



Call-in/ZOOM Meeting Monday, June 21, 2021 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

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

1. Welcome: Introductions and Orientation to Zoom Platform

John Pearson & Jake Janski Co-Chaired meeting, everyone welcomed & meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Additions: Barbara's comment: The observation of a population explosion of toads was noted. Consensus of group is that this a general situation and they were seeking cool, moist places.

Deletions: None

3. Consent

Agenda: Approval of April 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes Approval of Financial Report presented by Janet
Motion made/seconded to Approve Amended Agenda: Bob/John

An AIS Grant was submitted by Janet and was approved for MLLWMG.

4. Discussion and Action

Project Water quality trends and reporting:

Chad is compiling a report on water temperature, algae, dissolved oxygen levels, etc. from the 1990's to the present on testing being done on Lake Mille Lacs looking for trends and taking into consideration weather conditions at the time. In answering Margaret's question: There are trends. There are more blue-green algae. The ML-6 site (deep site) has been consistent over the years. There is a grant in progress to get automatic testing (1-2 units). Draft is to be done by July. John: Water quality data is important to get to the community. Jake: This will be a good Topic of the Month. Chad could summarize. Chad will do July's Topic of the Month.

Survey of Current Monitoring Activity: Barb E.'s goal is to have done in July. Will be interested in Chad's report. Will post on FaceBook and website.

Outreach and Education Efforts Planning:

- John: Topic of the Month articles are being posted on the website.
- The Healthy Land / Healthy Lake Conference: There are funds in the AIS grant – runs out 12-31-2021. Having a plant sale in conjunction with the conference would be good, fall would be a good time to have. Jake will coordinate. Janet: In conjunction with a plant sale, we could have a Zoom session, an AIS demo, SWAG,,,. Chad: They could bring a CD3 Cleaning Unit. Jake: They are making up kits so folks can buy more on-line to be shipped out. Lynn will be looped into this event.
- Outreach to lake associations and resorts: No report.

Compass Program Activity

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program Activity

- Janet: An AIS Education Grant related to HL/HL has been received and will be posted on the website. A coordinator for the project is needed. It was suggested to do a winter event highlighting winter issues.

- “Stop Spiny” effort by MN AIS Research Center:

5. Updates

5.1 Media and Communications

- John has submitted website articles on Topic of the Month and SEO.
- Barb E.: Has been posting weekly on Facebook. Page Likes have been increasing. John: We can look at the budget and boost posts. BE.: Current events & pics draw interest and are engaging. Margaret: Work w Lynn to do an update on the effect from shoreline planting. Janet: Have photos of before & after. Barb E.: Have Margaret send “Before & Now” pics from her Journey Journal.

5.2 Fundraising / Grant Writing / Membership -- Mille Lacs Area Community Foundation Opportunities

- Barb E.: There is a grant application open. It needs funding priorities: could help Compass outreach, sponsor Compass reunion, have everyone bring someone. Deadline closes Sept. 15, Funding in November. Barb E. will put together a draft and present at the July meeting.

5.3 Run River One Watershed / One Plan

- Approved January thru March 2023, money coming in.
- Jake: An intern in Mille Lacs County is doing a well health monitoring. Need to prove importance.
- Jake: August 3 & 4 will be a Roadside Symposium. He will send out the link.

5.5 New Business

- Get The Lead Out Box is full of lead free tackle. Where to put? County Fair? Resorts? Bait Shop? Court House? On the 18th will do an exchange. Laurie or Bob will pick up.

6. Public Comment

- Bob wants to go to meeting in person.

7. Jake & Margaret moved/seconded to close the meeting @ 11:37 a.m.

Next Meeting Plan

The next meeting will be Monday, July 12, 2021 @ 10:00 a.m.

Minutes by Barbara Macioch, Secretary

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

4.2 Review Work Plan -Identify projects of interest & need through 2021 & longer-range plans needed to address funding:

- One Watershed, One Plan (1W/1P) – John will plan to continue being involved.
- Bonnie has submitted one large water quality monitoring report in 2018. How often does MLLWMG need?
- Perry & Chad typically report yearly.

