



Minutes of Meeting Monday, September 15, 2025 | 10 - 11:00 a.m. CT

Present: Margaret Vos, Chair, East Mille Lacs; John Pearson, Communications, South Mille Lacs; Dick Weber, Big Pine Lake; Dianne Jacobsen, Crow Wing SWCD Supervisor; Jake Janski, CoChair, Mille Lacs SWCD Supervisor, Chair, Rum River Partnership; Bonnie Goshey, MPCA; Chad Weise, Water Resource Mngr, MLBO; Rob Wall, MLBO DNR, Watershed Coordinator; Bob Janzen, Aitkin SWCD Supervisor; Ellie Joing, Aitkin SWCD, Watershed Coordinator; Molly Clyne, Mille Lacs SWCD, Forestry Coordination and Rum River Partnership; Perry Bunting, MLBO DNR, Director Environmental Services; Todd Haas, Camp Lake Association; Tom Kelps, Twin Bay.

1. Welcome and Introductions.

2. Approval of the Agenda : Chair approved without changes.

3. Approval of 7/21/25 Meeting Minutes: M. John 2nd Jake Approved.

4. Financial Report: See attachment 1. M.Chad 2nd Jake Approved.

5. Organization

- Nonprofit status update: Review of Bylaws TBD in light of Articles of Incorporation to ensure consistency. As of today, IRS Letter of Determination has not been received/posted. (Note: Received 501c3 Letter of Determination on 9/16/25). Goal: To complete our mission and be able to access grant funds to do so.
- Discuss/Update bylaws for consistency with Articles of Incorporation: See attachment 2.
 - Purpose is the same.
 - Budget has never exceeded \$2000. If we exceed \$25,000, we will need to file with the MN Attorney General.
 - MLLWG Officers are the Board of Directors as noted in the Articles of Incorporation. To be further discussed at October meeting which is our annual meeting. Define this in the Bylaws.
 - Articles of Incorporation give us the option to levy dues. Add to the Bylaws.
 - **Jake to review Bylaws** for any changes to make them consistent with Articles of Incorporation. He will circulate changes by September 24th. Present and vote on changes at October meeting. **M. John 2nd Jake Approved.**
 - Dick notes we should table bylaws for now and continue in October. Suggests we do an annual fee for our members. Add to October agenda.
 - Barb suggested separating Secretary and Treasurer positions. John notes having responsibility for the role does not mean doing all the tasks of the role. Bylaws should allow some of tasks of a position to be done by other volunteers.
- Fundraising strategies for year-end; set up subcommittee: Dick Weber, Pat Murphy (Margaret will ask him).
- Looking ahead to officer elections: Current officers are completing our terms. Need Chair, CoChair, Secretary, Treasurer. Election will be done at October meeting.

7. Continuing Projects and Activities

- Mille Lacs Compass Program: N/R More info at October meeting. Lynn Gallice will be at October meeting. Aitkin SWCD has no fall plantings scheduled.
- Rum River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Jake): Finished 1st funding cycle. Currently looking for projects that align with goals. Mille Lacs County Board did vote to join the Partnership. Molly notes Lydia Godfrey is now with MPCA. New outreach person at Isanti SWCD is Samrah Khan.

- Get the Lead Out (John): N/R
- Lake clean-up efforts (Ann): Lakeland News featured update. Perry notes Spirit Island Cormorant nests were made of natural materials, but Hennepin Island nests were made of trash. Birds collect and use. See Ann's notes: Attachment 3.

8. New Business and Open Discussion: Molly asks about impact of wake boarding on Mille Lacs. Let Molly know.

9. **Next Meeting:** IN PERSON Friday, October 24, 1 to 4 pm CT, MLBO Government Center.

- Agenda includes Strategies moving forward
- 10 year plan review
- Expo '26 May 2, 2026 planning committee

Meeting adjourned: 11:00

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Eller

Sec/Treas

Attachment 1.

MLLWMG Financial Report 16 July-15Sep2025		Budget Balance	Spent Previous Periods	Income	Spent This Period	Current Balance
DATE	MLLWMG FUNDS INCOME					
16-Jul	Balance Forward	\$396.02	\$152.00			\$396.02
07/26/25	Reimbursement MLCV Grant			\$322.00		
07/26/25	Sandelands Donation			\$150.00		
08/01/25	MLR Membership				\$125.00	
08/01/25	Janski Donation			\$100.00		
08/01/25	Camp Lake Assoc Donation			\$100.00		
08/13/25	Eller donation			\$200.00		
08/18/25	File Fed App for 501(c)(3)				\$275.00	
30-Aug	Savings Interest			\$0.00		
	Subtotal	\$396.02	\$152.00	\$872.00	\$400.00	\$868.02
	EXPENSES PROJECTED THIS PERIOD					
	Reimburse Barb Eller for:					
	MN SecofState, Nonprofit Filing	\$90.00				
	ML County Record of Articles of Incorporation and Resolution	\$46.00				
	ML County Cert. Copy for SOS Filing	\$10.00				
	Subtotal:	\$146.00				
	INCOME PROJECTED THIS PERIOD					
	Donation match (Weber)	\$200.00				
	Subtotal:	\$200.00				
	BALANCE AFTER PROJECTED INCOME & EXPENSES:					\$922.02
	Blaze Checking Account 9/15/2025					\$757.72
	Blaze Share/Savings Account 9/15/25					\$110.30
	BALANCE:					\$868.02

Attachment 2. Secretary's note: This is the final Articles of Incorporation filed and accepted with the MN Secretary of State, July 24, 2025.

