



Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group

Healthy Land, Healthy Lake

D R A F T Minutes of Meeting: May 15, 2023

Present: Margaret Vos, Chair, Compass Member, East Mille Lacs; Jake Janski, ViceChair, Mille Lacs SWCD Supervisor; Barb Eller, Secretary, Rum River Watershed; John Pearson, Compass Member, South Mille Lacs; Veronica Lundquist, Aitkin SWCD Watershed Outreach Coordinator; Bob Janzen, Aitkin SWCD Supervisor; Sam Seybold, Aitkin SWCD; Laurie Westerlund, Aitkin County Commissioner; Dianne Jacobsen, Crow Wing SWCD Supervisor; Mitch Gindele, Mille Lacs County Wetland Lead; Pat Murphy, Pres. Aitkin Rivers and Lakes Association; Ann Brucianni Lyon, MLACF/Keep It Clean; Perry Bunting, Director, Mille Lacs Band DNR; Chad Weiss, Water Quality, Mille Lacs Band DNR

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

2. Approval of the Agenda – No corrections/additions. Chair Approved.

3. Consent Agenda

- April 15, 2023 Meeting Minutes . No corrections. Chair Approved.
- Financial Report. See attachment 1. **Approved with corrections.**
 - Budget over-run for April Lunch & Learn \$207 to be paid from general fund. M. Jake 2nd Dianne group approved.
 - Donation of \$200 allocated to Isle High School via Red Beard Lumber, Isle for the construction of 12 birdhouses by Troy Amundson's Shop Class. 6 birdhouses as drawing at June 24 Lunch & Learn and 6 for fall Healthy Land, Healthy Lake Expo. Project TBD by end of May. Red Beard provided 10% discount on materials.

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> Jake will coordinate meeting with SWCD staff and us to discuss marketing/outreach for this program asap.
 - Rum River 2023 Work Plan (Jake):
 - Mille Lacs SWCD website is home for RR Work Plan: https://www.millelacsswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Rum-River-Partnership-2023-Work-Plan_11_30_2022.pdf
 - Mille Lacs SWCD is awaiting hire of RR Watershed Coordinator.
 - Rain Garden, storm water management for Wahkon, shoreline work pending. Applications for next work projects due June 22. Eligible organizations include SWCDs. All projects go through SWCDs.
- AIS grant for 2023 (Janet): **Grant approved: \$5000 received.** Funding is on reimbursement basis and available now.
 - Funding will support fall Healthy Land Healthy Lake Expo and the 3rd Lunch and Learn (September 23),
 - MLLWGM 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): Box of nontoxic tackle pending. John will notify us when available. Plans exchange at all our events. Veronica will check with Janet if Aitkin SWCD can be lead drop-off/exchange site in between our events.
 - “Keep it Clean” Campaign (Ann):
 - Keep It Clean enforcement included in Environmental Omnibus Bill.
 - Phase I Mille Lacs Dive assessment, Collin West ‘Clean up the Lakes’, funded by MPCA. Start June 2024. Bonnie Goshey is fiscal manager. Promotion pending.
 - Looking for funding for Phase II and III lake garbage cleanup for 2025-26. \$300,000 total cost. Jake notes that is in the timeframe for the next round of state funding for RR 1W1P.
 - MPCA funded a KIC wheelhouse to be maintained by Beltrami County. Amy Marie Kulseth is hired for a diorama of lake stewardship. Will be part of the MN State Fair Ecoexperience. Traveling display for our use as well.
 - Mille Lacs Drone Survey (Sam): The drone study will begin early summer. Only public spaces included, not over private property. It will be taking off, landing from boat. Data analysis 2023-24 will include metrics such as vegetation, sedimentation, erosion, near shore vegetation, slope. Followed by recommended practices for identified areas. Funded by RR 1W1P, 1 year project. Will help to prioritize work plan and funding.
- **Outreach and Education**
 - Lunch & Learn Event(s) Update (Barb):
 - June 24, noon-1 with Lindberg Ekola, Private Forested Watersheds Protection Manager, Board of Water and Soil Resources at Appeldoorn’s Event Center. Menu: Chicken and Wild Rice. WiFi, projector available. Pat notes information given to Northern Waters Land Trust, ACLARA. Flyers go out early next week plus site visit. Call Barb to assist. RSVP by June 9. Zoom option to be available for meeting that follows. Pat notes alternative would be to film video. Dianne to discuss with Crow Wing SWCD for video capability.
 - Pat: June 17 is Aitkin Rivers & Lakes Fair at Long Lake Conservation Center.
 - Youth outreach (Margaret):
 - See discussion under Financial. Photos for promotion with parental permission pending.
 - Topics & Website (John): Lunch & Learn update done. John notes the newsletters from Crow Wing and Aitkin SWCDs are informative and will share.
 - Facebook (Barb): Boost June 24 Lunch and Learn. Please like and share. John to do press release next week. John will schedule series of FB promotions.
- Outreach to lake associations and resorts (kits for spring): Veronica notes Red Door Resort has kits and will bring to June 24th. Barb notes Appeldoorn’s is donating \$500 facility fee for our Lunch & Learn. Include in promotions.
- **Tracking and Posting Water Quality Data**
 - Updates on MLBO DNR data (Chad): Sampling to be done end of June. Chad is checking approval to post his excellent presentation on Mille Lacs 2023 data and historical context done at March meeting. Last year’s data is on [EPA’s WQX website](#).
 - USGS Gaging station update (Perry): Funding available from MLBO for elevation data through 2024.
 - [UMN eDNA AIS volunteers](#) for sampling of Mille Lacs waters: Contact John for information on how to participate in this study.

