



## **Minutes of Meeting Monday, April 18, 2022; 10 – 11:30 a.m. CT**

**Present:** Jake Janski, MLLWMG ViceChair and Mille Lacs SWCD Supervisor; Janet Smude, Aitkin SWCD; Bob Janzen, Aitkin SWCD Supervisor; John Pearson, south side Mille Lacs; Todd Haas, Camp Lake Assoc; Dianne Jacobson, Crow Wing SWCD Supervisor; Margaret Vos, East Side Mille Lacs; Perry Bunting, Dir Environmental Programs, MLBO; Pat Murphy, Pres. Aitkin County Lakes and Rivers; Ross Brink, MN Green Corp Member, Crow Wing SWCD; Alexandria Gigliotti, American Programs Tech MLBO DNR; Lauri Westerlund, Chair MLLWMG and Aitkin County Commissioner; Ann Brucciani Lyon, ViceChair Mille Lacs Area Community Foundation and Mille Lacs Keep It Clean Coordinator; 612 849 2733, Tom (no information)

### **1. Meeting called to order by Jake at 10:00 am**

**2. Approval of the Agenda** – M. Margaret 2<sup>nd</sup> John. Approved.

### **3. Consent Agenda- M. Bob 2<sup>nd</sup> Laurie Approved.**

- Approve February 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- Approve Financial Report (Attachment 1)

### **4. Activity Updates and Discussion**

#### **Compass Program and Other Preservation and Improvement Activities**

- Mille Lacs Compass Program: No updates. July 9 Community of Stewards Picnic is focused on gaining support/new participants. Note: ML SWCD funding has run out for this program.
- Community of Stewards Picnic(CSP) (Barb): NR. Jake notes native seed saving part of event will gauge interest then Jake proposes people attend Page Township ed event to learn about seed saving during actual harvest. Speaker for CSP is pending, perhaps associated with the 'We Are Water' project, MN Humanities. If you haven't already, RSVP here <https://millelacswatershed.org/mille-lacs-community-of-stewards-picnic/>
- Rum River One Watershed, One Plan (Jake): March meeting Policy Committee did final approval of the plan and submitted to MN Board of Water and Soil Resources(BWSR). Some nonsubstantive changes to language under review by attorneys. Discussed Joint Powers entity(JPE) and organization also under review by Countys' attorneys. Jake will attend the presentation of the plan to BWSR May 5, JPE confirmation, followed by the work plan this fall. Technical Committee is meeting today reviewing multiple projects within the plan and prioritizing funds for 1<sup>st</sup> funding round. Janet notes the Wahkon project, forestry plans around the lake, others for our area are being considered.
- AIS grant 2022 (Janet): Application submitted to Aitkin County. Funding request includes the Healthy Land, Healthy Lake (HLHL) event, website support, AIS & CD3 MLBO support, Keep It Clean items. Total: \$4500. See funding items from last meeting minutes. Reviewed Thursday. Should hear by Monday. See also Financial Report attachment 1.

- Stop Spiny Campaign (Janet): MAISRC no longer has funds for this; can use videos and outreach materials still available; Janet has Swedish line wipe clothes at her office and will bring to events.
- Get the Lead Out Tackle Exchange (John): MPCA still has funding. John has supply of nontoxic tackle. Has plenty for upcoming events. Will do Topic of the Month. MPCA may provide person to help at events. Camp Lake Assoc meets May 21. John will get tackle to Pat. MPCA gets report on how many pounds of lead tackle collected.
- “Keep it Clean” Campaign: Interest in having MLLWVG participate in clean-up day. Would not want to conflict with MLBO Adopt-A-Shoreline (Perry, no date yet but pending, planning committee meets tomorrow). John notes the logistics may be beyond our capabilities. Chris Erikson, Kathio State Park, interested in cleaning trash out of Lake Ogechi. We can help publicize efforts. Camp Lake Assoc plus CR 38 cleanup will also happen this Saturday. Janet noted we did cleanup day several years ago on abandoned lot. Perry will check with coordinator, Melissa, tentative dates May 18-20 depends on iceout. No other details yet, but volunteers always appreciated. Jake noted May clean up may be rally point for MLWVG members. Ann notes MLACF wants to help with publicizing Adopt-A-Shoreline. Perry and Ann will coordinate.

Ann: KIC goal includes comprehensive roll-out for 22-23 season with AIS prevention messaging over the summer. Conversations ongoing with Eddy Lyback, George Nitti, Steve Johnson. Tom Heinrich, DNR and Jody Crowell, ML Tourism invited Ann to do April 28 presentation on KIC. Outcome of this meeting will guide further planning. Details pending. \$500 in AIS grant for KIC and AIS messaging is pending approval Thursday. Star Tribune article summarized Lake of the Woods, Red Lake, Mille Lacs KIC progress. Jeff Forester, MN Lakes and Rivers and MN DNR discussing potential change in ordinances to allow streamlined ticketing of polluters.

