



Minutes of Meeting Monday, December 20, 2021, 10 – 11:30 am CT

Members present: Jake Janski Mille Lacs SWCD, Vice-Chair; Perry Bunting & Chad Weiss, MLBO DNR; 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;; Margaret Vos, East Side Mille Lacs Compass Member; Bonnie Finnerty, MN Pollution Control Agency; Todd Haas, President, Camp Lake Association; Stephanie Finch, MN Green Corps serving Aitkin SWCD.

Members absent: Laurie Westerlund, Chair; 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; Guy Haglund, East Side Mille Lacs Compass Member

**1. Meeting called to order by Vice-Chair Jake Janski at 10 am.**

**2. Agenda approved M. Barb 2<sup>nd</sup> Dianne**

**3. Consent Agenda approved M. Bob 2<sup>nd</sup> Margaret**

a. Approved October 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

b. Approved Financial Report by Janet Smude. Attachment 1.

**4. Discussion and Action**

**Administration**

• **Review of Draft Work Plan Attachment 2.**

- Rum River One Watershed One Plan (1W1P). Barb & John attended the Dec 16 overview workshop. Content available: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/e5e48a736a8f4c469e109d492b998bc6>. A survey for additional public input until 3p.m. Jan 10, 2022 at <https://www.millelacsswcd.org/run-river-one-watershed-one-plan/> The draft plan also there. **Public Hearing Jan 10, 6:30 pm Mille Lacs Courthouse, also virtual.** See Mille Lacs SWCD for link.
  - John noted the appendices have detailed information about the watershed and commended the multiple team members on impressive work.
  - After the Public Hearing, Jan 10, 6:30pm (in person at Courthouse and via Zoom) the Policy Committee, then the State gives final approval. **Jake will get info when funding begins.**
  - **Barb to highlight call for public input on Facebook.**
  - Jake noted we need to i.d. bigger impact projects for the implementation phase. Barb noted goal of spring ML Community of Stewards Picnic is 4+ identified projects
- AIS (aquatic invasive species) grant was completed. Janet completed the final report. This funded the Healthy Land, Healthy Lake Expo Sept 2021.
  - Stop the Spiny Campaign via MAISRC (MN AIS Research Center) is an ongoing project. Education is the primary focus. **Janet has spiny removal towels at Aitkin SWCD.** The Aitkin AIS Committee has not yet approved 2022 participation.
- Get the Lead Out! MPCA program was pleased with our efforts. **Janet to let John know if Aitkin SWCD will be permanent drop-off site for lead tackle.**
- Marketing/Education Plan: Healthy Land, Healthy Lake Expo completed September 2021. Group agrees we will plan to do in 2022. Discussed a plant identification event: “bring your weeds” and potentially expanding spring event to include. **Barb to email committee members & followup.**
- **Community Presence: Janet confirms that the Rivers & Lakes Fair will be held June 18<sup>th</sup>.**
- **Outreach to Resorts: Janet & Stephanie will do outreach bags. Proposal next meeting.**
- **Topics of the Month:** Barb & John completed December ‘MN Lake Browser’ published in ML Messenger. For 2022 topics need consistency, provides year round visibility, perhaps repurpose some of SWCDs messaging. Topics discussed: 3-4 Compass topics/year( Guy Haglund’s story,

John Pearson's, Jack & Marilyn Anderson—**Janet to invite**); Seed exchange; weed identification; Healthy Land, Healthy Lake; AIS; Updates of 1W1P; Chloride pollution (**Margaret in Feb**); MLBO water quality sampling; ML Community of Stewards Picnic.

**January Topic:** Rum River 1W1P. **Jake to check with Harmony r.e. SWCD press releases**, if any. **Members to give John topics by end of next week.** Focus on Mille Lacs and Onamia area. **John will compile list and signup sheet.**

- **John will circulate Workplan updates per today's discussion.**

#### **Outreach and education efforts –see work plan above**

- **Compass Program activity: NR**
- **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program activity-see work plan above**
- **Project Water quality trends and reporting**
  - Summary report for website (Perry Bunting): Chad Weiss wrote, working
  - Survey of current monitoring activity (Barb Eller): Draft done, working.
- **Annual Report:** Meant to be a summary of completed projects. **John to draft and circulate to members over 1-2 months**
- **Healthy Land, Healthy Lake expo style event Sept 2021. Given success, Group agrees to hold again Fall 2022.** See workplan above.

