

Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group  
Meeting Minutes – September 25, 2017  
Mille Lacs Trails Snowmobile Clubhouse

Members Present: Perry Bunting, MLBD DNR/ENV; Al Close, Hazelton Township; Barb Eller, Supervisor Mille Lacs SWCD; Lynn Gallice, Mille Lacs SWCD; Bob Janzen, Supervisor Aitkin Co SWCD; Barbara Macioch, Citizen NE Mille Lacs Lake; Mike Macioch, Citizen NE Mille Lacs Lake; Doug McCormick, Round Lake; David Oslin, Mille Lacs Co Commissioner; Harmony Schapp, Watershed Coordinator; Janet Smude, Aitkin Co SWCD; Chad Weiss, MLB DNR; Laurie Westerlund, Aitkin Co Commissioner; Shannon Westerlund, Aitkin County/SWCD Buffer Specialist.

1. Chair, Laurie Westerlund called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. Administrative Details: An attendance sheet was circulated and introductions were made. The agenda was approved with the correction of the special presentation from Peggy Jones, American Peat Technology (who had cancelled) was updated to Shannon Westerlund, presenting on the new Buffer Law. The addition of Aitkin County Environmental Education Day was added to item 10. There was no pertinent correspondence.
3. Special Presentation- Buffer Law: Shannon Westerlund, the Aitkin County Buffer Specialist and Zoning Inspector, gave a presentation on the implementation of the new Buffer Law. It was approved on September 12<sup>th</sup> 2017 to enforce the law on the county level. A 50-foot buffer is required for public waters and a 16.5-foot buffer for public ditches. Compliance is required by November 1<sup>st</sup> of 2017 with an extension to July 1<sup>st</sup> of 2018 with a plan of compliance or to November 1<sup>st</sup> of 2018 with an application for financial assistance. Aitkin and Mille Lacs Counties are in top percentage of compliance. She also discussed what vegetation can be planted in a buffer and listed resources for additional information. Barb Eller suggested the addition of Compass as a resource.
4. Review of August Meeting Minutes: Janet informed the group that an invoice for \$120 from the last meeting was not approved to be paid in the August minutes. A motion was made to amend the minutes for an approval to pay the \$120 invoice. M/S/C Bob Janzen/Dave Oslin.  
Motion to approve minutes with amendment: M/S/C Dave Oslin/Barb Eller.
5. Financial Report: A report for the month of August was shared. Expenses totaled \$2432.37 and were from the Clean Water Partnership Grant. They included expenses related to the Lake Health Conference, rain barrels, and stream monitoring. The report was approved as presented. M/S/C Barb Eller/Dave Oslin.  

An invoice was presented from the Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation District for technical services during the months of December to March. An invoice from Aitkin Soil and Water Conservation district was presented for the months of March through July. A motion approving the payment of the Mille Lacs SWCD invoice for \$1338.75 and payment of the Aitkin SWCD invoice for \$656.86 was made. M/S/C Bob Janzen/Dave Oslin
6. 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 add “continue with the implementation phase of WRAPS with transition into 1WIP” and remove the “2 main subwatersheds” comment. The final draft and work plan will be presented at the October Annual meeting for approval.

7. Old Business

- 7.1. Mille Lacs Compass Program Update: Lynn Gallice presented Compass at the Area 3 meeting to the 9 counties/districts that make up Area 3. She did a tour of Timber Bay to show what a Compass project might consist of and the types of things considered in a Lake Stewardship Plan. Bob Janzen informed the group that he heard good feedback on the presentation and the tour.

7.2. 2017 Aitkin County AIS Grant - Town Hall Meetings Janet Smude ordered AIS handouts from the Minnesota Sea Grant for the Town Hall Meetings. Janet Smude's and Laurie Westerlund's meeting will be an open house format and in the evening. The dates for both meetings are still to be determined.

7.3. Watershed Tours The Watershed Tour will be October 5<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 1pm. It will be starting and ending at McQuoid's resort. Registration is needed with the limited bus space. The tour will consist of project stops including: a rain garden in Wahkon, Timber Bay, Caverley's site, and planting at the Brown Project site if time permits. It will be a 4-hour bus tour and 12-14 attendees are expected. Janet Smude has drafted an advertising flyer that will be sent out once details are finalized.

7.4. Purchase of Rain Garden Books (U of Wis Extension) It was decided by the group to purchase 100 Rain Garden Books and review the need for additional books in April. A motion was made to approve purchase of 100 Rain Garden books. M/S/C Bob Janzen/Al Close.

7.5. Aquatic Vegetation Survey, Borden Lake The Aquatic Vegetation Survey did not occur. It is an option to do it next year with the participation of Borden Lake. The group discussed that this would be an appropriate option if Borden Lake participation is confirmed by November. Other options include an abbreviated survey on Big Pine Lake or selecting another Lake.

7.6. 25 X 25 Survey A compilation of the MLLWMG survey answers was distributed for review. The surveys will be sent to the governor and area legislators including a cover letter with MLLWMG and Compass information.

## 8. New Business

8.1. Children's Activity Book Mike Macioch updated the group on an additional activity book similar to the one presented at the last meeting. Although it is no longer accessible, but did outlay an organized table of contents. He discussed specific page ideas including mazes, word finds, coloring pages and crosswords. There was a discussion for the possible distribution of the activity book at upcoming educational events. Funding options were also discussed along with the addition of AIS related topics. The aim is to complete the activity book project before the Aitkin Rivers and Lakes Fair next June.

8.2. Looking Ahead to October Election of Officer Janet informed the group that the Vice Chair is up for election and voting for officers will be at the October Annual Meeting.

## 9. Subcommittee Reports:

9.1. Media Committee: No additional information was shared by this sub-committee.

9.2. Fundraising / Grant Writing: No report was shared.

9.3. Membership: No report was shared.

9.4. Citizen Comments / Member Comments / Fisheries Input Group: The Fisheries Input Group will be meeting October 11<sup>th</sup>. Discussion of Sugar Lake concerns, snowmobile trails, and ATV impacts on local economy followed.

10. Agenda Additions: In regards to Aitkin County Environment Education Day, a request was made for a donation to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Education Day that is coming up in October for the education of 6<sup>th</sup> graders. A motion was made to donate \$200 to the event. M/S/C Bob Janzen/Mike Macioch

The Plan of Work was distributed for comments and input at the next meeting.

11. Next Meeting: The next meeting is set for Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 10:00 am. It will be held at the Kathio Township Hall if a room is available. Peggy Jones will be contacted for rescheduling. The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am. M/S/C Dave Oslin/ Al Close.