

Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group
Meeting Minutes – August 23rd, 2018
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Government Center

Members Present: Perry Bunting, MLBO DNR/ENV; Al Close, Hazelton Township; Barb Eller, Supervisor Mille Lacs SWCD; Lynn Gallice, Mille Lacs SWCD; Diane Jacobson, Crow Wing SWCD; Bob Janzen, Aitkin Co SWCD; Harmony Maslowski, Coordinator; Don Ryan, Round Lake; Janet Smude, Aitkin Co SWCD; Chad Weiss, MLB DNR; Laurie Westerlund, Aitkin Co Commissioner.

1. Chair, Laurie Westerlund called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
2. Agenda Approval: The agenda was approved as presented. M/S/C Don Ryan/Al Close.
3. Public Comment: No comment.
4. Consent Agenda: A consent agenda included: a. Approve of July 26th, 2018 Meeting Minutes, b. Approve of June/July Financial Report, c. Information Only: Topic of the Month- *Meet a Silver Compass Member*, by Lynn Gallice. The consent agenda was approved. M/S/C Barb Eller/Bob Janzen.

5. Discussion and Action

5.1. Clean Water Partnership Final Report – Janet Smude provided a handout on the Final Report titled Mille Lacs Lake Protection – Stormwater Control Clean Water Partnership Grant October 2014- June, 2018. This document contained an executive summary, the grant results, pictures of projects, long term results, and project budget/expenditure report. Janet reported that although the full grant had not been spent, we did accomplish the things we set out to do.

5.2. AIS Grant –Janet Smude reported that there are funds left in the Aquatic Invasive Species Education Grant which would need to be spent by December 31st, 2018. This money comes from being under budget on previous projects and could be used for any AIS education related activity. Harmony Maslowski reported on behalf of Barbara Macioch that the “cube” for the Rivers and Lakes Fair was well received and the sub-committee would like to continue to pursue a longer term educational project with Christina Thurston, if she is willing. Barb Eller agreed with continuing the long term goal of integration with school curriculums and with expanding on the Macioch’s original game board idea. Outcomes were that the sub-committee is to schedule a meeting to discuss future projects. Discussion followed on options for AIS bait bags and other venues for game cube distribution.

5.3. Mission Statement Vote - Harmony Maslowski provided the current suggestions for the MLLWVG tag line and mission statement. Laurie Westerlund polled the members in attendance. The outcome was that the MLLWVG tag line would be “Healthy Land, Healthy Lake” and be accompanied with the MLLWVG logo. Discussion followed on the mission statement. Outcomes were that another draft of the mission statement will be reviewed at the September meeting.

5.4. Website Discussion – Discussion of website, topics included costs of domain/server provider, Google business/market place presence, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, brand confusion, and linking Facebook to website. Outcomes were to review the statistics of the website at the September meeting.

5.5 Compass Outreach and Coordinator's Report - Harmony Maslowski reported on door-to-door outreach, Compass Open House planning, and discussion with realtors on New Property Owner Packets. She reported that some of the realtors expressed a desire for a "do's and don'ts around the lake" brochure, and ways to help their agents answer regulatory questions for potential property owners. Maslowski reported that she had discussed possibilities with Dillon Hayes of Mille Lacs County. Discussion followed on possibilities including a phone number directory of "who to call." Maslowski reported that Bonnie Finnerty is continuing work on drafts of the Mille Lacs Lake Data Maps that can be a good visual tool for communicating data. Maslowski and Gallice reported on the Healthy Land Healthy Lakes event that was held the morning of August 18th and McQuoid's Inn. There were 27 people in attendance with 72% being people living on Mille Lacs Lake or in the watershed. A large number of attendees had interest in a specific project. Gallice reported that overall the event was a success at getting information to the people who needed it. All three speakers received positive feedback. All people in attendance came to the event via personal invite. Discussion followed on how the event was advertised. Outcomes of the event were that one landowner is interested in a Compass Site Visit, and one Compass member is interested in attending a future MLLWVG meeting.

6. Updates and Comments

6.1. Media Committee: to schedule a meeting.

6.2. Fundraising / Grant Writing / Membership: Lynn Gallice and Harmony Maslowski gave an update on their applications for Clean Water Fund Grants.

Other updates included: Perry Bunting and Chad Weiss updated the group on a gauge relocation site, the placement of pressure transducer to collect data, and in working with the UofM who is looking at a variety of information (nutrients, water levels, contaminants, etc.) in regards to wild rice research. Discussion followed on CD3 cleaning unit and the walleye acoustic telemetry study.

7. Meeting Evaluation and Next Steps: Sub-Committee meeting to be scheduled, Mission Statement to be revised, Tag Line to be accompanied with MLLWVG Logo, Topic of the Month Reminders.

8. The next meeting - Doodle Poll results were discussed. Outcomes were that the next meeting will be Monday, September 17th at 10:00am-12:00pm. Possible locations: Hazelton or Garrison VFW. The meeting was adjourned at 12:04p.m. M/S/C Don Ryan/Bob Janzen.