

Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group
Meeting Minutes – January 25th, 2018
Rolf Olsen Center, Onamia

Members Present: Perry Bunting, MLBD DNR/ENV; Barb Eller, Supervisor Mille Lacs SWCD; Lynn Gallice, Mille Lacs SWCD; Dillon Hayes, Mille Lacs Co; Bob Janzen, Supervisor Aitkin Co SWCD; Harmony Maslowski, Watershed Coordinator; David Oslin, Mille Lacs Co Commissioner; Janet Smude, Aitkin Co SWCD; Chad Weiss, MLB DNR; Laurie Westerlund, Aitkin Co Commissioner.

1. Chair, Laurie Westerlund called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

2. Administrative Details: An attendance sheet was circulated and introductions were made. The agenda was approved with the correction under item #4 that the Aitkin SWCD invoice provided services for the months of October, November, and December, 2017. M/S/C David Oslin/ Bob Janzen. For pertinent correspondence, Harmony Maslowski had sent a card to Bob Williams on behalf of the group. Another card was available to sign and will be sent after today's meeting.

3. Minutes from the November meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved as presented: M/S/C Barb Eller / Bob Janzen.

4. Financial Report: A report for the months of November and December was shared. Expenses totaled \$435.70 and were from the Clean Water Partnership Grant. They included expenses related to stream monitoring, technical services, and grant administration. The report was approved as presented. M/S/C David Oslin / Bob Janzen.

An invoice #2017-44 was presented from the Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation District for technical services and copies. The invoice was dated December 29th, 2017 for the amount of \$32.21.

An invoice was presented from Aitkin Soil and Water Conservation District for services provided in October, November, and December. The invoice was for the amount of \$545.55. A motion approving the payment of both invoices was made. M/S/C Barb Eller / Dave Oslin.

5. Discussion and Action

5.1. Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group Plan of Work Draft Review: The Plan of Work Draft was presented for discussion and input. Discussion among members included: adding a link on the MLLWMG page to MPCA data, the importance of continued monitoring of inlets to Mille Lacs being MLLWMG is providing important data, and the addition of detail to Compass Action Items. An addition under goal #4 will be made. It will be an action item "Sponsoring and Establishing Partnerships in regards to Children's Integrated Learning." Also "expected outcomes" will be added to the target date column. Edits will be made to the Plan of Work and review of the draft will continue at the next meeting. There was a lengthy discussion about the importance of "Consolidation, Analysis, and Interpretation of Data for MLLWMG and Residence" item on the Plan of Work. The next steps to move forward were discussed and this item will have its own place on the agenda for the February meeting.

5.2. Compass Program/Promotion Update - Harmony Maslowski presented the Door-Hang and Post Card Marketing Items from Minuteman Press for input. A quotation was received for the two items in the amount of \$320.96. The motion was made to approve the ordering of 500 postcards and 500 door-hangers from Minuteman Press. M/S/C Barb Eller / Bob Janzen.

Lynn Gallice presented her findings on the cost of native plant seed packets after receiving quotes from Prairie Restorations and Minnesota Native Landscapes. A motion was made to order sufficient seed packets (at 80 cents per packet from Minnesota Native Landscapes) for outreach, not to exceed grant limitations. M/S/C Barb Eller / Bob Janzen.

Harmony Maslowski reviewed her outreach strategy for Compass Meeting in the Spring of 2018. It included door to door outreach with Compass meetings held at different locations around the lake.

5.3. CD3 Watercraft Cleaning Station: Dillon Hayes discussed the possibility of a cooperative agreement with the MLLWMG in regards to the CD3 cleaning station. If Mille Lacs County AIS funds could procure the waterless cleaning station, would the MLLWMG take on the role of funding the maintenance of the unit? Software and maintenance would be in the amount of \$1000.00 per month. Discussion among members concerned the funding and maintenance of the waterless cleaning station unit. Thoughts among the group were that funding the unit for continuous maintenance would be a challenge. The group desires more information on the details of maintenance. Dillon Hayes mentioned a timeline for proposing this to Mille Lacs County would be coming up in February. Suggestions included reaching out in the future to see how these units are doing and looking into it as a possibility for next year.