- How will it affect Lake Mille Lacs? What will drive our projects? Barb E. said some things need to continue. Climate Change needs to be addressed – how will it affect the lake. Could education be integrated into 1W/1P? May drive funding?
- Harmony may have some updates.
- Susan responded to 1W/1P issues. It is a comprehensive watershed, a 10 year plan for the State of Minnesota. It is a broad planning process. They are working on strategies, receiving input from various groups. We need to decide within the watershed what we feel is most important, need to identify strategies. We are just beginning to strategize, it is still a couple of months out to finalize. You will know years in advance what will be funded. Although funding is up in the air in the next biennium. John is on the Implemental Advisory Committee.
- To follow these activities: Mille Lacs SWCD and Website: 1W1P
- For MLLWMGs 10 Year Plan, we may have to look elsewhere for funding for the partner project.
- John: Planning for MLLWMG should not be influenced by 1W1P for 2020.
- Barb E: Issues and goals should be confirmed for 2021. Need to look for other funding.
- When Harmony was hired, Janet’s responsibilities were turned over to her and she is lead on many projects. It would be a big job to return them, however, Janet will take over the financials for MLLWMG.
- Susan: Has MLLWMG ever done any fund raising?
- Barb E.: No. There are problems with doing that also. Do we want to continue monitoring activity or are MPCA or Band adequate? The Dept of Agriculture and MPCA are involved in surface water monitoring.
- Bonnie: The MPCA selects lakes to be monitored every 10 years. She will try to add chloride. She probably cannot guarantee funding above and beyond.
- Barb E.: Plans???
- Bonnie: They want long term.
- Susan: Emerging contaminants is an issue in 1W1P ---- ground and surface water.
- Barb E.: Long term it should at least be considered.
- Bonnie: It is helpful to know where contaminants are but there is not a “limit” standard. There is a bigger problem.
- Susan: Harmony is doing samples by MPCA & MDA on the Rum River.
- Laurie: The current workplan is to continue through 2022 with the Band.
- Susan: Mille Lacs Lake is the most studied lake in MN because of work being done by the Band.
- Barb E.: Should MLLWMG continue monitoring?
- Janet: The Band tests the lake and the lakes around Mille Lacs. The Round Lake Assoc. funds their own testing.
- Susan: Does MLLWMG receive info from other lakes?
- Laurie: Does MLLWMG need a list of other lakes associations? Janet: Harmony started to compile one.
- Margaret: Harmony’s position is ending the end of 2020. Janet: The dedicated grant for her position is ending, not MLLWMG.
- Margaret: We need a list of lakes associations and knowing what they are doing – it is very important. How do we have a plan of action?
- Laurie: We need funding – grant writing.

- Barb E.: This leads into continuing COMPASS. Harmony is doing shoreline inventory. She tried to do direct outreach and had cost share \$ for projects.
 - Jake: We need action. He will reach out to Harmony and see if she had a list.
 - Bonnie: Take that list and feed it into 1W1P. She will be willing to reach out to various lake associations and see what their plans are.
 - Susan: Harmony had a list of resort owners that she visited. We need an idea for the common good.
 - Barb E.: Would doing a virtual tour of MLLWMGs completed projects be an idea to pursue?
 - John: It is important to promote at least in the short term.
 - Janet: It is a great idea to do a video. MISS Rap Group just completed a 15 minute video (\$1500).
 - Susan: Personal videos can be used. Homeowners could be invited to produce their own video.
 - Jake: Who is the audience?
 - Janet: MLLWMG did a mini-tour of landowners projects. We can do planning for next year.
 - Jake: Get a list of people who did.
 - Margaret: Public TV in Fargo did a video of their COMPASS program.
 - Susan: Short videos are good. Jake: Agrees.
 - John: Does MLLWMG still have funding to continue COMPASS through 2021?
 - Janet, Aitkin Co Soil & Water Conservation District: Yes.
 - Barb E., Barbara M. & Mike M. (with Christina Thurston's help?) will continue to work on educational projects for distribution at the Rivers and Lakes Fair, etc. [coloring sheets and game board].
- 4.3 John: Marketing and Planning will head the next meeting. Item 4. Part of conversation is Outreach.
- John: 1W1P – he saw a list of subwatersheds of the Rum River.
 - Laurie: Should we continue meeting via Zoom? John will carry the yearly cost and per a motion at last month's meeting, he will be reimbursed for the months that MLLWMG meets.
- 5.1 Media Committee
- Barbara M.: Mille Lacs Energy sponsors a Round Up program offering grants to groups within their territory via application for special projects. In the past MLLWMG has been a recipient. Would they again be interested in applying? John has downloaded the application. Full disclosure and financial background (3years financials) are needed. [Mille Lacs Co also has a project.]
- 5.4 CD3 Decontamination Units – Perry said that the two new units just arrived.
8. Next Meeting Plan: The next meeting scheduled is Monday, December 21, 2020. We will meet for 1 ½ hours. Thereafter, we will be meeting every other month. Think about 2021 and making plans.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m. M/S/C Jake/John

Compiled by Barbara Macioch, Secretary

[History of One Watershed, One Plan: In 2015 the MN Board of Soil and Water Resources, (BWSR) and the MN Legislature outlined plan content requirements for comprehensive watershed management plans and began to encourage the transition from local water plans to a comprehensive watershed management plan (One Watershed, One Plan). This approach strives for a systemic, watershed-wide, science-based approach to watershed management. The plan uses the state's delineated major watersheds. The plan involves Soil and Water Conservation Districts but staff from all areas included in each watershed. It envisions an approach that unifies the interests of stakeholders beyond that of any one group and can prioritize multi-benefit projects that maximally benefit the watershed. Statewide plans are expected to be fully implemented by 2025.

MN Statutes S 103B-801 Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning, also known as One Watershed, One Plan.]