5. Organization

- Budget Procedure and Planning: John notes small expenses add up. Aitkin SWCD needs to know expenses upfront. Need to list expenses and group needs to approve. June agenda. Veronica is transitioning into Janet's role with MLLWMG.
- 2022 Annual Report : **Done. Thanks John!**

6. New Business & Public Comment

- Chloride pollution: Al Close noted township is using CaCl₂ for dust control on gravel road in close proximity to Round Lake and is concerned about run-off into the lake. Bonnie Goshey and Brooke Asleson, Chloride Coordinator MPCA, sent information on [BMPs for dust suppression](#). Laurie discussed with Al and recommended Round Lake Association and neighbor coalition tell Township to stop chloride applications/disapprove the budget for it. Pat notes environmentally friendlier dust suppression are more expensive. We need more scientific evidence that it harms the lakes. Chloride is very corrosive to vehicles. Remains an issue for all lakes with nearby roads. See attachment 2, Additional Chloride Pollution Information

7. Action Summary and Next Meeting Plan:

- Next meeting **June 24, after Lunch & Learn at Appeldoorn's**

Adjourned: 11:26 am

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

Attachment 1. Financial Report, corrected.

MLLWMG Financial Report April 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		\$ 651.28	\$ 48.72
Speaker Stipends	300.00		\$ 100.00	\$ 200.00
Subtotal	1,000.00		\$ 751.28	\$ 248.72
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	21.17	\$ 278.83
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	21.17	\$4,978.83
Grand Total	\$6,873.04	\$ -	\$ 772.45	\$6,100.59
** Note - Red Beard Lumber Yard Donations / Isle School	\$201.60			

Attachment 2. Additional Chloride Pollution Information

Links provided by Ann:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mcvmagazine/issues/2020/jan-feb/chloride.html>

<https://extension.umn.edu/lawns-and-landscapes/effects-deicing-salts-landscapes>

https://stormwater.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/Environmental_impacts_of_road_salt_and_other_de-icing_chemicals

Communication from Brooke Asleson, Chloride Program, MPCA

Here is an updated document on fugitive dust that I provided some updated language for about chloride that you can share: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/p-sbap5-45.pdf>

Here is some information from the [Minnesota Statewide Chloride Management Plan](#) (CMP) about dust control:

Here is the brief section on dust suppressant as a source of chloride to MN waters:

