

Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group
Meeting Minutes – October 26, 2017
City Council Room, City of Isle

Members Present: Perry Bunting, MLBDNRE; Al Close, Hazelton Township; Barb Eller, Supervisor Mille Lacs SWCD; Bob Janzen, Supervisor Aitkin Co SWCD; Barbara Macioch, Citizen NE Mille Lacs Lake; Mike Macioch, Citizen NE Mille Lacs Lake; Harmony Maslowski, Watershed Coordinator; Don Ryan, Round Lake; Janet Smude, Aitkin Co SWCD; Chad Weiss, MLB DNR; Shannon Westerlund, Aitkin Co SWCD.

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. Mike Macioch agreed to Chair the meeting, in the absence of the MLLWMG officers at the start of the meeting.
2. Administrative Details: An attendance sheet was circulated and introductions were made. The agenda was approved with the additions of an invoice from Aitkin for services and a CD3 informational update. Pertinent correspondence included a thank you card that was received from Educational Services, who are thankful for the donation from MLLWMG for the Environmental Day.
3. Minutes from the September meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved as presented: M/S/C Barb Eller / Al Close.
4. Financial Report: A report for the month of September was shared. Expenses totaled \$3016.13 and were from the Clean Water Partnership Grant. They included expenses related to invoices, seminars, the tour, and stream monitoring. The report was approved as presented. M/S/C Barb Eller/Al Close.
An invoice #2017-38 was presented from the Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation District for technical services and copies. The invoice was dated October 9th, 2017. An invoice from Aitkin Soil and Water Conservation district was presented for the months of August and September. A motion approving the payment of the Mille Lacs SWCD invoice for \$203 and payment of the Aitkin SWCD invoice for \$433.65 was made. M/S/C Barb Eller/Al Close.
5. Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group Annual Meeting Business:
Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group Ten Year Plan Review/Approval: The Ten Year Plan draft was presented with corrections for approval. The decision was made to make Compass a separate component incorporating aspects from multiple components. The revision will also change the numbering of the five components. A revision will be presented for approval at November's meeting.
Election of Vice Chair Person: The position of MLLWMG Vice Chairperson was due for election this year. A motion was made to elect Bob Janzen for a second term. M/S/C Al Close/Barb Eller.
6. Old Business
 - 6.1. Mille Lacs Compass Program Update: Anne Wessel from BWSR has interviewed Harmony Maslowski and Lynn Gallice about Compass. She is reaching out to Barbara and Mike Macioch for an interview. This story may be distributed in the near future. Harmony Maslowski, Janet Smude, Lynn Gallice, and Shannon Westerlund will be working on a Compass survey at the Wahkon public beach with the goal of clarifying Compass for future surveys and lake stewardship plans. This information will be given to the Wahkon parties that have shown past interest for a possible future project.
 - 6.2. 2017 Aitkin County AIS Grant - Town Hall Meetings There are no dates set for the meetings. Aitkin would still have time to do one within the AIS grant's timeline. Group input was that the meetings would be more successful in the Spring. Discussion of having a keynote speaker, refreshments, and a date between fishing opener and memorial day may help attendance of the meetings.

6.3. Watershed Tours The Watershed Tour was the Topic of the Month in October and was shared via Facebook and sent to the local paper. The tour included a variety of site visits including Timber Bay and two landowner's projects. Lynn Gallice, Shelley Larson, Janet Smude, and the landowners provided great information. Janet reported that attendance was low, with 11 people attending. Having a yearly tour was discussed, with the possibility of having a Spring tour. Janet suggested that since the plants aren't up in June, a tour with an alternative watershed related topic could work well. She added that a tour on the West Side of the lake discussing possible stressors to different water bodies and how the lakes are connected could be topics of interest.

