



Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Group

Healthy Land, Healthy Lake

Minutes of Meeting Monday, July 15, 2024

Present: Barb Eller, Secretary; John Pearson, Communications; Pat Murphy, Pres. ACLARA; Ann Brucciani Lyon, Keep It Clean, MLACF, ACLARA Rep.; Chad Weis, MLBO Water Resources; Bonnie Goshey, MPCA
Absent: Margaret Vos, Chair; Jake Janksi, Vice Chair

1. Welcome and Introductions: The group expresses condolences to Margaret for the unexpected loss of her sister. Jake is at all day company meeting.

2. Agenda: No additions. Approved.

3. 6/17/24 Meeting Minutes : M. Ann 2nd Pat. Approved.

4. Financial Report: N/R

5. Organization

- Updates on:
 - Fundraising campaign for operating expenses progress: Barb queried Aitkin SWCD. N/R
 - Membership in ACLARA: We are a member of ACLARA with Ann as our representative. Membership pending in MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates (Margaret).
- **Vote on changes to bylaws:**
 - **Change name of organization to “Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Group”. M. Ann 2nd Pat. No discussion. Approved.**
 - **Changes made to organizational finances including Treasurer responsibilities: M. Ann 2nd Pat. Approved**
 - **Responsibilities of the Secretary/Treasurer. M. Ann 2nd John There will be two signatories, Barb and Margaret. Approved.**
 - John will circulate Bylaws for signatures.

6. Outreach and Education

- Guest presenter at August 19 Meeting: Sam Seybold, Aitkin SWCD, Mille Lacs Drone Study, at 11 a.m. Please share widely. Same link for all meetings. Barb do FB/send to Home Page
- 2024 Healthy Land, Healthy Lake, 9am – 1pm, Sept. 7, McQuoid’s (Barb):
 - Budget to be done (Barb, John)
 - AIS education table: Tom Hubbard not able to attend, checking with his fellow AIS Detectors. DNR has new materials. Request CD3 Unit (Chad), set up ed table near to draw attention, AIS reference text, banner for AIS (Pat), Chad will bring live AIS examples. Pat suggests Veronica, AIS knowledgeable, speaker at August ACLARA. Chad/Perry to attend.
 - Jake: Plant I.D. and terrestrial invasives. John notes questions r.e. I.D. of emergent plants in past. DNR, Donna (Bonnie will send POC to Barb). Jenny (Chad to send POC to Barb).
 - MNL preorder link is up and posted on FB. \$20 off for plant kit. Also donations of plants and seeds for drawing/give aways.
 - Drawing for plants, AIS book
 - Speaker: Peter Willis, DNR Forestry (retired), Tree Planting, Tree Care

- Ann: Keep It Clean table presentation
- Lunch: Smokin' Mortar
- Check in meeting for HLHL to be scheduled for end of July.

7. Continuing Projects and Activities

- Mille Lacs Compass Program:
 - Draft Brochure: Print before HLHL. 100 copies. TBD mid August for distribution around the watershed & for local realtors. Pat notes recent realtor workshop done by Aitkin about shoreland and watershed priorities well received.
 - Ann: Lily Carr, MLRA talking with Peter Okura, MLBO. Lily noted MLRA expanded to 40 lake associations. If anyone with the Mille Lacs Compass Program is willing to notify Lily of completed shoreline restoration projects, MLR will provide Lake Steward signs that can be customized to say Mille Lacs Compass or Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Group, whichever is preferred. Realtor training program will occur in fall/winter. MLRA is planning for contractor landscaping training.
- Activity Check-ins
 - Rum River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Jake) : N/R
 - Get the Lead Out Tackle Exchange (John) : At HLHL.
 - Keep it Clean Campaign (Ann) : Material inventory done. Waiting for monies raised for KIC to be transferred to Aitkin SWCD fiscal agent.

8. New Business & Public Comment:

- **Ann** queries if there is overfishing of Bass occurring on Mille Lacs. Chad notes MLBO Fisheries Department is studying Walleye and Pike movements, not population estimates. MN DNR has done population estimate for Small Mouth Bass ~2018. Latest numbers show population has continued to grow. Chad notes there is size limit and daily possession limit on Small Mouth. Mille Lacs Walleye are unique DNA, not sure about Bass.
- **Pat** notes big bass tournament on smaller lakes causes wake problems/disruptions. **Ann** notes September 14 [2024 City Auto Glass Bass Classic Tournament](#), Eddy's Resort. No conflict with HLHL, but Collin West, Clean Up The Lake may be here.
- [MLACF grant rounds](#) open now through September 15.
- **Bonnie:** Checking for SWAG for HLHL. Barb will coordinate pickup. In first year of monitoring of water quality of Rum River Watershed, results due '25-26.
- **Chad:** MLBO applied for BIA grant for drone to map wild rice lakes (not funded); also PFAS monitoring of water and wild rice. Bonnie notes PFAS is being found everywhere.
- Pat meets at **Talon Metals** for updates on containment of contamination. Bonnie notes mine tour is valuable, informative. MLBO working with USGS to do surface and ground water models for that area. Also doing water monitoring before mining starts to get baseline.
- **Pat:** Pine Lake, McGrath, joined ACLARA. Pat is running for [MLEC](#) Board.

9. Action Summary and Next Meeting Plan

- **August 19 Regular Meeting , 10-12. Speaker at 11 am.**

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Eller, Secretary

M.Pat 2nd John Approved 7/18/2024