



Minutes of Meeting Monday, December 16, 2024

Vice Chair, Supervisor, Mille Lacs SWCD, Chair, Rum River Plan Board; Barb Eller, Sec/Treas, Farmer, Rum River Watershed, north; John Pearson, Communications, Mille Lacs South, ML Compass Member; Perry Bunting, Director, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Environmental Programs, celebrating 34 years; Chad Weiss, MLBO Water Resource Manager, celebrating 10 years; Robert Wall, MLBO, Watershed Coordinator, Gulf Hypoxia Funding, celebrating 4 months; Bob Janzen, Supervisor, Aitkin SWCD, 4th District, celebrating 24 years; Pat Murphy, Pres. ACLARA, Pres. Dam Lake Sportsmen, Board Member, Mille Lacs Electric Cooperative, Long Lake; Guy Haglund, Mille Lacs Northeast, ML Compass Member, did canoe trip down entire Mississippi; Ann Brucciani Lyon, 3rd gen cabin, Vice Chair, MLACF, Keep It Clean Coalition; Todd Haas, Camp Lake Assoc, served on Rum River Watershed Management Organization for 25 years ; Bonnie Goshey, MPCA; Greg Berg, MN DNR Mille Lacs Fisheries Manager, 6 months, 18 years on Mille Lacs, 25 years with Fisheries.

1. Welcome! Called to order 10:05 am

2. Agenda : No changes. Approved by Chair.

3. 10/18/24 Meeting Minutes: Correction of CUTL Mille Lacs Lake spots surveyed from 15 to 14. Barb send corrected copy to John. M. Ann 2nd Jake. Approved as corrected.

4. Financial Report: Attachment 1. M. Ann 2nd Bob. Approved.

5. Organization

- 501(c)(3) status: Angie Moen, Depot Studios, Isle explained to Ann and Margaret an opportunity for the MLLWG to use the Isle Area Healthy Communities Partnership nonprofit, currently in good standing, but without a Board or activities. This was established 15 years ago with funding from the Initiative Foundation. We could be a part of this. We would need to set up a 3-person Board for this 501c3. It could be used by us for grant purposes, invoices submitted to the 501c3, and would be the organization then administering any grants.
 - Ann to distribute her notes from the above meeting. Barb to request and distribute the Isle Area Healthy Communities Partnership bylaws.
 - To February 2025 agenda.
- 2025 Meeting Schedule: M. Ann 2nd Barb. Group approved the following schedule: 8 meetings plus the May Expo. Usually the 3rd Monday, 10am-11:30 am except for February President's Day conflict and the 2 in-person spring and fall meetings on Friday afternoons. John notes Bylaws require Officer election at Oct or Dec meeting odd years.
 - Feb 10
 - March 17
 - Apr 25 IN PERSON Friday pm
 - May 3 is the HLHL '25 Expo (no meeting)
 - June 16

- July 21
- Sept 15
- Oct 24 IN PERSON Friday pm
- Dec 15

6. 2025 Healthy Land, Healthy Lake Expo

- 2025 Healthy Land, Healthy Lake Review
 - Committee (Barb, John, Pat, Ann, Cynthia) Report. **See attachment 2.** Barb notes if we go with Aitkin SWCD as fiscal agent, Janet Smude has requested additional 10% of grant for administrative costs.
 - Next Steps:
 - John will schedule next Committee meeting in January with report to the Group at next February meeting.
 - John and Ann will start work on promotional materials, social media posts
 - Committee will keep the MLLWG and all presenters informed of promotions.
 - Setup format/table setup with presenters labeled/other details. Pat to check number of tables available.

7. Continuing Projects and Activities

- Mille Lacs Compass Program : Barb notes the ML Compass Program is closely aligned with the DNR Score-the-Shore program. Lynn Gallice had considered the DNR resources when initially setting up ML Compass. The MN Lakes and Rivers Shoreland Stewardship Program , organized later, is consistent with both the DNR and the ML Compass but on a statewide basis.
- Rum River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Jake): Molly Clyne, Rum River Watershed Coordinator plans to do a report on goals and outcomes for the Mille Lacs watershed to allow us to seek funding consistent with those goals. Barb notes Lydia Godfrey, Outreach Coordinator for the Rum River Watershed Partnership said there was no funding available to the MLLWG next year due to their current workplan not aligning with our goals.
 - Rum River Watershed website now has resources available for use by the public
 - Policy Committee will be discussing legality of release of Drone Study information, March agenda
- Get the Lead Out Tackle Exchange (John) : N/R
- Lake Clean-Up Efforts (Ann):
 - Keep It Clean: Ann has distributed KIC materials around the lake.
 - Clean Up The Lake (CUTL) final report is done.
 - Mille Lacs Trash Tracker (NEW): See proposal attached to this meeting's notice. Needs funding by end of January.
 - Trash Boom Collector proposed for the Rum River exit point on Mille Lacs. Ann & Perry: Met with Gerard, Osprey Project. Company makes floating partition, ice hardy, to collect trash at mouth of Rum River. Company will be available in the Spring to assess the Rum River outlet. Estimate provided. Will provide information to John for

distribution. Jake notes surface water trash may not be in the Rum River Watershed Plan purvue.

