use by the public at boat accesses at*

*two of Cedar Lake (DOW Lake # 70009100) in Scott County*

*CD3 Systems will help support the program, where possible, to*

*empower the public to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species at*

*boat accesses.*

*This program would offer a unique opportunity to change the boating*

*public's behavior and stop the spread of invasive species into the region.*

*We support this project and look forward to collaborating with all public*

*and private partners.*

*Sincerely,*

*Mark Apfelbacher*

*COO | CD3, General Benefit Corporation*

*612.414.0961 | mark@cd3systems.com*

**Letters of Recommendation:**

*November 18, 2025*

*Ko, Jason (He/Him/His) (DNR) <Jason.Ko@state.mn.us>*

*Hi Larry,*

*Thank you for meeting with me last week to review the Cedar Lake Improvement Clubs proposal for AIS units at the two PWAs managed by DNR.*

*Based on our discussion, DNR is supportive of your application: the larger trailer unit at Cedar East, and the smaller post unit at Cedar North. If you are successful in your application, we would be glad to work with you for proper signage and parking lot stenciling etc.*

*Best of luck,*

*Jason*

*Jason Ko*

*Assistant Area Supervisor | Parks and Trails*

*Minnesota Department of Natural Resources*

*Mobile: (651) 677-8483*





**Division of Parks and Trails**  
**1200 Warner Road**  
**St Paul, MN 55106**

November 19, 2025

Cedar Lake Improvement District

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to communicate the support of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to the application of the Cedar Lake Improvement District's for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) units at Cedar Lake Public Water Access Sites (PWAs).

The DNR Parks and Trails Division (PAT), specifically Area 3B, manages the PWAs at Cedar Lake. PAT Area 3B staff has discussed the proposed AIS units at Cedar Lake with the Cedar Lake Improvement District, including the type of unit, its proposed placement, the process for leases, and signage and traffic flow.

Based on our discussion with the Cedar Lake Improvement District, the DNR PAT Area 3B office is supportive of the Cedar Lake Improvement District's AIS unit application: a larger trailer unit at Cedar East PWA, and a smaller post unit at Cedar North PWA. If Cedar Lake Improvement District is successful in their application, DNR would be glad to work with Cedar Lake Improvement District on the permitting and installation of these units.

Good luck with your application.

Sincerely,

**Jason Ko**  
Assistant Area Supervisor | Parks and Trails  
**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**  
[jason.ko@state.mn.us](mailto:jason.ko@state.mn.us)

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