



## **Minutes of Meeting Friday, October 24, 2025, 1:08-3:34 pm**

Meeting held at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Government Center, 43408 Oodena Drive, Onamia, MN

**Present:** Margaret Vos, Chair, East Mille Lacs; Jake Janski, ViceChair, Mille Lacs SWCD Supervisor; Barb Eller, Sec/Treas, upper Rum River Watershed; John Pearson, Communications, South Mille Lacs; Lynn Gallice, Mille Lacs SWCD staff; Perry Bunting, Director, MLBO DNR Environmental Services; Ellie Joing, Aitkin SWCD Staff; Bob Janzen, Aitkin SWCD Supervisor; Guy Haglund, NE Mille Lacs; Cynthia Johnson, Platte Lake, Milaca, Sustainable Ag; Pat Murphy, Pres. ACLARA; Rob Wall, MLBO DNR Watershed Coordinator

### **1. Welcome and Introductions – Meeting called to order at 1:08pm**

**2. Agenda** – Mille Lacs Compass with Lynn Gallice to #5. Approved as changed.

**3. 9/15/25 Meeting Minutes.** M. Pat 2<sup>nd</sup> Cynthia Approved.

**4. Financial Report – See Attachment 1. M. Jake 2<sup>nd</sup> Cynthia Approved.**

- Reimburse Barb for MN Sec of State, ML County nonprofit filings. **Total: \$146 M. Bob 2<sup>nd</sup> Guy Approved.**
- Office Supply and Refreshment expense. **Total: \$17.35 M. Cynthia 2<sup>nd</sup> Jake. Approved.**

**5. Mille Lacs Compass Program (Lynn Gallice).** The Group presented Lynn with a Certificate of Appreciation for her ongoing work in the Mille Lacs Watershed and her support of the mission of the MLLWG. Lynn retires from the Mille Lacs SWCD April 2026. She is invited to become a member of the MLLWG.

- Lynn briefly reviewed the history of the ML Compass Program. Formal Stewardship Plans have moved to informal land owner discussions. Clipboards and checklists stifled engagement.
- Lynn's final shoreline project was on Eoyta Way. Landowner connected with Lynn at the 2025 Healthy Land, Healthy Lake Expo. Project included a shoreline stabilization and critical area planting. See Attachment 2.
- Future of ML Compass projects: Now working and funding under the Rum River Watershed Partnership. Lynn suggests Aitkin SWCD could operate further south. Uncertain if Lynn's position will be continued.
- Most effective marketing of ML Compass is word of mouth, neighbor to neighbor. Technical advisors available at the SWCDs, private vendors. Cost share funding through the Rum River Watershed Partnership requires targeted project, measurable outcomes.

## **6. Organization**

- Nonprofit status update: The MLLWG is a MN Nonprofit Corporation as of Jul 24 2025. A Charitable Organization Exemption Form was filed with the MN Attorney General's Office on Aug 2 2025. Our income is less than \$25,000. If it should exceed that, then we must file with the MN AGO. We are a 501(c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit as of Sept 4 2025. The IRS Letter of Determination is on file and was sent to the Officers on Sept 16 2025.
- Bylaws amendments done to ensure consistency with our Articles of Incorporation. Notice of changes went to members on September 23. **M. Bob 2<sup>nd</sup> Cynthia. Approved as listed** See prior email. Amended Bylaws signed by Officers.
- Year-end fundraising campaign subcommittee report (Pat, Ann, Dick, Guy): See their notes, separate email.

- Need website update to simplify and add DONATE button. A professional developer is needed with easy updates TBD by John.
- For potential funders, we need a clear message. The KIC Campaign maybe a keystone message. Member recruitment is important. Survey at the Healthy Land Healthy Lake Expo may provide incentive to participate. Operational/capacity building grants may be available. Barb recommends a budget for operational expenses be done by the Dec meeting.
- Officer elections: Officers begin term January 1, 2026 unless currently in office.
  - Chair: Nomination Margaret Vos. M. John 2<sup>nd</sup> Barb Approved. Unanimous.
  - Vice Chair: Nomination Cynthia Johnson M. Margaret 2<sup>nd</sup> John. Approved. Unanimous.
  - Secretary: Nomination Barb Eller M. Margaret 2<sup>nd</sup> John. Approved. Unanimous.
  - Treasurer: Nomination Guy Haglund M. Guy 2<sup>nd</sup> Barb. Approved. Unanimous.

