



MILLE LACS COUNTY

EST. 1857

LOCAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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.

Frequently Used Acronyms:

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|--|--|
| (BMP) Best Management Practices | (RC&D) Resource Conservation & Development |
| (BWSR) Board of Water & Soil Resources | (SCS) State Cost Share |
| (CD/JD) County Ditch/Jurisdictional Ditch | (SRWMB) Snake River Watershed Mgmt Board |
| (CLWMP) County Local Water Mgmt Plan | (SSTS) Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems |
| (CWF) Clean Water Fund grant (BWSR) | (SWAG) Surface Water Assessment Grant |
| (DWSMA) Drinking Water Safety Mgmt Area | (SWCD) Soil & Water Conservation District |
| (MLBO DNRE) Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe -
Department of Natural Resources & Environment | (TMDL) Total Maximum Daily Load |
| (MLWMG) Mille Lacs Watershed Mgmt Group | (WCA) Wetland Conservation Act |
| (NPDES) Nat. Pollution Discharge Elimination System | (WRAPS) Watershed Restoration And Protection Project
Strategy |
| (NRCS) Natural Resources Conservation Service | (1W1P) One Watershed - One Plan |

Minutes – Thursday, March 15, 2018

Attendance Members are eligible to vote when attending the third meeting within the past 24 months.

VOTING MEMBERS	NON-VOTING MEMBERS
Mandatory Membership Present	
County Land Services Director - Michele McPherson, Chair SWCD Water Plan Coordinator - Susan Shaw Vice Chair County Commissioner - Genny Reynolds SWCD Supervisor – Kathy Stoeckel	Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group – Harmony Maslowski SWCD Administrative Assistant – Maggie Kuchenbaker
Optional Membership Present (Any Mille Lacs County landowner, resident, local government unit rep, or a local interest group rep provided they are a Mille Lacs County landowner or resident)	
<i>Members are eligible to vote when attending the third meeting within the past 24 months.</i>	
County Environmental Resource Manager – Dillon Hayes	MPCA – Bonnie Finnerty Mille Lacs County Assessor – Al Heim DNR – Tony Miller The Nature Conservancy – Leah Hall

Call to Order

The meeting of the Water Management Plan Advisory Committee (WMAC) was called to order by Chair Michele McPherson, at 10:00 AM at the Mille Lacs County Historic Courthouse.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Stoeckel, second by Reynolds to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Stoeckel, second by Reynolds to approve the January 9, 2018 minutes as written. The motion carried.

Mille Lacs County Water Plan Activities

One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P)

Shaw reported that Isanti County approved participation in 1W1P. Next steps are convening a meeting with the partners. The process will approximately take 1-2 years with work to begin in 2019 assuming award of a planning grant. McPherson reported that BWSR has a Policy Document which outlines the types of committees, their composition and roles.

County Local Water Management Plan

BWSR Regional Committee approves Priority Concerns Scoping Document

McPherson reported that Shaw, Hayes and she presented the document to the BWSR Regional Committee. The BWSR Central Region Committee approved the document and was impressed with the outreach done throughout the community.

Commissioner Reynolds requested that the PowerPoint be shown to the County Board.

Local Forest Resources

Community (Municipality) Tree Survey 2010 – handout

Managed Forest Lands in MLC – handout

Hayes reported that MNSTAC presented the information of the tree survey; it shows an interesting representation of different species in Mille Lacs County.

Sustainable Forest Incentives Act (SFIA) – presentation by Al Heim, County Assessor

Heim reported that changes were made to SFIA, most noteworthy is that property owners now have three different year options (8, 20, 50 years) to invest their land. There are a few steps homeowners will need to do to enroll their land into SFIA. One of the steps in making a Forestry/Stewardship Plan with the DNR. The plan will outline what the homeowner can do with the land enrolled. Together the DNR and Mille Lacs County inspects the parcels to maintain that they are in compliance and have not done any alterations to the land that are not in the Forestry Plan.

