



## **Minutes of Meeting Monday, June 20, 2022; 10 – 11:30 a.m. CT**

**Present:** Jake Janski, MLLWMG ViceChair and Mille Lacs SWCD Supervisor; Janet Smude, Aitkin SWCD; John Pearson, south side Mille Lacs; Todd Haas, Camp Lake Assoc; Margaret Vos, East Side Mille Lacs; Pat Murphy, Pres. Aitkin County Lakes and Rivers Association; Lauri Westerlund, Chair MLLWMG and Aitkin County Commissioner

- 1. Meeting called to order by Jake at 10:01 am**
- 2. Approval of the Agenda** – M. Barb 2<sup>nd</sup> Margaret. Approved.

### **3. Consent Agenda-**

- April 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes M. Margaret 2<sup>nd</sup> John Approved.
- Approve Financial Report Tabled for Janet's report.

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

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

- **Mille Lacs Compass Program:** No updates. Note: The previous coordinator for this program Harmony Maslowski has new position with MNDoT. Mille Lacs SWCD is down to 2 staff members. They are trying to hire.

- **Community of Stewards Picnic(CSP)** (Barb): Set to go July 9, 10-2.

June 27 final RSVPs and John did list on Google docs for updates. Total: 50 participants, 27 of those have only indicated interest on facebook. John has added additional/Barb signed up more at Aitkin Rivers & Lakes Fair.

Menu: Forage Scape Farm for pork & chicken. Dutch Fury Farm for fruits and veggies. Menu will come together. Margaret wants ice cream. Barb will ensure coffee & water point.

Jake Plant I.D.: Most helpful is for folks to bring actual plants/photos. Will have tools to help folks I.D. things. Barb notes there are no weeds only unwanted forbes.

Set-up: Barb will arrive 8:30 to turn on lights. Margaret is Master of Ceremonies. Isle Days runs concurrent and we are included on their schedule. Parade is on Saturday 6 pm. Our 2 flags need to be at the 2 right turns leading to parking lot at Lakeview picnic shelter. Jake has small sign also that will be useful and a blank sign he will bring. Margaret has poster for fireplace. Barb to bring recycling containers; compostable dinnerware. Seating available for 60 inside and outside there is more.

Todd will put on Camp Lake Assoc email and facebook. John submitted press release to papers (Messenger, Aitkin Age, Brainerd Dispatch, NewsHopper) and will get it added to Messenger events page.

Need Name Tags-Barb to bring.

If you haven't already, RSVP here: <https://millelacswatershed.org/mille-lacs-community-of-stewards-picnic/> Jake and other presenters/planners are on the list.

- Rum River One Watershed, One Plan (Jake): Presented to BWSR subcommittee May 5, approved. May 25<sup>th</sup> full BWSR Board approved. The state is Impressed with

content on outreach. By July 24 each SWCD and County Boards must approve and sign JPA. Kanabec County has opted out; Kanabec SWCD is still onboard.

- AIS grant 2022 (Janet): AIS Grant received and monies dispersed include MLLWMG domain and website costs (just under \$300) and Keep It Clean Campaign, Mille Lacs Area Community Foundation (\$500). There is \$1000 available to Mille Lacs Band DNR for CD3 Unit support. There are funds for Healthy Land, Healthy Lake fall Expo. MLACF grateful for the money. They intend to order AIS bait bags with KIC sticker and plan to get out later on this summer.
- Stop Spiny Campaign (Janet): MAISRC no longer has funds for this; can use videos and outreach materials still available on their website; Janet has Swedish line wipe clothes at her office and will bring to events. These were popular items at Aitkin County Lakes & Rivers Fair, June 18. Has plenty for CSP.
- Get the Lead Out Tackle Exchange (John): MPCA still has funding through 2023. John will refill Janet's box with nontoxic tackle for upcoming events. Todd reports that Camp Lake Association collected 8.4# of lead tackle. MPCA sent him another box of nontoxic tackle and is getting it out. Janet can take his lead at Community of Stewards Picnic and dispose of properly.
- "Keep it Clean" Campaign: Area 8 (includes Lake of the Woods and Red Lake, Crow Wing, Cass) MN Association of SWCDs(MASWCD) submitted resolution in support of KIC. Area 3 (includes Mille Lacs) . **Jake will email resolution. Attachment 1.** MLACF has raised approx. \$11,500 for the KIC campaign. Ann Brucciani Lyon is lead. Melissa Barrick, District Crow Wing SWCD involved. Plus local buy-in from Resorts.. Pat notes Ann is doing presentation to Aitkin Rivers & Lakes Association in Sept/Oct.

