



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

**Present:** Jake Janski, MLLWVG ViceChair and Mille Lacs SWCD Supervisor; John Pearson, south side Mille Lacs; Margaret Vos, East Side Mille Lacs; Pat Murphy, Pres. Aitkin County Lakes and Rivers Association, Long Lake; Doug Jacobson & Sue Lyback, Southeast Mille Lacs; Bob Janzen, Aitkin SWCD Supervisor; Perry Bunting, Dir Environmental Programs, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe; Chad Weiss, Water Resources Manager, Mille Lacs Band DNR

### **1. Meeting called to order by Jake at 10:03 am. Introductions and welcome to new members Doug and Sue.**

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

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

- April 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes M. John 2<sup>nd</sup> Margaret Approved.
- To remove Financial Report from consent agenda. Janet Smude to do monthly report when available.

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

- **Mille Lacs Compass Program:** Barb noted (Secretary's note) two individuals signed up at the Picnic requesting contact about the Compass Program. Contacts were forwarded to Lynn Gallice, Mille Lacs SWCD for follow-up.
- **Rum River One Watershed One Plan (1W1P):** (Jake) Mille Lacs SWCD and other organizations have signed on to the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). Kanabec County has decided not to participate; but the Kanabec SWCD has signed on. July 28 is first JPA meeting. After administrative work, will kick off the implementation phase. Jake and Margaret noted it would be useful to contact ML County Commissioners to emphasize their participation in the JPA. Their additional vote during implementation of priorities would be important. Additional information and the 1W1P is available at <https://www.millelacsswcd.org/> Jake notes the Snake River 1W1P and the St Cloud-Mississippi 1W1P is also ongoing. Pat Murphy notes he is on advisory committee for the Mississippi-Brainerd 1W1P, the Aitkin County Water Planning Task Force and the Northern Waters Land Trust, a coalition of Lake Associations that meet to share information.
- **AIS Grant:** Funds available for CD3 unit at Sha-Bush-Kung Bay. Chad notes funds will be used to pay yearly software subscription, approx. \$1000. Chad will send invoice to Janet. AIS grant is also used for our website and HLHL this fall. \$500 went to the Mille Lacs Area Community Foundation (MLACF). They purchased and delivered AIS bait bags and KIC stickers (750 bags) to bait shops around the lake. Well received.
- **Keep the Lead Out:** (John) 8 pounds collected at the CSP. John will do Topic of the Month. He will include how and where to properly dispose of lead. Doug sadly noted their Pelican died of lead poisoning.
- **Keep It Clean (KIC) campaign:** Pat notes Ann Brucciani Lyon, MLACF, has worked on Ron Schera endorsement and he intends to include in 2023 Fishing Expo. MN Association of SWCDs (MASWCD) Area 8 KIC Resolution will go forward to Resolution Committee in August (Jake is member). He asks the group to reach out to local SWCDs and Boards to support. The draft Resolution was attached to prior minutes. When approved, the MASWCD will take to the MN

legislature as the lobbyist for MN SWCDs. Jake asks us to review and send him any recommended language changes. He will do updates.

- **Community of Stewards Picnic (CSP)** (Barb): Post-CSP Survey Monkey responses were useful. The event was rated Good-Excellent. Goals included: 1) Signing up lakeshore stewardship plans (2 interested); and 2) Encourage DIY projects. We had multiple conversations with folks doing continual projects on their land. Chad notes CD3 unit did not get much attention. Chad ordered stickers that say "Free" as some thought it looked expensive and therefore must have to pay for use. Folks confused the CD3 with the DNRs decon stations and Chad clarified. Would be better to have unit closer to the main event. Plant I.D. workshop was rated excellent. Jake's video is up on facebook. Jake noted that he would like more people to bring 'weeds' like Margaret did. The written feedback included: (See also Attachment 1)
  - Venue was too far away from mainstream, but other noted it was ideal setting that provided privacy, living examples of habitat, and cool breezes
  - Too targeted to shoreline, some wanted more info r.e. forest and how land management impacts lake health
  - Always need additional volunteers
  - Lunch is a draw and local foods highlight our small farms that incorporate best practices for water quality. Excellent lunch.
  - Additional topics were identified for future speakers
  - Brad's talk impressive. Barb working on video sound problems.
  - Stayed within budget. State park charged \$60, office supplies were purchased, but can also be used for HLHL.
  - Good opportunity to meet people and expand our network.
  - From the survey, perhaps event was too long. Food draws people together and builds community. Perhaps a shorter event with speakers repeated more often. Local farmers are supportive. Forage Scape and Dutch Fury Farms gave us a discount.
  - Pat notes forestry is very important to watershed health and the local forest industry.

