



Minutes of Meeting Friday, 17 April 2026 . In person, MLBO Government Center.

Present: Margaret Vos. Chair; Cynthia Johnson, ViceChair; Barb Eller, Secretary; John Pearson, Communications; Todd Haas, President Camp Lake Association; Ellie Joing, Watershed Coordinator, Aitkin SWCD; Bob Janzen, Supervisor Aitkin SWCD; Dianne Jacobson, Supervisor, Crow Wing SWCD; Jake Janski, Supervisor, Mille Lacs SWCD, Chair, Rum River Watershed Partnership; Robert Wall, MLBO Environmental Services; Ann Brucianni Lyon, Keep It Clean Mille Lacs.

1. Meeting called to order at 1:06 pm

2. Approval of the Agenda – Add MLR Dues, Priority Actions . Chair approved as amended.

3. 3/9/26 Meeting Minutes : M. Bob 2nd Cynthia. Approved.

4. Financial Report : See attachment 1. **Motion Barb: Approve financial report and approve website expenses and reimburse John for \$478.74. 2nd Cynthia. Approved.**

5. Organization

- “Nonprofit Minute” (Cynthia): Board members/officers are to disclose any conflicts of interest and sign the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Group Conflict of Interest Statement annually. Attachment 2. Records and reminders will be maintained by the Secretary. Members are to maintain a record of volunteer hours and submit to the Secretary annually. The Secretary will maintain volunteer hours spent at regular group meetings. Volunteer hours documentation will be used for in-kind contributions to grants and projects and for internal and IRS audits.
- Website electronic donations update (John and Guy): The PayPal account is set-up. Need to complete tests before going live. The Word Press app interface is currently in test mode. Annual support from Word Press for this function is \$300-\$350. Our future website re-design could include all plugins and annual updates to include the donation function. John is attempting to contact Word Press for test support on the currently free version of the app. An interim alternative is to setup with GiveMN.org and put a link to them on our website . Ann can help with our description for GiveMN.org. We can also include our mailing address for check submissions.

6. Healthy Land, Healthy Lake Expo 2026

- Subcommittee report and budget review: There are 21 confirmed exhibitors., 3 confirmed speakers include Kayla Lenz, GLIFWC, on Walleye Spawning Sites in Mille Lacs, Sheila Johnston, MN Loon Rescue, and Sami Selter, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, on the Lake Steward Program. The North Room to be used for speakers, presentations can connect to TVs in room via HDMI, Elias and Jake will have backup laptops. John will post sign with schedule. Barb get schedule to MC, Margaret.
- Todd notes news media coverage is desirable. Contacts: MPR Lakeland Office – Kirsti Marohn; Lakeland TV- Miles Walker; Videographer from Star Tribune

- Free Drawings include: A scenic flight around Mille Lacs Lake from Isle Airport; an outdoor item from Martz Welding; a Tulibee Tavern gift card and wearable; maple syrup from Lemieux's Sugar Shack; and a subscription to Lake Country Journal Magazine. All drawings are free to enter. Winners to be announced at 11:50 a.m. Participants must be present to win.
- Budget update: Expenses to date include newspaper ad of \$280 and Facebook ads of \$270. Budget was approved 3/9/26.
- The Roundtable is a discussion of stewardship topics with an adhoc group of the public and exhibitors. Jake will facilitate. Location to be in front of the stage for comfort rather than on-stage.
- Barb proposes caps with MLLWG logo for officers and greeters. Ellie to send Aitkin SWCD source. Current design circulated from capbargain.com
- **Table set-up crew Thursday, May 1 after 4 pm:** Barb (arrives ~6 pm), Margaret, Elias, John, Ann, Cynthia. Free drinks after set-up on Barb. Others welcome to join. **Draft setup subject to creativity attachment 3.**

7. Partnerships and Activities Updates

- Keep It Clean and Lake Cleanup Efforts (Ann): Aitkin SWCD is member and received \$25,000 grant for KIC; Crow Wing SWCD joined and received \$40,000 grant for KIC. KIC grants from 1-time legislative appropriation to the DNR for KIC. KIC is applying for nonprofit status. Board includes Jo Henry, Mike Hurst, Ann Brucianni Lyon, Robin Dwight, Rep. Andrew Myers. There is a KIC license plate option in the MN legislature Omnibus Bill. Funds raised would support the statewide KIC campaigns. Iowa is starting a KIC campaign modeled after us. The [ML Trash Tracker](#) launched in 2024, funded by Aitkin SWCD.
- MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates – MLR: Ann notes MLR is planning the 2027 AIS Summit, Mar 9-10, St. Paul River Center. \$10 million for support of AIS prevention efforts could be cut at the MN legislature. The goal is to preserve this funding.
- Aitkin County Lakes and Rivers Association – ACLARA: First meeting was April 11. AIS speaker was unable to attend. Ann and Pat discussed KIC and AIS with group. She notes that MN may bring back Swan hunting due to a booming population that crowds out ducks and other water fowl.
- Rum River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Jake): Applying for FY 27 funding. There is 75% cost-share available for well sealing. Actively looking for projects plus doing Forest Stewardship Plans.
- Get the Lead Out (John): Will be at HLHL Expo. John and Todd note that interest in nontoxic tackle is waning.
- Mille Lacs Compass: Jake notes funding from RR Partnership may be available to help MLLWG use the MLR Lake Steward Program. Barb notes it may be time to rebrand Compass to the ML Watershed Steward Program. Barb check membership of Mille Lacs in the MLR Lake Steward Program. Discuss further with Susan Shaw, MLR at HLHL '26. Lynn Gallice is retiring. ML SWCD is hiring a new shoreline specialist.

8. New Business and Open Discussion

- Website update: Plans and funding needed.
- Margaret proposes a walk-about at Sue Lyback's Fjordhaven this year.
- Ann suggests MLLWG presence at the June 13th, 10-2 Fr Hennepin Park Expo. Contact Erin Fallon.
- Cynthia notes Initiative Foundation 'Join and Connection Grant' of interest.

- Aitkin Rivers and Lakes Fair is June 20th.
- HLHL Expo'26 is May 2, 9am-1pm

9. Next meeting: July 13, 10am-11:30am via Zoom. Adjourned 3:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Eller, Secretary

Attachment 1. Financial Report

MLLWG Financial Report March 2026						Year to Date 2026	
DATE	ITEM	Beginning Balance	Income this Period	Expenses This Period	Current Balance	Income YTD	Expenses YTD
03/01/2026	March 2026 Beginning Balance	\$4,204.69			\$4,204.69	\$0.32	\$0.00
	(No Income or Expenses this month)		\$0.00	\$0.00			
			\$0.00	\$0.00			
	Subtotal		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
03/31/2026	March 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 Account 02/28/2026				\$4,094.69		
	Blaze Share/Savings Account 02/28/2026				\$110.00		
03/31/2026	TOTAL				\$4,204.69		

Attachment 2. MLLWG Conflict of Interest Statement

Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Group
Conflict of Interest Statement

I agree to readily disclose any potential conflict of interest, making it a matter of record, either through an annual procedure or when the interest becomes a matter of board action.

I agree that I will not vote or use my personal influence on any matter, which might constitute a conflict of interest. I will ensure the minutes of any meeting where this might occur duly show that I have abstained from voting due to the potential or occurrence of a conflict of interest.

I understand that I may state my opinion or position on any matter described above or answer pertinent questions to which I may lend my expertise, so long as I absent myself from a board vote on the matter.

Name

Signature

Date

Attachment 3. Draft Table Setup HLHL '26

