



Call-in/ZOOM Meeting Monday, December 21, 2020, 10:00 – 11:40 a.m.

Those in attendance: Perry Bunting, MBO DNR; Barb Eller, Farmer Mille Lacs Co; Jake Janski, Supervisor Mille Lacs SWCD; Bob Janzen, Supervisor Aitkin SWCD; Barbara Macioch, Citizen NE Mille Lacs Lake; Mike Macioch, Citizen NE Mille Lacs Lake; Dave Oslin, Mille Lacs Co. Commissioner; John Pearson, Citizen South Harbor Mille Lacs Lake; Janet Smude, Aitkin Co. SWCD; Margaret Vos, Citizen East Side Mille Lacs Lake; Chad Weiss, MBO DNR; Laurie Westerlund, Aitkin Co. Commissioner.

1. Welcome: Introductions and Orientation to Zoom Platform

Laurie Westerlund, Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Meeting approvals would be done by voice vote.

2. Approval of the Agenda: Approval M/S/C Mike Macioch/Barbara Macioch

- Additions: NONE Deletions: NONE

3. Consent Agenda: Approval M/S/C Jake Janski/John Pearson

- a. Approval of October 19 Meeting Minutes
- b. Approval of Financial Report – John rec'd from Janet

4. Discussion and Action:

4.1. Adopt meeting schedule for 2021: It was agreed to meet the 3rd Monday of March, April, June, August, October and December starting at 10:00 a.m. M/S/C Dave Oslin/Jake Janski.

4.2 Review Work Plan: Identify activities and coordinators for 2021 (e.g. chloride levels, Compass, educational projects, public outreach, fundraising)

It was felt that the 10 Year Plan should be an ongoing project. It was asked how it would be best to communicate this activity. Margaret will create a list of what is being done within the watershed. It was agreed to make it part of the work plan and remove finished projects.

Monitoring of Salt Chloride. Could we do? Bonnie Finnerty was going to look into and we should look to her. Counties don't work on chloride mitigation. Maybe townships have plans. It is important to understand what is being done.

Margaret volunteered to contact the counties surrounding the lake to ask what their protocol is. She will do by mid-February. There is an excellent program implemented by the state.

It is also important to look at water softeners. Alternatives? [It was the Topic of the Month a couple of years ago and could be reissued. Janet] This should be an ongoing activity and come up with action items. Jake

John is a member of the Compass Advisory Committee in Isle. Harmony has updated the #s list of surveys done.

Barb E. brought up the Forestry Practices Stewardship Plan (Healthy Forests, Healthy Water) and asked how it compares to the water stewardship plan. Janet said it was a little different. Crow Wings has probably done a summary. She will talk to a forester to see if they have done any plans in the Mille Lacs Lake watershed.

Barb E. Has anything been done about tree planting awareness? Janet – A Topic of the Month did cover salt tolerance planting. Jake did an article for Mille Lacs County on tree sales and location which will be used in February.

5. Updates:

5.1 Media Committee: Harmony had a list of contacts of lake associations (but not resorts) and a letter went out. Jake has this list. It was agreed that we need to outreach to the resorts and follow up. Jake will talk to Harmony.

John asked what is the purpose of MLLWMG? We exist, COMPASS, what is available -- we could provide something of value and purpose. We need to add to the database of lake associations, the townships, bait shops and establish relationships with resorts and communicate that we have help available. We should come up with care packages. Laurie would be available to hand out in Aitkin and Crow Wing Counties. Also needed is something for kids to do. Dave is willing to visit resorts in Mille Lacs County with care packages.

Children's Activities Project: There is still a goodly supply of AIS Cube Sheets. Need scissors and tape to assemble. Also there are more coloring sheets available (need to have more printed). Need color crayons to go with.

What is the status of buffers around the lake or is it exempt? Harmony was working on the lake shore inventory. Would Sam Siebold be the contact? It may be part of 1W1P but it may not be done for years – where buffers are and what is needed.

Jake. 1W1P has lots of things on the Mille Lacs County website right now but are struggling to define. Agreement to be resolved in January's meeting. All lakes and rivers have been categorized, Mille Lacs Lake is #1 on list of Protection Lake Zone.

Outreach: Send your ideas and how to fund to John to be included in Item 4 or 5 of the 2021 Work Plan to be discussed at the next meeting.

John. Topic of the Month on Salt Tolerance will be issued. Jake will look for the article on his computer.

Chad and Perry will look at the 2018 Annual Summary and pare down to what we want/need and send to John.

Dave. The Waukon Bog was a concern of the public utilization by ATV traffic to access higher ground. He will check with the snowmobile club to verify the concern and DNR approval. There hasn't been any discussion since 2019. Maybe this should be removed from the agenda.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m. M/S/C By all.

Compiled by Barbara Macioch, Secretary