

Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group
Meeting Minutes – February 22, 2018
Hazelton Township Hall

Members Present: Barb Eller, Supervisor Mille Lacs SWCD; Lynn Gallice, Mille Lacs SWCD; Janet Smude, Aitkin Co SWCD; Laurie Westerlund, Aitkin Co Commissioner; Diane Jacobson, Crow Wing County Co Commissioner; Al Close, Hazelton Township Supervisor.

1. Chair, Laurie Westerlund called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.
2. Administrative Details: An attendance sheet was circulated and introductions were made. The agenda was approved. M/S/C Barb Eller/Al Close. For pertinent correspondence, Lynn Gallice presented an e-mail from Barbara Macioch that commented on several topics pertaining to recent MLLWMG informational updates sent to her by Harmony Maslowski. Ms. Macioch's comments and input were included during discussion on agenda items.
3. Minutes from the January meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved as presented: M/S/C Al Close/Diane Jacobson.
4. Financial Report: A report for the month of January 2018 was shared by Janet Smude. Expenses totaled \$999.51 and were from the Clean Water Partnership Grant. They included expenses related to educational workshop project services, technical services, and grant administration. The report was approved as presented. An invoice #2018-34 was presented from Mille Lacs SWCD for technical services. The invoice was dated 2-12-2018 for the amount of \$170.06. A motion was made to approve this invoice (#2018-34) and the January Financial Report. M/S/C Al Close/Barb Eller
5. Discussion and Action
 - 5.1. Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group Plan of Work Approval: The Plan of Work Draft was discussed by the group. All present were satisfied with this latest draft. Barb Eller commented that it will be very important to keep expected outcomes on all items and to clarify and list these expected outcomes. It is understood that this is a "live" document that will be referred to for all up-coming projects. The motion was made to approve the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group Plan of Work. M/S/C Barb Eller/Diane Jacobson.
 - 5.2. Compass Program/Promotion Update – Door hangers and Seasonal Post Cards have been printed and are ready to be picked up. Native Plant seeds have been ordered and received from MN Native Landscapes. MN Native Landscapes honored the current pricing structure on their website and we were able to order 300 seed packets for \$.50 each. Future orders will cost \$.80 each for orders over 250 packets. Lynn Gallice handed out examples of the seed packets. Barb Eller will be doing a presentation on the Compass Program at the upcoming AIS Summit that takes place in Brooklyn Center on February 28th. The session will be taped and Barb will share a link with the group.
 - 5.3. Project Promotion Mailing – Janet has put together a letter and flyer to encourage people to contact us for BMP projects this spring. This will be a direct mailing to Round Lake and Big Pine Lake in Aitkin County. Depending on the budget, it may go out to additional lakeshore homes in the watershed. She will be using CWP Grant funds until they are gone and then funds from a Cisco Tulibee Grant from Aitkin SWCD. There is \$16,000 left in the CWP grant that needs to be spent by June 30, 2018.

Lynn Gallice informed the group that the Conservation Corps Crew Grant for maintenance work and forestry plantings has been approved. Lynn will be working on a planting plan and MN DNR permit application. Timber Bay will be applying for Cost-Share funds for the plants that will be used in this

project. The motion was made to offer Timber Bay 75% cost share for this project. M/S/C Barb Eller/Diane Jacobson.

Al Close brought up a concern expressed by a member of his Lake Association. This member has witnessed a neighbor with a Geo-Thermal “pump and dump” heating and cooling system discharging waste water from the system into the roadside ditch. Is this legal and is this harmful to local water quality? Lynn Gallice will speak to the Mille Lacs SWCD Administrative Assistant who has a background in the heating and cooling industry for a good contact for this information. Lynn will report back to the group.

5.4. Aitkin Co AIS Grant - Harmony Maslowski is working with Janet Smude on an Aitkin AIS Grant application. They will be applying for funds to pay Christine Thurston to finish designing an AIS brochure and foldable water quality game piece. They will also request funds to print the brochure and game cube as well as promotional items for Compass. These promotional items may include floating key chains and golf towels. The application will request \$4,400 with a 10% match. The Aitkin AIS Committee will meet in March to determine who the grants will be awarded to. The motion was made to approve submitting an Aitkin AIS Grant application for \$4,400 for outreach materials. M/S/C Al Close /Diane Jacobson.