- **Outreach and Education**

- Topics (John): Ross did topic “Insects” coming out soon (Thanks!), Lead Free Tackle this spring.. Boat wakes may be emerging concern, especially on smaller lakes. Boats that produce large wakes for surfing may have negative impact on shorelines. Janet noted anecdote about safety issue for smaller boats. Pat noted also lake bottom disruption can occur. Request for additional volunteer topics/ideas. John will circulate list. Highlight of ML Compass Program and marketing of CSP pending.
- Community event presence: June 18 Rivers and Lakes Fair (Janet): Free booth available, ML SWCD has display material (in Jake’s truck)/Aitkin SWCD has larger display. Maybe can coordinate/co-locate with Aitkin Rivers and Lakes. Contact Janet if you can help with our booth. Venue: Long Lake Conservation Center, Palisade.
- Outreach to lake associations and resorts: Materials from ML SWCD (Jake & John have these stored). Janet, Laurie, Dianne can help put together bags of info for distribution and for use at Rivers and Lakes Fair. . Laurie to pickup materials and coordinate with Janet for time.
- Website (John): Updating SEO page by page.
- Facebook : Question arose about an older account/doesn’t affect our current account. Send content to Barb/John for inclusion in our Facebook posts.

**Tracking and Posting Water Quality Data**

- Report on current monitoring activity: (Barb) NR
- Summarize/Update MLBO DNR data (Chad/Perry): Chad is working, updating EPA data. Also working with UMN on wild rice monitoring in Lake Ogechi, using eDNA for identifying wild rice in lakes, working with MAISRC on invasive vegetation vs.

wild rice, working with DNR to figure out density/biomass of wild rice. A lot of wild rice related work.

**Organization**

- Create “Annual Summary Report” (John): Completed and available: <https://millelacswatershed.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/MLLWVG-2021-Annual-Report.pdf> Can do update every year. Thanks to all for feedback. Keep metrics on events and activities for future funding opportunities as part of the report..
- Funding opportunities: Currently have funding for CSP, HLHL events. Janet notes we must identify our other funding needs. Funding to support ML Compass is needed. John notes we need to be aware of Rum River 1W1P. Jake notes our focus on Mille Lacs may need additional funding beyond what the Rum River 1W1P.

**6. New Business**

- Wake boat issue awareness (John) See under Topics.
- Set date & venue for HLHL: Last year on south side, McQuoids. This location visible, close to highway, Farmers Market (Saturday). Time frame: Late August, early September. Target audience: ML Compass Members, shoreland owners. Setup planning committee: Margaret Vos, John Pearson. Native seed harvest at Page Township tentative will be October. Janet will let us know if funding procured via AIS grant on Thursday.

**7. Public Comment**

- 8. Next Meeting Plan June 20 , 10-12 via Zoom**  
**Support to Adopt-A-Shoreline event**  
**Watch for email from Margaret for help with HLHL.**

Respectfully submitted,  
 Barb Eller, Secretary  
 218-839-4489  
[Barbeller04@gmail.com](mailto:Barbeller04@gmail.com)

**Attachment 1. Financial Report**

MLLWVG Financial Report February & March 2022	<b>Budget Balance</b>	<b>Spent Previous Periods</b>	<b>Spent This Period</b>	<b>Curren Balanc</b>
<b>MLLWVG FUNDS</b>				
All previous combined	\$ 1,004.36		131.32	\$ 873.04
Community Stewards Picnic 2022	\$ 115.00			\$ 115.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 1,119.36</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 131.32</b>	<b>\$ 988.04</b>

**Community of Mille Lacs Stewards Picnic - Mille Lacs Area Community Foundation**

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>1,000.00</b>
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,119.36</b>	-	<b>131.32</b>	<b>1,988.04</b>

**Pending Application - Aquatic Invasive Species Funding, Aitkin County**

Activity # 1). Healthy Land, Healthy Lake Expo

Advertising - Newspapers, Social Media, Banners	\$
	1,000.00
MLLWMG Website Consultant - Promotion & Production	\$
Event Hosting - Mtg Space, Zoom Subscription,	1,000.00
Refreshments	\$
	375.00

Activity # 2). Website / Facebook / Marketing Expenses

Website Hosting & Domain Registration	\$
	300.00
Keep It Clean Campaign Support	\$
	500.00
MLLWMG Website / Social Media Consultant	\$
	300.00

Activity # 3. CD3 Watercraft Cleaning Station Support

	\$
	1,025.00
<b>TOTAL REQUEST</b>	<b>\$ 4,500.00</b>