

Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group
Meeting Minutes – November 19th, 2018
Rolf Olsen Center

Members Present: Perry Bunting, MLBO DNR/ENV; Al Close, Hazelton Township; Barb Eller, Onamia; Jake Janski; Supervisor Mille Lacs SWCD; Bob Janzen, Supervisor Aitkin SWCD; Harmony Maslowski, Watershed Coordinator; Doug McCormick, Round Lake; David Oslin, Mille Lacs Co Commissioner; John Pearson, South Harbor; Janet Smude, Aitkin Co SWCD.

1. Vice Chair, Bob Janzen called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.
2. Agenda Approval: The agenda was approved with the addition of item 6.4. Byways Property Partnering by Barb Eller and 6.5. Presenter on Shoreland Suggestion by Jake Janski. M/S/C David Oslin/Barb Eller.
3. Public Comment: None
4. Consent Agenda: A consent agenda included: a. Approve of October 15th, 2018 Meeting Minutes, b. Approve of October Financial Report, c. Information Only: Topic of the Month- *Thank You* – by Harmony Maslowski. Discussion on the financial report. The consent agenda was approved as presented. M/S/C Barb Eller/David Oslin.
5. Discussion and Action
 - 5.1. Plan of Work – Goals for 2019 – Harmony Maslowski edited the Plan of Work with the October meeting input for section #3 and included the Accelerated Implementation Grant as a funding source for applicable Activity/Items on the plan document. Discussion on Plan of Work, Section #4, “Develop and implement a marketing and education plan.” Outcomes were to keep the Plan of Work as a rolling document and to keep completed items on the plan. MLLWVG would like to establish/strengthen partnerships with Townships and Lake Associations through attending their meetings, through personal invites to events, and by promoting to individual boards. Discussion of membership with MN Rivers and Lakes Assoc. Discussion and vetting process of articles for paper entities. Can MLLWVG articles be tailored to what the paper needs, to get more Topic of the Month, possible column, and news releases out in the paper/paper’s website. Discussion on timeline and deadline for Topic of the Month and volunteers. All website discussion moved to item 5.2.
 - 5.2. Website Discussion – Janet discussed the possibility of Aitkin County Water Planning Task Force to support funding for the website if hosting fees are similar to what they are currently. Harmony Maslowski emailed a company called Arcstone for quote to host and maintain site. Discussion on need for more positive messaging on website and what we put out there in hopes to change some perception and reach people. Discussion on if people are informational items credible. Discussion, MLLWVG would like to keep their domain name, website presence needed for legitimacy purpose, importance of keeping it updated. Discussion for possible items on website: live feed such as lake temps, water related, projects in the works, facebook feed, items to reflect positive message. John Pearson has experience in this area and has offered to assist with current website. Harmony Maslowski suggested that there are other options out there that are cheaper. Harmony Maslowski showed two website areas

where the MLLWVG can access Minutes and Topic of the Month. Discussion item will be continued on December's agenda, for timing purposes of current meeting.

5.3. Compass Outreach and Coordinator's Report – Harmony Maslowski reported that a Thank You card was received from Aitkin County Environmental Services for the MLLWVG donation to the Aitkin County Environmental Education Day. Maslowski wrote the Topic of the Month as a Thank You to everyone for their role in conservation and water quality. Maslowski reported on the pre-planning occurring for the 1W1P in preparation for the Rum River watershed comprehensive plan. Maslowski discussed the 1W1P will have a policy and advisory committee. Discussion “who is on what committee” and what that structure might look like. Maslowski reported that the policy committee will likely take shape in January 2019. Discussion.

6. Updates and Comments

6.1. Media Committee – Barb Eller reported that the group had met and discussed printing coloring sheets for the Rivers and Lakes Fair. Christina Thurston is currently away. Discussed printing existing coloring sheets as a possibility but to make it more Mille Lacs related or our own thing, we can wait until Christina Thurston is back, possibly Spring. Barb Eller reported that the sub-committee was excited about creating an AIS/Watershed Board Game. Eller reported that the media committee will try to meet via teleconference while the Macioch's are away.

6.2. Fundraising / Grant Writing / Membership –Janet Smude has drafted a report for the AIS grant 2018. Will include at an upcoming meeting.

6.3. Updates and Comments: None.

6.4. Byways property partnership – Barb Eller reported that individuals who attended the first Compass meeting are working with some land in efforts to make it a scenic natural area, possible partnership to follow-up with, possible Compass Partnership.

6.5. Presenter on Shoreland Efforts – Jake Janski and Susan Shaw have identified a speaker Jeff Forester, who may be willing to present on the topic of shoreland and state wide efforts. Harmony Maslowski to follow-up.

7. Meeting Evaluation and Next Steps: Agenda format is working.

8. The next meeting - 3rd Monday of December is the 17th and the meeting is booked at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Government Center on the lower level. The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m. M/S/C Barb Eller/David Oslin.