Another option for landowners is Managed Forest Land (Class 2c – which has a taxable class rate of .65%). Managed Forest Land requires a one year commitment and a DNR Forestry Plan.

Shaw reported that this was all useful information due to the importance of trees to water planning.

Sub-Committee met January 18, February 2 and March 2 – handout

Identify measurable goals to address the five priority concern – Discussion

Ms. McPherson asked the members to comment on the draft document.

Ms. Finnerty reported that the draft objectives suggest a lot of fact sheets and inventories but no projects.

Ms. Shaw agreed that BMPS need to be included but reported that she is hesitant to detail specific BMP projects within the plan, but instead identify the range or type of resource protection needed, also calling out that in order to do that, outreach will be needed.

Ms. Shaw reported that the sub-committee will look at adding an implementation “bucket.”

Mr. Hayes reported that the list of action steps is just a portion of the water plan document.

Ms. Hall reported that she was concerned about the lack of listing specific projects to be implemented.

Ms. Shaw reported that she would contact BWSR about the specifics they require in the water plan.
Ms. McPherson stated that the consensus from the group about adding specific projects to the document will be discussed in the sub-committee meeting.

County, District, State, Federal and Civic Partner updates

MPCA – Finnerty reported that MPCA is planning how to implement the second cycle of the WRAPS process and that she has a new supervisor.

DNR – Miller reported that his allocation of DNR State Cost Share has been encumbered and the projects are spread throughout his eight county region. There are still funds available for landowners who are interested in Forest Management Plans.

Soil & Water Conservation District projects/activities update were provided as written reports –Shaw reported that the Rum River Watershed Landscape Stewardship Plan is being created and the RIM easement opportunity for the Rum River Watershed is being discussed. The purpose for both is to protect our natural resources and become a tool for landowners.

County Environmental Resources – Hayes reported that the County Board will be receiving bids regarding the Ditch #3 Project to remove excessive vegetation on March 20. Other maintenance projects that will possibly be done this winter will be on Ditch #4 and/or Ditch #2.

Next Regular Meeting

The next Water Management Plan Advisory Committee Meeting will be Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 10:00 AM, at the Historic Courthouse.

Meeting Evaluation

Finnerty – Great meeting

Reynolds – Tree update was good. Possible updated materials, when will that information be available.

Hall – Appreciate the invite. Great to learn more about the County.

Maslowski – Valuable Meeting.

Kuchenbaker – Good input.

Stoeckel – Appreciate the organization and openness of questions among the group.

Shaw – Appreciate everyone taking their time to attend. Input was valuable.

McPherson – Appreciates everyone’s time.

Motion by Stoeckel and second by Reynolds to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Shaw, Water Plan Coordinator, Mille Lacs SWCD

EXHIBIT A

Soil & Water Conservation District project/activities updates

Conservation Miscellaneous District Activities

General Citizen Assistance

Lynn Gallice has been working with a landowner in Dailey Township who wishes to have a beaver dam removed. The dam may be backing water up against a township road that runs through the landowner's property. Ms. Gallice has consulted with the Mille Lacs Wildlife Management Area staff and Dillon Hayes, Mille Lacs Environmental Technician and passed along the pertinent information to the landowner.

Lynn Gallice worked with landowners who are interested in planting trees and shrubs on former cropland on property they have just purchased. Ms. Gallice reviewed their goals and soil conditions and advised on what trees would be appropriate. Ms. Gallice also put the landowners in touch with Tony Miller, DNR private forester and Nathan Sanoski, Farm Bill Biologist working with the CRP program.

Lynn Gallice assisted the County Surveyor in identifying the species of an old stump. A 1910 survey record identified a 16" white oak with a bearing and distance to a survey corner. This stump is in the near vicinity according to the historic record and could help identify the survey corner location. Ms. Gallice worked with MN DNR forester Tony Miller and U of MN Associate Extension Professor Eli Sagor to locate a contractor that may be able to identify the wood sample from the stump.

