



Minutes of Meeting

July 12, 2021, 10:00-12:00 via Zoom

Members Present: John Pearson, South side lake property owner; Jake Janski, Supervisor Mille Lacs SWCD; Bob Janzen, Supervisor Aitkin SWCD; Dianne Jacobson, Crow Wing SWCD; Janet Smude, Aitkin SWCD; Chad Weiss, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe DNR; Barb Eller, Rum River Watershed dweller; Barb Macioch & Mike Macioch, east side lake dwellers; Margaret Vos, east side lake dweller

Members Absent: Dave Oslin, Mille Lacs County Commissioner; Laurie Westerlund, Aitkin County Commissioner; Angie Moen, citizen Isle; Lynn Galice, Mille Lacs SWCD; Allan Close & Doug McCormick, Round Lake Association; Bonnie Finnerty, MN Pollution Control Agency; Harmony Maslowski & Susan Shaw, Mille Lacs SWCD; Perry Bunting, Mille Lacs Band Ojibwe DNR.

1. Bob called the meeting to order at 10:06 am

2. Agenda approved M. Barb 2nd John

3. Consent Agenda:

- 3.1. Approved June 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes. M. Barb 2nd Jake
- 3.2. Approved Financial Report. M. Barb E. 2nd Barb M.
 - Janet noted balance of general funds is \$3823.19 No expenses June.

4. Discussion and Action

4.1 Project Water quality trends and reporting

4.1.1 Summary report for website (Chad Weiss): Draft sent to John Pearson for editing. John suggests there are at least 2 or more stories within all the good information Chad provided: Blue Green Algae and Water Monitoring Process, Impact of Wind on Mille Lacs. John & Chad will continue to work

4.1.2 Survey of current monitoring activity (Barb Eller): Have been posting pieces of the draft on facebook. At end of year, may do summary for website. Current FB focus is on 1W1P with continued referral back to Compass Program. Aitkin SWCD and AIS Research website has interesting content that is being shared.

4.2. Outreach and education efforts planning

4.2.1 Topics of the Month: Topics are lined up (John): July is Chad's report. Other topics: Water quality sampling, 1W1P, Healthy Land Healthy Lake overview, AIS, Well monitoring, Wind Effects
Margaret Vos's story of her shoreline would be wonderful Topic of the Month. Margaret working on text for pictures. She is very happy with shoreline planting & beauty now 3 years out. She will complete with John's editor skills. **Group agrees Margaret's Compass story** would be very helpful and interesting.

John sends Topic of Month into Brainerd, Messenger, Aitkin Age, and Newshopper. Sometimes they publish, sometimes not.

4.3 Compass Program Activity: Healthy Land, Healthy Lake Conference Sept 18

4.3.1 Jake: Plant truck reserved for September 18. Has signs. MNL likes to get preorders and will put HLHL preorders on their website. Group agrees. Barb E. queried if MNL shares part of profits with sponsoring organizations. Jake-not yet, but MNL has marked up pricing to give. Barb-credit card fees eat up donation amounts; donation box may be better. Discounts for preorders are possible. Can act as incentive to preorder. Folks can also order online and ships every Tuesday. **Jake will check pricing for HLHL.**

4.3.2 Priors/possible locations included McQuoids, Malmo Townhall, Hazelton Townhall, Rolf Olsen Center Onamia, Eddy's., Onamia Vet's Club. **Margaret will followup and reserve venue. 1st choice McQuoids 2nd Vet's Club. Group will confirm via email.**

4.3.3 Other Activities: Lead Tackle Exchange, Round Table Compass discussion, One or two simple presentations, CD3 demonstration with boat (Chad)

4.3.4 Cost Budget: \$300 available per Janet

4.3.5 Time: 9 a.m. -12:00 noon coincident with the Isle Farmers Market at Johnson's Portside

Jake will check if Lynn can attend; Janet can do; Dianne/Crow Wing SWCD can.

4.4 Outreach to Lake Associations and Resorts: No report

4.5 MLWVG handouts: More is left at Mille Lacs SWCD, Janet used at Aitkin County Fair, some to Crow Wing SWCD

4.6 AIS Program Activity: Janet- ties in with HLHL. Bob- Meeting coming up

4.6.1 Stop the Spiny effort: Include at HLHL. AIS Research Center has new field manual. Expensive, but could be a door prize. Also a way to collect contact information and leverage into membership. AIS Education Grant may be funding source. Janet est. cost \$50. General fund also has \$1200. **Janet to confirm price.**

4.7 Lead Tackle Exchange: Janet has at Aitkin SWCD office, gave some to Crow Wing SWCD. Save some for HLHL if we advertise ahead of time. Perhaps McQuoid, Izatys or other resorts and Bait Shops might host. DNR has some graphics available for use. Does need to be attended and free nontoxic tackle managed.

5. Updates

5.1 Media and Communications

5.1.1 **Topics of Month** now organized on website. Working SEO. John is doing great work.

5.1.2 **Facebook**-covered already

5.2 Draft Grant Application to Mille Lacs Area Community Foundation (MLACF)- Barb E.

Compass reunion with all invited with inclusive community building over shared meal (Picnic). “Community of Mille Lacs Stewards Picnic”. Keeping in line with the funding priorities of the MLACF

Areas served: Mille Lacs, Aitkin, and Crow Wing and all around the lake

Preliminary Budget: \$1625. Grant request \$1000. Volunteer and cash from our General Fund would be about \$100. Will need final food count 2 weeks ahead. Barb needs to confirm venue and meal costs.

Goals: Bring people together, 4 new shoreland restorations, 20 DIY projects, continued networking

Timeline: Grant monies available November, Project spring 2022.

Location: Not confirmed. Barb thinking of Eddy’s with conference room over lake. **Barb to confirm.**

Barb will send out draft for comment, Janet will submit (Aitkin is our fiscal agent) Group agrees.

5.3. One Watershed, One Plan update (Jake): Implementation Table was presented to the group; timeline same as last meeting; budget updates; next steps to get public input. Some concern over all of planning funds being spent. How project money will be allocated uncertain yet. Check Mille Lacs SWCD website for more information.

<https://millelacsswcd.org> Next meeting end of July. Draft Implementation Plan will be going out for public comment.

5.5. New Business: More Bear sightings? Yes, destructive at bird feeders. Jake had Bobcat on his deck (between Milaca and Onamia). Barb E. has coyotes.

6. Public comment: FB Post about Barb & Mike Macioch. Barb & Mike M. appreciate. Macioch’s finding it difficult to leave. She believes MN is viewed as a place to emulate; Florida has it’s problems. Barb & Mike have been matriarch and patriarch of our group and we thank you! Florida is getting a couple of good resources, we are going to miss you and wish you well!

7. Next Meeting: F2F, VFW pavilion/ screen porch in Garrison (Janet to check), 3rd Monday, August 16, 10 am-Noon

8. Meeting adjourned 11:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Eller, Temporary Secretary