



DRAFT Minutes of Meeting Monday, October 18, 2021, 10 – 11:28 am CT

Members present: Laurie Westerlund, Chair; Janet Smude, Aitkin SWCD; Dianne Jacobson, Crow Wing SWCD; Bob Janzen, Aitkin SWCD; Barb Eller, Rum River Watershed citizen;; John Pearson, South Side Mille Lacs Compass Member; Jake Janski Mille Lacs SWCD; Margaret Vos, East Side Mille Lacs Compass Member; Bonnie Finnerty, MN Pollution Control Agency; Guy Haglund, East Side Mille Lacs Compass Member

Members absent: Dave Oslin, Mille Lacs County Commissioner; Angie Moen, citizen Isle; Carol Jacobs, citizen Isle; Allan Close & Doug McCormick, Round Lake Association;; Harmony Maslowski, Lynn Galice, & Susan Shaw, Mille Lacs SWCD;; Perry Bunting & Chad Weiss, MLBO DNR

1. Meeting called to order by Chair Laurie Westerlund at 10 am.

2. Agenda approved M.Barb 2nd John

3. Consent Agenda approved M. John 2nd Barb

a. Approved of August 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

b. Approved Financial Report by Janet Smude. Attached below. **NOTE: Get volunteer hours and expenses for HLHL to Janet.**

4. Discussion and Action

Outreach and education efforts

- Healthy Land, Healthy Lake Expo '21 Review:
 - Press releases got coverage in Brainerd Dispatch, Messenger and submitted to Aitkin and NewsHopper. The ad ran in the Messenger. Most adventitious was the attendance by ML Messenger reporter with the good followup article in the Messenger. Facebook promo cost \$70 after discount. Attendees were very interested and we made good connections. Good to see our politicians.
 - The Mille Lacs Compass Round Table was attended by Senator Ruud. She stressed the importance of publicizing our efforts especially with the reauthorizing vote on the Legacy Amendment funding for Clean Water coming up in about 2032. The amendment expires in 2034. We need to identify what we can do to ensure education of legislators and the public about the importance of funding for Clean Water and Natural Resources. Rep. Sondra Erickson also attended the event, although not the Round Table, and is in support of the Legacy Clean Water Fund. Both Aitkin & Mille Lacs are funded via the Legacy Clean Water Fund. The Mille Lacs Compass program was funded by Clean Water Funds.
 - The Mille Lacs Compass Round Table was helpful to our new members to hear others experiences. Guy Haglund shared his new project: Current phase of project is the smothering of invasive Reed Canary grass along his shoreline. He is using close cropping, cardboard cover with heavy mulch of wood chips. Lynn Galice, Mille Lacs SWCD recommended no herbicides be used so close to water and the many wild lives there. He plans to keep a photo record of his work over the months and will share via Topic of the Month/story. **Thanks Guy!**
 - Discussion also noted the need for plant identification: Weeds versus good plants. Jake noted this could be a good focus instead of the Plant Truck.
 - The Plant Truck sold about 400 plants. The expense of providing the truck, 2 employees, travel did not justify the expense. Alternatives might include a demonstration and/or plant i.d. as above. Online order is most cost-effective.
 - Concerns were expressed about outreach, communication, and advertising with current/potential Mille Lacs Compass members. Google searches for Compass are not helpful due to numerous other organizations with that name. Mille Lacs Compass only comes up with specific Mille Lacs Shoreland Stewardship search or Mille Lacs Compass search. John to check SEO optimization costs for website. Guy gave example of factoids and articles with focus back to Mille Lacs Compass. This fits nicely with our Topic of the Month and press releases. Additional marketing

will be done for next Spring's event (see Community of Stewards Picnic below). **Marketing ideas always needed to strengthen our outreach.** Guy mentioned book 'Lake Scaping' that debunked the myth of more mosquitos on natural shorelines.