Jake notes it is worth pursuing the MLACF grant again, perhaps with different focus. Barb will do draft for comments and we will have time to include additional feedback from HLHL event. Requests Pat to help I.D. venue on north side. Would not want to compete with Aitkin Rivers & Lake Fair (excellent program) that happens in the spring. Doug offered to assist Barb in grant writing.

**Everybody worked together on this event. Thanks to all. Secretary's note: Margaret is excellent MC (for future reference).**

## 5. Outreach and Education

- **Healthy Land, Healthy Lake Expo:** Booked at McQuoids 9am-12pm Sept 17. Planning committee: Margaret, John, Barb, Jake. Current ideas: Roundtable discussion, plant I.D. (We will not be doing plant sale as not cost effective), 1W1P update that incorporates forestry, keep CD3 in discussion. Perry & Chad currently working on wild rice density studies. Working with Nature Conservancy and DNR. Using ground truthing and drones to determine best way to measure density. Jake and Margaret note this would be an interesting topic to tie in watershed health with this important food. The Ogechie restoration project was completed fall 2015 and wild rice appeared the next year. Barb will do a FB save the date post. **Post meeting: the group will meet July 26, 10 am, via Zoom.** Email John for link if you can join us.

- **Outreach for new MLLWVG membership:** We welcome Pat, Doug & Sue as new members. Bylaws are on our website that note after attending three versus one meetings/year, a person becomes a voting member. John will verify next meeting.
  - **Outreach to resorts, lake associations:** Pat will bring information to the Aitkin Rivers and Lakes Association.
  - **Topic of the Month:** John to do lead topic, HLHL topic. We invite Doug & Sue's story. John offers editing help. Anyone can be a storyteller. John distributes to local media, posts on website.
  - **Website (John):**
  - **Facebook :** We appreciate like/wow/love and shares on our posts.
- 6. Tracking and Posting Water Quality Data**
- Report on current monitoring activity: (Barb) NR
  - Summarize/Update MLBO DNR data (Chad/Perry): NR
- 7. Organization**
- **Funding opportunities:** MLACF grant application open June 1-Sept 15. They supported us for CSP (\$1000). Rum River 1W1P implementation funds (not identified yet). Mille Lacs Lake falls into 'Protection' strategy but is a high priority water body. Outreach is a big part of the 1W1P as voluntary land owners are needed for implementation. Doug will keep eyes open for other grants.  
Pat notes Long Lake is worth preserving in the face of climate change. It is a cold-water lake with Ciscoes and attractive to Walleyes. Funding not currently available.
- 8. New Business: Steve Hughes, District Manager for Aitkin SWCD, is retiring. Open house for him is July 26, 2-4 pm.**
- 9. Public Comment :** N/A
- 10. Next Meeting Plan Aug 15, 10-11:30 via Zoom**  
Note: Doug, Sue, Margaret regret they cannot attend.

**Adjourned: 11:30**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Barb Eller, Secretary  
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[Barbeller04@gmail.com](mailto:Barbeller04@gmail.com)**

**Attachment 1. Eval July 9, 2022 Community of Stewards Picnic. Comments**

- ✓ I thought this was a really excellent social opportunity for MLLWVG members/participants to mingle, connect, and do some teambuilding (HATE THAT WORD, but it captures the idea) especially with our limited face-to-face interaction on zoom. I'd do a two-hour picnic event with speaker and have a couple compass folks show pictures of their projects and encourage members to bring their spouses/family members and invite a friend they'd think might be interested. We probably tried to have too many things happening which was hard to communicate and maybe was confusing for a newcomer. Also the setting was gorgeous but probably too out-of-the-way to attract a casually interested person. THANKS BARB
- ✓ I received a comment that event felt too targeted towards people with shoreline; they wanted to see more about how forest and land management impacted

- lakes, even without being directly on the lake. This person has about 100 acres close to Mille Lacs, but not shoreline.
- ✓ We need to recruit additional volunteers to help with coordinating/planning/execution. Lunch is a draw and can be showcase for our local farmers, but expensive. Need to incorporate more info r.e. sustainable/regenerative farming & impact on watershed. Add forestry component. Add pollutants of emerging concern & actions to address. Add components r.e. AIS & bring CD3 into the thick of things. Add climate change impacts & adaptive responses & include the MN Climate Action Plan (maybe a speaker?) I was impressed with Brad's talk and group seemed to already be far along the paradigm shift from 'resources' to 'gifts'.
  - ✓ Maybe offer things for folks off the lake, but in the watershed. Location was good. Was it cost effective? It was good to see people face to face and not on zoom.