Dust Suppressants Dust suppressants that contain chloride, typically MgCl₂ or CaCl₂, commonly applied to gravel roads one or two times during summer months. The fraction of chloride that is washed off of the roadway surface after application can vary within the range of 20% to 70% (Reference USDA Forest Service 1972). In a 27 particular catchment located near Duluth, Minnesota, chloride concentrations have been shown to increase from 3 mg/L prior to application to over 1,000 mg/L in samples taken 2 and 6 weeks after application (USDA 1972). This suggests that chloride applied as dust suppressants can have a significant impact on the water quality under certain circumstances. A 2009 study of 16 streams in Colorado measured chloride levels upstream and downstream of roads that received MgCl as a dust suppressant treatment. Eight of sixteen streams had significantly higher downstream than upstream concentrations of chloride or magnesium over the entire monitoring period, though a regional water response was not observed with application of MgCl₂ (Goodrich 2009). And here is a high level summary for managing chloride from gravel road maintenance from the CMP:

Gravel Surface Maintenance and Dust Control (Rural Road Authority, Construction, Mining, Forestry and Industries) Dust suppressants come in several varieties, but chloride-based dust suppressants are most commonly used. For those using dust control products, we recommend taking a close look at the frequency, volume and type of dust suppressants used, and seek strategies to minimize chloride use. Dust control measures such as proper gravel road composition and grading introduce less chlorides into our freshwater system and should be considered the first approach to managing dust on gravel road management. Speed limits, considerations for paving, and other nonchemical approaches to dust control should be evaluated and implemented if possible. Maintenance supervisors and operators will benefit from use of the SSA_t, which includes guidelines such as, understanding reapplication frequencies, avoiding application near wells or drainage tiles, and planning around weather forecasts.

I highly recommend having them use the [Smart Salting tool](#)'s gravel road maintenance section for the best guidance. We are in the process of expanding the tool and now have an entire educational section about dust control included, the updated version of the tool should go live in the next month. Here is a table that is included that might be helpful for your local partner:

Treatment	Attributes	Advantages	Drawbacks
Magnesium Chloride (MgCl₂)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivered as liquid - Hygroscopic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More effective chloride - Less expensive chloride - Less likely to increase stormwater runoff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Effectiveness diminishes over time - May harm vegetation and wildlife - Water impacts may include oxygen depletion, petroleum hydrocarbons (from oil field sources), cyanides, dissolved salts, and heavy metals.
Calcium Chloride (CaCl₂)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivered as flake or liquid - Hygroscopic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most effective chloride - Less likely to increase stormwater runoff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More expensive chloride - Effectiveness diminishes over time - May harm vegetation and wildlife - Water impacts may include oxygen depletion, petroleum hydrocarbons (from oil field sources), cyanides, dissolved salts, and heavy metals.
Sodium Chloride (NaCl)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivered as rock salt - Least commonly used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Less likely to increase stormwater runoff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Least effective chloride - Sodium actively degrades soil structure - Effectiveness diminishes over time - May harm vegetation and wildlife - Water impacts may include oxygen depletion, petroleum hydrocarbons (from oil field sources), cyanides, dissolved salts, and heavy metals.
Lignin Sulfonates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resin - By-product of wood pulping - Works best when incorporated into surface gravel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotes soil stabilization by binding soil particles together through cohesion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Effectiveness reduces after heavy rain - May harm vegetation - Water impacts may include oxygen depletion, acidity/corrosivity, ammonia, phenols, chloride, sodium, sulfate, and heavy metals (especially zinc) - May cause foaming and discoloration in surface water
Natural Clays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Highly plastic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Highly plastic - Promotes soil stabilization when added in the right quantity to gravel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In long spouts of dry weather, roads will not remain dust free - Tends to stick to truck boxes and requires high effort to mix into gravel
Soybean Oil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By-product of caustic refining process of soybean oil - Similar characteristics of a light petroleum-based oil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biodegradable - Penetrates gravel surface to provide bonding - Less toxic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water impacts may include oxygen depletion
Low-Chloride Alternatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduced chloride content combined with organic additives such as polymers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Less toxic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full ingredients list is not typically disclosed and therefore true environmental impact is unknown
Used Oil	Prohibited		

Hope this helps!

Brooke Asleson, M.S. *she/her/hers*

Chloride Program Administrator

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

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Visit the Chloride website: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/chloride-salts>

