

Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group
Meeting Minutes – September 17th, 2018
Hazelton Town Hall

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; Barbara Macioch, Citizen NE Mille Lacs Lake; Mike Macioch, Citizen NE Mille Lacs Lake; Harmony Maslowski, Coordinator; Doug McCormick, Round Lake; David Oslin, Mille Lacs Co Commissioner; John Pearson, Onamia/St. Paul; Don Ryan, Round Lake; Christina Thurston, Onamia Township; Laurie Westerlund, Aitkin Co Commissioner.

1. Chair, Laurie Westerlund called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.
2. Agenda Approval: The agenda was approved with the addition of item 6.3. the 23rd Annual Environmental Education Days event. M/S/C Barb Eller/Bob Janzen.
3. Public Comment: Barb Eller reported that after 12 years with Mille Lacs SWCD she has resigned as supervisor as of October 1st, 2018, as she has found a replacement. Eller lives in the Rum River Watershed and would like to remain a MLLWVG member and the group approved.
4. Consent Agenda: A consent agenda included: a. Approve of August 23rd, 2018 Meeting Minutes, b. Approve of August Financial Report, c. Information Only: Topic of the Month- *Wild Rice & Waterlevels* by Perry Bunting. M/S/C Barb Eller/Al Close.
5. Discussion and Action
 - 5.1. Plan of Work - Check In – Harmony Maslowski discussed the progress of the Plan of Work for 2018. Maslowski described the “rolling” Plan of Work in connection to the Ten Year Plan, for new members in attendance. Maslowski suggested reviewing the documents (for 2019 goals) in advance with holidays and possible meeting breaks coming up. Discussion on the topics of Compass, Farmer’s Market outreach, and communication with lake associations followed.
 - 5.2. Mission Statement Vote- Discussion. Outcomes: Motion was made that “Improve and protect water quality in the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed by partnering with those who live, work, and play here” is the current working mission statement of the group. M/S/C Barb Eller/Barbara Macioch.
 - 5.3. Website Discussion – Harmony Maslowski shared the number of visits to the MLLWVG website and time spent on the website by visitors. Discussion of Facebook followed. Maslowski also discussed that the current website is funded until March, and that finding funding to support the website maintenance/monthly costs may be a challenge in the future. Discussion followed on topics including Google Market Place, Mille Lacs Tourism/event calendars, adding links, web presence connections via sharing links, using hashtags, Instagram/twitter, education focus for website, fund raising, utilizing other websites pages, importance of directing visitors/connecting people searching the web to MLLWVG. Outcomes/Suggestions: Suggestion made of forming a website committee or combining it with the current media committee. Maslowski noted that there were potentially fewer meetings before March and continuing the website discussion could be on the upcoming agenda.

5.4. Compass Outreach and Coordinator's Report – Harmony Maslowski discussed the upcoming Compass Open House will be on September 26th, 2018 at the Mille Lacs Trails Snowmobile Club from 5-7pm and free water nitrate testing will also be available. There has been a news release in the paper. Maslowski also commented that the group's supporting, volunteering, and sharing invites has great value. Discussion followed on invitations to lake associations. Maslowski provided a draft of maps provided by Bonnie Finnerty. These maps illustrate data in the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies Report (WRAPs) and will be used in efforts to communicate data to landowners. Maslowski showed the MLLWVG logo with the "tag line" Healthy Land, Healthy Lake. Discussion. Outcomes were to remove quotations from tagline. Harmony Maslowski reviewed that there will be an Election of Officers at the October meeting. The election will be for Secretary and Barbara Macioch is the incumbent. Maslowski stated that the By-Laws were out of date on a few items and for the By-Laws to be reviewed there must be a 30-day notice.

6. Updates and Comments

6.1. Media Committee – Barb Eller reported the sub-committee has met and decided to move forward in the area of AIS education by re-stocking AIS brochures in signed areas. The media committee will be working on completing the AIS education game by working on a game-board for the dice game. They will also be working on a multi-use AIS coloring sheet. These projects are currently geared toward elementary education. The media committee will have a follow-up meeting TBD.

6.2. Fundraising / Grant Writing / Membership -Discussion on more members, possible member interest and new faces at the meeting.

6.3. 23rd Annual Environmental Education Days – Discussion on donation to the event for 6th graders. Motion made to donate \$100 out of MLLWVG general funds. M/S/C Al Close/Bob Janzen.

7. Meeting Evaluation and Next Steps: Harmony Maslowski continues to encourage input on the meeting itself. Media Committee will meet next week to discuss further projects. Explore sharing links, event calendars and upcoming events with lake associations and Mille Lacs Tourism.

8. The next meeting - 3rd Monday of October is the 15th, suggested location Mille Lacs Trails Snowmobile Club. Speaker Mitch Lundeen will be at the October meeting, discussing trees and water quality. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m. M/S/C Bob Janzen/Mike Macioch.