



Minutes of Meeting: April 15, 2023

Present: Margaret Vos, Chair, Compass Member, East Mille Lacs; Jake Janski, Vice Chair, Mille Lacs SWCD Supervisor; Barb Eller, Secretary, Rum River Watershed; John Pearson, Compass Member, South Mille Lacs; Todd Haas, Pres., Camp Lake Assoc.; Veronica Lundquist, Aitkin SWCD Watershed Outreach Coordinator; Pat Murphy, Pres. Aitkin Rivers and Lakes Association; Perry Bunting, Director, Mille Lacs Band DNR; Marilyn & Jack Anderson, Compass Members, Smith Lake; Dr. Debbie Eskedahl, Wild and Free; Via Zoom: Tara Bayerl

1. Welcome and Introductions. Meeting called to order 1:15 pm

2. Approval of the Agenda – M. Barb 2nd Jake approved.

3. Consent Agenda

- March 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes . No corrections. Approved.
- Financial Report. See attachment 1. M. Jake 2nd Perry **Approved**. Note: John elects to continue to use his Zoom account for meetings at no cost to us.

4. Activity Updates and Discussion

Compass Program and Other Preservation and Improvement Activities

- Mille Lacs Compass Program (Jake): The 2022 Mille Lacs Compass Report is on Mille Lacs SWCD website: <https://www.millelacsswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Compass-Report-2022.pdf> Pat notes we need to tell the story of Compass, branding is key. **May agenda: Brainstorm Compass marketing.**
- Rum River 2023 Work Plan (Jake): Total of \$750, 000 allocated to the Work Plan: https://www.millelacsswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Rum-River-Partnership-2023-Work-Plan_11_30_2022.pdf
 - Veronica 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. **May agenda.**
- AIS grant for 2023 (Janet): **Grant approved: \$5000.**
 - Funding will support fall Healthy Land Healthy Lake Expo and the 3rd Lunch and Learn (September 23),
 - MLLWVG 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): Plans exchange at all our events. Todd will take extra for Camp Lake Association today. Funding for this MPCA program is ending, but Jake notes they have applied for grant funding to continue.
- “Keep it Clean” Campaign (Ann): Ann Brucciani Lyon and LT. Bret Grundmeier did excellent presentation for today’s Lunch & Learn. Shantelle, Red Door Manager, summarized their efforts on trash and waste removal. It is encouraging that businesses and individuals have reported less trash and waste this year, so far. 21 folks attended. Thanks to Red Door Resort for hosting. Pat notes the DNR Roundtable participants are in full support of the KIC Campaign as well as Rep. Kresh (10A, R) and Sen. Wesenberg (06, R).
- **Outreach and Education**
 - Lunch & Learn Event(s) Update (Barb):

- April 15, noon-1 Keep It Clean with Ann, Bret Grundmeier. Complete. 21 attendees (31 registered). Some members noted registration confirmations were inconsistent. John has corrected program problem. Thanks John.
- June 24, noon-1 with Lindberg Ekola, Private Forested Watersheds Protection Manager, Board of Water and Soil Resources at Appeldoorn's Event Center; Marketing starts next week.
- Barb having trouble finding speaker for September 23. MN AIS Research Center staff unavailable. Contacted Lee Engel, Lake Protection and Restoration, MPCA. Waiting for reply. Pat and Jake highly recommend Alek Lackmann, UMD Professor. Topic: Buffalo Fish who eat everything including Zebra Mussels and Spiny Waterfleas.
- Fishing for Ducks Report (Perry) KIC banner went up; they will keep for next year.
- Youth outreach (Margaret):
 - Today's Wood Duck House drawing went to Dave Berger and Margaret Vos. They plan to write thank you's to Troy Amundsen's student carpenters Josiah Mueller and Zach Remer at Isle High School.
 - Margaret notes Troy Amundsen can build what we want by end of this school year; Red Beard Lumber Isle agrees to participate with 10% discount.
 - **Designate up to \$250 for Troy Amundsen's Shop Class to build birdhouses pending budget review by Janet. M. Barb 2nd Pat Approved.**
 - John notes we need to know deliverables.
 - Barb notes birdhouses are related to our mission of healthy landscapes and native habitats for clean water.
 - Pat and Todd note youth involvement is key. Examples: Dan Lake Sportsmen Club, Long Lake Conservation Center, Aitkin Rivers and Lake Fair.
- Topics & Website (John): Get topics to John. He will do edit assist.
- Facebook (Barb): Post June 24 Lunch and Learn. Please like and share.
- Outreach to lake associations and resorts (kits for spring): Veronica brought today. Red Door was excited to receive (2).
- **Tracking and Posting Water Quality Data**
 - Updates on MLBO DNR data (Chad): We would like to post on our website Chad's excellent presentation on Mille Lacs 2023 data and historical context done at March meeting. **Awaiting Chad's approval.**
 - USGS Gaging station update (Perry): Perry has funding. Ongoing work.

5. Organization

- 2022 Annual Report : **TBD May meeting**

6. New Business & Public Comment

- UMN AIS program is soliciting volunteers to take water samples for UMN AIS processing pilot study. John has volunteered. They are looking for carp, zebra mussels, spiny water flea, rusty crayfish. **John will email more information.**

7. Action Summary and Next Meeting Plan:

- **Next meeting May 15, 10-11:30 am** via Zoom

Adjourned: 2:17 pm

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

Attachment 1. Financial Report

MLLWMG Financial Report March 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
Aitkin County AIS Education Grant 2023				
Healthy Land Healthy Lake Expo				
Advertising	1,000.00			\$ 1,000.00
Website Consultant	1,000.00			\$ 1,000.00
Event Hosting	475.00			\$ 475.00
Lunch	250.00			\$ 250.00
Website / Facebook / Marketing				\$ -
Website Hosting, Domain Name Registration	300.00	0	0	\$ 300.00
Keep It Clean Campaign Support	650.00			\$ 650.00
Website / Social Media Consultant	300.00			\$ 300.00
CD3 Watercraft Cleaning Station Support	1,025.00			\$ 1,025.00
Subtotal	5,000.00	0	0	\$ 5,000.00
Grand Total	\$ 6,873.04	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,873.04