

Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group Ten Year Plan 2017 – 2027

Efforts proposed to be undertaken through the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group 10 Year Plan have been broken into 5 main components. Implementation of these activities will allow the Group to move toward their water quality goals.

- 1). Consolidate existing water quality data in the watershed.
 - This was last done through a MPCA Surface Water Assessment Grant that was completed after the sampling season in 2008.
 - Consolidation of water quality data will be done every 5 years beginning in 2018.
 - Make a cohesive report of the watershed data for technical review.
 - Make a condensed version of the watershed data that can be utilized by the general public.

- 2). Continue monitoring of water quality in the watershed, and analyze the existing water quality data.
 - Water quality data collected should be reviewed and analyzed in an effort to pinpoint trouble spots and focus future restoration and protection efforts.
 - Monitoring can be focused on areas that are lacking in data or exhibiting elevated nutrients.
 - Participate in the Rum River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) Implementation Phase, which will transition into One Watershed One Plan (1W1P). This will be a comprehensive plan for the entire Rum River Watershed.
 - The Group should consider hiring outside firms that can assist with this effort and provide additional technical expertise.

- 3). Continue to develop and implement the Compass program.
 - Inform the public regarding issues relating to water quality and environmental stewardship in the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed through outreach, the promotion of Compass, and marketing.
 - Engage Citizens with an active role in lake stewardship through membership in Compass and the MLLWMG.
 - Implement projects that will reduce phosphorus/nutrient enrichment through Compass.
 - Participate in the 1W1P Advisory Committee when Rum River Watershed is accepted to begin 1W1P Planning (Mid 2018).
 - Evaluate Compass outcomes every 5 years.

4). Develop and implement a marketing and education plan

- Provide educational opportunities for landowners and recreational users of the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed. These opportunities should include a variety of efforts including, but not limited to, workshops and seminars, tours, newsletters, mailings, and participation in educational events.
- Aquatic Invasive Species will be a focus of education efforts. Seek financial assistance when appropriate from the three watershed counties.
- Education and implementation efforts will coordinate with the Local Comprehensive Water Management Plans developed for Aitkin, Mille Lacs, and Crow Wing Counties until the transition to One Watershed One Plan. Information on the comprehensive plans will be reviewed and shared.
- Relationships with other agencies / organizations within the watershed will continue to be built. Cooperative efforts will reduce duplication of work, and increase effectiveness of efforts. Outreach to Aitkin, Mille Lacs, and Crow Wing County staff members will be a priority.

5). Implement projects that will reduce phosphorus / nutrient enrichment of Mille Lacs Lake and as well as other waterbodies within the watershed.

- Opportunities for providing cost share assistance to landowner will be sought. (projects and funding).
- Priority will be given to pollution reduction projects in subwatersheds exhibiting elevated levels of phosphorus. Water quality data will be used to determine these priorities.
- Projects may focus on soil stabilization, shoreland revegetation, implementation of agricultural BMPs, stormwater runoff management.
- Water quality improvement project implementation efforts will coordinate with the Local Comprehensive Water Management Plans developed for Aitkin, Mille Lacs, and Crow Wing Counties and transition to One Watershed One Plan.
- Relationships with other agencies / organizations within the watershed will continue to be built. Cooperative efforts will reduce duplication of work, and increase effectiveness of efforts.