Minnesota NonProfit Corporation I ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF **Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Group**

The undersigned incorporator is an individual 18 years of age or older and adopts the following articles of incorporation to form a nonprofit corporation in accordance with MN Statutes, Chapter 317A.

ARTICLE I — NAME

The name of this corporation shall be **Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Group**.

ARTICLE II — REGISTERED OFFICE ADDRESS

The place in Minnesota where the principal office of the corporation is to be located at **12722 350th Street, Onamia, MN 56359 or the mailing address of the currently elected Treasurer.**

ARTICLE III — PURPOSE

This corporation is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes as specified in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, including for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

The purpose of this corporation is to protect and enhance the water quality, ecosystem health, sustainability, and resilience of the waters and lands of the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed through a stakeholder-driven educational forum that encourages a partnership among individuals; businesses; local and state governmental units; and sovereign nations.

ARTICLE IV — EXEMPTION REQUIREMENTS

At all times the following shall operate as conditions restricting the operations and activities of the corporation:

1. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purpose set forth in the purpose clause hereof.
2. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall constitute the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, or any initiative or referendum before the public, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including by publication or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office.
3. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this document, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding section of any future tax code, or by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future tax code.

ARTICLE V — MEMBERSHIP/BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This corporation shall have members. The eligibility, rights and obligations of the members will be determined by the corporation's bylaws.

The management of the affairs of the corporation shall be vested in a board of directors who are the elected Chair, CoChair, and Secretary/Treasurer, as defined by the corporation's bylaws.

No director shall have any right, title or interest in or to any property of the corporation.

Members of the initial board of directors shall serve until the first annual meeting, at which their successors will be duly elected and qualified, or removed as provided in the bylaws.

The Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Group may levy dues, assessments, or fees upon its voting members. Further, the Chair is authorized to fix the amount from time to time and determine the methods of collection.

Any action required or permitted to be taken at a meeting of the board of directors may be taken by written action signed by the number of board members that would be required to take the same action at a meeting of the board at which all board members were present.

ARTICLE VI — PERSONAL LIABILITY

No member, officer or director of this corporation shall be personally liable for the debts or obligations of this corporation of any nature whatsoever, nor shall any of the property of the members, officers or directors be subject to the payment of the debts or obligations of this corporation.

ARTICLE VII - DURATION/DISSOLUTION

The duration of the corporate existence shall be perpetual until dissolution.

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets of the corporation shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

ARTICLE VIII – INCORPORATOR

In witness whereof, I, the undersigned, have hereunto subscribed my name for the purpose of forming the corporation under the laws of the State of Minnesota and certify I have executed these Articles of Incorporation this ____ day of _____, 20__.

Incorporator Name __Barbara Eller_____
Incorporator Address, City, State, ZIP __12722 350th St, Onamia, MN 56359__

Incorporator Signature _____

Attachment 3. Ann's notes and update on Keep It Clean

1. Miles Walker from Lakeland News interviewed Eddy Lyback, Ellie Joing and me about Keep It Clean/the Mille Lacs Trash Tracker. The segment ran last night. Here's a link to the replay: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SM1-FG6EIO4>
2. To date, over 1,630 pounds of trash have been collected and recorded on the Mille Lacs Trash Tracker! For the most up to date numbers, please visit: <https://millelacstrashtracker.org/>
3. There's still time for people to conduct and record a cleanup on the Mille Lacs and to receive free access for 2 to the Fall for All Festival on Sept 26. I would encourage all MLLWG members to sign up for the Trash Tracker and conduct and record a clean up to support this effort. It can be done individually or in a group. Prior to the biking accident, Pat and Mary Murphy, Greg and I did a 1-hour clean up on the north side of the lake and picked up 23

pounds of trash.

4. Walt Ford and seven additional people, including Perry Bunting and two others from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, conducted their nearly annual cleanup of Spirit and Hennepin Islands on Aug 26. They removed over 300 pounds of trash. A thank post on the Mille Lacs Area Community Foundation page has garnered over 275 responses. Here's a link: <https://www.facebook.com/MilleLacsAreaCommunityFoundation/posts/pfbid0555xoAjxGML4Duf76eCFNsos7Tk4hJ5RJzRy2tm5Ma7sWLSZu3EH2UzU3W7yYbujl>