



Minutes of Meeting: March 20, 2023

Present: Margaret Vos, Chair; Jake Janski, ViceChair, Mille Lacs SWCD Supervisor; John Pearson, South Mille Lacs; Bob Jansen, Aitkin SWCD Supervisor; Todd Haas, Camp Lake Assoc.; Veronica Lundquist, Aitkin SWCD Outreach Coordinator; Janet Smude, Staff, Aitkin SWCD; Laurie Westerlund, Aitkin County Commissioner; Susan Shaw, District Manager, Mille Lacs SWCD; Pat Murphy, Pres. Aitkin Rivers and Lakes Association; Chad Weiss, Water Resource Manager, Mille Lacs Band DNR; Ann Brucciani Lyon, Mille Lacs Area Community Foundation, Mille Lacs Keep It Clean Coordinator; Nick Tinker, Wahkon; Barb Eller, Rum River Watershed

1. Welcome and Introductions. Meeting called to order 10:05.

2. Approval of the Agenda – Hearing no additions/changes, Chair Approved.

3. Consent Agenda

- January 23, 2023 Meeting Minutes . Correction: 2nd paragraph “To replace the <add> Rum River Watershed coordinator”. **Approved as corrected.**
- Financial Report. See attachment 1. **Approved.** Janet notes no expenses Jan/Feb. John to send invoices for approval next meeting. Janet notes Zoom expenses (\$16/mo) could be avoided with in person meetings. Jake notes Susan offered Mille Lacs SWCD Zoom account for our use.

4. Activity Updates and Discussion

Compass Program and Other Preservation and Improvement Activities

- Mille Lacs Compass Program (Susan Shaw): Input is appreciated for the Mille Lacs SWCD strategic planning process ongoing now. The ~2014 Compass Program purpose was to get and keep more projects on the lake. A 2017 grant funded a ML watershed coordinator position (Harmony) for focused outreach to promote the Compass Program. The latter was developed by Lynn Gallice, ML SWCD and the MLLWGM as a way to build community, stewardship, application of BMPs around the watershed.
 - The Group agrees the role of MLLWGM in the Mille Lacs Compass program, given our limited volunteer resources, is primarily outreach and education. Citizens interested in shoreland restoration/stewardship are referred to our technical partners at the Mille Lacs, Crow Wing, and Aitkin SWCDs. Our other partners at the MLBO and MPCA are also key. John notes our social media presence and relationship with the local press is ongoing and unique.
 - The Group agrees that communication between partners is key and that feedback on referrals to the ML Compass Program is needed. Jake and Susan will get us regular feedback on program activities.
 - Marketing of the “Compass” brand: The brand ‘Compass’ was selected as ‘Mille Lacs is moving/going/pointed in the right direction’. Important to use Mille Lacs Compass in the brand. Offered tag lines: ‘Healthy Land, Healthy Lake’, ‘Moving Mille Lacs in the right direction’. Margaret notes as we near the 10 yr anniversary, we should review the name and marketing for greater clarity.

