



Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Group
Healthy Land, Healthy Lake

Minutes of Meeting Monday, February 10, 2025

Present: Margaret Vos, Chair, Mille Lacs East, ML Compass Member; Jake Janski, 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; Chad Weiss, MLBO Water Resource Manager; Robert Wall, MLBO, Water Coordinator, Gulf Hypoxia Funding; Bob Janzen, Supervisor, Aitkin SWCD, 4th District; Ellie, new staff Aitkin SWCD; Pat Murphy, Pres. ACLARA, Pres. Dam Lake Sportsmen, Board Member, Mille Lacs Electric Cooperative, Long Lake; 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, Watershed Project Manager including Mille lacs; Greg Berg, MN DNR Mille Lacs Fisheries Supervisor; Cynthia Johnson, Platte Lake; Dick Weber, Big Pine Lake Property Owner's Association; Dr. Aaron Schultz, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Steering Committee for Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership, Board of Directors for Fisheries Conservation District, Outreach for Resist, Accept, Direct Framework for ecosystem stewardship.

1. Welcome! Called to order 10:05 am

2. Agenda : Add Dick Weber, Aaron Schultz, and April 25 in person meeting under New Business. Approved with corrections by Chair.

3. 12/16/24 Meeting Minutes: : M. John 2nd Bob Approved.

4. Financial Report: Attachment 1. (Barb) Balance is \$1254.73 with no expenses this time period, projected expenses of \$550 to include \$450 for website hosting and Zoom expenses. \$100 designated for Trash Tracker project. M. Ann 2nd Jake Approved.

5. Organization

- 501(c)(3) status: The Isle Healthy Community Partnership 501c3 is in good standing now with Federal and MN State requirements, however, this organization is in need of a board and would be responsible for potential projects throughout the Isle community. Barb recommends that the MLLWG file for 501c3 status. Barb to present pros and cons and steps to complete by June/July for approval. Jake notes need for long-term commitment. Cynthia Johnson will query Initiative Foundation about 501c3 process. Aaron notes different flavors of 501c3 for fund raising, tax implications. See link for grant: <https://midwestglaciallakes.org/grant/> Committee: Barb, Cynthia

6. 2025 Healthy Land, Healthy Lake Expo

- 2025 Healthy Land, Healthy Lake Review
 - Committee (Barb, John, Pat, Ann, Cynthia) Report. Donation request of \$2500 is under consideration by ML Corporate Ventures. Layout of venue with participants and updates see attachment 2. John and Ann completed Press Release draft. Additional feedback by 12 noon tomorrow. Isle School has not confirmed participation, so they are deleted on layout. Ann and Cynthia explained Pick Pods for Payment as butterfly habitat. Pick pods for payment to support seasonal and low income workers, economic development and dollars to support local communities. Rum River Watershed Partnership represented by Molly Clyne and Lydia Godfrey will be present. Laura Romero from Great Roots to focus on near shore plants. Jake from MNL with preorder of native plants. This is up on our website. Ann notes Isle School has not yet responded,

so we will delete. Pat notes 6 and 8foot tables, plenty of chairs. Limited electrical outlets. Tullibee owner is excited, will advertise as well.

- Next Steps:
 - John will schedule next Committee meeting in February with report to the Group at next MLLWG meeting, March 17.
 - John and Ann are working promotional materials, social media posts
 - Committee will keep the MLLWG and all presenters informed of promotions.
 - We will need extension cords if presenters need power.
 - MLCV grant request is under review. May need other sources of funding. We will recognize our sources of funds on website and social media. Aaron notes midwestglaciallakes.org/grants/ may be another source of funding. Dick Weber requests info for possible donation by Big Pine Lake Association (Barb send). Ann will also send Press Release draft to Dick. Pat, ACLARA meeting April 12, will advertise and ask for donations. Late summer get together, MLLWG invited.
 - Get Dirty, Get Wet.