5.4. Website Discussion - Janet distributed a handout "Website Use Report – 2017" with the annual cost of the domain name and site fees for the MLLWMG website. It contained the number of visits throughout the year, highlighted site visits, time spent on website by visitors, and what was viewed most on the page. The Clean Water Partnership Grant can cover the web costs for another year. Discussion consisted of whether keeping the MLLWMG page was important for the groups' needs. The outcomes of the discussion were to keep the website revision on the Plan of Work for 2018 and re-evaluate in one year.

5.5. Children's Activity Items – Christina Thurston has submitted an Invoice for her Creative Services to date in the amount of \$420.00. Items produced were a Cube Handout and a Watershed Model Activity Lesson Plan. Motion to approve the payment of Invoice for \$420 out of the Outreach/Education workshop/seminars. M/S/C Barb Eller / Bob Janzen.

Discussion followed on how to fund the printing of the current items and Christina's items that are in progress (Invasive Species Brochure and Foldable Handout). The Aitkin County AIS grant was discussed as a possibility.

5.6. Project Promotion Mailing - Janet Smude is working on a direct mailing to Round Lake and Big Pine to promote protecting shoreline. Cost-share money is available from the CWP grant through June 30th. She will present a draft after completion. Her aim is to send it out by April to promote cost-share projects and Compass. Lynn is working on a grant for Timber Bay that may result in a cost-share project.

5.7. Aitkin County AIS Grant - This grant money was previously requested for AIS Town-hall Meetings. These meetings did not happen and AIS meetings could be held in the Spring if the AIS Grant 2018 funds were applied for again. The group discussed what they would like to accomplish on the Plan of Work in regards to applying for the Aitkin Co AIS Grant funds for 2018. The outcomes were to remove the AIS Meetings from the Plan of Work and to apply for the Aitkin Co AIS Grant funds to pay for the printing of the Children's Activity Handout Cube, and Christina Thurston's Creative Services in developing the AIS brochure and foldable handout.

5.8. Topic of the Month – The group discussed the value of the Topic of the Month and decided it will continue into 2018. Janet Smude circulated a sign-up sheet for the Topic of the Month.

6. Updates

6.1. Media Committee: This committee continues work on the children's activity project (see 5.5.)

6.2. Fundraising / Grant Writing: Lynn Gallice reported that she is exploring the use of the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) Grant for the possibility of working on Wahkon's Stormwater Management Plan.

6.3. Membership – Christina Thurston would like to be a MLLWMG member. The group can welcome her at the February meeting.

6.4. Citizen Comments / Member Comments / Fisheries Input Group - Harmony Maslowski reminded the group that she has challenged the individual MLLWMG members to recruit a Compass

Member in 2018. Perry inquired on the date in which the BWSR Stories article on Compass would be released and suggested it could be a Topic of the Month. Harmony reported that Ann Wessel has mentioned the article will move onto the next stages of editing and the release can coincide with an event in the future.

7. Agenda Additions -There were no agenda additions.

8. Meeting Recap and Next Steps - Harmony Maslowski provided a recap on the important next steps regarding the data item in the Plan of Work. This will be on February's Agenda for further discussion. Harmony Maslowski will provide a list of the most current reports to the group at the February meeting. Perry Bunting will obtain an estimate from Houston Engineering. Door-hangs, post-cards and seeds will be ordered for Compass promotion. The CD3 waterless cleaning station has no next steps for the 2018 Plan of Work, but will be considered in the future. The MLLWVG Website funding will be reviewed in one year.

9. The next meeting will be Thursday, February 22nd at 10:00 am. A location suggestion was the Hazelton Town Hall, if the room is available. The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 pm. M/S/C Bob Janzen / Barb Eller.