

Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group
Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2013
Mille Lacs Trails Snowmobile Clubhouse

Attendance: Barbara Macioch, Mille Lacs Lake; Perry Bunting, MLBODNRE; Lori Erjavec; Lynn Gallice, Mille Lacs SWCD; Bob Janzen, Aitkin Co. SWCD; Marlene Knight, Mille Lacs Lake; Mike Macioch, Mille Lacs Lake; Don Ryan, Round Lake; Janet Smude, Aitkin Co. SWCD; Walt Weisser, ACLARA; Laurie Westerlund, Aitkin County; Bob Williams, Round Lake.

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:10 am.

2. Administrative Details: An attendance sheet was circulated. Introductions were made. The agenda was approved with the addition of an update on the Timber Bay Project and a Hazelton Township Shoreline Stabilization Project Proposal. There was no pertinent correspondence.

3. Special Presentation: Walt Weisser, ACLARA & Volunteer Aquatic Invasive Species Watercraft Inspector Efforts: The Aitkin County Lakes and Rivers Association is a coalition of 22 lake associations. Meetings run from April – October on the second Saturday of the month at the Library in Aitkin. Their mission is to communicate among each other to improve their associations and provide assistance to new associations. Community involvement and projects are encouraged. It is a very beneficial way to share ideas and information.

ACLARA recently hosted a volunteer boat inspector training. Volunteers are trained and certified. Several lakes in Aitkin County staff their accesses with volunteer inspectors. The DNR has 45 interns working at accesses this year. Many are stationed around Mille Lacs Lake. Changes to the program are needed to make it more “volunteer friendly”. This is something Walt is working on. Changes will be made through the state legislature – not the DNR.

4. Minutes from the April meeting of the Group were reviewed and approved as presented. M/S/C Marlene Knight / Bob Janzen.

5. Financial Report: A report for the month of April 2013 was shared. Expenses totaled \$ 13,035.74, and were all from the Clean Water Partnership Grant. The report was approved as presented. M/S/C Laurie Westerlund / Bob Janzen.

The Group discussed the payment of invoices, and which would need approval before payment. The majority of the work done by the Group is funded by grants which have specific workplans and approved budgets. Marlene Knight made a motion that financial reports be presented and that invoices for projects that were not specifically identified in a grant workplan will be reviewed by the Group before payment. S/C Bob Williams.

6. Old Business:

6.1. Spring Conference / Bus Tour Summary: The event was held on May 4th. The majority of the snow was gone, however the weather was still cold. 22 people attended the conference and 20 the bus tour.

Many favorable comments were received. Extra copies of the handout folders were available. Marlene Knight has e-mailed the larger handouts to those who requested them. A follow up article ran in the Aitkin Independent Age and the Mille Lacs Messenger. Permission to allow reprinting has been received. There are opportunities to work with some participants on projects, and potentially expand membership in the Group.

6.2. Clean Water Partnership Grant: Janet Smude reminded the Group that this grant will end on June 30, 2013. Items to complete before then were noted. Purchasing letterhead, or additional postage was discussed. The parcel inventory work was discussed. Volunteers offered to assist, if a date that worked for everyone was found.

6.3. Area 3 Envirothon Summary: This environmental education competition for high school students was held on Monday May 6th. 38 teams from northeastern Minnesota competed. One of the teams from the Isle School placed third and will advance to the State Envirothon. Another team received the Team Spirit Award. The Group was thanked for their sponsorship of this event. Lynn Gallice will be submitting an article to the newspapers.

7. New Business:

7.1. Education Activities / Meetings: Janet Smude has scheduled speakers for the next two watershed meetings. Barb Eller will speak on the Sustainable Farming Association of Central Minnesota at the June meeting. Ken Zeik will update us on the DNR Division of Waters in July. Other meeting speakers have not been scheduled.

On June 19th at 7:00 pm, we will host a presentation of Woodland Wildflowers. This will be held at the Hazelton Town Hall, and be led by Aitkin County Master Gardener Jim Ravis. We may also be cooperating with the Natural Resources Conservation Service on a "meet and greet" type gathering.

7.2. Watershed Group Delegation of Responsibilities, Potential Subcommittees: The Group discussed designating responsibilities to members. Bob Williams has already been heading up the 5 year Planning Committee. Marlene Knight offered to lead the media contact committee. She has already made contacts with staff of the area newspapers. Grant writing / researching is another potential subcommittee. Marlene Knight offered to look into Kickstarter – a fundraising website. She will also look into expanding the mailing list. A membership committee that could make face to face contacts with lakeshore owners (Mille Lacs and other lakes) was also discussed.

8. Watershed Priorities / Potential Funding Sources:

8.1. 5 Year Plan Committee Report: The five year management plan committee met recently. Six focus areas were set for the Plan. These include: Determine overlap between projects; Determine Agency overlapping efforts; Find, monitor, and reduce sources of phosphorus. Verify targeted reduction goals; Review ordinances and assure compliance; Host speakers / experts; Market conservation practices. The next meeting will further refine these ideas. Bob Williams will be scheduling another meeting.

9. Agenda Additions: Timber Bay Project: Lynn Gallice shared that this project has been installed. Pictures were shared. A motion approving reimbursement not to exceed \$ 5,573.25, pending technical approval by Lynn Gallice was made M/S/C Marlene Knight / Bob Janzen. Hazelton Township: Janet Smude presented a project proposal for Hazelton Township. The project will stabilize 75 feet of eroding shoreline on Round Lake with rock rip rap. A small amount of shrubs will be planted into the rock in an effort to naturalize it. This shoreline is within the road right of way, and erosion has the potential to adversely affect the township road. A motion approving \$ 3,500 in cost share funding, not to exceed 50% of the total eligible project costs was made. M/S/C Bob Janzen / Marlene Knight. This will come from the Clean Water Fund Grant. Clean Up Event: The Clean Up Event organized by the Mille lacs Band of Ojibwe was noted as a good thing. The event was publicized well, and some waste was seen at the collection points. Auction Notice: Bob Janzen shared that there will be an auction of plant materials and greenhouse equipment from Great Rivers Gardens (both the farm and the retail site) on Friday June 7th. It will begin at 9:00 am.

10. Next Meeting: The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, June 17th at 10:00 am. It will be held in the Onamia area. The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 pm. M/S Barb Eller / Bob Janzen.