7. Continuing Projects and Activities

- Mille Lacs Compass Program :N/R
- Rum River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Jake): Resources now available on the updated website for public use.
<https://www.millelacsswcd.org/watershed-plans/> Tree Species selection webinar , 27 Feb 6 pm. Molly Clyne completed summary of the Rum River Watershed Plan indicating opportunities for funding of Mille Lacs projects. Forest Stewardship Plans, well sealing, cover cropping are some of main projects. See separate email. Policy Committee, March agenda, will be discussing legality of release of Drone Study information, SWCDs have access to data for prioritizing projects. Aaron notes assisted migration of trees is under discussion. Jake notes this topic will be included in upcoming webinar. Barb notes RSDP funded Assisted Migration Project, northern MN, is ongoing.
- Get the Lead Out Tackle Exchange (John) : Table will be at HLHL '25
- Lake Clean Up Efforts (Ann):
 - Keep It Clean: Media went out to local businesses early December. The Geofencing campaign is running. Wildlife Forever is collecting data r.e. recipients after it ends in March..
 - Clean Up the Lake: Bret Amundsen Radio Sporting Journal, Prairie Sportsmen T.V. Plans on segment for followup.
 - Mille Lacs Trash Tracker: Project is based on the Adopt-a-Drain Program, Hamline University, that started in 2014 and is now a multistate program. Opportunity for collaboration and promotion.
 - Trash Boom Collector at the mouth of the Rum River is pending logistics. Osprey Initiative has proposed collector for trash . Erin Fallon, DNR Kathio, has seen increased trash in Lake Ogechi. Perry notes increased trash but logistics of collection is a challenge. System does not impede fish movement.
- New Business:
 - Dick Weber, Big Pine Lake, reports their association is using the MN Lakes and Rivers Lakeshore Stewardship Program. 15 lakeshore evaluations have been completed (4 failed). Evaluators: Tom Hubbard plus 2. Their goal is 50 new evaluations this year. There are 160 homeowners on the lake. Finds the MLR resources and Newsletter very valuable. Also see Lake Country Journal, Brainerd, Mar/April features one of Big Pine properties. Waterfront issue pending. Will be a demonstration project with Laura Romero, Great Roots. Our MLLWG Board is invited.

- Ann recommends award winning “Wild Robot” movie. Daughter, Lucy, is assistant Director.
- Dr. Aaron Schultze, MN Fisheries Committee, MN DNR, USGS, MLBO and Fondulac. Mille Lacs watershed is of interest. Partnership is looking at watersheds using the RAD Framework as changes in the climate affects ecosystems. R=Resist: Measures to maintain an ecosystem; A=Accept: Watch as an ecosystem transforms without intervention; D=Direct: Alter the ecosystem to a new state. The partnership is looking at the Mille Lacs Watershed as wetlands, rivers, urban areas, rural residential, lakeshore zone, forested, agriculture, riparian land. He can attend HLHL '25 for a table presentation on the framework, Tribal Adaptation Menu. Requests our feedback on draft document when available. Pat notes info important for Travis Leviska, Aitkin County Commissioner, who wants to reduce lakeshore regulations. He has been invited to HLHL '25. Pat notes lake associations consensus is to keep Aitkin Lakeshore ordenances as is in place.
- April 25, 1-4:30 pm, in person meeting falls on MLBO holiday. Government center is N/A. Ann to book Wahkon Communiity Center. Cost \$20 (nonprofit rate. Ann will cover fee.

8. Next Meeting Plan :

- Next meeting is March 17 via Zoom at 10-11:30
- HLHL '25Update and grant request update.

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 January-February 2025

DATE	MLLWMG FUNDS INCOME	Budget Balance	Spent Previous Periods	Income	Spent This Period	Current Balance
1-Feb	Balance Forward		\$794.36			\$1,254.64
31-Dec	Savings Interest			\$0.09		
	Subtotal	\$-	\$794.36	\$0.09	\$-	\$1,254.73

EXPENSES PROJECTED THIS PERIOD

Keep it Clean Trash Tracker Website
2025 Website

		100.00				
		450.00				
	Subtotal:	550.00				
	BALANCE AFTER PROJECTED EXPENSES:					\$704.73

	02/01/25	\$544.59
	Blaze Share/Savings Account 02/01/2025	\$710.14
	BALANCE:	\$1,254.73

	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Income</u>
Committee Review & Update 01/08/2025		
Proposed MLCV Grant		\$2,500.00
MLLWG Gen Operating Funds		\$96.00
Marketing & Promotion (social media, website, radio, print)	\$1,500.00	
MLLWMG Website/Social Media Consultant	\$500.00	
Host venue rental Tulibee's	\$300.00	
Coffee, donuts, snacks	\$60.00	
Fiscal Agent Admin Expenses	\$236.00	
TOTAL:	\$2,596.00	\$2,596.00

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

Attachment 2. Healthy Land, Healthy Lake '25 Layout

STAGE

Double door

3 1/2 FT x 4 FT Grid

12 CHAIRS

Round Table Discussion

Rum River Watershed Partnership
Clyne/Godfrey

ML Small Mouth Bass Alliance
Olson

ML Scenic Byway
Roeschlein

ML Indian Museum
Zimmerman

Monarch Butterfly Pay for Pods Program
Johnson

Natl Loon Center /Nistler

Northern Waters Land Trust
Mboutchom

CD3 AIS OUTSIDE
Perry/Wein

Keep It Clean
Brucciani Lyon

Great Lakes Fish & Wildlife Comm
Schultz

MNL
Janski

Great Roots
Romero

Care of Trees
Willis

Seedlings

MLR Carr/Forester

ACLARA
Murphy

MLLWG
Pearson

