

Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group  
Meeting Minutes – April 17, 2017  
Hazelton Town Hall

Attendance: Perry Bunting, MLB DNRE; Al Close, Hazelton Township; Barb Eller, Mille Lacs SWCD; Lynn Gallice, Mille Lacs SWCD; Dillon Hayes, Mille Lacs County; Diane Jacobson, Crow Wing SWCD; Bob Janzen, Aitkin Co SWCD; Doug McCormick, Round Lake; Don Ryan, Round Lake; Janet Smude, Aitkin Co SWCD; Chad Weiss, MLB DNRE.

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by Vice Chairperson Bob Janzen.
2. Administrative Details: An attendance sheet was circulated and introductions made. The agenda was approved as presented. There was no pertinent correspondence.
3. Minutes from the April meeting of the Group were reviewed and approved as presented. M/S/C Al Close / Don Ryan.
4. Financial Report: A report for the month of March 2017 was shared. Expenses totaled \$ 506.88 and were to Red House Media for design of Compass promotional materials and Mille Lacs SWCD for staff time. The report was approved as presented. M/S/C Don Ryan / Al Close. Janet Smude noted that the project is being audited by the MPCA for tracking of grant expenditures and in-kind contributions. This is required for each MPCA Grant at the mid-point of their project.
5. Old Business:
  - 5.1. Watershed Coordinator Position Update: The Mille Lacs County Human Resources Department is reviewing the draft position description. When their review is complete we will be able to move ahead with posting the position.
  - 5.2. Community Incentive Program/ 2016 Media Campaign: Lynn Gallice shared that she has worked through the Compass Review / Compass Survey process for the Marilyn Fellegly property. This property came back as a Silver Recognized property – which Lynn felt was appropriate. This is meant to be a discussion with the landowners. Comments are still welcome as we move toward a final copy.

Lynn Gallice also shared that the Shoreland Stewardship Plan template is being updated and finalized. It will be titled a Shoreland Stewardship Plan, which is more inclusive than a Lakeshore Stewardship Plan.

Updates on Compass Program communication tools were provided. The series of three postcards are being refined by Red House Media. Janet Smude will ask them to send the first one on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Others will be sent every 2 weeks after that. Lynn Gallice will develop a press release / Topic of the Month article for May that focuses on the Compass program. Janet Smude will update the website.

Lynn Gallice attended the Mn Assn of Conservation Districts Legislative Briefing Day to promote the Compass program. For various reasons she couldn't connect with many area legislators, but she was able to discuss the program with DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr, MPCA Commissioner Glen Skuta, and BWSR Executive Director John Jaschke. There is interest in the program and Lynn will continue to promote it. The first year will serve as a test run. A meeting of folks who are interested in conducting the site visits was suggested. This would help to ensure consistency.
  - 5.3 2017 Aitkin County AIS Grant: Janet Smude has been working with Red House Media on the information folders. They are currently at the printer. The cost came in higher than expected. The printer was asked to provide us with as many as we could get and stay within our budget. Dates for the Town Hall meetings will be set at a future meeting.

5.4. Aitkin County Contractor Workshop: Janet Smude shared that 26 contactors attended the education workshop held on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Topics that were covered included changes to the Aitkin County Shoreland Management Ordinance, Mn DNR Waters regulations, AIS, alternative shoreland stabilization techniques, and erosion control products. Differences in Ordinances around the watershed were discussed. Uniformity would be nice, but is had to accomplish when each county sets their regulations.

5.5. 2017 Lake Health Conference: Lynn Gallice has reserved McQuoid's Inn for this event on August 7<sup>th</sup>. Dillon Hayes offered to work on "Save the Date" materials that will be used to initiate promotion of the event. Perry Bunting has confirmed that Mark Deutschmann from Houston Engineering will talk about PTM App modeling and how this influences project implementation. Dillon Hayes, Lynn Gallice, and Janet Smude are meeting following today's meeting to refine the program agenda.

5.6. MASWCD Resolutions: Barb Eller updated the Group on the two proposed resolutions regarding tax incentive payments for shoreland stewardship work. She would like to submit them to the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts again this year. They will also be brought directly to area legislators (House and Senate). It will be called a Shoreline Conservation Incentive Program. A property tax credit would come from the State. It could be tied to Governor Dayton's 25% by 2025 initiative.

5.7. Lake Monitoring 2017: Al Close has spoken with Larry Foote from the Big Pine Lake Assn regarding monitoring. He is waiting for a definite response. Janet Smude has not spoken with Crow Wing County yet about monitoring a lake in that county.

6. New Business: There was no new business.

7. Subcommittee Reports:

7.1. Media Committee: The Topic of the Month articles will continue. Mitch Lundeen, North Region Forester will contribute an article for April. Governor Dayton will attend the Bass Fishing Opener on May 27<sup>th</sup> at McQuoid's. We need to watch for opportunities to promote our activities at this and other events. Information on the Lake Health Conference should be shared. It will be brought to the next meeting so members can assist with distribution.

7.2. Fundraising / Grant Writing: The Mille Lacs SWCD is planning to apply for a Clean Water Fund Grant that will support a Stormwater Management Plan for the city of Wahkon. We will watch for opportunities for a CWF Grant Application for other watershed activities – including the Compass Program. Review of the 5 Year Strategic Plan may be helpful with this. This should be done at the June meeting.

7.3. Membership: Landowners interested in the Compass Program will be encouraged to participate in other MLLWVG activities.

7.4. Citizen Comments / Fisheries Input Group: There were no additional comments.

8. Agenda Additions: There were no agenda additions.

9. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, May 15th. It will be held at the Kathio Township Hall if it is available. The Garrison VFW will be asked, if the Town Hall is not available. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am M/S Barb Eller / Al Close.