

Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group

Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 18, 2020

Those in attendance: Perry Bunting, MLB DNR; Barb Eller, Onamia; Lynn Gallice, Mille Lacs SWCD; Diane Jacobson, Crow Wing SWCD; Jake Janski, Mille Lacs SWCD; Bob Janzen, Supervisor Aitkin SWCD; Jane Lemieux; Harmony Maslowski, Mille Lacs SWCD/MLLWMG Coordinator; Barbara Macioch, Citizen NE Mille Lacs Lake; Mike Macioch, Citizen NE Mille Lacs Lake; David Oslin, Mille Lacs Co. Commissioner; John Pearson, South Harbor Mille Lacs Lake; Janet Smude, Aitkin Co SWCD; Laurie Westerlund, Aitkin Co. Commissionier; Margaret Vos, Citizen East Side Mille Lacs Lake.

1. Welcome: Introductions

Laurie Westerland, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Instructions of participation in the conference call meeting were given: Request of Laurie your desire to speak and state your name. Agenda approvals would be done by voice vote.

2. Approval of Agenda: Barb Eller motion to approve/Jake Janski second M/S/C.

- Additions: NONE
- Deletions: NONE

3. Consent Agenda: Jake Janski motion to approve/John Pearson second M/S/C.

- a. Approval of February 10th Meeting Minutes
- b. Approval Financial Report

4. Discussion and Action:

4.1 Healthy Land, Healthy Lake Event (Report from Subcommittee)

Lynn G. - has tentatively arranged planned speakers – Mathias M. TSA engineer – agreed to speak tentatively, on site assessment and what he looks at for a possible project; Donna S. – landowner project show and tell; Bre B. at Minnesota Native Landscapes tentative – possibly/short demo.

Janet S. - Tim P. DNR regional AIS – not willing to speak at this time, others as possibility.

Harmony - reached out to Crow Wing & got some resources for salting info.

Barb Eller – August is premature for meetings – could the event be outdoors? Janet suggests- VFW pavilion?

Jake Janski – likes virtual, could expand attendance, presentation, zoom share screen, MNL Bre has done something similar

Lynn – Agree . - Margaret – Agree, likes a plan that can go forward no matter what.

Harmony/Jake- zoom and meetings, record, people are engaged, or type in questions with moderator, organized. Jake thinks this achieves a lot of our goals.

John – virtual conference, but burst it into pieces rather than one long session. – present on different day? Maybe 40 minutes. Harmony- agree; Bob – agree; more than an hour is long

Macioch’s – agree - approach works well for churches and other organizations.

Note – we could contact presentations folks to see comfort level presenting in person, and see if the technology works smoothly.

Laurie/Janet – importance and desire for in-person,

Jake - Could we do both? Perhaps hold a limited outside event and put it live on zoom; then put online later with presenters available for zoom chat

Note – need to discuss with presenters, their comfort level, with social distancing? Outside?

Laurie: Try a zoom for next month’s meeting? Then take it from there

Jake – suggest connecting with tech folks. Can John send out an email? We can work out who will facilitate zoom, etc., continue conversation outside of this meeting.

Janet – Can we explore options other than zoom? WEBEX or some other option, Zoom isn’t as secure – county/state need a secure site.

John –DNR won’t use zoom, but they can participate in a Zoom event.

Harmony – Hears both sides: Comfort levels vs longing for being out & with people. Likes spacing out – 40 minutes, try 2-3 events – focus on different topics – video clips – doing outside, i.e. demonstration.

Jake – There was no consensus. Perhaps we could do at a pavilion, put on Zoom – post on Zoom – questions can be answered.

Group Consensus – Everyone seemed to agree to pursue a live and virtual event.

4.2 Work Plan 2020 Discussion about focus areas

Work-plan: Recent version was sent to attendees during meeting

John described a summary of water quality studies he has assembled from materials provided by Perry. He will circulate the draft to attendees for review and feedback as part of addressing item one on the work plan. Perry noted that Chad is on furlough but has worked on yearly analysis for EPA. The intention is for the summary and most relevant reports to be posted online.

5. Updates:

5.1 Media Committee

John posted meeting notices for this meeting on MLLWVG site and Facebook page; emailed the full list, and posted notice to the Mille Lacs Lake Facebook group. He sent Sam Seybold's riprap article to local papers, Brainerd said they would publish; no word from Messenger or Aitkin Age.

5.2 Fundraising / Grant Writing / Membership

Harmony has had initial discussion on 319 grant Rum River Protection Level with Greg, MPCA.

Janet applied for Aitkin Co – AIS Grant – for HLHL promotion, and decontamination and CD3 stations – advertising. Is waiting to hear if funded.

5.3 Additional Updates: Wahkon Bog; Road Salt; Lead Tackle; etc: NONE

5.4 New Business NONE

6. Public Comment: NONE

7. Meeting Evaluation and Next Steps

8. Next Meeting Plan

June meeting:

Jake willing to set up - he can do Zoom, described advantages of "paid" version, video with voice and call in. Would it make sense to purchase, single event or buy? Month-to-month subscription? partner with? Share a subscription? Will wait for input.

Harmony – Feedback from BWSR's meeting, conference call with Tech Team - Follow up with Jake and John, Janet, Lynn

Adjourn 11:12am – Bob Janzen/Dave Oslin M/S/C

Compiled by Barbara Macioch