

Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group
Meeting Minutes – March 22nd, 2018
Mille Lacs Trails Snowmobile Club, Aitkin

Members Present: Al Close, Hazelton Township; Barb Eller, Supervisor Mille Lacs SWCD; Lynn Gallice, Mille Lacs SWCD; Bob Janzen, Supervisor Aitkin Co SWCD; Harmony Maslowski, Watershed Coordinator; Don Ryan, Round Lake; Janet Smude, Aitkin Co SWCD; Laurie Westerlund, Aitkin Co Commissioner.

1. Chair, Laurie Westerlund called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
2. Agenda Approval: The agenda was approved with the addition of Lynn Gallice's cost-share request for Timber Bay and Harmony Maslowski's update on One Watershed One Plan. Barb Eller's AIS Summit report addition fell under item 5.4 on the agenda. M/S/C Barb Eller/Al Close.
3. Minutes from the February 22nd, 2018 were approved as presented: M/S/C Al Close/Barb Eller.
4. Financial Report: A report for the month of February was shared. Expenses totaled \$449.27 and were from the Clean Water Partnership Grant (included printing of post cards, door hangers and technical staff time). The report was approved as presented. M/S/C Al Close/Barb Eller.
An invoice was presented from Aitkin Soil and Water Conservation District for staff photocopies, and printed materials for the amount of \$66.00. A motion to approve the payment of the invoice was made. M/S/C Al Close/Barb Eller.

5. Discussion and Action

- 5.1. Rain Barrel Program: Janet Smude reported that there is money in the budget for rain barrels. The group reached agreement on purchasing a number of rain barrels to keep at the Aitkin and Mille Lacs SWCD for the rain barrel program. Lynn Gallice will order the rain barrels and will invoice MLLWMG.
- 5.2. Compass Program/Promotion Update – Harmony Maslowski is working on a mailing list for the seasonal owner postcards and will be sending them out in coordination with Compass meetings. The upcoming Compass meeting has a tentative date of June 7th and location with a quote from McQuoid's resort. The group approves the amount of \$150.00 to McQuoid's to hold the Compass meeting out of the Clean Water Fund Grant. M/S/C Bob Janzen/Barb Eller.

Harmony Maslowski, Janet Smude, and Lynn Gallice have a plan to work with current project holders on a Shore-land Stewardship Plan and have them become Compass members.

Lynn Gallice reported that she has made a contact for a possible Compass survey. Due to the location, she has relayed the contact information to Janet Smude. Lynn Gallice will also be following up on contacts and Shore-land Stewardship Plans from last year.

Janet Smude has the mailings prepared to go out to Round Lake promoting cost-share and Compass. Discussion followed on Compass promotion.

- 5.3. MLLWMG Mission Statement: The group discussed revisiting the mission statement and methods to get input. The group discussed the citizen component of the group. The outcome of discussion was that upon the Macioch's return the group will brainstorm ideas for the mission statement.

- 5.4. AIS Education Activities - AIS Application, Christina's Brochure, AIS Summit: Janet Smude reported that the AIS application has been submitted and will be reviewed shortly. The group agreed that the grant can be implemented once it is funded.

Harmony Maslowski distributed Christina Thurston's brochure and reported on the feedback she had received to date. Discussion on brochure edits. Harmony Maslowski reported that Minuteman Press will need two weeks for printing and she will relay these comments to Christina Thurston for editing.

Barb Eller reported on the AIS Summit that she attended on Feb 28th at the Earl Brown Heritage Center. She attended representing the MLLWMG/Mille Lacs SWCD and presented the Compass program. The seminar was recorded and Barb Eller will provide a link for the group to view.

Discussion followed with topics of tax incentive and other items that might merit the contact of legislature. Barb Eller suggested inviting the Senators/Legislature to the Rivers and Lakes Fair. Discussion. Outcome of discussion was that Harmony Maslowski will send an invitation letter to Senators/Legislature.

5.5. Topic of the Month Guidelines- The goal for Topic of the Month distribution was discussed. Harmony Maslowski reported that the appropriate reference of resources and permissions for pictures/artwork used are needed for the Topic of the Month to be published in the paper. Discussion. Harmony Maslowski will put together a guideline sheet for the Topic of the Month volunteers.

5.6. “Consolidation, analysis, and interpretation of data for MLLWVG and Residents”- Harmony Maslowski reported via Bonnie Finnerty, about the MPCA data used in the WRAPS assessment which uses the data to make recommendations. Also, the document “Rum River Watershed Monitoring and Assessment Report” provides more detail on the data. If there is a different format or different way that the group would like to see that data, Bonnie is willing to provide it. Discussion followed. The outcome was that the group would like a simple summary of the data and requests that Bonnie Finnerty would come present it in a question and answer session.

6. Updates

6.1. Media Committee: Barb Eller suggested a guest speaker at each meeting could draw people to future meetings.

6.2. Fundraising / Grant Writing: No report.

6.3. Membership – No report.

6.4. Citizen Comments / Member Comments / Fisheries Input Group - Discussion on item 6.4 shortened to a “Comments” section. Laurie Westerlund discussed “Catch and Release” topic from the Fisheries Group.

7. Agenda Additions – Barb Eller had already reported on AIS Summit in item 5.4.

Lynn Gallice provided the group with an application for 2014 CWP Cost-Share for Erosion Control Projects at Timber Bay Camp. This would be for a conservation crew to work on the maintenance of existing shore-land planting projects. The cost-share request is for \$1125.00 (or an amount not to exceed 75% of the total eligible cost). Motion to approve \$1125.00 out of the Clean Water Partnership Grant project funds M/S/C Barb Eller/Bob Janzen.

Harmony Maslowski reported that the Watershed Management Plan Advisory Committee/Sub-Committee has met to work on the objectives and goals in relation to the priority concerns. Also, that all of the required counties for the Rum River Watershed have a resolution to participate in One Watershed One Plan. After the SWCDs and county water planners meet to discuss the process, the next step would be submitting an application. This would be after the RFP (request for proposal) comes out, likely in April. Discussion followed about the timeline of selecting committees and how the group might select a member to participate.

Barb Eller added that BWSR has funding for RIM on forested riparian lands and that may be significant to the group in regards to water quality resources. Barb Eller suggested Harmony Maslowski get an update from Susan Shaw regarding the “RIM in the Woods” and report it at the next meeting.

8. Meeting Recap and Next Steps - Discussion included a letter to legislature in form of invitation to the Rivers and Lakes Fair, a Guideline Sheet for the Topic of the Month to volunteers, follow-up with Bonnie Finnerty, feedback on the AIS Brochure to Christina Thurston, and the rain barrel order.

9. The next meeting will be Thursday, April 26th at 10:00a.m. Harmony Maslowski received a contact through Perry Bunting and will follow up with this contact to reserve the Interpretive Center Classroom at Kathio State Park if available. The meeting was adjourned at 12:25p.m. M/S/C Al Close/Bob Janzen.