- The Lead Tackle Exchange collected about 4 pounds and allot of samples were distributed. John completed report to MPCA. John will check with Janet and MPCA about ongoing versus episodic lead tackle exchange. MPCA does maintain a list of places where lead tackle can be exchanged for a sample of nontoxic tackle. Aitkin SWCD is not included.
- **Compass Program activity: See Marketing discussion above**
- **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program activity**
 - Aitkin County AIS Education Grant (Janet Smude) expires the end of December. **Get volunteer hours and expenses for HLHL to Janet.**
 - "Stop Spiny" effort by Minnesota AIS Research Center: Aitkin SWCD still has fishing line cloths. Aitkin is winding down its efforts as open water fishing ends.
- **Project Water quality trends and reporting**
 - Summary report for website (Perry Bunting): Chad Weiss wrote, John edited, in progress.
 - Survey of current monitoring activity (Barb Eller): The University of MN has been using/studying LANDSAT-8 and European Sentinal-2 satellites for remote sensing of water quality using water clarity, dissolved organic matter, and chorophyll-a since 2002. Their new online program, Lake Browser, provides summary information useful for one time event monitoring as well as viewing seasonal and annual trends. Data currently available from 1975-2020. <https://water.rs.umn.edu/lakebrowser> It also accesses additional information from DNR and MPCA. Barb to do Topic of the Month on this. Bonnie & Janet note that although data suggests the lake is doing well, caution is indicated and continued protection is critical.
 - Bonnie notes that the MPCA is on a 10 year watershed monitoring cycle with the latest Mille Lacs data from 2013-2014. Next monitoring TBD 2024-25. Monitoring of pollutants of concern such as personal care products, pharmaceuticals, pesticides, others is a national program on a different time cycle. The MLBO's annual monitoring plan of Mille Lacs is ongoing.
- **Administration**
 - **Election of ViceChair: Nominate Jake Janksi. M.Barb 2nd Margaret. Elected.**
 - **Election of Secretary: Nominate Barb Eller. M.John 2nd Margaret. Elected.**
 - **Management of archive & handouts:** Items need review for outdates, duplicates. Storage is an issue. Jake has inventoried those at Mille Lacs SWCD; John picked up the Macioch's records dating to 1998. **A committee of John, Janet, Jake, and Lynn (if available) will make decisions to keep/recycle by November 15.**
 - **The review of the work plan and the Annual Report will be the focus of the next meeting, Dec 20th.**

5. Updates

- Mille Lacs Area Community Foundation grant request was approved and funds received for our 2022 Community of Stewards Picnic(CSP). Barb to coordinate and confirm date of Saturday July 9th, 2022 coincident with Isle Days with the Isle Days planning committee, the venue at Fr Hennepin State Park, and the caterer. She will do draft workplan and use as starting point with **CSP Planning Committee: Margaret Voss, Bonnie Finnerty, Laurie Westerlund, and Barb.** Bring back briefly at December meeting for review.
- Rum River One Watershed, One Plan : Draft for state review is due back 11/30/21. The draft plan for agency review is available on the Mille Lacs SWCD website: https://www.millelacsswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/60DayReview_2021-09-22_RumRiver1W1P-1.pdf Jake notes that a public workshop to discuss the plan will be the week of December 13 with a public hearing tentatively scheduled for Jan 10, 2022.

6. New Business:

- Request for donation: 25th annual Aitkin County Environmental Education Day (6th grade students) at Long Lake Conservation Center. M. Margaret 2nd Barb **Approved donation of \$100.**
- **Public comment: No further**

6. Next Meeting Plan : December 20, 2021, 10 am-11:30am via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Eller, Secretary

Attachment 1. Financial Report

| MLLWMG Financial Report July, August, September, Through Oct 15th 2021 | Budget Balance | Spent Previous Periods | Spent This Period | Current Balance |
|---|--------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| MLLWMG FUNDS | | | | |
| All previous combined | \$ 1,219.36 | | | \$ 1,219.36 |
| Donations for HLHL (Crow Wing SWCD Office & Supervisor) | \$ 75.00 | | 60.43 | \$ 14.57 |
| Subtotal | \$ 1,294.36 | \$ - | \$ 60.43 | \$ 1,233.93 |
| 2021 Aitkin Co. AIS Educational Grant | | | | |
| HLHL Event - Advertising | \$ 1,000.00 | | 325.76 | \$ 674.24 |
| HLHL Website Consultant - Event Promotion & Production | \$ 1,000.00 | | | \$ 1,000.00 |
| HLHL - Event Hosting - Mtg Space, Zoom, Refreshments | \$ 300.00 | | 274.42 | \$ 25.58 |
| Electronic Education Effort - Website Domain Registration | \$ 25.00 | 21.17 | | \$ 3.83 |
| Electronic Education Effort - Website / Media Consultant | \$ 300.00 | | | \$ 300.00 |
| Subtotal | \$ 2,625.00 | \$ 21.17 | \$ 600.18 | \$ 2,003.65 |
| Community of Mille Lacs Stewards Picnic - Initiative Foundation | | | | |
| Space Rental | \$ 50.00 | | | \$ 50.00 |
| Catering / Meal | \$ 750.00 | | | \$ 750.00 |
| Speaker Stipend | \$ 200.00 | | | \$ 200.00 |
| Subtotal | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Grand Total | \$ 4,919.36 | \$ 21.17 | \$ 660.61 | \$ 4,237.58 |