



Minutes of Meeting Monday, July 24, 2023

Present: Margaret Vos, Chair, East Mille Lacs; Jake Janski, ViceChair, Mille Lacs SWCD Board; Barb Eller, Secretary, Rum River Watershed; John Pearson, South Mille Lacs, Communications; Bonnie Goshey, MPCA Project Manager; Janet Kohlstedt, Pres. Clear Lake Assoc; Cynthia Johnson, Platte Lake, plays on Mille Lacs; Pat Murphy, Long Lake, Pres. ACLARA; Bob Jansen, Aitkin SWCD Board; Veronica Lundquist, Aitkin SWCD Watershed Coordinator; Jude Humphrey, Intern Aitkin SWCD; Wesley Gall; Denise Sonnee; Ann Brucciani Lyon, MLACF, Keep It Clean Campaign

1. Meeting called to order at 10:06 am.

2. Agenda – Add to new business: 1) Tour of Sue Lyback property; 2) Salting Seminar. Agenda approved with no further changes.

3. Consent Agenda

- June 24, 2023 Meeting Minutes : No corrections/approved.
- May and June-July Financial Reports: See attachment 1. Veronica notes one expense in May for website \$239. Expenses in June-July 18. \$248 for Lunch & Learn, \$338 for Appeldoorn's. General fund depleted. Barb notes donation pending of \$428 to our general fund. No further comment/approved.

4. Activity Updates

Compass Program and Other Preservation and Improvement Activities

- Mille Lacs Compass Program
 - [Lawns to Legumes program](#) may be source of funding for projects. Guy Rogers got \$350 grant for work on his property. Veronica notes the Rusty Patch Bumble Bee has been spotted in Aitkin County.
 - Jack Anderson, north of Garrison, invites tour of his rain garden. August is best month. John will share with SWCDs, especially Crow Wing. John to invite all who may be interested.
 - Marketing of the Compass Program: Margaret notes we need to discuss further.
- Rum River 2023 Work Plan (Jake): Mille Lacs projects ongoing.
- AIS grant for 2023 : Veronica notes this is a reimbursement type grant. Funds not spent return to Aitkin County.
- Get the Lead Out Tackle Exchange (John): Large amount of lead collected at June Lunch & Learn to Ramsey County for recycling. John asked for Aitkin SWCD to be permanent location for lead exchange. Veronica to check with Janet. Lake Associations could also do. Pat has on the ACLARA agenda August. Contact John for materials/he can put in touch with MPCA.
- “Keep it Clean” Campaign (Ann):
 - Marketing materials for this year updated. Incorporates messaging in support of new KIC law.
 - Volunteer opportunity for State Fair 4 hr shifts to work MPCA funded KIC wheelhouse at the DNR Resources Area. \$40/shift. Sign up here:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c084faaaf29aaf9c70-keep#/>

- Aitkin SWCD drone survey (Veronica): Completed fly over of the entire Mille Lacs shoreline May. Data analysis starts now. Landowners will receive offers of help for problem areas. [See FB video of Spirit Island](#). John requests article for Topic of the Month. Veronica has done several articles for Mille Lacs Messenger/Aitkin Age. Well done!

Outreach and Education

- Lunch & Learn Event(s) Review June event and plan September event (Barb)
 - Sept 23 with Healthy Land, Healthy Lake Expo. Lunch by Isle Smoke & Mortor. Speaker: Tom Hubbard, AIS Detector. We will not be doing RSVPs.
- Healthy Land, Healthy Lake Expo:
 - Barb to coordinate KIC wheelhouse with Beltrami SWCD. POC: Brent Rud
 - Jake to do plant I.D. with emphasis terrestrial invasives. MNL pre-order of plants with pickup at event.
 - Barb to check with Tom Hubbard r.e. AIS displays
 - Roundtable discussion of Mille Lacs Compass program.
 - Posters/computer slide show of before and after pictures of lakeshore projects. Consider posters next year's budget. Ann notes posters are inexpensive/can be mounted on fiber core.
 - Hold regular meeting after Tom's presentation (12-1), 1-2 pm. M.Barb 2nd Janet Approved.
 - See schedule attachment 2.
- Youth outreach and birdhouse project (Margaret): Birdhouse article is pending. Well received at June Lunch & Learn. We have more for drawing at Healthy Land, Healthy Lake Expo Sept 23.
- Topics & Website (John): Group agrees a News and Update email is good way to share information.
- Facebook (Barb): Thanks to John for FB marketing of June Lunch & Learn.
- Outreach to lake associations and resorts: Appeldoorn's declined gift bags. Event held there resulted in General Manager contact with Mille Lacs SWCD for shoreline project.

Tracking and Posting Water Quality Data

- Updates on MLBO DNR data and USGS Gaging station (Chad/Perry) : N/R
- eDNA volunteer effort with MAISRC (John): John completed. Ann provided feedback to MAISRC re: confusing instructions on sample mailing. Results pending.

