

MINUTES OF MILLE LACS LAKE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING AUGUST 24, 2017, HELD AT HAZELTON TOWN HALL

Those present: Laurie Westerlund, Aitkin Co Commissioner; Lynn Gallice, Mille Lacs Co SWCD; Mike Macioch, Citizen NE Mille Lacs Lake; Barb Eller, Mille Lacs Co SWCD; David Oslin, MLCo Commissioner; Chad Weiss, MLB DNR; Perry Bunting, MLBD DNR/ENV; Al Close, Citizen Round Lake; Harmony Schaupp, MLLWMG Watershed Coordinator; Barbara Macioch, Citizen NE Mille Lacs Lake.

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Chair, Laurie Westerlund.
2. Administrative Details: An Attendance sheet was circulated and introductions made. Added to the Agenda were: Update of Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Fisheries Grant Study on Lake Mille Lacs, Display Booth Suggestions and Citizen Comments. The Agenda was approved. There was no pertinent correspondence.
3. Minutes from the July 27th meeting of the group were reviewed and corrected to read: 6.2 Town Hall Meeting for the North Half of the lake will be coordinated by Janet & Laurie. Minutes were approved. M/S/C Dave / Mike
4. Financial Report: The expenses for the past month were related to the Rain Barrel Workshop for \$150.00 [\$100 Master Gardener, \$50 VFW]. Mille Lacs Co SWCD requested that their expenses be allowed to be submitted monthly vs upon request for ease in bookkeeping. These were approved. M/S/C Al Close / Dave Oslin
5. Mille Lacs Watershed Management Group 5 Year Plan Review (handled separately)
6. Old Business:
 - 6.1 Mille Lacs Compass Program Update – The Lake Health Conference received a couple of inquiries on the Compass Program. Still need to tweak “scoring system” [Bronze – Interested in Review, Silver – Interested in Restoration Project, Gold – Interested in Community Involvement]. Lynn has a Power Point presentation and Harmony has created a small, quick slide presentation which can be used to present to various community groups (Lions, churches, resorts, schools, etc.)
 - 6.2 2017 Aitkin County AIS Grant – Town Hall Meetings – Harmony, Dave and Lynn will work with Dillon Hayes or tie into Mille Lacs County’s Semi-Annual Commissioners meeting or the county’s annual town hall meeting. Compass will be presented. Laurie will try to do similar in Aitkin County.
 - 6.3 2017 Lake Health Conference Summary – There were 37 attendees and 25 attended the evening launch and many good comments were received. Two rain barrels were sold. Critique: Speakers honed in on what we wanted them to speak on; there was interest in what the Band is doing. There were technology issues but were worked through. Maybe next year Compass landowner experiences could be included in presentations. Several

business owners attended. Resort owners were not interested in attending. Maybe we could tie into tourism meetings or hold off-season, i.e. after ice season. What would they be interested in hearing about? Who headed up previous resort owners association?

Topic of Month for August, “What is a watershed?” was #Do the Lake by Barb E.

6.4 Watershed Tours – Shelly Larson, Hayland Woods, is tentative in early October for Garrison Shoreline Projects/Aitkin County.

6.5 Purchase of Rain Garden Books – Pending – will happen after Lake Health Conference expenses are approved and paid.

7. New Business:

7.1 Mille Lacs County Fair Participation – Harmony had the MLLWMG booth and talked to 40 people re: shoreland, AIS, Ag, Small business parking lot run off. Most were associated with other counties. The wheel trivia game was the most popular booth. People were very interested in the Rainfall Simulator. Shelly has a lakeshore related simulator. Next year we could participate in the summer town celebrations around the lake. Maybe we could also get involved in the Crow Wing County Fair.

7.2 Aquatic Vegetation Survey, Borden Lake – Pending. A.W. Research is planning to conduct this week with help from the Borden Lake Association.

8. Subcommittee Reports

8.1 Media Committee – Harmony is working with Janet on the website. Barb E. put this meeting notice on Facebook page. She also reported that the MLCoSACD website is in process of being updated and can be linked to MLLWMG’s – featuring Compass.

8.2 Fundraising / Grant Writing

8.3 Membership

8.4 Fisheries Input Group – Dave reported that the analysis of the DNR’s independent management lake study is in its early stages, there were 9 pages of concerns.

Member Comments -- Display Booth – Mike led the discussion. At the Rivers and Lakes Fair there is a lot of competition from other booths. It’s basically a kids’ event – whatever catches their eye will bring in their parents. Everyone wants free stuff. Our booth suffers from lack of free things. Food for thought: Coloring pages (6-8 pages), small box of color crayons, chip clip magnets to hold to their refrigerator -- all promoting Lake Mille Lacs / MLLWMG. Water education books for teachers @ \$1.25 – by Nestle, may tie into Compass. Or create own book – Have Zebra Muscle costume – “Zap the Zeebs” – for someone to wear at county fairs, etc. Light activated games – AIS, Zebras. Word scramble, activity book – find the animal, AIS, dunk the Zeeb...

Need an Activity/Education/Coloring Book Committee: (create over next 6 months)

Technical Experts: Perry & Chad - contents

Media: Barb E.

Artist:

On-line Coloring Sheets: Laurie & Mike, Al

Concerned Citizen Comments – U of M is doing a study on Zebra Muscles trying to figure out if their DNA can possibly make them sterile, return them to a lake to breed thus eventually decreasing the population. A potential problem would be if a mass die off occurs and it may add enough nutrients to the water to be massive enough to cause problems.

9. Agenda Additions:

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Fisheries Grant Update – Chad reported that ~\$200,000 has been received from U.S. Fish & Wildlife to study walleye habitat. Adult and juvenile walleye will be implanted with transmitters and receivers will track their movement – when, where and why they are disappearing (pike, small mouth bass or cannibalism? Are they heading out to deeper water and encountering bigger predators?).

The second round is still pending for a simulator and holding tanks to test H₂O temperatures and clarity and how they affect the fish population. Does clearer, warmer H₂O make predators more efficient?

The fish hatchery operated by the Band is a “seed bank” of the Mille Lacs Lake Walleye Strain in preparation of a future need. Other species may be looked at in the future.

They will continue to keep MLLWMG updated.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m. M/S/C Dave / Mike

Next meeting: Monday, September 25, 2017, 10:00 am at Malmo Snowmobile Clubhouse

Add to Agenda:

- American Peat Mining near Mille Lacs Lake Watershed
- Activity/Education/Coloring Books/Games Committee
- Bethesda Lutheran of Malmo Carlsons Beach to Reddy Creek Clean up
- Wild Rice Days @ McGregor – Do you know Janet Smude?

Coffee: Mike & Barbara