5.5. “Consolidation, analysis, and interpretation of data for MLLWVG and Residents” - The group discussed this Work Plan item that directs that action be taken to consolidate, analyze and interpret the last 10 years of water quality data that has been gathered in the Mille Lacs Watershed including the SEH report. Questions discussed where; What has this information been used for in the past and what would we like to use it for in the future? The group was unsure of past uses but believe that going forward, we will need technical information for grant applications and a simple analysis that can be easily shared with landowners. Barb Eller commented that there is information in the WRAPS and we may want this data to participate in the upcoming 1WIP. Barb is concerned that we may not be as involved in the 1WIP as we might like if we have data that indicated the lake only needs protection activities. The group is interested in having Mark Deutschman from Houston address the next meeting to talk about what types of data summary products he can offer. Barb also would like a human interest story done on Mark that will encourage lakeshore stakeholders to attend the meeting and offer input on what type of information they would like made available to them. Lynn Gallice will contact Perry Bunting to see if Mark is available to speak at our next meeting. It is uncertain at this time if anyone will have time to write and submit an article on Mark.

5.6 Topic of the Month – Janet Smude has written the January Topic of the Month on Native Plants. Shannon Westerlund has written the February Topic of the Month on septic systems. The Topic of the Month sign-up sheet was passed around again. Steve Hughes of the Aitkin SWCD will be asked to write the Topic of the Month for March.

Updates

6.1. Media Committee: Ann Wessel of BWSR has written a long article on the compass program. Lynn Gallice, Janet Smude, Harmony Maslowski, Perry Bunting and Barb and Mike Macioch were interviewed for the article. BWSR will be sending this to various media outlets including our local newspapers.

6.2. Fundraising / Grant Writing: Janet Smude and Harmony Maslowski are applying for an Aitkin AIS Grant.

6.3. Membership –

6.4. Citizen Comments / Member Comments / Fisheries Input Group - Lynn Gallice shared e-mailed input from Barb and Mike Macioch. Diane Jacobson reported that Crow Wing SWCD has recently lost one staff member and 2 Board members. They anticipate new Board members in the next election and are in the process of hiring new staff. Barb Eller stated that there will be new “RIM in the Woods” program for the Rum River Watershed.

7. Agenda Additions – Lake Health Conference Updates: Barb Eller, Lynn Gallice, Janet Smude and Dillon Hayes met after the January MLLWGMG meeting to plan the 2018 Lake Health Conference. In order to reach our original goal of presenting pertinent information to lakeshore landowners, we are changing the structure of the Lake Health Conference. The Conference will be held on Saturday, August 18, 2018 from 9am to noon. It is hoped that holding the event on a Saturday and hosting a shorter event will attract local landowners that will be interested in participating in Compass. Harmony Maslowski visited three resorts for quotes on hosting the event and McQuoid's Inn offered the best price and was available on our chosen date. A motion was made to accept the quote from McQuoid's Inn and move forward with planning the Lake Health Conference on August 18, 2018 from 9am to noon at McQuoid's Inn. M/S/C Al Close/Barb Eller.

8. Meeting Recap and Next Steps -

- a) Lynn Gallice will check to see if the ROC is available for our next meeting.
- b) Lynn Gallice will contact Perry Bunting to have Perry invite Mark Deutschman to speak at our next meeting,
- c) Barb Eller has requested that a human interest story about Mark Deutschman is written for the newspapers to encourage the public to attend our next meeting to give input on what type of information they want from our water quality data. Lynn Gallice will talk to Harmony Maslowski about this task.
- d) Janet Smude will submit a grant application to the Aitkin County AIS Committee.
- e) All members should come to the next meeting with ideas about what we will do with our water quality data and in what format we would like the data summary.

9. The next meeting will be Thursday, March 22, 2018. Location to be determined. Possibly the ROC in Onamia. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. M/S/C Barb Eller/Diane Jacobson. Meeting was adjourned at 11:50am.