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## MILLE LACS COUNTY LOCAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chair – Michele McPherson, Mille Lacs County Land Services Director  
Water Plan Coordinator - Susan Shaw, Soil & Water Conservation District

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### Minutes Wednesday, August 10, 2011

#### Attendance

##### Executive Committee:

Susan Shaw – SWCD Water Plan Coordinator/Vice Chair  
Michele McPherson – Water Plan Chair/Mille Lacs County  
Land Services Director

##### Visitors:

Marlin Hage – DNR Forestry  
Shannon Carpenter – NRCS DC

##### Voting Members:

Lynn Carter – SWCD Conservation  
Tech.  
Janelle Schroeder – Mille Lacs Co  
Public Health  
Jack Edmonds – ML Co Cmsr

**Call to Order** – The meeting of the Water Management Plan Advisory Committee was called to order by Water Plan Advisory Committee Chair, Michele McPherson, at 10:08 AM at the Mille Lacs Soil & Water Conservation District Office.

#### Minutes

Motion/Second Carter/Schroeder to approve the April 13, 2011 meeting minutes.

Affirmative: Carter, Edmonds, Schroeder, Shaw      Opposed: none      Motion carried

#### New Business

The Clean Water Fund (CWF) – Amendment funding grant application period is open until September 20<sup>th</sup>. The Committee discussed water plan goals for possible funding application.

- Michele McPherson, Land Services Director, reported that the 2011 CWF SSTS funds were successfully utilized and that the County was able to correct one additional system than had been originally planned. The County will again apply for SSTS funding.
- The 2012 CWF has funding eligible to seal abandoned wells. Committee directed the SWCD to apply for funding to address the Water Plan goal of sealing abandoned wells for groundwater protection.
- A second component of a groundwater protection application will be to apply for funds to make livestock manure management improvements to a feedlot near Princeton. This operation has an extremely high water table and a simple vegetative treatment area would not provide adequate protection for groundwater. As a result, a roof structure is necessary and funding available through NRCS will not be sufficient to implement the project. A CWF application will be submitted to assist with implementation expenses.
- The SWCD would like to work with agricultural producers to encourage setbacks and buffers along streams and ditches to reduce sediment and nutrient runoff. The Committee supported the goal but felt the climate among agricultural producers may not be right for implementing the idea at this time. The County will begin a county wide strategic planning process which will take place over the next 18 months to 2 yrs. This process may provide opportunity to engage in public discussion about conservation and land use. A tour of an operation that would provide a good

example of this conservation practice may be helpful for those who have difficulty seeing the benefit.

### **Old Business**

#### **Water Plan Amendment Process**

Timeline: The January 27, 2007 letter from BWSR approving the Mille Lacs County Comprehensive Water Management Plan indicated the need for the Goals, Objectives and Action Items to be amended by December 31, 2011. The Advisory Committee plans to continue to review the plan at its regular quarterly meetings with the goal of having a draft document ready for public review in November 2011. The Planning Commission could be utilized as a venue for a public hearing.

The Advisory Committee made the following comments as the Priority Concerns section of the plan was reviewed:

Page 10, Priority Concerns – opening paragraph:

- Acknowledge that lake conversion is occurring from seasonal to permanent residences resulting in requests for variances for increases in the amount of impervious surface.

Page 10, Priority Concern 1, Objective A, action item list:

- Need to create an action item to provide two-three articles annually to local outlets on the effects of impervious surfaces.

Page 10, Priority Concern 1, Objective A, Action Item #6- Develop GIS:

- Organizes sub-actions under GIS –
  - a. Utilize GIS to identify opportunities to restore wetlands
  - b. Identify development changes around the county: Mille Lacs lake, small acreage farming, resorts, mining, farming...

Page 11, Priority Concern 1, Objective B, action item list:

- Create an action item that would encourage a preplanning meeting for highway projects a few years in advance of projects to allow adequate time to add BMP recommendations into the design plans.
- Create a list of BMPs for road authorities.

Page 11, Priority Concern 1, Objective C, action item list:

- Action item three (3) is complete. This makes action item two (2) unnecessary.
- Action item seven (7) is complete.

Page 12, Priority Concern 2, Objective B, action item list:

- Action item two (2) has been negatively impacted as Mille Lacs County is no longer delegated as a feedlot county.
- Action item six (6) is adequately addressed through the MN loggers education program (MLEP).

### **Updates**

Lynn Carter, SWCD Conservation Technician, reported on SWCD activities:

- Fifth Grade Conservation Education Day was a success.
- The Rec Park buffer project has been delayed because the bridge construction permit was put on hold during the State government shutdown. As a result construction will be delayed until 2012.
- The Fellegy Mille Lacs Lake lakeshore restoration, phase 2, is also on hold due to the government shutdown.
- Breakers Resort rain garden project continues to have operation and maintenance oversight needs as the residents learn how to properly maintain the rain garden.

Michele McPherson, Land Services Director, provided County updates:

- East Central Solid Waste Commission applied for funds to subsidize the cost of electronics recycling that will occur September 15<sup>th</sup> in Wahkon.
- Tire collections will also be done in September in both Milaca and Wahkon.

Marlin Hage, DNR Forester:

- Forestry budgets have been cut and the Sauk Rapids office may be closed.

Susan Shaw, SWCD District Manager:

- The legislature is proposing significant cuts to conservation funding utilized by the SWCD. The Governor's budget is more supportive of conservation.

**Adjourn**

Motion/Second Carter/Shaw to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Affirmative: Carter, Edmonds, Schroeder, Shaw      Opposed: none      Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Shaw,  
Water Plan Coordinator  
Mille Lacs SWCD