



Guests Welcome!

Minutes of Meeting Monday, November 21, 2022

Members Present: Laurie Westerlund, Chair; Jake Janski, ViceChair, Mille Lacs SWCD Supervisor; Barb Eller, Secretary; John Pearson, south Mille Lacs; Todd Haas, Pres. Camp Lake Association; Jen Ernest, Isle School Principal; Bob Jansen, Aitkin SWCD Supervisor; Janet Smude, Mngr Aitkin SWCD; Chad Weis, MLBO DNR Water Quality; Perry Bunting, Director, MLBO DNR Environmental Programs; Pat Murphy, Pres. ACLARA, Long Lake Assoc; Bonnie Goshey (Finnerty), Brainerd MPCA; Ann Brucciani Lyon, MLACF/Keep It Clean

1. Welcome and Introductions -

2. Approval of the Agenda – M. John 2nd Barb. Approved.

3. Consent Agenda- M. Bob 2nd Jake. Approved.

- October 17, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- Financial Report: Janet notes corrections – our \$100 donation for the KIC website costs should be included, giving total in general fund \$773.04. See email.

4. Activity Updates and Discussion

Compass Program and Other Preservation and Improvement Activities

- Mille Lacs Compass Program: NR
- Rum River One Watershed, One Plan (Jake): Rum River Partnership Board Meeting 30 Nov to review 2023 draft work plan. https://www.millelacsswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/2019.01.29_Rum-1W1P-work-plan-1.7-Final.pdf
- AIS grant 2022 (Janet): John to send invoice for website work asap.
- Get the Lead Out Tackle Exchange (John): NR
- “Keep it Clean” Campaign (Ann): John to send out report to all via email. Making good progress. Excellent video with Ron Schara now available and will be aired at the St Paul Ice Fishing Show Dec 2-4.

Outreach and Education

- Mille Lacs Compass “Lunch and Learn” development: Dates and topics/guests brainstorm (Barb): Group decided dates: April, June, and coincident with HLHL in September; tentative 3rd Saturday. Tentative topics: April- KIC (Ann) and DNR CO on enforcement ; June- Tree and Forest Management (Lindbergh, UMN); September- DNR Biologist on the unique value of habitat within Mille Lacs Watershed; other topic of interest- Wild Rice (&serve Wild Rice) . Barb to coordinate. Those who can help, email barbeller04@gmail.com. Janet notes LCCMR grant and/or Rum River Watershed Plan will fund tree planting/stewardship plans.
- Fishing for Ducks: MLLWMG presence at Feb 18 Ducks Unlimited event, Garrison. Perry has Committee Meeting 11.18.22 and will request our participation. Notes this is a fundraiser for DU. Suggestions: MLLWMG and KIC fishhouse, signage and banners (Ann has extra banner).
- Youth outreach discussion(Margaret absent); Jen Ernest, Isle Principal attending per discussion with Margaret. She and two 5th grade teachers very interested in partnership with MLLWMG. Jen believes Onamia and Nay Ah Shing also. Curriculum: 5th grade-environmental; 6th grade- MN history; HS- biology, botany, physics,

zoology, included DNR Wildlife class and Wild ricing. Notes programs during the school day best. Isle is looking forward to developing a relationship with us. Jen is also a Master Gardner.

- Ann offered KIC Campaign that includes: 1) Public awareness campaign; 2) Legislative Component- looking at bipartisan bill to tighten enforcement rules; 3) Statewide infrastructure needs, e.g., winter dump stations.
- Ann recommends including SWCD staff in future professions and topics on native plants/shorelands
- Ann thanked the Isle National Honor Society members, including Elias Beamish, for raising over \$700 for the KIC project.
- Aitkin SWCD may soon have an Outreach Coordinator who can do classes.
- Contact: JErnest@isle.k12.mn.us ; Onamia Principal JVold@Onamia.k12.mn.us
- Topics & Website (John): Working website updates.
 - John needs articles for the Topic of the Month. Send rough drafts. Salting and chlorine pollution has been topics over past 2 years. Laurie notes MnDot is always updating road chemical formulas to reduce pollution.
 - Will do link to new KIC website when live. Here Lakes may easily join and order materials.
 - Pat submitted article on Ann's KIC presentation to ACLARA to the Aitkin Age.
- Facebook (Barb) : Link to KIC video posted
- Outreach to lake associations and resorts (kits for spring): NR

Tracking and Posting Water Quality Data

- Updates on MLBO DNR data (Chad/Perry): The Summer's data is back from the lab via date and location. Synopsis of data by Spring.
- NEW: USGS Gaging Station status (John & Perry): MLBO has been matching funds with USGS to maintain Gaging Stations. Measures water elevation at the Mille Lacs outlet, north side (moved from unreliable site Cove Bay). Looking at adding features like water temperature. John will circulate the anticipated meeting date and time when available. We thank MLBO for their investment. Perry notes it is an important data set.

5. Organization

- Election of chair: Tabled until January. Laurie will continue to serve.
- December meeting decision and meeting dates for 2023: Group decided no meeting in December. Then Jan, Feb, Apr, June, July, Aug, Oct, and Nov. Usual is 3rd Monday, however, April and June will coordinate with Lunch and Learns.

6. New Business :

- Bonnie: MPCA 10 yr cycle of watershed monitoring and assessment starts in Rum River Watershed 2024. Now looking at where sampling should occur; discussions start January. Headsup.
- Jake: Outline MLLWVG involvement with the Rum River Watershed Plan implementation to include plans and strategies. January agenda.

7. Public Comment: No further

8. Next meeting is January 23, 10-11:30 via Zoom (usual 3rd Monday is MLK Day).

Adjourned 11:25.

**Respectfully submitted,
Barb Eller, Secretary, MLLWVG
218-839-4489**