Tree Sale

Ms. Kuchenbaker has been working with Ms. Gallice. Together they mailed out the order forms via email and postage mail. The order form is now on the website and Facebook.

Rainfall Monitoring

Ms. Kuchenbaker has been working with Ms. Gallice to transition the rainfall monitoring to Ms. Kuchenbaker. Ms. Kuchenbaker has mailed out the new 2018 packets to the volunteers.

RIM Easements

Administrator Shaw is working with Tiffany Determan the Isanti SWCD Manager to explore combined SWCD capacities to implement a new RIM easement program for landowners in 2019. RIM is a permanent easement program that maintains ownership of the easement as private property. Easements are a tool to preserve and protect forested land with high potential to protect watershed water quality. The Rum River Watershed is ranked as a high priority drinking water source for protection by the State. SWCDs in the Rum River watershed may meet with BWSR staff to discuss next steps.

County Management Water Plan

The Priority Concerns Scoping Document has been approved by the Mille Lacs County Board and sent to State Agencies for comment. The next step is to develop measurable and achievable objectives for the 10 year plan. This will be the main discussion item for the January 9 Water Management Advisory Committee meeting.

Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) Enforcement

Ms. Shaw is working on completion of the final restoration order for a violation that occurred in 2017. This violation is the second for the same site and landowner in ten years. It appears the reason for the repeat violation is that the landowner is frustrated with cattails blocking his view of the open water wetland. Ms. Shaw is doing additional work to present the landowner with long-term non-chemical vegetation management recommendations in addition to the restoration order.

Outreach Public communications about the SWCD and natural resources stewardship

Website

The tree order form is available on the website. The emails are updated to use our hosting emails for citizen communication verses the County's email.

Social Media

The tree order form is on Facebook and there are tree postings going on the site 2x per week.

Youth

Envirothon (an annual environmentally themed academic completion for high school aged students) will be on **Monday, May 7th** at the Cloquet Forestry Center. This year's topic is Western Rangeland Management. Ms. Kuchenbaker will be taking the lead role this year and is looking at bringing a supervisor with her to the event.

Mille Lacs

Projects and activities directly on Mille Lacs

Project Development

Ms. Maslowski has coordinated with Ms. Gallice on the development of an informational tool that describes the benefits of planting natives on a shoreline and its connection to water quality. She is working with a local printing company to develop the product in the form of a door hang handout and postcard. This informational item will be used as a tool to connect landowners with their role in water quality.

Lynn Gallice submitted a grant application for a Conservation Corps for MN and IA youth crew to work on maintenance to existing shoreland planting projects, invasive species removal and planting native species to prevent erosion in a forested area.

Mille Lacs Compass

Ms. Gallice continues to work to develop a small packet of native plant seeds that will be attached to the door hanger materials being developed by Ms. Maslowski. A price quote for seed packets has been received from MN Native Landscapes and a quote has been requested from Prairie Restorations.

MLLWMG Administration

Ms. Maslowski has met with key members of MLLWMG to discuss the current funding for items on the work plan and how they are connected to the goals in the ten year plan. She has formatted the agenda to reflect the prioritization of the work plan in connection with the goals of the ten year plan.

Agriculture

Working with producers to reduce soil loss and excess nutrient

Project Development

Construction resumed on the heavy use animal trail along the Knife River. The area on the north side of the river was completed. TSA has finished the as-built for the project and Mr. Field will be looking to add it on to the January Snake River Meeting Agenda.

MAWQCP

In December, Mr. Field began working on application in Isanti County. Mr. Field met with two landowners from Isanti County. One application has been fully run through the assessment tool and an application for certification has been submitted to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA). Mr. Field is currently working with the second landowner to run their information through the assessment tool. Mr. Field will also begin working with a Mille Lacs County landowner in early January.

NRCS Assistance

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Field met with a landowner in northern Mille Lacs County about his grazing plan. They worked with the landowner to finalize the details of the grazing plan. Mr. Field continues to keep in regular contact with Mr. Johnson and Ms. Zeroth.

