



*Guests Welcome!*

### **Minutes of Meeting Monday, January 23, 2023**

Members Present: Laurie Westerlund, Chair; Jake Janski, ViceChair, Mille Lacs SWCD Supervisor; Barb Eller, Secretary; John Pearson, south Mille Lacs; Margaret Vos, Mille Lacs; Todd Haas, Pres. Camp Lake Association; Bob Jansen, Aitkin SWCD Supervisor; Janet Smude, Mngr Aitkin SWCD; Veronica Lindquist, new Aitkin SWCD Tech for watershed outreach; Dianne Jacobsen, Crow Wing SWCD Supervisor; Chad Weis, MLBO DNR Water Resource Manager; 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; Mary Kay & Nick Tinker.

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions -**

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

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

- November 17, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- Financial Report: Attachment 1.

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

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

- Mille Lacs Compass Program: There will be added outreach during 'Lunch & Learns' April, June, and September. Lynn Gallice and Harmony retain program files. Barb notes funding for coordinator of Mille Lacs Compass ran-out. John is Compass program participant and notes the technical assistance of SWCDs is key. Margaret, also a Compass participant, notes communication is needed. Veronica plans to review. Mille Lacs SWCD is hiring to replace the Rum River watershed coordinator (Harmony).
- Rum River One Watershed, One Plan (Jake, Laurie): Rum River Partnership Policy Committee meets Jan 26. Draft workplan here: [https://www.millelacsswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/2019.01.29\\_Rum-1W1P-work-plan-1.7-Final.pdf](https://www.millelacsswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/2019.01.29_Rum-1W1P-work-plan-1.7-Final.pdf)
  - Work plan allocates \$190,000 for Wahkon storm water BMP projects. If projects are not completed, money may be available for other projects.
  - Jake noted that the Compass Program is our main contribution to the Rum River Watershed Plan. Jake will invite Susan Shaw, Mille Lacs SWCD to discuss how to advance Compass and next steps.
  - Pat attended DNR Roundtable and noted \$35 million additional state funding for the DNR. Suggests we reach out to our Senators and Representatives to support funding. Pat will be attending the Mississippi Watershed Plan meeting. John encourages group to reach out to our legislators. Attachment 2. List of Legislators
  - Ann introduced diver clean-up of lake bottom and study of ecological effects of garbage/plastics in the lake. Ann will email additional information.

- John noted that discrete projects need outline of required resources, outcomes expected, and plan to achieve and how they fit with our priorities. Then communicate to Rum River Watershed for review and approval.
- AIS grant 2023 (Janet): Provide Janet with dollars needed, e.g., website and SEO support, Healthy Land Healthy Lake Expo fall, 2023, CD3 unit support, assist with Lunch & Learn budget. Must be related to AIS. We have sufficient marketing trinkets to include line towels.
- Get the Lead Out Tackle Exchange (John): John has supply of nontoxic tackle. Ann notes 300 pieces of lead-free tackle will go out with Keep It Clean messaging on the '23 DNR Creel Survey.
- “Keep it Clean” Campaign (Ann): New website up <https://keepitcleanmn.org/> with info for new members. 12 lakes have now joined the effort. 25 Mille Lacs businesses have KIC banners up. MASWCD passed the Keep It Clean resolution, so now becomes part of legislative platform for 88 MN SWCDs. Geofencing educational ad is running; ad in 2023 DNR Fishing Reg Handbook pending. Discussing year round dump stations with MPCA. County Attorneys need to support DNR tickets for garbage violations.

### **Outreach and Education**

- Mille Lacs Compass “Lunch and Learn” development: First confirmed April 15, 12-1, Red Door Resort, Topic: Keep It Clean; Speakers: Ann Brucciani Lyon, MLACF; Bret Grundmeier, DNR enforcement; Jim Dauhtery, Red Door Resort. 2<sup>nd</sup> confirmed speaker Ekola Lindberg, Private Forested Watershed Protection Coordinator, DNR on Topic Tree and Forest Management in the Mille Lacs Watershed. Dates: June 17 or 24<sup>th</sup>. Venue not yet confirmed. Group notes 24<sup>th</sup> better (June 17 is Aitkin Rivers & Lakes Fair). 3<sup>rd</sup> is coincident with September Healthy Land, Healthy Lake Expo. Janet notes if AIS grant funds, speaker should focus on AIS. Those who can help, email [barbeller04@gmail.com](mailto:barbeller04@gmail.com). Will need RSVP help (John), help to edit flyers & FB ad (John).
- Fishing for Ducks (Perry) Will post Keep It Clean banner provided by Ann. Will run Ron Schara video on loop during Friday night event. No room in tent, but Perry offers space if any one wants to pull fishhouse out for MLWWMG materials. Solicited volunteers for DU.
- Youth outreach discussion(Margaret); Margaret did outreach to superintendents of school districts. Jen Ernest, Principle, identified Isle 5<sup>th</sup> grade that includes environmental curriculum. Discussed Mille Lacs SWCD Conservation Day with Milaca superintendent. He noted this was excellent program for 5<sup>th</sup> graders. This program was discontinued due to lack of staff in 2016. There is great interest from the school districts in working with us. Other program includes Envirothon, funded by SWCDs. Agenda next meeting: What do we want to do? Ann connected 2 Isle 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers with MPCA Get the Lead Out Program, Erin Fallon, DNR Parks also willing to do program and to coordinate spring Clean-Up Day with Isle National Honor Society.
- Topics & Website (John): Send topics to John.
- Facebook (Barb) : Posted Aitkin, Crow Wing, Mille Lacs tree sales.
- Outreach to lake associations and resorts (kits for spring): NR

### **Tracking and Posting Water Quality Data**

- Updates on MLBO DNR data (Chad): The Summer’s data is back from the lab via date and location. Synopsis of data by next meeting.

