

Minutes of MLLWMG Meeting Monday, May 15, 2017 held at VFW in Garrison

Attendance: Janet Smude, Aitkin Co SWCD; Don Ryan, Round Lake; Lynn Gallice, Mille Lacs SWCD; Perry Bunting, Mille Lacs Band DNR; Doug McCormick, Round Lake; Nancy Walicki, Wahkon; Al Close, Hazelton Township; Diane Jacobson, Crow Wing Co SWCD; Bonnie Finnerty, Minnesota Pollution Control; Barbara Macioch, Lake Mille Lacs; Michael Macioch, Lake Mille Lacs, Bob Janzen, Aitkin Co SWCD.

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Vice Chair, Bob Janzen.
2. Administrative Details: An attendance sheet was circulated and introductions made. Scenic Byways Designation for Mille Lacs Lake was added. The agenda was approved. There was no pertinent correspondence.
3. Minutes from the April 17th meeting of the Group were reviewed and approved as presented. M/S/C Don Ryan / Al Close
4. Financial Report: A report for the month of April 2017 was shared. Expenses totaled \$1,425.00 and were for: Red House Media for design and printing of Compass promotional materials; contribution to Aitkin County Rivers and Lakes Fair; website fee; contractor workshop for Aitkin; and Lynn's attendance at the Legislative Day. The report was approved as presented. M/S/C Al Close / Mike Macioch

Janet reported that the audit by the MPCA for tracking of grant expenditures and in-kind contributions was completed. No problems are expected. The "Yellow" sheet for logging in-kind activities was found to be very helpful.

5. Old Business:
 - 5.1 Watershed Coordinator Position: Lynn reported that a Clean Water Fund Grant was applied for with $\frac{1}{4}$ time for the Rum River and $\frac{3}{4}$ time as the MLLWMG Coordinator. It will be working with Compass under a 3-year grant. The position was reviewed by the county and independent contractor and will be reviewed by their personnel committee and should be posted this week.
 - 5.2 Mille Lacs Compass / 2016 Media Campaign: Lynn reported on attending the Legislative Day event. She was asked to address Governor Dayton: 25% by 2025 Initiative and how our work fits into the state programs.
 - Site Visit Checklists are being finished up.
 - Shoreland Stewardship Plan has been finished.

Communication Tools: The three postcards are ready to be mailed to all property owners on Mille Lacs Lake. The 1st postcard will be going out today – the Compass Kick Off -- May 15, 2017.

- The News Release is being worked on.
- The Website has been updated.

5.3 2017 Aitkin County AIS Grant:

- The Information folders and 850 rack cards have been printed. The purpose is to make them available for resorts, chambers of commerce and tourism offices, real estate offices, bait shops, bulletin boards, Rivers & Lakes Fair, county fairs and homeowners. Lynn is looking for plastic holders for cards. Round Lake wants some to include in their handouts.

- Town Hall Meetings will be coordinated by Laurie Westerlund in the North and Dave Oslund in the South. Presenters may include AIS Inspectors. There is a need to organize for education.

5.4 Aitkin County Rivers & Lakes Fair: MLLWMG will again have a table at the fair Saturday, June 17. Janet is updating the bulletin board. Mike & Barbara will be “manning” the display. A sample rain barrel will be on display. This event has something for everyone and has inexpensive food.

5.5 2017 Lake Health Conference:

- Monday, August 7 at McQuoids has been set for the one-day conference. Several speakers have been confirmed. Some topics will be: Aquatic Invasive Species, Alternative Shoreland, Mille Lacs Band Fisheries, Water Craft Inspection, National Wildlife Refuge, PTM App Modeling. All this, including lunch and a launch ride on the lake.

5.6 MASWCD Resolutions:

The two proposed resolutions regarding tax incentive payments will be presented June 2 to the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Area 3. Comments from everyone were used to update and if approved, will go to the State and tie into Governor Dayton’s 25% in 2025 Initiative.

5.7 Lake Monitoring 2017: Still looking for volunteers to take samples on Big Pine and Holt Lakes. Will be reimbursed by MLLWMG.

6. New Business:

6.1 Tour: Funds need to be spent in 2017. Suggestions were: Projects MLLWMG has sponsored, i.e. Timber Bay, PICKUM, Compass. McQuoids and VFW have mini-busses or a motor coach can be rented.

6.2 Rainwater Workshop & Compass: Jim Ravis (Master Gardener) is available. (Ron Ritter is also a Master Gardener.) It was suggested to hold at VFW in Garrison or Hazelton Township. Janet will coordinate.

7. Subcommittee Reports:

7.1 Media Committee:

- It was agreed to continue the Topic of the Month.
- We will continue to work with all newspapers in the area.
- The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe are having another lake Pickup Day.

7.2 Fundraising/Grant Writing:

- It is time to start thinking about future grants, i.e. BWSR coming out in July.
- Someone is doing core samples on the lake. Janet will find out who.

7.3 Membership:

- Ted Kostecka is moving. Someone is replacing him on the Kathio Township Board.
- Terry Schultz, Round Lake, wants to get involved.
- **Bring a Friend** – to the next meeting, the Lake Health Conference, etc.

8. Agenda Additions:

- AIS Inspectors: Doug – The state of Montana inspects every boat going into their lakes. There is a hefty fine of \$1000 for violations.
- Scenic Byway Designation for Mille Lacs Lake: Laurie Westerlund is on the Committee.

9. Next Meeting: Date –Monday, June 19, 2017 – Location: Perry will arrange
*** **BRING A FRIEND** ***

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon. M/S Don Ryan / AI Close

Minutes by Barbara Macioch