#### **Updates**

- **Community of Stewards Picnic: Planning Committee: Margaret Voss, Bonnie Finnerty, Laurie Westerlund, and Barb Eller.** Coordinated with Isle Days Committee and confirmed date July 9, 10am-2pm. Venue confirmed Fr Hennepin State Park, Picnic Shelter. Story teller pending. Confirmed Dan's Catering. Bonnie to pickup MNL Plant pack. Jake will check pricing for us. Goal of event is 4+ lakeshore projects, 12+ DIY projects
- **Management of archive & handouts:** A committee of John, Janet, Jake, and Lynn (if available) recycled outdated material. About 75# remains. **Janet and Stephanie to use for handouts bags for outreach to Resorts. Proposal next meeting.**
- **Funding sources:** Aitkin and Crow Wing SWCDs pursuing the Conservation Partners Legacy grant; Central Regional Sustainable Development Partnership has RFP due Feb 15. Barb to discuss with director. Jake notes Federal dollars may be available from the infrastructure plan; ML Energy Coop RoundUp dollars; Rum River 1W1P dollars projected available 2023; Lawn to Legumes funding for pollinator friendly lakeshores projected available 2022.
- **2022 Meeting Schedule:** Second Monday in Feb (due to Pres. Day), remainder third Monday in Apr, June, Jul, Aug, Oct, Dec. 10am-11:30 am likely via Zoom.
- **Website SEO is a built in tool.** Can upgrade to pro- level. **M.Margaret 2<sup>nd</sup> John, group approved \$89/year for pro-level SEO.** This may help solve the difficult search for Mille Lacs Compass.
- **Membership: The group welcomed Todd Haas as a new member!** He brings expertise from several watershed scale and Lake Association activities and is currently the President of the Camp Lake Association. Welcome Todd!

#### **6. New Business:**

- Jake and Dianne discussed MLWGM and her attendance at HLHL with Senator Carrie Ruud at the MN Assoc of SWCDs annual conference. She was awarded the MASWCD Legislator of the Year award. Congratulations!
- **Public comment: No further**

#### **6. Next Meeting Plan : February 14, 10 am-11:30am via Zoom**

Respectfully submitted,  
Barb Eller, Secretary

#### **Attachment 1. Financial Report**

MLLWMG Financial Report Oct 16 - Nov 30, 2021

	Budget Balance	Spent Previous Periods	Spent This Period	Current Balance
<b>MLLWMG FUNDS</b>				
All previous combined	\$ 1,219.36		100.00	\$ 1,119.36
Donations for HLHL (Crow Wing SWCD Office & Supervisor)	\$ 75.00	\$ 60.43	14.57	\$ -
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 1,294.36</b>	<b>\$ 60.43</b>	<b>\$ 114.57</b>	<b>\$ 1,119.36</b>
<b>2021 Aitkin Co. AIS Educational Grant</b>				
HLHL Event - Advertising	\$ 1,000.00	325.76	390.32	\$ 283.92
HLHL Website Consultant - Event Promotion & Production	\$ 1,000.00		787.5	\$ 212.50
HLHL - Event Hosting - Mtg Space, Zoom, Refreshments	\$ 300.00	274.42	80.8	\$ (55.22)
Electronic Education Effort - Website Domain Registration	\$ 25.00	21.17		\$ 3.83
Electronic Education Effort - Website / Media Consultant	\$ 300.00		125.00	\$ 175.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 2,625.00</b>	<b>\$ 621.35</b>	<b>\$ 1,383.62</b>	<b>\$ 620.03</b>
<b>Community of Mille Lacs Stewards Picnic - Initiative Foundation</b>				
Space Rental	\$ 50.00			\$ 50.00
Catering / Meal	\$ 750.00			\$ 750.00
Speaker Stipend	\$ 200.00			\$ 200.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,919.36</b>	<b>\$ 681.78</b>	<b>\$ 1,498.19</b>	<b>\$ 2,739.39</b>