- USGS Gaging Station status (John & Perry): MLBO looking for dollars to help fund 2022 and future years.
- No info on Adopt-a-Shoreline yet.
- Bonnie notes the MPCA will be doing Rum River watershed monitoring starting 2024. There is a meeting Jan 30 with local partners to determine where monitor. She notes the Mille Lacs Band has good data for Mille Lacs and MPCA will not duplicate data if not needed. These are the proposed lakes to be monitored in 2024-2025 18-0001-00 Whitefish30-0022-00 Skogman30-0043-00 Fannie30-0096-00 Lory30-0107-01 Blue (North Bay)30-0107-02 Blue (South Bay)30-0136-00 Green30-0138-00 South Stanchfield30-0143-00 North Stanchfield71-0022-00 West Hunter48-0002-00 Mille Lacs48-0009-00 Onamia48-0012-00 Shakopee71-0023-00 East Hunter. Let Bonnie know of other lakes to be monitored.

**5. Organization**

- **Meeting dates: Mar 20<sup>th</sup>, 10-1130 via Zoom; April 15 after Lunch & Learn 1-2 pm.** John will circulate list of future meeting dates. No meeting February.
- Election of Chair: Jake nominated Laurie, but she has conflict and must decline. **John nominated Margaret Vos. Group approved. Congratulations Margaret!**
- John will do summary annual report for 2022.

**6. New Business :**

**7. Public Comment :** No further

**8. Next meeting is March 20, 10-11:30 via Zoom**

**Adjourned 11:50**

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

**Attachment 1. Financial report**

<b>MLLWMG Financial Report</b>	<b>November &amp; December 2022</b>	<b>Budget Balance</b>	<b>Spent Previous Periods</b>	<b>Spent This Period</b>	<b>Current Balance</b>
<b>MLLWMG FUNDS</b>					
All previous combined		\$ 864.36	\$ 131.32	0.00	\$ 733.04
Community Stewards Picnic 2022		\$ 115.00	\$ 115.00	0.00	\$ -
Lunch & Learns - Printing, Facebook Ad		\$ 40.00			\$ 40.00
Keep It Clean Website		\$ 100.00			\$ 100.00
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 1,119.36</b>	<b>\$ 246.32</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 873.04</b>

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

	\$	\$	\$	\$
Space Rental	50.00	60.00	-	(10.00)
	\$	\$		\$
Catering / Meal	750.00	740.00		0.00 10.00
	\$	\$		\$
Speaker Stipend	200.00	200.00		0.00 -
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**Aquatic Invasive Species Education Funding, Aitkin County**

Activity # 1). Healthy Land, Healthy Lake Expo

	\$			\$
Advertising - Newspapers, Social Media, Banners	1,000.00	898.21	0	101.79
	\$			\$
MLLWMG Website Consultant - Promotion & Production	1,000.00		650.00	350.00
Event Hosting - Mtg Space, Zoom Subscription,	\$			\$
Refreshments	375.00	467.01	0	(92.01)

Activity # 2). Website / Facebook / Marketing Expenses

	\$			\$
Website Hosting & Domain Registration	300.00	296.73	0	3.27
	\$			\$
Keep It Clean Campaign Support	500.00	500.00	0.00	-
	\$			\$
MLLWMG Website / Social Media Consultant	300.00			300.00
	\$	\$		\$

Activity # 3. CD3 Watercraft Cleaning Station Support

	\$	\$	\$	\$
	1,025.00	1,025.00	-	-
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>4,500.00</b>	<b>3,186.95</b>	<b>650.00</b>	<b>663.05</b>

**Lunch & Learns 2023**

				\$
Venues (3)	700.00			700.00
				\$
Speaker Stipends	300.00			300.00
				\$
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>		0	<b>1,000.00</b>

	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>7,619.36</b>	<b>4,433.27</b>	<b>650.00</b>	<b>2,536.00</b>

**Attachment 2. List of Legislators**

Crow Wing: Rep. Ben Davis (R) District: 06A, 651-296-0172

**E-mail:** [rep.ben.davis@house.mn.gov](mailto:rep.ben.davis@house.mn.gov)

Mille Lacs, Aitkin: Rep. Ron Kresha (R) District: 10A, 651-296-4247

**E-mail:** [rep.ron.kresha@house.mn.gov](mailto:rep.ron.kresha@house.mn.gov)

Mid-South Mille Lacs: Rep. Isaac Schultz (R) District: 10B,  
Assistant Minority Leader, 651-296-6746

**E-mail:** [rep.isaac.schultz@house.mn.gov](mailto:rep.isaac.schultz@house.mn.gov)

Senator Nathan Wesenberg (10, R), 651-296-4913

**E-mail:** [sen.nathan.wesenberg@senate.mn](mailto:sen.nathan.wesenberg@senate.mn)