



Minutes of Meeting Monday, August 21, 2023

Present: Margaret Vos, Chair, East Mille Lacs; Jake Janski, ViceChair, Supervisor, Mille Lacs SWCD; John Pearson, Communications, South Mille Lacs; Barb Eller, Secretary, Farmer, Rum River Watershed; Todd Haas, Pres. Camp Lake Assoc; Veronica Lundquist, Staff Aitkin SWCD; Bob Jansen, Supervisor Aitkin SWCD; Bonnie Goshey, MPCA, Rum River Watershed; Dianne Jacobsen, Supervisor Crow Wing SWCD, Board Region 5 MASWCD; Pat Murphy, Long Lake, Pres. ACLARA; Ann Brucianni Lyon, MLACF, Keep It Clean; Cynthia Johnson

1. Meeting called to order 10:06 am

2. Agenda – approved without corrections

3. July 24, 2023 Meeting Minutes : Corrections: Veronica notes the Rusty Patch Bumble Bee is in Aitkin County; Pat notes it is Dam Lake Sportsmen under Organization. M. Jake 2nd John Approved with corrections.

4. Approve August Financial Report: N/R Veronica notes this will be updated by end of August and will email to John for distribution.

5. Activity Updates

Compass Program and Other Preservation and Improvement Activities

- Mille Lacs Compass Program : Mille Lacs SWCD update, attachment 1. Lynn will attend Healthy Land Healthy Lake event. She has sent invite to the ML Compass Members.
- Rum River 2023 Work Plan (Jake): ML SWCD has 2 hires orienting and Watershed Coordinator Position will be posted. The latter is funded for Rum River Watershed outreach and for reforestation coordination. Jake will send posting to the group.
- AIS grant for 2023: Veronica notes it is set. Will need receipts for expenses.
- Get the Lead Out Tackle Exchange (John) : Aitkin SWCD will be permanent exchange site. John will followup. Pat requests lead-free tackle for Long Lake Assoc. and ACLARA. John will provide Sept 23.
- “Keep it Clean” Campaign (Ann) : KIC press release updated to Pat. Attachment 2. Pat will send to Aitkin Age. Ann has sent to ML Messenger. Barb notes KIC wheelhouse will be at HLHL. Barb send specs to Margaret.
 - MN Bound will do segment on KIC Thursday; Ron Schara present on Friday at State Fair.
 - New KIC law effective 1 July 23. DNR will hit KIC hard before ice fishing season.
 - State Fair exhibit will include fishing manikin display, Amy Marie Kulseth’s mural 10’ wide. Barb to followup with Beltrami about having this/posters and cutout at HLHL.
 - MPCA contracts with Collin West, Clean Up the Lake, complete for garbage survey dive on Mille Lacs 2024.
- Aitkin SWCD drone survey (Veronica): Veronica is working on article and will send to John. Surveyed the entire shoreline. Looked at erosion, vegetation. Plan is to

reach out to landowners with problem areas via the associated county SWCDs. Noted that Eagles liked to attack the drone.

- Loon platform update: Jud Brink working with ML Byway to place Loon Platform near Scenic Overlook north of Isle. Do need information of Loon nesting behavior on Mille Lacs. Requests any information from group. ACLARA Loon Update: Long Lake, 2 pairs, chicks did not survive. Attributes to Bald Eagles? Platform placed at Long Lake, no nesting. Todd notes same problem Camp Lake. Two years, no chicks. Eagles eat Loon eggs. Round Lake has platforms and put netting over top to prevent Eagle predation. Margaret & John note increased population of Eagles on Mille Lacs.
- Sue Lyback property tour: More advantageous to have May/June '24 tour. Barb coordinating. Concerns over property use of land adjacent to theirs. Thanks to all that pulled together information for the Public hearing held last week.

Outreach and Education

- September Expo/Lunch & Learn planning (Barb): Jake has plant I.D. with focus terrestrial invasive species; MNL preorder deadline is Tues before event, with \$20 discount; Tom Hubbard is speaker and has been contacted for AIS display; focus is on AIS, but MPCA material (Bonnie) may be useful. Barb to followup with Perry and Chad re CD3 unit. Veronical will bring AIS display materials. Barb to get flyer out, needs help getting out. To email out for distribution. Margaret will do walk about to distribute flyers. Smokin' Mortor ready for Lunch. Barb to order compostable tableware. Jake queries use of Donation Can: Margaret notes this to be discussed in October. Veronica supports Donation Can. Funds would go to Aitkin SWCD, MLLWVG account. Bonnie notes tax receipts should be given. Veronica will check with Janet r.e. check recipient. Margaret will work with Veronica. Jake "Donations Accepted, but not Expected" No registration required (put on flyer).
- Youth outreach and birdhouse project (Margaret) : Margaret will check with shop teacher. We have 10 birdhouses built by 7th & 8th graders to be drawing at HLHL.
- Topics & Website (John) : HLHL Press release after Labor Day. AIS article mid-September. Veronica will share articles with John to use. John will update website.
- Facebook (Barb): John will help with HLHL promotion.
- Outreach to lake associations and resorts : Veronica will bring box of gift bags to HLHL.