5. Organization

- Budget procedures and planning (Margaret and Veronica):
 - Issue: There is no constant funding for general operations
 - Need a meeting re: 10 year plan review, SWCD coordination, budget needed, source of funds. Grant writers are needed.
 - Ann, Cynthia note to add donate button to our website. Could link to GiveMN.
 - Pat notes ACLARA dues is minimum \$25/year. Represents 3000 cabin owners. Dam Lake Sportsmen Club does raffles to raise dollars.
 - Schedule F2F to review 10 year plan, budget. Location TBD.
 - See also attachment 3 for member Chat Box information.

6. New Business & Public Comment

- Loon platform inquiry (John): Judd Brink, ML Scenic Byway asked r.e. support for a Loon nesting platform by the scenic overlook north of Isle. DNR has funds for Loon platform materials.

- Tour of Sue Lyback and Doug Jacobson property, south Mille Lacs: Barb to coordinate date, time. Cynthia notes FB event with registration, Sue Cohost may be more manageable.
- MPCA Salting Seminar

7. Next Meeting : Aug 21, 10 am Adjourned 11:48 am.

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

Attachment 1. Financial Reports

MLLWMG Financial Report May 2023		Budget Balance	Spent Previous Periods	Spent This Period	Cur Bal:
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	21.17	239.88	\$ 38.93

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	21.17	239.88	\$ 4,731.05
Grand Total	\$ 6,873.04	\$ 772.45	\$ 239.88	\$ 5,860.71

** Note - Lumber Yard Donations / Onamia School \$201.60

MLLWMG Financial Report June - July 18, 2023	Budget Balance	Spent Previous Periods	Spent This Period	Current Balance
MLLWMG FUNDS				
All previous combined(Available to spend)	\$ 733.04	\$ -	338.28	\$ 394.76
Lunch & Learns - Printing, Facebook Ad	\$ 40.00		40.00	\$ -
Keep It Clean Website	\$ 100.00			\$ 100.00
Subtotal	\$ 873.04	\$ -	\$ 378.28	\$ 494.76
Lunch & Learns 2023				
Venues (3)	700.00	651.28	\$ 248.72	\$ (200.00)
Speaker Stipends	300.00	100.00		\$ 200.00
Subtotal	1,000.00	751.28	\$ 248.72	\$ 0.00
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	261.05	0	\$ 38.95
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	261.05	1,025.00	\$ 3,713.00
	\$ 6,873.04	\$ 1,012.33	\$ 1,652.00	\$ 4,208.67

** Note - Lumber Yard Donations / Onamia School \$201.60

Attachment 2. Healthy Land, Healthy Lake DRAFT Schedule, Saturday September 23

10-12 CD3 Unit Demo (Barb check), KIC Wheelhouse (Barb check), Plant display & delivery (Jake), AIS Display (Barb check with Tom), Before/After pics of shoreland (Jake will check with Lynn. Ann offered to take photos). Add Loon Nesting platform? (Ann). Jake to check with MLBO fisheries if they want booth. Before/after pictures of shoreland restorations (Jake check with Lynn)
 12-1 Lunch & Learn. Tom Hubbard confirmed. Smoke & Mortor confirmed. Margaret has people picking up food for buffet style lunch.
 1-2 MLLWMG In Discussion focus ML Compass . Jake will invite Lynn Gallice

Margaret: Coordinate with McQuoids for parking lot space for displays.
 Barb to do flyer, send to John after confirming displays.

Attachment 3. Chat information—thanks!

00:44:03 Cynthia Johnson: Share Aitkin SWCD to my page, thanks Veronica!
 00:59:21 Cynthia Johnson: Before and after photos work very well.
 01:30:27 Bonnie Goshey: My computer is doing a mandated update that I'm not able to stop and I'll be kicked off in about 2 minutes. Send me an email or give me a call if you need anything from me.
 01:45:25 Cynthia Johnson: Platte Lake Assoc dues are\$ 40.00, annual.
 01:50:15 Cynthia Johnson: Have you used the 319 project/programming grant
 01:52:29 Cynthia Johnson: <http://deerlakeassociation.org/index.cfm?pageid=8629>
 01:53:50 Cynthia Johnson: https://www.google.com/search?q=loon+platform&rlz=1C1WNOO_enUS909US909&oeq=loon+platform&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOdIBDjk1MjgxNTk1NWowajE1qAIAAs

[AIA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#kpvalbx= IKm-ZOGBHNPJptQPz5aO4AY_37](#)

01:54:49 Cynthia Johnson: <https://thewatershed.org/grant-finder/>

01:55:37 Cynthia Johnson: Whoops, sorry, that last link was for New Jersey. But has large philanthropic groups that may apply to MN