## 5. Outreach and Education

- **Topic of the Month:** Do one on KIC-best for fall and kickoff of ice fishing season. John soliciting all for personal stories, Crow Wing has submitted article. Lead Tackle topic is coming up. Send your ideas to John and he will help/edit. Do CSP summary/eval, Jakes plant I.D. topic-top weeds I.D.'d at picnic. Barb will be using video to record, too.
- **Healthy Land, Healthy Lake Expo:** Booked at McQuoids 9-12 Sept 17. Setup 8am. Call for committee members. Jake can do another plant i.d. Round table discussion with ML compass members and other participants to discuss lakeshore restorations. Lynn has 46 email contact list of Compass participants. Margaret to collaborate with invites to them. Do promo at CSP. Contact Margaret if you can help.
- **Community event presence:** Barb represented us at Aitkin Rivers & Lakes Fair on June 18. Spoke to about 40 people about MLLWMG and mission; signed up 2 people for email list and several for July 9<sup>th</sup> event. Handed out our brochure, fielded questions about native plants, gave out all Keep the P (phosphorous) out of Mille Lacs key chains, and AIS clothes. This was all outdoors with speakers scheduled within the shelters. Worthwhile.
- **Outreach to lake associations and resorts:** Janet and Dianne Jacobson (Crow Wing SWCD Supervisor) working on gift bags for kids. Using AIS bait bags (left over from another project) as holders. Laurie volunteered to deliver. Bring to CSP if done by then.
- **Outreach for new MLLWMG membership:** John recommends strategy to increase membership and especially ML Compass participants. Jake suggests Topic of the Month explaining. Barb will send new signups collected to John. Signin sheet for CSP includes "add to email list". John notes current list is 73 people. Todd notes Lake Associations on Holt, Round, Smith, Camp, Big Pine, and Borden Lakes. Pat

Murphy also has additional contacts. Janet works with Round Lake Assoc. often. We had list of all associations, but likely needs update.

- **Website (John):** Expanded CSP info. Focus now on Community of Stewards Picnic, then transition to fall Healthy Land, Healthy Lake Expo. Looking at making space for the KIC campaign. Looking at consolidating some info, some re- organization.

7. **Facebook :** Barb appreciates likes and shares on our posts.

8. **Tracking and Posting Water Quality Data**

- Report on current monitoring activity: (Barb) NR
- Summarize/Update MLBO DNR data (Chad/Perry): NR

9. **Organization**

- **Funding opportunities:** MLACF grant application open June 1-Sept 15. They supported us for CSP (\$1000). See how successful CSP is and repeat perhaps. <https://mlacf.org> has application portal. Must go through Janet as fiscal manager. Perhaps i.d. folks ready to go forward with projects suitable for Clean Water Fund grants. Janet notes shovel ready projects are most competitive. Other Lake Associations may have projects they want to do. Todd questioned AIS low activity at Camp Lake. Janet notes low staffing. MAISRC has an AIS Detectors program where people are trained then volunteer to educate others. Can ask for list of volunteers from MAISRC.

10. **New Business: N/A**

11. **Public Comment :** N/A

12. **Next Meeting Plan July 18 , 10-12 via Zoom**

Evaluation of Community of Stewards Picnic July 9th

Brainstorm membership strategy

Healthy Land, Healthy Lake Update, Sat, Sept 17

**Adjourned: 11:03**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Barb Eller, Secretary**

**218-839-4489**

**[Barbeller04@gmail.com](mailto:Barbeller04@gmail.com)**

**Attachment 1. Area 8 MASWCD Keep It Clean Resolution. See page 4.**

## A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE KEEP IT CLEAN CAMPAIGN

WHEREAS, there have been major increases in the popularity of ice fishing in the past 15 years and the increase in angling hours during winter fishing has led to increases in the amount of trash and waste left on the ice each season; and,

WHEREAS, the steadily increasing number of RV style fish houses has increased the number of anglers staying on lakes for longer periods of time, which is increasing the amount of trash and waste to handle; and,

WHEREAS, the RV style fish house popularity has and will continue to lead to an increase in the number of anglers utilizing onboard wastewater tanks which increases the need for proper disposal options; and,

WHEREAS, on popular ice fishing lakes, there is a disturbing amount of trash and other waste, including human bio-waste left on the ice during winter angling; and,

WHEREAS, the residents of Minnesota and other states often travel to remote and rural ice fishing destinations that are not equipped to handle/address the increase in amount of trash and waste; and,

WHEREAS, Soil and Water Conservation Districts are uniquely positioned to provide solutions at the local level to address changing trends in human behaviors that can negatively impact water quality; and,

WHEREAS, these localized problems need statewide support.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MASWCD works with MN DNR Law Enforcement to advocate change in State Laws or Rules to make it unlawful to place trash on the ice; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MASWCD work with partners to identify a State Agency or Non-Profit that could assist in the Keep It Clean Campaign similar to the Aquatic Invasive Species program; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MASWCD advocate to the State to provide technical and financial assistance for new and/or improved infrastructure to assist local communities that see exponential increases in resource use that do not have the local resources to handle the issues.

**A history and estimated time allotment for MASWCD Staff can be drafted for further explanation to accompany this resolution.**