Mille Lacs County Local Water Management Plan Advisory Committee BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the organization shall be the Mille Lacs County Local Water Management Plan Advisory Committee.

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Mille Lacs County Local Water Management Plan Advisory Committee to promote responsible stewardship of water resources through accountable use of land, forest and other natural assets by providing education, incentives, and collaboration with individuals, groups and government entities.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

Section 1: Purpose

The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to:

- Develop & implement the goals and objectives outlined in the Mille Lacs County Local Water Management Plan.
- Provide information to the public related to water resources.
- Fund and implement projects to monitor and protect water resources.
- Advise and support appropriate governmental agency efforts to promote sustainable land-use practices related to the protection of water resources.

Section 2: Goals

Elements of the Advisory Committee goals consist of, but are not limited to:

- Protect ground water for drinking use.
- Protect and improve the water quality of lakes and streams.
- Assist in managing natural resources for the benefit of recreation and esthetics.
- Provide incentives to landowners to adopt best management practices.
- Provide educational opportunities.
- Assist county, state and federal agencies in their efforts to protect water quality.
- Assist water quality or natural resource protection organizations.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Advisory Committee Membership

Membership in the Advisory Committee shall be open to any Mille Lacs County landowner or resident, or any organization interested in working to uphold the mission and accomplish the purposes and goals listed in Article II. Officers will be elected at the annual meeting, held in January. All terms will be one year. A Chairperson, and Vice Chairperson will be elected and will also serve as the Executive Committee. Officers shall be elected from the membership but must be a Mille Lacs County landowner or resident, or representative of a local organization.

Section 2: Voting Members

Voting members must be a Mille Lacs County landowner or resident, or representative of a local organization. A member is eligible to vote, when the member has attended two recognized meetings of the Advisory Committee, and is beginning their attendance at a third recognized meeting of the Advisory Committee within the past 24 months (meetings need not be consecutive). Mille Lacs County Commissioners and SWCD Board members serving on the Water Management Plan Advisory Committee become immediate voting members of the Advisory Committee per their appointment.

At the discretion of the Executive Committee, an item to be voted upon may be tabled until the next regularly scheduled meeting, for the purpose of gathering information from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (as granting agency), receiving guidance from the Mille Lacs County Board of Commissioners (as recipients of the grant funds) and researching the legality of the tabled item according to these by-laws of the Mille Lacs County Local Water Management Planning Advisory Committee.

ARTICLE IV: Meetings

Section 1: Recognized Meetings

Advisory Committee meetings will be held a minimum of four times annually.

Section 2: Special Meetings

Additional meetings may be called as needed by the Water Management Plan Coordinator or the Executive Committee and require at least 10 days written notice to the Advisory Committee membership, unless deemed necessary under emergency status by the executive committee.

Section 3: Annual Meetings

The annual meeting will be held in January to elect officers for the following calendar year, review budgets, etc.

Section 4: Quorum

Three (3) voting members of the Advisory Committee, limited to landowner, resident, or local organization, present at a recognized meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5: Elected officers will also serve as the Executive Committee.

Duties and responsibilities of the Executive Committee shall include, but are not limited to:

- Determine the applicability of an issue according to the mission, purposes and goals of Section II of these by-laws.
- Monitor voting eligibility.
- Chairperson may conduct meetings or delegate a facilitator and assist the Water Plan Coordinator with agenda preparation.
- Vice-chair will provide for the responsibilities of the chair in their absence.
- The Coordinator shall also act as permanent Secretary to the Committee.

Section 6: Water Plan Coordinator

The Water Plan Coordinator is a paid employee of the Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation District. The Coordinator, with assistance as needed, implements the programs of the Advisory Committee, prepares budgets, reports, monitors expenses and prepares agendas.

ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS.

These by-laws may be amended at any meeting of the Advisory Committee, provided written notice is given to voting members at least sixty (60) days in advance of the meeting at which action is to be taken. A 2/3 vote of the voting members in attendance is required to amend the by-laws. A proposed amendment may be changed at the meeting provided it still pertains to the same general subject.

ARTICLE VII: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Advisory Committee in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Advisory Committee may adopt.

These by-laws adopted the 9th day of July, 2009

Susan Shaw, Coordinator/Chair

Michele McPherson, Vice Chair