

Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group

Meeting Minutes – December 16, 2019

Rolf Olsen Center, Onamia

Members Present: Perry Bunting, MLB DNR; Lynn Gallice, Mille Lacs SWCD; Jake Janski; Mille Lacs SWCD; Bob Janzen, Supervisor Aitkin SWCD; Harmony Maslowski, Mille Lacs SWCD Coordinator; David Oslin, Mille Lacs Co. Commissioner; John Pearson, South Harbor; Sam Seybold, Aitkin SWCD; Janet Smude, Aitkin Co SWCD; Chad Weiss, MLB DNR; Laurie Westerlund, Aitkin Co. Commissioner; Guest Margaret Vos, East Side of Mille Lacs Lake.

1. Vice Chair, Bob Janzen, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and Chair arrived to continue meeting.

2. Agenda Approval: Agenda was approved as presented. M/S/C David Oslin/John Pearson.

3. Guest Speaker: Margaret Vos, Gold Compass Member, presented her Compass Experience.

4. Consent Agenda: A consent agenda included: a. Approve of November 18th, 2019 Meeting Minutes, b. Approve of Financial Report, d. Information only: The December Topic of the Month. These items were approved as presented. M/SC David Oslin/Jake Janski. The MLLWMG Native Vegetation Letter was discussed. Outcomes were to hold off sending the letter to representatives until follow-up of MLLWMG members with contacts around the issue and invitation for collaboration.

5. Discussion and Action

5.1. Compass Update – Lynn Gallice presented on the work she has done with the Compass Shoreland Stewardship Program including projects/discussions of site visits. Janet Smude provided a handout on her Compass activity for 2019 including 6 properties that are in a stage of the Compass Stewardship Program. Harmony Maslowski provided a handout of outreach efforts for the Compass program since the start of the grant until the current year. This framed the number of conversations, site visits, stewardship plans, projects and other community involvement such as: “do it yourself” projects, and willingness to share projects with others in the community.

5.2. Work Plan Discussion – Harmony Maslowski provided brief notes/updates to the dates/events on the Work Plan. This item will go to the February Agenda for further discussion.

5.3. Topic of the Month – a volunteer sign-up sheet was circulated for 2020 Topics.

5.4. Set Meeting Dates 2020 - Tentative meeting dates were set for 2020, along with tentative dates for one evening meeting and the Healthy Land, Healthy Lake event.

5.5. By-laws – By-laws changes adopted 11-18-2019 were available for officer signature.

6. Updates and Comments

6.1. Media Committee – John Pearson posted the MLLWMG meeting to FB groups and received likes and shares. John Pearson described the email options for a general MLLWMG email account. John Pearson/Harmony Maslowski will circulate possible email address suggestions for a MLLWMG gmail account with the mailing list.

6.2. Fundraising / Grant Writing / Membership – will go to discussion on February Agenda.

6.3. Updates and Comments: Discussion about the bog area on the southeast side of Mille Lacs Lake near Wahkon. Community discussions have included this bog area in a proposal of a snowmobile/ATV trail and a proposal for a protection/eco-tourism effort. This has been a topic for discussion at the local city hall meetings and in local papers. Harmony Maslowski will look into topic for more information.

7. Meeting Evaluation and Next Steps:

Items requested to go on the February Agenda for discussion include: Work Plan for 2020, Wahkon Bog Area, and Grant/Funding Sources.

8. The next meeting - Harmony Maslowski has agreed to host the February 2020 MLLWMG meeting to be held at the Rolf Olsen Center on February 10th. The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m. M/S/C David Oslin/Perry Bunting.