Buffer Implementation

Alternative Practices – Mr. Field is actively working with landowners on alternative practices. Mr. Field has been reviewing parcels to determine which alternative practices work for the landscape, the farmers operation and have equivalent, or better, water quality benefit to the required buffer.

County Status Update – There are currently five parcels noncompliant with the law in Mille Lacs County. These five landowners have until the end of October 2018 to come into compliance before they will start to receive financial penalties. Forty-five parcels along public waters have until July 1, 2018 to establish a wider buffer or implement an alternative practice. Twenty-three parcels along county drainage ditches have until November 1, 2018 to widen their buffer. Mille Lacs County has a 99% compliance rate.

County Agriculture Inspector

Control the spread of noxious weeds

Pesticide Applicator Test

Ms. Gallice provided information and assistance to someone inquiring about the steps needed to re-new a pesticide applicators license. Maggie Kuchenbaker has been certified to administer pesticide applicator tests.

Groundwater

Projects and activities to protect the quality and quantity of groundwater

Observation Well Monitoring

Observation well monitoring is done for the season. Measurements will resume in April, 2018.

Well Sealing

A well sealing project has been completed at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Bock.

General

Support, training, and outside activities

Training

Ms. Kuchenbaker and Ms. Shaw hosted a local SWCD administrator meeting to review how others are tracking time to grants. BWSR was represented and are working to find a QuickBooks 'expert' to help with some of the concerns from SWCD staff.

Ms. Maslowski is registered for the Watershed Specialist Training that starts in January and ends in May. She has submitted her mentor and contacted water resource professionals that will aid in her success in the class.

Area Training Committee

BWSR has hired Northern and Southern Regional Training Engineers to facilitate, create and conduct technical trainings. The Northern Regional Training Engineer, Scott Smith, will work with Areas 2, 2 and 3. Lynn Gallice will attend an Area III Tech Team meeting at the Aitkin SWCD on January 26th. The meeting will be facilitated by Scott Smith and will cover introduction of the Individual Development Plans, identifying immediate training needs, identifying training that has been developed, identifying trainers and scheduling training opportunities for spring.

Administration
bookkeeping, organization, and oversight

Bookkeeping/Administration

Trees are loading into QuickBooks and Ms. Kuchenbaker is ready to take orders. Ms. Kuchenbaker is working on end of the year tasks.

Ms. Shaw and Ms. Kuchenbaker are working together to complete 2017 accounting records and State reporting.

Program Oversight

Ms. Shaw submitted an application to the MN Conservation Corp for an Apprentice position May-August 2018. If awarded, the Apprentice would assist with noxious weed GIS mapping/inventory, stream sampling, collating groundwater nitrate information and confirming the locations of wells using old well records and aerial photos.

All staff are coordinating to make recommendations on 2018 work plan priorities for board support.

Rum River Watershed 1W1P:

Area Participation Requirement

Participation Requirement by Local Gov.

County	% County in 1W1P Area	All local governments with land area within the watershed are given the opportunity to participate in the One Watershed, One Plan and implementation. However, small areas may or may not be critical or practical in management of the watershed to achieve the goals of the plan.	103B (metro*) Watershed District or Watershed Mgmt Organization				Municipality (city/twp)
			SWCD	County	Organization		
Mille Lacs	83.1%		Required	Y	Y	N/A	Optional
Isanti	81.9%		Required	Y	Y	N/A	Optional
Anoka	39.2%		Required	*Metro optional	*Metro optional	Optional	Optional
Sherburne	11.0%		Required	Y	Y	N/A	Optional
Aitkin	10.2%		Required	Y	Y	N/A	Optional
Benton	9.2%	If 5% or greater and less than 10% of the jurisdictional land area of the local government is within the One Watershed, One Plan planning boundary, participation is optional unless:	Optional	Optional	Optional	N/A	Optional
Morrison	8.8%	The area is identified as a priority area as per the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) document, a completed TMDL, a local diagnostic study, and/or other studies or plans. The area contains or is in close proximity to the watershed outlet or a priority resource(s) as per the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) document, a completed TMDL, a local diagnostic study, and/or other studies or plans such that lack of participation will be detrimental to implementation of the plan.	Optional	Optional	Optional	N/A	Optional
Crow Wing	4.7%	If less than 5% of the jurisdictional land area of the local government is within a One Watershed, One Plan planning boundary, participation is optional.	Optional	Optional	Optional	N/A	Optional
Kanabec	3.7%		Optional	Optional	Optional	N/A	Optional
Chisago	1.6%		Optional	Optional	Optional	N/A	Optional

