

## MILLE LACS LAKE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT GROUP

Joint Meeting of Steering & Technical Committees  
HELD THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2017, AT ROLF OLSEN CENTER, ONAMIA

Those present: Dave Oslin, MLC Commissioner; Barb Eller, Mille Lacs Co SWCD; Laurie Westerlund, Aitkin Co Commissioner; Harmony Schaupp, Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Coordinator; Lynn Gallice, Mille Lacs Co SWCD; Bob Janzen, Supervisor Aitkin Co SWCD; Mike Macioch, Citizen NE Mille Lacs Lake; Barbara Macioch, Citizen NE Mille Lacs Lake.

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:11 a.m. by Laurie Westerlund, Chair.  
2. Administrative Details: An attendance sheet was circulated and introductions made. Harmony Schaupp, newly hired Watershed Coordinator, was introduced to and welcomed by the group.

Agenda Additions/Corrections were “Discussion Topics/Issues” concerning the watershed and will be addressed at future meetings through the Compass Program.

Pertinent Correspondence were:

- A Thank you note received from the Aitkin Rivers and Lakes Fair for MLLWMG’s participation and was shared by Mike.
- Greg Pruess of Borden Lake Association has expressed an interest in work done on Compass development by MLLWMG and volunteered to cooperate on an AIS survey, providing a boat, donating \$750 towards their 50% contribution and providing another volunteer. They will meet and get back to Janet.
- Long Lake Assoc. is interested in a speaker on the sustainable shoreline incentive program and the Compass Program, but because of time constraints, they were referred to the local to S&W District.

3. Minutes of the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed and amended to state that Lynn and Harmony would be delegated to do the presswork for the Compass Program and if Perry could get pictures of native shorelines to Harmony so press releases could be done throughout the summer. They were then approved. M/S/C Barb E. / Mike

4. Financial Report: A request for reimbursement of expenses totaling \$866.01 for work done on Compass development by Mille Lacs SWCD. M/S/C Dave / Bob  
A report for the month of June was shared. Total spent this month was \$1,158.74. M/S/C Mike / Bob

5. Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group **5 Year Plan Review/ Update:** Many studies have been made of the lake, by many different entities, using various methods, over many years and an attempt was made by MLLWMG to put into one cohesive package in 2008. (Printed separately.)

### 6. OLD BUSINESS:

**6.1 Mille Lacs Compass Program Update:** What do we want Compass to do during the next 5 years? Barb E.: We can be more specific now that Compass has been developed. We should consider incorporating the MN Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) “One Watershed, One Plan” into our 5 year plan. Counties will be involved and will have citizen involvement. Aitkin and Mille Lacs Counties are working toward tying into it. Priorities for 2016 are done. Priorities for 2017 Janet can pull up. Develop Compass – done.

Lynn has done 2 landowner evaluations; they didn’t want recognition, were only interested in shoreland restoration plan. The Mille Lacs Messenger is interested in doing a feature article. Need to adjust scoring and how the survey is used.

Are there social activities within the territory to work with? i.e. churches, 4H, ATV/ snowmobile clubs, state parks, birdwatchers.

6.1.1 Steve Hughes is on KKIN FM 94.3 ~8:00 a.m. on 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday monthly. He receives updates, which could be relayed and could also give updates of what is happening within Compass.

6.1.2 Produce videos – Use a landowner as a “Compass Star”. U of M students /Extension or Mississippi Headwaters Coordinator could be partners. Have at Aitkin Rivers & Lakes Fair Display, etc. Goal for 2018: Have done. Website revision and updates: Work on Facebook first.

6.1.3 Have a time lapse of a project, i.e. rain garden, shoreland restoration. Start with Crow Wing. Will have info booths, which can be used at several locations.

6.2 2017 Aitkin County AIS Grant – Town Hall Meetings: Lynn & Laurie to do North and Harmony & Dave to do South. Tie into Governor Dayton’s Water Quality Goal of 25% by Year 2025 program. Timeline for spending funding may need extension.

6.3 2017 Lake Health Conference – The conference scheduled for Mon August 7 is ready to go. Speakers are considered interesting and informative. One will discuss the relationship between Ground and Surface Water. The launch ride in the evening will also have informative speakers who will discuss the National Wildlife Refuge (Spirit & Hennepin Islands) and the Mille Lacs Hatchery and they will also field questions from attendees. Lovely summer weather is also planned. Another conference for 2018 will be planned.

6.4 Watershed Tour – There will be two small tours (North and South of lake) using the small local busses. Sept. McQuoids, Oct. Garrison VFW. Want to partner with Scenic Byways? They want to go all the way around the lake.

6.5 Capturing Rainwater Workshop Report – Held Monday July 17 and was attended by several people. Harmony was introduced to the group. Much valuable information/hints were shared by Jim Ravis, Master Gardener, who also fielded questions. The Rain Garden How To Manual was made available to all attendees. A drawing for a rain barrel was held – the recipient appeared thrilled. [Rain barrels can be purchased from Janet for a discounted priced.]

## **7. NEW BUSINESS:**

7.1 PCA Clean Water Partnership Semi-Annual Report – Expires June 30, 2018. Needs 50/50 in-kind local match. Still have \$41,000 to spend.

7.2 Request to Purchase Rain Garden Books (U of Wis Extension) – A motion was made, seconded and approved to purchase up to 200 books per Janet’s decision for general distribution. M/S/C Mike / Bob

## 8. Subcommittee Reports

8.1 Media Committee – Compass Marketing. Video is next project.

8.2 Fundraising / Grant Writing – Use Updated 5 Year Plan

8.3 Membership – Have 1 or 2 nighttime meetings so more people can attend. Have Steve Hughes put on radio. Some comments: What are your expectations of the meeting? What are we here for? (MLLWMG Education) Come & see how your tax \$ is being spent. Lake is in such good condition, I don’t need to be involved. In the past, meetings were started with an educational presentation – can we reinstitute again? Meetings are for 2 hours – allow ~10 minutes Open Comments (not on agenda).

## 8.4 Citizen Comments / Member Comments / Fisheries Input Group –

❖ MLLWMG Website should have links to:

-- MLLWMG Facebook

-- Compass

-- Scenic Byways

-- Other public meetings

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-- DNR

-- ML Area Chamber of Commerce

-- Governor Dayton’s 25 by 25

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❖ Fisheries Input Group (The MLFAC):

-- Dr. Chris Vandergoot, Fishery Biologist of U.S. Geological Survey Station in Sandusky, Ohio, will field questions on Monday, July 31.

❖ Citizen Comments:

-- Local newspapers need encouragement for acknowledgement of MLL

## 9. Agenda Additions –

Next Meeting Date: Thursday August 24, 2017 -- Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Hazelton Town Hall?

**\*\*\* NOTE NEW MEETING SUMMER DATE – 4<sup>th</sup> THURS OF MONTH \*\*\***

Meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m. Move to close meeting: M/S/C Barb E. / Mike

Minutes by Barbara Macioch