



Minutes of Meeting: June 24, 2023

Present: Jake Janski, ViceChair, Mille Lacs SWCD Supervisor; Barb Eller, Secretary, Rum River Watershed; John Pearson, Compass Member, South Mille Lacs; Dianne Jacobsen, Crow Wing SWCD Supervisor; Pat Murphy, Pres. Aitkin Rivers and Lakes Association; Guy Haglund; Paul Andrews, Founding Member; Lori Peterman, Paul's Granddaughter; Cynthia Johnson,

1. Welcome and Introductions. Meeting called to order by Vice Chair 1:30 pm

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

3. Consent Agenda. Tabled by Vice Chair for next meeting

- May 15, 2023 Meeting Minutes .
- Financial Report.

4. Activity Updates and Discussion

- Mille Lacs Compass Program (Jake): The 2022 Mille Lacs Compass Report was handed out and is on Mille Lacs SWCD website:
<https://www.millelacsswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Compass-Report-2022.pdf> Barb notes Appeldoorn's General Manager will be meeting with Lynn about a potential erosion control project for their beach.
 - One Watershed One Plan Rum River 2023 (Jake):
 - No new projects approved. Mille Lacs Projects are ongoing. Outreach is continuing.
 - \$760,000 of projects approved within the Rum River Watershed at March meeting. Projected \$1.1 million for 2024-25 projects starting July 2024. Now is the time to come forward with projects. Proposals should go through the SWCDs.
 - Example of project : Aitkin SWCD is doing drone survey of public lakeshore around Mille Lacs to identify erosion and BMPs to address.
 - Mille Lacs SWCD is awaiting hire of 3 FTE's to include a Rum River Watershed Coordinator.
 - AIS grant for 2023 (Janet): N/R
 - Get the Lead Out Tackle Exchange (John): Collected 6 large lead weights used for nets, est. 25# each today. There is a program for retailers to get rebates for carrying lead-free tackle via the [MN Pollution Control Agency](#). John working with Aitkin SWCD for year round lead collection point.
 - "Keep it Clean" Campaign (Ann):
 - Keep It Clean enforcement included in Environmental Omnibus Bill passed. Group agrees Ann Bruccianni Lyon did amazing job in getting this legislation done.
 - 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.

5. Outreach and Education

- Lunch & Learn Event(s) Update (Barb):

- June 24, noon-1 with Dan Steward went well with about 26 attendees. Appeldoorn's donated their facility fee plus helped out with lunch. Group agrees this was excellent venue. Barb to do draft 'Topic' and to John for edit
- September 23 is next Lunch & Learn with the Healthy Land Healthy Lake Expo. Speaker is Tom Hubbard, AIS Detector trained by MAISRC. Catering will be barbecue by Isle company.
- We will need July meeting to discuss Healthy Land Healthy Lake Expo
 - MNL plant pickup with preorders?
 - ML Compass discussion? Pat notes to include Shelley Larsen. She sold her native landscaping business to Laura Mendoza, Great Roots, 218-429-1739.
 - CD3 unit demo and hands-on practice? Barb to check with Perry & Chad, MLBO DNR.
- Youth outreach (Barb):
 - Birdhouse project a success. Participants today pleased! We contributed \$200 for materials; Red Beard Lumber gave discount.
 - Members asked to sign Thank You card for Troy Amundsen. Troy will be available next school year and they will make anything we want.
 - John will submit article to paper, protecting childrens' pictures. Dianne concurs with protection as we do not have written permission to use.
- Topics & Website (John): Projects of Rum River 1W1P should be included in outreach and education of how public Legacy Funds and LCCMR are used.
- Facebook (Barb): John did great job with FB promotion of today's Lunch & Learn.
- Outreach to lake associations and resorts (kits for spring): Veronica will get gift bags to Appeldoorn's when Aitkin SWCD pays invoice for today's event.
- **Tracking and Posting Water Quality Data**
 - [UMN eDNA AIS volunteers](#) for sampling of Mille Lacs waters: Contact John for information on how to participate in this study. This will be good topic for Healthy Land Healthy Lake Expo.

5. Organization

- Budget Procedure and Planning: John suggests July meeting focus here.

6. New Business & Public Comment

- Chloride pollution: Barb notes this was issue Al Close brought up last meeting. See Minutes 5.15.23.
- Jake notes Culvert Inventory is needed as part of County hazard planning. Proposed LCCMR grant to complete. Coordinating with Townships. Intense rain events increase risk of road washouts and pollution of lakes/wetlands. Thought and planning to keep water on the land is needed, not just bigger culverts.

7. Action Summary and Next Meeting Plan:

- **Next meeting July 24 via Zoom.** Usual is the 3rd Monday, but some members not available that day.

Adjourned: 2:30 pm

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