6.4. 2018 Annual Plan of Work: The Plan of Work Draft was distributed for review. Harmony provided the reminder that a rolling plan was discussed at the July meeting. A column was added for "date completed." Group discussion included the importance of having an annual plan with doable outcomes, and the addition of a "targeted date" column. The addition of the Spring Watershed Tour and the AIS Public Meetings will be added to the work plan with a 2018 targeted date. Also, the results for monitoring with analysis and interpretation for the group/residents is to be added to the Plan of Work for 2018.

6.5. 25 X 25 Letter A letter draft was distributed to the group with the intent to send it to representatives, and senators. This letter is to include the group's responses to the 25x25 survey, MLLWMG information and Compass information. It was suggested that Enid Swaggert be included to the list of recipients. The letter will be sent out ASAP.

7. New Business

7.1. Children's Activity Book Barb Eller reported that the Media Subcommittee met to discuss the short term goals, and long term goals in creating Children's Activity material. The short term goal is to create a game and handout for the Rivers and Lakes Fair. Mike Macioch described the dice game related to AIS that would be created. This short term goal would be completed by May of 2018. The Subcommittee will be receiving an estimate from a local artist Christina Thurston, who also volunteered to do a breakout session at upcoming fair. The long term goal is to have material created that is specifically related to Mille Lacs Lake Watershed but provides knowledge that children could carry beyond their watershed. These items could possibly be integrated into classrooms in the future. Cindy Rudolph could be the contact for the educational component of the project. Additional funding options were discussed for the future of the project. Follow-up from the subcommittee will include Christina Thurston's estimate of cost, and an outline for the group's review and input. The subcommittee will meet again in November.

7.2 Cost Share Project Review and Reimbursement Approval: Janet Smude reported that Jack & Marilyn Anderson of Smith Lake and Borden Lake have completed projects including rain garden additions and buffers along the lakeshore. The work has been completed and the invoices submitted. A request for the reimbursement of \$2918.30 (49% of the total project costs) was made. The cost share reimbursement was approved from the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Clean Water Partnership Grant. M/S/C Bob Janzen/Don Ryan.

7.3 Compass Promotion Timeline: Harmony Maslowski shared an individual work-plan outline for the upcoming Compass Promotion with a timeline for 2018. This includes items such as forming contacts with existing project holders, honorary Compass membership, targeted marketing for new property owners/seasonal owners, Compass Orientation Packets for new property owners, coloring contests, door-hang seed packets with information on the importance of native plants/buffers, and other items relating to water quality. The group approves the addition of the Compass Promotion to the agenda for monthly updates on the progress and to allow for input/group participation. Discussion followed on revisiting the realtor handouts and the importance of "in-person interaction" with the community.

8. Subcommittee Reports:

8.1. Media Committee: The committee is currently working on the Children's Activities Project discussed previously (7.1).

8.2. Fundraising / Grant Writing: Discussion that CWF will go through June 30th of 2018. Harmony Maslowski will be attending a Grant Composing course at BWSR Academy and will continue to look for upcoming opportunities. Discussion of possible funding opportunities followed.

8.3. Membership: No new membership to report.

8.4. Citizen Comments / Member Comments / Fisheries Input Group: Mike Macioch inquired about group contacts with any AIS inspectors and the possibility of having a few attend a meeting as speakers. Invites are to be extended for the November meeting. Also a current newspaper article regarding walleye health was discussed.

10. Agenda Additions: Harmony Maslowski informed the group that she has been contacted by Mark Apfelbacher from CD3 through Dillon Hayes of Mille Lacs Co. CD3 is a company that sells Watercraft Cleaning Stations. Mark Apfelbacher is working with the DNR currently and is looking for expressed interest from the counties. Harmony posed the question: Is the group interested in exploring options with CD3, Mille Lacs Co, and the DNR? Mark Apfelbacher would like to come and speak to the group about CD3. An invite will be extended to Mark Apfelbacher and Dillon Hayes to attend the November meeting.

11. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Thursday, November 30th, 2017 at 10:00 am. A location suggestion was the Rolf Olsen Center if a room is available. The meeting was adjourned at 12:12p.m. M/S/C Barb Eller/ Bob Janzen.