



Minutes of Meeting Monday, July 13, 2026 | 10:05 – 11:41 am CT

Present: Margaret Vos, Chair, East Mille Lacs; Barb Eller, Secretary, Upper Rum River Watershed; John Pearson, Communications, South Mille Lacs; Jake Janski, Supervisor, Mille Lacs SWCD; Pat Murphy, Pres. ACLARA; Molly Clyne, Mille Lacs SWCD; Elias Beamish, SE Mille Lacs; Robert Wall, Watershed Coordinator MLBO DNR; Todd Haas, Pres. Camp Lake Association; Dianne Jacobson, Supervisor, Crow Wing SWCD; Ellie Joing, Aitkin SWCD.

Absent: Cynthia Johnson, ViceChair; Guy Haglund, Treasurer

1. Welcome and Introductions -

2. Approval of the Agenda: Add Molly Clyne on Wake Damage and Lyback Fall Walk About. Approved.

3. 6/15/26 Meeting Minutes: Approved by Chair. No corrections.

4. Financial Report: Balance is \$1182.17. See Attachment 1. M. Barb 2nd John. Approved.

5. Organization:

- Nonprofit minute (Barb): Introduced idea that as a nonprofit we are eligible for an operational grant from several different organizations. These are highly competitive. Funds could initially be used for facilitator assisted strategic planning for the next decade. As we maintain and grow as a nonprofit, important to look at planning, involving the community and the next generation. Potential facilitators are from organizations such as the MN Land Trust, Fresh Water Society, NE and Central RSDP that are keyed in to our natural resource embedded mission. Our current operations are dependent on limited volunteer time. Staff may be needed in the future as we implement our mission. Margaret recommends we add this to our in-person October meeting agenda.
- 2025 Annual Report (John): Work in progress.
- Grant opportunities: First National Bank Milaca (Cynthia) N/R
- Google ad grants (Barb/John): Provides a budget of \$10,000/month for ads to improve outreach and donations. Barb volunteered to coordinate for next 2 years. There are other opportunities for nonprofits, the Ad Grants Program is most valuable in the short-term. We do appear to qualify. Takes 2-3 weeks to get verified. Barb not prepared to go forward until the end of July. Google is able to do popup ads on your ad, but not on our website. We can target ads geographically or to specific populations. Need to specify advertising content. Ads would potentially drive people to our website, gain members and increase donations. Elias agrees to consult; John will assist with plan to present at September meeting. **M. John. Get verification of MLLWG eligibility with Google by September meeting. 2nd Pat. Approved.**

7. COMPASS/Lake Steward program evolution

- Potential to add Mille Lacs SWCD COMPASS email names to MLLWG list: To respect privacy, **we ask ML SWCD to invite the ML SWCD Compass email list to sign-up with the MLLWG email list.**
- Jake asks for clarification on Compass Program status. The MLR Lake Steward Program currently has the MLLWG as a member with points of contact Molly at ML SWCD and Ellie at Aitkin SWCD. Ellie notes evaluators do not have to be experts and MLR does training. Ellie needs to reserve time for technical assistance; Molly can do site visits to include Aitkin sites that Ellie can't do. Molly notes process will become more clear as we receive examples. Molly will reach out to MLR for additional information and will report at September meeting. **M. Barb. Adopt MLR Lake Steward Program 2nd Pat. Approved.**

Discussion: Jake: Still need to clarify the Compass Program. John: Maintain watershed-wide focus.

Barb: We need to discuss Compass, potential transition to a watershed stewardship program to include forestry, wetlands, impacts of climate change, and more. It may remain a program that runs along side the MLR Lake Steward Program.

6. Healthy Land, Healthy Lake Expo

- Confirmed for May 1, 2027 at Tulibee Tavern.
- Budget estimates due July 31 (Barb)
- Volunteers: Eilias, Barb

8. Partnerships and Activities

- Keep It Clean and lake cleanup efforts: Lake Ogechie cleanup (Ann): Potential fall event.
- Fishing boat wake issue (Molly): Anglers fishing close to shore have experienced other boaters passing in between them and shore rather than deeper water lake-side. Suggest signage at public boat landings. Todd: DNR approves all signs at public boat landings and has regulatory sign requirements. Enforcement of no wake zones is difficult. Pat: Shared sign "Rules for Jet Skis" that private landowners have put up. 10 ft long signs. MLR has maps that shows sufficient water depth for wake boats and jet skis. Size of motors and speeds have increased greatly. Water patrols have focused on education. Sheriff's office notes that boaters own their wakes-- Boaters are responsible for damages caused by their wakes. County Sheriff does water patrols. People need to call, take video if possible, send to Sheriff. Sue and Doug Lyback have experienced problems on 'No Name Bay'. Pat notes DNR writes the rules and has Boater Safety Course available.

8. New Business and Open Discussion

- Adopt a Public Shoreline program (Elias): Proposes to develop an Adopt a Shoreline Program that identifies public shorelines, invites volunteers to adopt and complete routine cleanup, similar to the MnDOT Adopt a highway program. Needs interagency coordination. Implementation goal: 2029. Could be a template for the entire state, so best option is alliance with the state MnDot program. Todd suggests the County as a point of contact. **M. Barb. The MLLWG supports the Adopt a Public Shoreline Program proposal by Elias. 2nd Todd. Approved.** Updates to be provided.
- **Confirm Oct 16, Friday, 1-4, In-person meeting.** Margaret will coordinate site.
- **Lyback Walk-About on September 20th** for the MLLWG Members. Margaret will coordinate. Robert will check for naturalist/ecologist/forester with indigenous perspective on the rich, diverse ecosystems present within their 50 acres.
- Wahkon construction and water storm water management plan: Todd notes storm sewers being built. Questions water treatment plans before discharge into Mille Lacs. MLBO DNR was reviewing plans. Robert will check with Perry. Lynn Gallice was working with Wahkon. Molly will check.
- **Lake Association Summit, July 30, 4-6:30 pm, Moose Lodge, Aitkin.** Speakers include Laura Mendoza, Great Roots and Loon Rescue.

9. Next meeting: September 14, 10- 11:30 am via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Eller, Secretary

Attachment 1. Financial Report

MLLWG Monthly Report		
June 2026		
06/01/2026	Beginning Balance	\$1,799.69
INCOME		
X	June donations	\$0.00
06/30/2026	Savings account interest	\$0.01
	Total June Income	\$0.01
EXPENSES		
	<i>Outstanding Operating Expenses</i>	\$0.00
	Communications Expenses	
06/29/26	John Pearson reimbursed	\$478.74
06/23/26	GoDaddy domain registration	\$23.19
06/14/26	Postage	\$15.60
06/11/26	HLHL speaker stipend	\$100.00
	Total June Expenses	\$617.53
	FULL CLOSING/CURRENT BALANCE	
	<i>[Includes Saving account w/\$10 minimum balance]</i>	\$1,182.17

2026 Year to Date	
Beginning Values	
Income	Expenses
\$165.01	\$3,187.54
Current YDT Values	
\$165.02	\$3,805.07

June Totals		
	Income	\$0.01
	Expenses	\$617.53

BANK ACCOUNTS	
[End of Month Update]	
Checking Account 06/30	\$1,072.16
Blaze Savings Account 06/30/2026 <i>[Includes \$10 minimum balance]</i>	\$110.01
Closing Bank Balance 06/30/2026	\$1,182.17