### 7. Continuing Projects and Activities

- Rum River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Jake): MLLWG messaging could elevate this program. Funding is targeted to projects. All citizen participation is voluntary conservation. Money is available for projects.
- HLHL26 Expo Planning: May 2, 2026. Venue: Tulibee's Tavern Event Center, Wahkon. Subcommittee includes Guy Haglund, Pat Murphy, John Pearson, Cynthia Johnson
- Get the Lead Out (John): HLHL Expo '26 is opportunity. Ask Mille Lacs Bait Shops to participate.
- Lake clean-up efforts (Ann): Visit <https://millelacstracker.org/>

### 8. New Business and Open Discussion

9. Next Meeting: December 15, 2025 10-11:30 am via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Eller

Sec/Treas

ATTACHMENT 1.

MLLWMG Financial Report 15Sep-15 Oct 2025				Budget Balance	Income Previous Periods	Spent Previous Periods	Income this Period	Spent This Period	Current Balance
DATE	MLLWMG FUNDS	INCOME – Jan Beginning Balance		\$1,254.73					
15 Sept	Balance Forward				\$1,900.16	\$2,286.87			\$868.02
30 Sept	Savings Interest						\$0.01		
		Subtotal		\$1,254.73	\$1,900.16	\$2,286.87	\$0.01	\$-	\$868.03
<b>EXPENSES PROJECTED THIS PERIOD</b>									
<b>Reimburse Barb Eller for:</b>									
		MN SecofState, Nonprofit Filing		\$90.00					
		ML County Record of Articles of Incorp and Resolution		\$46.00					
		ML County Cert. Copy for SOS Filing		\$10.00					
		Subtotal:		\$146.00					
<b>BALANCE AFTER PROJECTED INCOME &amp; EXPENSES:</b>									<b>\$722.03</b>
Blaze Checking Account 10/15/2025									\$757.72
Blaze Share/Savings Account 10/15/25									\$110.31
<b>BALANCE:</b>									<b>\$868.03</b>

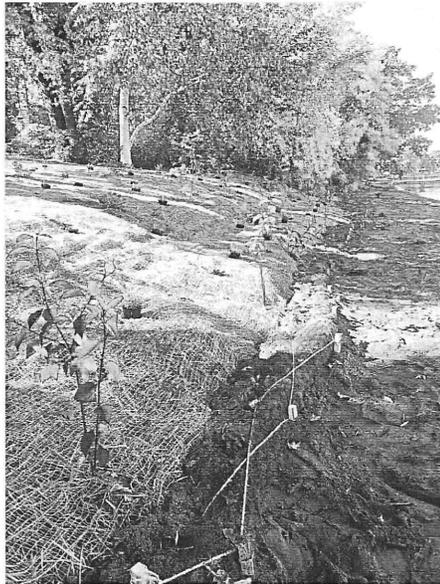
## Shoreline Stabilization and Critical Area Planting Location: South Harbor Township



*Eroding, sandy shoreline on Mille Lacs Lake*

### Project Summary

This project stabilized 150 lineal feet of sandy loam shoreline along a peninsula on the south side of Mille Lacs Lake. The shoreline exhibited visible erosion approximately 4.5 feet in height and six feet in width with moderate slumping. Factors contributing to this erosion were turf grass that had been mowed to the edge of the shoreline and runoff from the upland property. Solutions included installing a coir blanket on the steepest sections to anchor seed and native vegetation plugs, a coir log to stabilize the toe, and convert turf grass into a 25 foot wide native plant buffer above the project area to capture and slow down run off.



*Coir log installed, bank seeded and wrapped with fabric then planted.*

### Project Status:

Initiated: 10-21-2024  
Contract approved: 3/12/25  
Completed: 9/16/2025

### Funding:

Total cost: \$12,899.70  
Implementation assistance:  
\$9,674.78 (75%)  
FY23 WBIF Rum River Watershed  
Partnership  
Landowner match: \$3,224.92

### Resource Concern:

Shoreline Protection  
Mille Lacs Lake

### Cooperators:

Mille Lacs Soil and Water  
Conservation District (SWCD)  
Funder: Rum River Watershed  
Partnership, Watershed Based  
Implementation Funding

### Contractor:

Don Kunesh Jr.  
Lakedale Landscaping  
Onamia, MN

### Location:

Mille Lacs Lake Watershed