8. Next Meeting Plan :

- 501(c)(3) status
- HLHL '25Update

9. Next Meeting : Monday, February 10 - Zoom meeting

10. Adjourned 11:40 am.

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

Attachment 1. Financial Report.

	MLLWMG Financial Report November-December2024	Budget Balance	Spent Previous Periods	Income	Spent This Period	Current Balance
DATE	MLLWMG FUNDS INCOME					
30-Aug	Balance Forward		\$ 694.36	\$636.25		\$ 1,354.64
29-Oct	Member MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates				100.00	
30-Oct	Savings Interest			\$0.00		
	Subtotal	\$ -	\$ 694.36	\$636.25	\$ 100.00	\$ 1,254.64
	EXPENSES PROJECTED THIS PERIOD					
	Keep it CleanTrash Tracker Website	100.00				
	2025 Website	450.00				
	Subtotal:	550.00				
	BALANCE AFTER PROJECTED EXPENSES:					\$ 704.64
	Blaze Checking Account 12/16/2024					\$ 544.59
	Blaze Share/Savings Account 12/16/2024					\$ 710.05
	BALANCE:					\$ 1,254.64

Attachment 2. Healthy Land, Healthy Lake '25 Report

Summary Healthy Land Healthy Lake '25. Updated MLLWG Meeting Dec 16, 2024
Committee: John Pearson, Pat Murphy, Cynthia Johnson, Ann Brucciani Lyon, Barb Eller

Goals:

The goals of the Healthy Land, Healthy Lake Expo '25 :

- 1) Sustain or enhance watershed ecosystems to maintain or improve high water quality;
- 2) Increase upland habitat quality and resilience to changing precipitation and temperatures;
- 3) Protect and restore aquatic and terrestrial habitat;

4) Mitigate the introduction and reduce the impact of terrestrial and aquatic invasive species.

We intend to achieve these goals through education and outreach to watershed residents (seasonal and fulltime); community building and engagement; and sharing Earth friendly steps people can take to improve land and lake quality in the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed area.

Specific outcomes include:

- 1) Attendance: 100-150 with spring plant sales
- 2) New email signups: 20
- 3) Number of lake or woodland stewardship plans initiated: 10
- 4) 5# lead tackle collected and disposed via MN Pollution Control Agency
- 5) \$500 donations to the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Group
- 6) 10 new regular attendees at meetings

Event Venue —

Date: Saturday, May 3, 2025

Time: Setup 8:30 am Event 9 am-Noon

Location: Tulibee Tavern Event Room, 235 Main Street, Wahkon

1. **Schedule of Events:** 15-20 Minute Presentations . Front stage. Note the stage is setback sufficient to allow conversations to continue at the table presentations.
 - **09-10 Intro and Water Quality**
 - 0900 Margaret Vos, MLLWG Intro & Housekeeping
 - 0915 Chad Weiss Water Quality Data. Confirmed.
 - 0930 ~~Sam Seybold/Veronica~~ Speaker? ML Drone Study. Check Molly Clyne.
 - **10-1100 Stories of Healthy Land, Healthy Lake**
 - 1000 Maddi, National Loon Center, Loon Habitat & Health
 - 1030 Mark Olson, Small Mouth Bass Alliance, Habitat for Bass
 - **11-12 Stewardship**
 - 1100 Jeff Forester, MN Lakes & Rivers
 - 1115 Lynn Gallice, Mille Lacs Compass Program
 - 1130 Round Table Discussion of Lake and Watershed Stewardship, Lynn is moderator
 1. Guy and Lilly Haglund, Jack & Marilyn Anderson, Marg Vos, John Pearson, SWCD reps, Travis Zimmerman, Jeff Forester, others
2. **Table Presentations/Infographics with Presenters:**
 - **Water quality information:**
 - Keep It Clean, Report on Clean Up the Lake. Ann. Confirmed.
 - Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe data: Currently on our trifold (Barb has). Presentation by Chad. Confirmed.
 - Aitkin SWCD Mille Lacs Drone Study: ~~Veronica Lundquist.~~ ?Speaker. Barb followup
 - ~~MPCA 10-yr study on Mille Lacs water quality to be published 2025.~~ N/A-Barb followup with Bonnie Goshey.
 - AIS — Clean. Drain. Dry. CD3 unit on hand. Perry/Chad. Confirmed.
 - **Organizations:**