- Margaret suggests we dedicate more time to discussing/brainstorming strategies in future. Susan notes our outreach events are useful with continued referral to the SWCDs.
- Rum River 2023 Work Plan (Jake): Staff are naming & prioritizing projects for the 2023 plan. Board Meeting Thursday to approve projects. Susan notes \$300,000 funding for Best Management Practices (BMPs) around the Lake. Large part is dedicated to Wahkon storm water management plan. Funding is available to hire a Rum River wide watershed coordinator position (Apr/May hire) for outreach to citizens, citizen groups like the MLLWMG, and the MLBO. This includes Forestry BMPs, public and private across the entire watershed.
 - Janet notes the Aitkin SWCD has funding for a drone survey of shoreline with followup for potential projects. Also funding is available for Forest stewardship within the watershed.
- AIS grant for 2023 (Janet): **M. Barb 2nd John for Janet to submit AIS grant for \$4850. Approved**
 - Funding will support fall Healthy Land Healthy Lake Expo and the 3rd Lunch and Learn (September 23),
 - MLLWMG website and marketing expenses.
 - Funding also for support of Keep It Clean campaign with AIS focus.
 - MLBO CD3 (clean, drain, dry, dispose) unit support
- Get the Lead Out Tackle Exchange (John): Will bring box of lead free tackle to Lunch & Learn April 15.
- “Keep it Clean” Campaign (Ann): Letter of Support(LOS) for Keep It Clean HF 2745 and SF 2789. **M. Bob 2nd John Approved Margaret to send MLLWMG LOS.**
 - Funding for phase 1 diver cleanup of garbage in Mille Lacs and document AIS present may be pending from MPCA
 - Ann will email 2022 report on KIC actions.
- **Outreach and Education**
 - Lunch & Learn Event(s) Update (Barb):
 - April 15, noon-1 Keep It Clean with Ann, Bret Grundmeier, and Brian Linn/James Dougherty, Red Door Resort Event Center. **RSVP by Apr 5.**
 - June 24, noon-1 with Lindberg Ekola, Private Forested Watersheds Protection Manager, Board of Water and Soil Resources at Appeldoorn’s Event Center;
 - Working with Meg Duhr, Research Outreach at MN AIS Research Center for summary of AIS research done on Mille Lacs, practical applications, effects of climate, AIS, shoreland BMPs on ecosystem, coincident with Healthy Land Healthy Lake Expo, September 23, McQuoids Event Center.
 - Fishing for Ducks Report (Perry) N/R
 - Youth outreach (Margaret): Barb notes Troy Amundsen’s shop class Isle School will “build us anything” if we provide materials/funding. **Add to next meeting agenda .** Students’ donation of cedar Wood Duck Houses will be drawing at April 15 event.
 - Topics & Website (John): Get topics to John. He will do edit assist.
 - Facebook (Barb):
- Outreach to lake associations and resorts (kits for spring): Janet, Laurie, Dianne putting kits together. Veronica will bring give-aways to April event. Need to recognize Red Door, Appeldoorn’s, McQuoids for exceptional support of Lunch & Learns.
- **Tracking and Posting Water Quality Data**
 - Updates on MLBO DNR data (Chad): Excellent presentation given on Mille Lacs 2023 data and historical context. Lake remains mesotrophic, well-mixed (“Mille Lacs lives and dies by the wind”). A week with no winds results in stratification of

temperature and dissolved oxygen. This often results in fish kills and challenges Tullipe survival. Chad notes the data does not show trend of higher water clarity despite zebra mussels. Also notes temperature trends unclear perhaps related to limited sampling times. John will post this very helpful summary on our website.

- USGS Gaging station update (Perry): N/R

5. Organization

- Meeting dates for remainder of 2023. **M. John 2nd Jake. Approved.**

Sat., April 15 at Lunch & Learn	Sat., September 23 at Lunch & Learn
Mon., May 15	Mon., November 20
Saturday, June 24 at Lunch & Learn	No meeting Feb., Jul., Oct., Dec.
Mon., August 21	

- 2022 Annual Report : John will share draft via email. Almost done.

6. New Business & Public Comment

7. Action Summary and Next Meeting Plan:

- **RSVP for April 15 Lunch & Learn.** Email John or go to website.
<https://millelacswatershed.org/lunch-learn/>
- **Next meeting April 15, 1-2 pm** after Lunch and Learn.

Adjourned: 11:35. Much thanks to Laurie for serving as Chair for so many years.

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

MLLWMG Financial Report January & February 2023	Budget Balance	Spent Previous Periods	Spent This Period	Current Balance
MLLWMG FUNDS				
All previous combined	\$ 733.04	\$ -		\$ 733.04
Lunch & Learns - Printing, Facebook Ad	\$ 40.00			\$ 40.00
Keep It Clean Website	\$ 100.00			\$ 100.00
Subtotal	\$ 873.04	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 873.04
Lunch & Learns 2023				
Venues (3)	700.00			\$ 700.00
Speaker Stipends	300.00			\$ 300.00
Subtotal	1,000.00			\$ 1,000.00
Grand Total	\$ 1,873.04	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,873.04

