



## Minutes of Meeting Friday, October 18, 2024

**Present:** Margaret Vos, Chair, Mille Lacs East, ML Compass Member; Jake Janski, ViceChair, Supervisor, Mille Lacs SWCD, Chair, Rum River Plan Board; Barb Eller, Sec/Treas, Rum River Watershed, north; John Pearson, Communications, Mille Lacs South, ML Compass Member; Perry Bunting, Director, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Environmental Programs; Chelsey Koebernick, Watershed Coordinator, Aitkin SWCD; Bob Janzen, Supervisor, Aitkin SWCD; Pat Murphy, Pres. ACLARA, Pres. Dam Lake Sportsmen, Board Member, Mille Lacs Electric Cooperative; Guy Haglund, Mille Lacs East, ML Compass Member; Sue Lybeck (check-in); Ann Brucciani Lyon, ViceChair, MLACF, Keep It Clean Coalition; Cynthia Johnson, Camp Lake.

**1. Welcome !** Called to order 1:05 pm

**2. Agenda :** Approved as amended by Chair.

**3. 8/19/24 Meeting Minutes :** Correction to financial report. Add lunch expense of \$236.15. This changes projected amount needed from our General Fund at that time. M. Ann 2<sup>nd</sup> John. Approved as corrected. Barb send corrected copy to John.

**4. Financial Report :** Attachment 1. M. Ann 2<sup>nd</sup> Jake. Approved.

- Balance after HLHL expenses, Rum River Partnership contribution, AIS Grant reimbursement, donation by Marilyn & Jack Anderson: \$1354.64.
- Blaze Checking: \$644.59 Savings: \$710.05 Total: \$1354.64
- Expense today \$100 to MN Lakes & Rivers for our membership.
- Aitkin AIS grant is Closed. We received reimbursement of \$86.20 after Aitkin SWCD paid major bills direct. This was a reimbursement grant.
- Our final contribution from our General Fund: \$161.55
- Total spent: \$2776.57. The full amount of the AIS grant (\$2028.82) and the Rum River Partnership contribution (\$500) were used for HLHL.

## 5. Organization

- Meet new hires at MLBO DNR: Peter Okura is ill today. Robert Wall is new Watershed Coordinator for MLBO.
- Fundraising and Grant Applications:
  - Barb notes 2 funding sources best fit for a spring event: 1) Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures Donation Committee (monthly); 2) Mille Lacs Electric Community Trust Fund (quarterly)
  - Other potential grants currently closed until next year: MN Board of Water and Soil Resources via County DNR Shoreland Grant; MN DNR Conservation Partner's Grant (direct habitat benefits). *Margaret requests calendar of grant cycles for 2025.*
  - Jake notes the Rum River Partnership with its emphasis on outreach is another potential funding source.

## 6. Outreach and Education

- 2024 Healthy Land, Healthy Lake Review

- Budget Report – Barb. See financial report. Total cost: \$2776.57
- Outcomes Report – John.
  - Advertising: 1 person saw newspaper ad; newspaper missed publication of the press release; 2 saw flyer (100 distributed); 2 saw Facebook event; others Word of Mouth.
  - 28 people attended with 8 new email contacts.
  - Guy and Lily’s before and after pictures of their shoreland restoration very popular and helpful. Thanks!
  - MNL plant orders: 6
- Changes going forward:
  - Goal remains outreach and education about water quality in the watershed. This year’s theme was Trees and their contribution to water quality and climate resiliency.
  - History of the event since 2015 was discussed. Group agrees with Ann’s proposal to change time-frame to May, venue to mainstreet Wahkon. Morning event with coffee and donuts to avoid lunch expense. Trade show format with 20 minute speakers suggested.
  - Start marketing early: e.g., Plant sales marketing in January
  - Measures of success: Barb notes our Mille Lacs Compass members who are engaged with the group reflect successful outcomes. Discussed how we can best support our ML Compass Members by encouraging a support network, technical resources, shared discussion of challenges and solutions.
  - **Committee to finalize format and budget:** Barb, Ann, Cynthia, Pat. John will help with Zoom. Barb will Doodle group dates to meet asap.

