



Minutes of Meeting Monday, June 17, 2024

Present: Margaret Voss, Chair, Mille Lacs East Side; Jake Janski, Supervisor Mille Lacs SWCD, Chair Rum River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan; Barb Eller, Secretary; John Pearson, Communications, Mille Lacs South; Todd Haas, Pres. Camp Lake Association; Ann Brucciani Lyon, Keep It Clean, Rep. to ACLARA, Mille Lacs East Side; Lily Carr, Lake Steward Program Coordinator, MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates; Pat Murphy, Pres. ACLARA, Long Lake, Board Member Long Lake Conservation Center

1. Meeting called to order 10:06.

2. Agenda: Approved by Chair with additions: Role of Treasurer, Update on Fjordhaven Walk About, Update on ACLARA meeting, statewide efforts for shore land restorations.

3. 5/20/24 Meeting Minutes: M. Ann 2nd John. Approved.

4. Financial Report: M. Ann 2nd John. Approved.

- Donations received: \$700. Margaret will send thankyou's to donors.
- Balance: \$1068.59

5. Organization :

- Propose to add Secretary/Treasurer position. Aitkin SWCD will remain our fiscal agent, however, they have requested we setup and manage our own checking account for operations. Barb notes that as an unincorporated association, donations to us would no longer be tax deductible. Margaret has requested that our donations continue to the Aitkin SWCD until Dec 31. Spire Credit Union will provide guidance after we send approved minutes of this meeting and updated approved Bylaws. (Barb)
- Reviewed needed changes to the Bylaws. See separate email sent 6/14/24 for 30 day notice of changes.
 - Name change to Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Group
 - Add Secretary/Treasurer position. Barb has agreed to fill this role until next election in October.
 - We will vote on proposed changes at July meeting.
- ACLARA Meeting Update (Ann): Mille Lacs lake level is recorded at Cove Bay by USGS, funded by Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Speaker was Becky Solvd, Ret. Aitkin Planning and Zoning Wet Zone Specialist. She noted 1970s shore land regulations were more restrictive than today's. Residence sizes have increased greatly. Creates more runoff, higher populations. Set backs are 75 feet and used to the maximum. She noted riprap (permitted) is considered last option for shore land erosion. Unpermitted riprap will be removed as can cause increased erosion to owned and adjacent properties. First option is a buffer of native plants. Various ordinances that differ from State regulations from Aitkin, Crow Wing, Mille Lacs, MLBO make for inconsistent standards for the watershed.
- John noted that USGS lake level monitoring should be paid by Mille Lacs communities not just the MLBO.

6. Outreach and Education

- Fjord Haven site visit June 8 (Barb): 9 participants with Paul Dickson, Forester. Multiple areas of hardwoods and various ages with area of Tamarack Bog and naturalized shoreline. Native understory plants especially Main Hair Fern

notable. ~50 acres of watershed is excellent protection for Wahkon Bay. Fjordhaven is 53 acres under conservation easement with the MN Land Trust.

- Guest presenter(s) at future virtual meetings: (Jake)
 - Sam Siebold will present ML Drone Study at August 19 meeting, 11 am
- 2024 Healthy Land, Healthy Lake, 9am – 1pm, Sept. 7, McQuoid's (Barb).
 - Margaret has McQuoid's booked & lunch scheduled with Smokin' Mortar.
 - Tom Hubbard is speaking with other AIS detectors to setup AIS table.
 - 2 AIS texts from Aitkin County for drawing and reference
 - Speaker on Tree Care and Forestry (Barb): Barb to contact Kyle Fredrickson. Jake has backup.
 - Plant identification & terrestrial invasives (Jake) Online MNL plant orders available with pickup at event. Barb send new logo to Jake.
 - Keep It Clean table (Ann) confirmed.
 - Door prizes: AIS identification book(Barb), native plant kit (Jake)
- **Compass Program and Other Projects and Activities**
 - MLLWG Compass brochure draft is out. (Barb) Deadline: September 7.
 - Ann suggests we work with Real Estate Agents to communicate ML Compass Program. MLRA has developed CE eligible curriculum for Real Estate Agents on Shore land Restoration. Ann to get dates. Rum River Partnership is doing webinar for Realtors this fall. Jake will get the list of Realtors for Mille Lacs.
 - Pat notes large boat wakes cause damage to lake bottom, shores, disrupts nesting Loons. Education needed. Looking into dollars to pursue this.
 - Barb notes Compass is more than the application of BMPs and includes the development of communities of stewards around the lake.
 - Jake notes Compass includes all land and lakes within the watershed.
- **Activity Check-ins**
 - RR Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Jake) : N/R
 - Get the Lead Out Tackle Exchange (John): Supply of nontoxic tackle available for this year. Pat received nontoxic tackle from MPCA, used at Rivers and Lakes Fair. **DNR denial of Get the Lead Out sign at Camp Lake public access.** John notes the DNR rationale: Limit numbers of signs, needs to be educational, supported by legislation preferred. DNR feels the program is good but there are other ways to reach anglers beyond signage.
 - Keep it Clean Campaign (Ann): Collin West from [Clean Up the Lake](#) Mille Lacs visit Sept '24. Materials inventory for '24-25 pending.
 - Lily Carr, MLRA: 230 member associations. MLRA helps to support local efforts via legislation, education, offering guidance. Goal is to unify and support local efforts and communicate across the state. MLRA Newsletter, website, and Facebook informs a wide base of member associations. A unified voice, where possible, facilitates legislation.

8. New Business & Public Comment:

- Jake: Mille Lacs County Land Use Plan survey. Wants to ensure input from our members NLT June 30. John will send out.
- Ann: Will send information to Margaret r.e. how to join MLRA.

9. Next Meeting July 15, Monday, 10-11:30 am. Regular Meeting via Zoom.

10. Adjourned 11:38 am.

**Respectfully submitted,
Barb Eller, Secretary**