*Metro means seven-county metropolitan area.

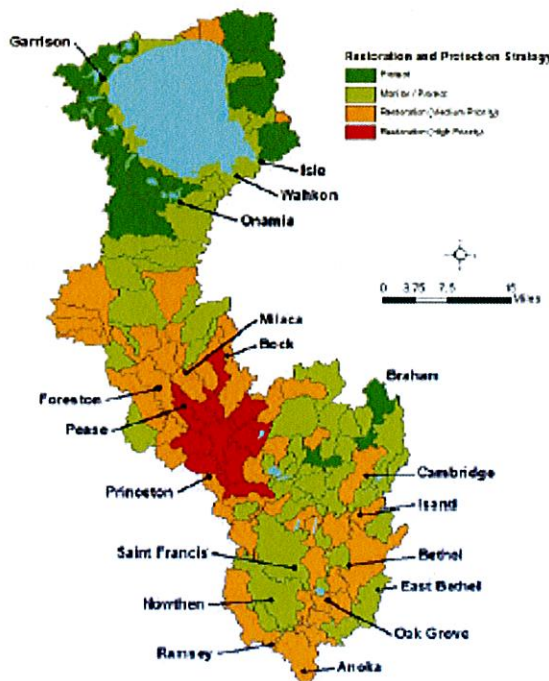
Partner	Status of Interest in proceeding with a 1W1P application: as of 12/28/17	Optional Partner	Interest
Mille Lacs SWCD	Motion to participate	Anoka SWCD	resolution to participate
Mille Lacs County	resolution to participate	LRRWMO	resolution to participate
Isanti SWCD	Motion to participate	Benton SWCD	
Isanti County		Morrison SWCD	
Sherburne SWCD	resolution to participate	Crow Wing SWCD	
Sherburne County	resolution to participate	Kanabec SWCD	resolution to participate
Aitkin SWCD	Motion to participate	Chisago SWCD	
Aitkin County	resolution to participate		

Restoration and Protection Strategies

The MPCA created this strategy map using HUC-12 subwatersheds – drainage areas within the larger HUC-8 Rum River watershed – to help identify priority areas for targeting actions to improve water quality. Multiple sources of data, maps and analysis tools including HSPF were combined to create this map. The colors on the map indicate:

- Red – High priority restoration or protection (multiple benefits for restoration or protection)
- Orange – Medium priority restoration or protection (water is impaired)
- Light green – Protection/monitoring (water quality is good but declining or faces threats-fewer multiple benefits)
- Dark green – Protect (water quality is good and little need of action at this time)

Other maps of individual pollutants, such as phosphorus and nitrogen, can be found in the full report.



Millie Lacs County Water Plan Update Timeline

	A p r	M a y	J u n	J u l	A u g	S e p	O c t	N o v	D e c
Hearings/Meetings									
WMAC Meetings		17 th	21 st	19 th			18 th		
County Board Meetings		15 th (Work Session)		3 rd (Work Session) 17 th (Schedule PH)	5 th (Hold Public Hearing)				4 th (Adoption)
Water Plan Update Process									
Develop Water Plan ³	Public Hearing Required								
BWSR Approval ⁴					BWSR Action Within 90 Days				