Tracking and Posting Water Quality Data

- Updates on MLBO DNR data and USGS Gaging station (Chad/Perry): N/R

6. Organization

- Budget procedures and planning (Margaret and Veronica):
 - Need F2F, 2 hour time to brainstorm funding sources, policy & procedures, proposal for Rum River funds, review of 10 year plan, by-laws
 - **Proposed Date: Thursday October 19, 2-4 pm**
 - All invited, including our advisors, especially for new ideas and intergroup coordination. Agenda to be discussed further September meeting.
 - Venues: Suggestions include MLBO Government Center, Kathio Townhall, Hazelton Townhall, Page Townhall. Margaret will confirm site.

7. New Business & Public Comment

8. Action Summary and Next Meeting Plan:

- Financials by end of August
- Margaret confirm venue for October brainstorming session
- Veronica check donation logistics

- Barb check with Brent Rud r.e. Amy's prints/other, cut-out for HLHL
- Ann to check with Catchcover for donation. Ann to followup.
- **Next Meeting: After Lunch & Learn, short agenda, September 23, about 1-2pm.**
- **November 20th meeting, zoom, 10-11:30.**

9. Meeting adjourned 11:23 am.

Attachment 1. ML SWCD Compass Program Update

Mille Lacs SWCD Compass Up-Date August 2023

DIY No-Mow Buffer Project Development Met with current Compass member who has agreed to talk to neighbors in the targeted area about no-mow buffers and the Compass program. He will distribute flyers with SWCD contact info and en-courage people to call for a site visit. All landowners in the targeted area will be invited to attend the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group Healthy Land Healthy Lake event. Lynn Gallice will be at the event to meet and speak with these landowners.

Rodriguez Gully Landowner Technical Service and Maintenance and Operation and Maintenance Agreement have been created and signed by landowner. The landowner next to the Rodriguez parcel has removed all vegetation from the property , including from the hill next to the Rodriguez gully. TSA III will visit site to survey and see if previously proposed solutions will need to be changed due to the removal of veg-etation. Mille Lacs County has been informed of the situation.

New Contacts Conducted a site visit at Appeldoorn's Resort to discuss installing native plant buffers in front of cab-ins and a large deck. These buffers will protect the lake from runoff and will hold the sandy beach in place. Created a ballpark cost estimate for 260 linear feet of native plant buffer.

60 ' x 8' buffer planned in front of cabins



200' x 16' buffer planned in front of deck at Appeldoorn's Resort on Mille Lacs Lake



**Attachment 2. Keep It Clean Press Release (update)
PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release**



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Join Us: Keep It Clean Coalition Media Event at the Minnesota State Fair on Aug. 25 @ 11 am

Aug. 21, 2023: The Keep It Clean Coalition is growing rapidly and will have an incredible presence at this year's state fair! Keep it Clean addresses the growing problem of garbage and waste left on the ice by ice anglers, campers and recreationists through education, legislation and enforcement (<https://keepitcleanmn.org>).

In May, the team's grassroots effort paid off and the Keep It Clean bill, introduced by Representative Andrew Myers, was signed into law. Effective July 1, 2023, it is illegal to place garbage and waste on or under the ice on Minnesota's lakes and rivers.

To help raise awareness of the challenges, solutions and the new MN law, the Keep It Clean Coalition is holding a media event on Friday, August 25, at 11 a.m. at its new traveling Keep It Clean educational wheelhouse, located outside on the DNR Building and Park grounds on Clough Street at the Minnesota State Fair.

Caption:

The new Keep It Clean traveling wheelhouse with interactive educational displays will be open for fair goers to walk through and explore. It's located on the grounds of the DNR Building and Park.



Beloved writer, television personality and President of MN-FISH Ron Schara, MPCA Manager North Section Theresa Haugen, Keep It Clean Founding Member Joe Henry, DNR Conservation Officers and others will be at the event to make remarks and answer questions.

In addition, a 10-foot mural by local artist Amy Marie Kulseth will be on display. The painting, commissioned for the benefit of Keep It Clean, illustrates how trash is polluting our lakes and how good stewardship lends itself to a vibrant and healthy fishery (<https://www.facebook.com/AmyMarieArtFanpage>). A fun ice fishing cutout will also enable people to take pics of themselves and post on social media.





The Keep It Clean Coalition encourages people recreating on the ice to:

- **Make a plan** for trash and waste removal before they hit the ice.
- **Use colored garbage bags**, which are easier to see.
- **Do not place garbage and waste on or under the ice**, it's the law.
- **Make sure all garbage is secure** before departing.
- **Remove all** wood blocking, insulation and materials when moving a fish house.

For more info, visit the Keep It Clean team at the Minnesota State Fair or

<https://keepitcleanmn.org/>.

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About Keep It Clean: Community stakeholders at Lake of the Woods started the Keep It Clean campaign to address the growing problem of garbage and human waste left on the ice a decade ago. In 2021/2022, Upper Red Lake and Mille Lacs Lake partnered with Lake of the Woods to raise awareness of the issue and address the problem on their respective lakes. As word of this collaborative effort spread during the 2022-2023 ice fishing season, more than 50 Minnesota Lakes joined Keep It Clean. That number continues to grow. In May 2023, the Keep It Clean bill was signed into law. The new statewide law makes it illegal for garbage and waste to be placed on or under the on ice Minnesota's lakes and rivers effective July 1, 2023.