## 7. Continuing Projects and Activities

- Mille Lacs Compass Program : Request before and after pictures of projects from Chelsea (Aitkin SWCD) and Lynn (Mille Lacs SWCD)
- Activity Check-ins
  - Rum River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Jake): Focus is on well sealing, forest stewardship. Doug Page is new forestry tech Isanti/Mille Lacs SWCD.
  - Get the Lead Out Tackle Exchange (John)
  - Keep it Clean Campaign and Clean Up the Lake (Ann):
    - Janet Smude, Aitkin SWCD, is fiscal agent now for KIC funds previously raised. KIC materials, geofencing ad pending for this ice season.
    - Colin West, Clean Up The Lake, surveyed 14 spots in Mille Lacs. Preliminary results show large density of zebra mussels and due to shallow lake and wave action, most of trash moves to the shore. Final report by Oct 31.
    - Ann proposes Trash Tracker website/ap for trash retrieval comradery and education . Uses model of ‘Adopt a Sewer Drain’ . Potential funding from Aitkin SWCD, MPCA, MLBO DNR. Ann to do project proposal by 10 November. Needs a home for this project. **Agenda item for us Dec 16.**

## 8. Next Meeting Plan to include items we did not have time to address:

- Membership/participant growth
- Alignment of Compass with other shoreline stewardship efforts What is similar? What is different? How important is Mille Lacs branding?)

- Do we need to establish a 501c3 or lake association? (legal/risk ramifications)
- Meetings (frequency; in-person vs. Zoom; day of week and time; etc. )
- Trash Tracker proposal (Ann)

**9. Next Meeting : Monday, December 16 - Zoom meeting**

**10. Adjourned 3:57 pm.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Barb Eller, Secretary/Treas**

**Attachment 1.**

MLLWMG Financial Report September-October 2024		Budget Balance	Spent Previous Periods	Income	Spent This Period	Current Balance
DATE	<b>MLLWMG FUNDS INCOME</b>					
30-Aug	<b>Balance Forward</b>					\$ 1,568.59
18-Aug	Lakeland Printing-ML Compass Brochure		\$ 139.59			
21-Aug	Harland Clark Checks		\$ 16.25			
3-Sep	Rum River Partnership, Isanti SWCD HLHL Support			\$500.00		
7-Sep	Bjorn Bjornson HLHL Speaker Stipend				\$ 100.00	
7-Sep	Smokin' Mortar HLHL Lunch				\$ 236.15	
7-Sep	M. Vos HLHL Lunch Items				\$ 57.21	
7-Sep	McQuoids Conf Ctr HLHL				\$ 301.00	
13-Sep	Donation-Anderson			\$50.00		
17-Oct	AIS Grant Reimbursement. See below.			\$86.20		
30-Sep	Savings Interest			\$0.05		
	<b>Subtotal</b>	\$ -	\$ 155.84	\$636.25	\$ 694.36	\$ 1,354.64
	<b>EXPENSES PROJECTED THIS PERIOD</b>					
	Keep it Clean Website	100.00				
	2024 Website approved 3/18/24	450.00				
	Member MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates	100.00				
	<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>650.00</b>				
	<b>BALANCE AFTER PROJECTED EXPENSES:</b>					\$ 704.64
	Blaze Checking Account 10/17/2024					\$ 644.59
	Blaze Share/Savings Account 10/17/2024					\$ 710.05
	<b>BALANCE:</b>					\$ 1,354.64
	<b>Healthy Land, Healthy Lake 2024</b>	<u>Expense</u>				<u>Income</u>
	Aitkin County AIS Education Grant 2024 CLOSED					\$ 2,028.82
	AIS Grant reimbursement direct					\$ 86.20
	Rum River Partnership Contribution					\$ 500.00
	<b>MLLWG Gen Operating Funds</b>					\$ 161.55
	Newspaper Ads Mille Lacs Messenger	\$399.56 *				
	Social Media- Facebook Ads	\$69.95 *				
	Printing - Compass & MLLWG Brochure	\$139.59				
	MLLWMG Website/Social Media Consultant 13 hrs @ \$ 34.47	\$448.11 *				
	Host venue rental (McQuoid's)	\$301.00				
	Lunch Smokin' Mortar	\$236.15				
	M. Vos Lunch items	\$57.21				
	Speaker Stipend	\$100.00				
	CD3 UNIT SUPPORT	\$1,025.00 *				
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$2,776.57</b>				<b>\$ 2,776.57</b>
	*Note: Aitkin SWCD paid direct ML Messenger, Media Consultant, Facebook Ads, CD3 unit for total \$1942.62. Total grant approved was 2028.82. Aitkin SWCD reimbursed the difference of \$86.20 direct to MLLWG.					