



Minutes of Meeting Monday, March 9, 2026

Present: Margaret Vos, Chair; Barb Eller, Secretary; Tom Kuelbs, Treasurer Pro Tempore for Guy Haglund (absent); John Pearson, Communications; Sheila Johnston, Loon Conservancy and MN Loon Rescue; Pat Murphy, President Aitkin County Lakes and Rivers Association (ACLARA); Todd Haas, President Camp Lake Association; Ellie Joing, Watershed Coordinator, Aitkin SWCD; Dianne Jacobson, Supervisor, Crow Wing SWCD; Elias Beamish, Isle; Molly Clyne, Rum River Watershed Partnership; Aaron Schultz, Research Wildlife Biologist, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission; Bonnie Goshey, MN Pollution Control Agency; Bob Karls, Northern Waters Land Trust, ACLARA; Jake Janski, Supervisor, Mille Lacs SWCD, Chair, Rum River Watershed Partnership.

1. Meeting called to order at 10:04

2. Approval of the Agenda – Add a “Nonprofit Minute” to Organization. Approved as amended.

3. 1/12/26 Meeting Minutes : M. John 2nd Pat. Approved.

4. Financial Report : See attachment 1. M. Barb 2nd Jake. Approved. John estimates website expenses to be approximately \$500 annual. John pays, we reimburse him. The refreshments for in-person April meeting to be covered by member donations that day. Chair notes that all expenses must be approved prior to payment.

5. Organization

- Online Donation Update (John and Guy): Using free version of website software. The Paypal-Blaze Credit Union processing is in place. Plan transition to live by about the end of March. The processing fee charged by credit card companies estimated at 2%. Tom to ask Guy to update. We will ask Donors to cover processing fee, but this is not required. M. Barb: Accept processing fees not to exceed 5%. 2nd John. Approved.
- “Nonprofit Minute”: Tax exempt organizations, such as us, must make available for public inspection: 1) Annual returns including any schedules x3 years. For us, the IRS 990N; 2) The application for exemption and supporting documents; and 3) the IRS Determination Letter. Barb to forward to John for inclusion on our website. Any requests for information can go direct to website. We are not required to: 1) disclose the names of donors, only the amounts and nature of contributions. The latter are included in our annual financial report which is on the website; 2) Any unfavorable IRS rulings (we have none); 4) Trade secrets, patents, processes, national defense materiel (N/A at this time).

6. Healthy Land, Healthy Lake Expo 2026

- Subcommittee report and budget review: There are 20 confirmed exhibitors, several others pending. 3-4 confirmed speakers include Kayla Lenz, GLIFWC, on Walleye Spawning Sites in Mille Lacs and Sheila Johnston, MN Loon Rescue. New exhibitor this year is the Northwoods Forest Growers Coop involved with assisted tree migration. There are no plans to record presentations, but John can post prepared presentations on the website. John outlined plans for promotion, including Facebook posts, newspaper advertising, and press releases, with activities ramping up in late March and April.
- Budget: See attachment 2. M. Pat 2nd Jake. Approved budget of \$2527.75 as listed.

7. Partnerships and Activities Updates

- Keep It Clean and Lake Cleanup Efforts: See Aitkin SWCD Newsletter for updates. Ellie will send upon request. John plans to send newsletter including information about recyclable boat wraps, MLR updates on legislative session, Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership webinars and archives.

- MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates – MLR: Pat notes MLR applying for a grant for a data buoy 3 year pilot study of water quality trends, AIS may be losing funding in next few years.
- Aitkin County Lakes and Rivers Association – ACLARA: First meeting is April 11. Speaker AIS coordinator, Brian Roulet. He has dollars for grants to lake associations for AIS education. ACLARA will be more involved with AIS education and control, water levels, no wake. Lake Association Summit, end of July. Ellie notes this includes lake associations, DNR, hydrologists, fisheries, SWCDs, planning and zoning. Usually 4-6:30 pm
- Rum River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Jake and Molly): Planning and budget for FY 27 funding. Shoreline Webinar this Friday, features Todd Kulaf, Isanti SWCD and Guy Haglund. Recent EAB webinar included information about loss of ash trees and replacement options. Also planning with local Forestry team is ongoing, cost-share for field to forest grant available from the DNR. Aaron shared: <https://forestadaptation.org/tribal-climate-adaptation-menu>
- Get the Lead Out (John): Will be at HLHL Expo. John will partner with Sheila on this.
- Mille Lacs Compass: It is MLLWG responsibility for this program. Mille Lacs SWCD has no plans yet to fill Lynn Gallice's position for shoreland projects.

8. New Business and Open Discussion

- **Bonnie:** MPCA is completing the 10 year water quality assessment and analysis of the Rum River Watershed. That information will be available at the HLHL Expo. Bonnie can be table presenter if schedule allows. She can also do update at one of our future meetings.

9. Next meeting: In-person April 17: MLBO Government center is reserved for 1 pm-4pm. Agenda items: Nonprofit training, set budget for projected projects and funding sources, conservation easements and best management practices. Meeting adjourned 11:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Eller, Secretary

Attachment 1. Financial Report

	MLLWG Financial Report January/February 2026	Beginning Balance	Income this Period	Income YTD	Expenses This Period	Expenses YTD	Current Balance
DATE	ITEM						
01/01/26	January 2026 Beginning Balance	\$4,204.37					\$4,204.37
01/10/26	Savings Interest		\$0.32	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	Subtotal		\$0.32	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.32
02/28/26	Jan/Feb 2026 Closing Balance						\$4,204.69
	RESTRICTED FUNDS						
	Initiative Foundation Grant (See HLHL spreadsheet)	\$2,500.00					
	Total Restricted Funds						\$2,500.00
	NON-RESTRICTED BALANCE						\$1,704.69
	BANK ACCOUNTS						
	Blaze Checking 02/28/2026						\$4,094.69
	Blaze Savings 02/28/2026						\$110.00
02/28/26	TOTAL						\$4,204.69

Attachment 2. Healthy Land, Healthy Lake Expo '26 Budget

	9 March 26 Approved.	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Budget</u>	HLHL25
DATE					
11/26/24	Confirmed Initiative Foundation grant		\$2,500.00		
	HLHL 26 Donations				
	Host venue rental Tulibee's			\$600.00	\$300.00
	Marketing & Promotion				
	Mille Lacs Messenger Ad 1/8 page \$139/paper/week;				
	includes sales tax. Jan 2026 rate			\$447.75	\$278.00
	Meta: Facebook Advertising			\$300.00	\$267.00
	Pearson Promotion and Production Est. 8.9 hrs*			\$340.00	\$250.00
	Brucciani Lyn Promotion Est. 8.9 hrs*			\$340.00	\$250.00
	Signage				\$359.00
	Printing				\$105.00
	Office Supplies				\$10.00
	Speaker stipends			\$500.00	
	Fiscal Agent Expense			\$0.00	\$100.00
	Bakery			\$0.00	\$52.00
	SUBTOTAL:	\$0.00	\$2,500.00		
	TOTAL Projected EXPENSES:			\$2,527.75	\$1,971.00
	Under/Over Budget			-\$27.75	

* 2025 Volunteer Rate, Minnesota: \$38.16/hr