- MLWG , John Pearson. Confirmed.
- MPCA — Get the lead out tackle exchange. At John Pearson/ Pat Murphy table. Confirmed
- ACLARA, Pat Murphy. Confirmed
- SWCDs:
 1. ~~Veronica~~, Aitkin SWCD. ~~Confirmed one of staff TBD.~~ J. Smude cannot commit.
 2. Lynn Mille Lacs SWCD. Confirmed.
 3. Melissa, Dianne Crow Wing SWCD. Week of their tree sales. Uncertain. Pending.
- Rum River Partnership: Molly Clyne and Lydia Godfrey. Confirmed.
- Northern Waters Land Trust - Elizabeth Mboutchom. Kid friendly activity. Confirmed.
- DNR: Barb followup Greg Berg
- **Stewardship:**
 - MN Lakes & Rivers Shoreland Stewardship Program, Jeff Forester. Confirmed.
 - Mille Lacs Compass — Guy & Lily Haglund – before and after pictures of shoreline. Confirmed. See also Lynn presentation followed by round table discussion.
 - Minnesota Native Landscapes: Jake Janski — How native plants can enhance any yard on or off the water and how they can help lakeshore owners restore and retain shoreline. Preorder discounted plants for pick up at the event. Start January. Plus onsite ordering. Confirmed.
 - How to Care for Your Trees , Peter Willis, ret. DNR Forestry, Barb to supply seedlings. Confirmed.
 - Great Roots, Laura Mendoza Romera. Landscaping, shore plants. Confirmed.
 - Travis Zimmerman, Mille Lacs Indian Museum & Trading Post, Traditional Land Uses and Stewardship. Confirmed.
 - National Loon Center: Maddi — What type of shoreline features are optimal for loon habitat/reproduction, how lead affects loon health/reproduction, and all things loons. <https://www.nationallooncenter.org/> Confirmed.
 - Isle Industrial Arts Students Birdhouses: Ann to follow up with Jen Ernest and Troy Amundson. Plan to take preorders for bird houses and deliver at event.

- **Budget and Funding:**

DRAFT Healthy Land, Healthy Lake 2025 Committee Review & Update 12/9/2024		<u>Expense</u>	<u>Income</u>
Proposed MLCV Grant			\$2,000.00
MLLWG Gen Operating Funds			\$60.00
Marketing & Promotion(social media, website, radio, print)	\$1,200.00		
MLLWMG Website/Social Media Consultant	\$500.00		

Host venue rental Tulibee's	\$300.00
Coffee, donuts, snacks	\$60.00
HLHL Flags? If we don't find them. John to do estimate.	
TOTAL:	\$2,060.00 \$2,060.00

Projected Volunteer time HLHL '25	Hours
Write and update website	3
Create and post ads on Facebook	4
Write and send email invitations to regular email list	2
Create and submit ad to Mille Lacs Messenger	4
Write, submit, and follow up press releases to Mille Lacs Messenger, Aitkin Age, Brainerd Dispatch, and NewsHopper	4
Write and design flyers	2
Mille Lacs, Aitkin, Crow Wing SWCD Supervisors	9
MLLWMG member volunteers, site & coordination	30
	Total hrs. 58
	36.31/hr Minnesota rate 2024 \$2,105.98

Minnesota Volunteer Rate: \$36.31 Independent Sector

- **Promotion:** John and Ann **Tagline: Let's Get Dirty, Let's Get Wet**
 - **HLHL Flags: Bob & Jake to check where they are! Check garages!**
 - **Newspaper ad- Mille Lacs Messenger**
 - **Press Release** — Mille Lacs Messenger, Aitkin Age, Brainerd Dispatch, NewsHopper
 - **Social Media** — Begin promoting the week of Jan. 6 and promote weekly on:
 - Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management
 - Mille Lacs Area Community Foundation
 - Mille Lacs Lake Group Page
 - Tulibee Tavern
 - Muggs on Mille Lacs
 - MN Backyard Birds
 - Audubon Society
 - National Loon Center
 - Mille Lacs Tourism Council
 - MN Lakes and Rivers
 - ACLARA newsletters, Crow Wing, Cass, Hubbard
 - Mille Lacs Area Events (<https://www.facebook.com/MilleLacsAreaEvents/>); What's Happening in Mille Lacs and Surrounding Counties (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/256660951524723/>)
 - **Fliers** — for area Churches.

- **Local Event Calendars (free)**
 - **Mille Lacs Scenic Byway Community**
Events: <https://www.lakemillelacsbyway.org/community-events/>
 - **Explore Minnesota:** <https://www.exploreminnesota.com/things-to-do/special-interest-events#!grid~~~Date~1~~>
 - **Mille Lacs Messenger Area**
Events: https://www.messagemedia.co/millelacs/community/area_events/
 - **Best Events in Aitkin:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/d/mn--aitkin/events/>
 - **Explore Brainerd**
Lakes: <https://business.explorebrainerdlakes.com/events>
 - **Mille Lacs Tourism**
 - **Other?**
- **Email info to Isle Schools Principal Jennifer Ernest**
- **Email invite to Lynn Gallice ML Compass Members**