

Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group
Meeting Minutes – May 24th, 2018
Rolf Olsen Center, Onamia

Members Present: Lynn Gallice, Mille Lacs SWCD; Bob Janzen, Aitkin Co SWCD; Barbara Macioch, Citizen NE Mille Lacs Lake; Mike Macioch, Citizen NE Mille Lacs Lake; Harmony Maslowski, Coordinator; David Oslin, Mille Lacs Co Commissioner; John Pearson, guest; Janet Smude, Aitkin Co SWCD; Laurie Westerlund, Aitkin Co Commissioner.

1. Chair, Laurie Westerlund called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.
2. Agenda Approval: The agenda was approved as presented. M/S/C David Oslin/Bob Janzen.
3. Public Comment: Discussion.
4. Consent Agenda: A consent agenda was presented as follows: a. Approve of April 26th, 2018 Meeting Minutes, b. Approve of Financial Report and Expenses totaling \$1034.20 from the Clean Water Partnership Grant (included Rain Barrel Purchases, services from Aitkin SWCD, and photocopies), c. Approve Payment of Aitkin SWCD Invoice totaling \$374.92, d. Information Only: Topic of the Month – Along with Spring Comes Ice Heaves by Jake Janski. The consent agenda was approved as presented. M/S/C David Oslin/Mike Macioch.

5. Discussion and Action

5.1. AIS Grant Implementation – Harmony Maslowski brought the printed items (including the AIS informational brochure and the game cube) for Rivers and Lakes Fair. Floating key chains and AIS towels have been ordered and will be handed out at upcoming events like the Lake Health Conference and included in Compass orientation packets. Maslowski will continue to follow up with Christina Thurston and the media committee for invoicing and future projects. Discussion of possible locations for Rivers and Lakes Fair followed. Janet Smude reported on the pilot program through the Aitkin SWCD that is providing a bag of freshwater for bait through an initiative foundation grant. It allows for people to exchange their bait water for freshwater in efforts to prevent the spread of AIS. They can return the bag for \$0.50 or \$1.00 off an artificial lure.

5.2. Projects – Lynn Gallice reported working on a possible project with a condo community with the possibility of restoring 320 feet of shoreline with a 15-foot buffer and two vegetative swales. Gallice also reported on a possible project with the City of Wahkon to replace some rock with vegetation around a small bridge. Gallice also discussed possible funding through a Clean Water Fund for a Stormwater Management Plan for the City of Wahkon.

Janet Smude reported that there have been some contacts from the mailing to Round lake. Smude provided a Project Proposal to manage runoff for a landowner on Mille Lacs Lake. Cost Share funding is available through a Board of Water and Soil Resources Grant designed to protect water quality. If approved this may be offered at 75% of the total project costs which amounts to \$2504.00. Motion to approve was made. M/S/C Mike Macioch/Bob Janzen.

5.3. Spring Watershed Tour – The tour will be on June 28th after the MLLWGMG meeting. The meeting will start early at 9:00 a.m. and go until 10:00 a.m. The Tour will begin at 10:00 a.m. and go until 12:00 p.m. The bus from the VFW has 12 seats and Janet Smude would like those interested in attending to contact her to reserve a spot on the bus. Discussion followed on the amount of walking and accessibility of the sites that will be visited.

5.4. Mission Statement Ideas - Ideas were exchanged for a tag line and the mission statement of the group. Harmony Maslowski will send ideas out to the group for further input. Outcomes were that the mission statement and tag line ideas will be discussed further at the July meeting.

5.5. Summary of Data – Harmony Maslowski reported that she received 9 pages from Bonnie Finnerty out of the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies Report and the Monitoring and Assessment Report that are related to Mille Lacs Lake and sub-watersheds surrounding the lake. Discussion of

simplification for communicating with landowners followed. Janet Smude suggested Aitkin SWCD intern may be able to work on some of the simplification ideas.

5.6. Compass Report - Harmony Maslowski reported on her door-to-door outreach around Mille Lacs Lake. Maslowski has been handing out seed packets with information on the benefits of planting native plants on the shoreline. Maslowski has had success with getting input from about 25% of the people she has talked to with some potential interest in the Compass program. The Compass Open House meeting will be on June 7th at McQuoid's Inn from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. People can come and ask questions and see projects around the lake. Barb and Mike Macioch received the Compass Gold Member sign for their lawn and are the first Gold Members of Compass. Lynn Gallice reported that there will be two new Compass Stewardship Plans in the works and she has received two responses from the post cards that were sent out.

6. Updates

6.1. Media Committee: Barbara Macioch discussed the upcoming booth at the Rivers and Lakes Fair will have a dice rolling game for learning about AIS. The booth will also have handout materials including the AIS brochure and Compass information. She also discussed Christina Thurston's demonstration and interactive watershed activity.

6.2. Fundraising / Grant Writing / Membership: No report.

7. Meeting Evaluation and Next Steps: Materials will be given to the Maciochs for the Rivers and Lakes Fair Booth. The tour will be June 28th at the Garrison VFW.

8. The next meeting will be Thursday, June 28th at 9:00a.m. at the Garrison VFW and will be followed by the Spring Watershed Tour. The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m. M/S/C David Oslin/Bob Janzen.