



Local Water Management Plan Advisory Committee (WMAC) Minutes

Date | time January 14, 2020 1:00 pm

Location Mille Lacs County Historic Courthouse, lower level, conf. rm D, 635 2nd Street SE, Milaca MN 56353

Meeting called by Mille Lacs County & SWCD
Type of meeting Regular quarterly meeting
Facilitators Susan Shaw, Mille Lacs SWCD
Note taker Maggie Kuchenbaker, Mille Lacs SWCD

Attendees:

- Dillon Hayes, MLC
- Harmony Maslowski, MLLWGM
- Kathy Stoeckel, SWCD Supervisor
- Genny Reynolds, MLC Commissioner
- Sierra Cotter, MLC Public Health
- George Minerich, MDH

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 the protection and restoration of water resources.
- Fund and implement projects to monitor, protect and restore water resources.
- Advise and support appropriate governmental agency, local interest group and landowner efforts to promote sustainable land-use practices related to the protection of water resources.

Shaw called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Shaw asked for nominations for the office of chair. Hayes nominated Shaw as Chair. Shaw asked three times for other nominations. **Motion by Reynolds to nominate Shaw for Chair and Hayes for Vice-Chair;** Hayes second. **The motion carried.**

Motion by Reynolds to approve the agenda as presented; Hayes second. **The motion carried.**

Motion by Reynolds to approve October 8, 2019 minutes as presented; Hayes second. **The motion carried.**

Shaw reported that she and Hayes reviewed the by-laws and have proposed edits, approval of edits by general consensus. The edited by-laws will be posted to the website for reference for the 60 day review before adoption at April meeting.

Stoeckel arrived at 1:10 pm.

George Minerich gave a presentation on the GRAPS (Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategies Report).

One Watershed, One Plan Update by Shaw.

- Rum River: Draft issue statements, desired future conditions and 10 year plan goals will be presented to the policy committee on January 24.
- Snake River: MOA (memorandum of agreement) will be brought forward to partnering boards for approval in January/February regular meetings. The first policy committee meeting will be on January 27.

Local County Water Plan – 2020 implementation goals:

- Cotter reported she is taking on the lead role within public health progress that have an environmental aspect. Her goal is to educate citizens on the process of well water testing and why well water should be tested and what it should be tested for. Another goal is to find partnerships with other County departments regarding flooding preparedness.
- Hayes reported he has applied with FEMA to develop a community rating system that could result in a discount for citizens on their current flood insurance premiums.
- Shaw reported the SWCD is working on possible targeted nitrate clinic outreach plans, following up with IAC (implementation advisory committee 1w1p Rum River) members to keep them engaged with the planning process, New Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) is available in the area and working with outreach and priority areas, wetland law outreach to townships, community outreach around Mille Lacs Lake and within the watershed, continue enrolling ag producers in MAWQCP (Minnesota Ag Water Quality Conservation Program) and continued effort working with Mille Lacs County to start the process for a geological atlas.
- Minerich reported he is working on a grant that would decrease nitrates inputs from irrigation. This is a multiple county grant, at this time the grant has not yet been approved. He will also be working on the Snake River 1W1P advisory committee.

Reynolds left at 2:10 pm

Motion by Stoeckel to approve the 2020 meeting schedule (April 14, July 14, October 13, 2020; January 12, 2021 at 1:00 pm); Hayes second. The motion carried.

Next Steps:

- Shaw will add the updated by-laws to the April agenda
- Minerich will give a grant update and discuss outreach strategies with Cotter.
- Hayes will reach out to the County Assessor to see how many SFIA/2C landowners in MLC.
- Cotter, Hayes, Shaw will work together on outreach to community and see where each of their positions may overlap and can assist each other.
- Cotter and Kuchenbaker will work together regarding well water testing/events/outreach.

Evaluation:

- Stoeckel reported it was nice to have an agency representation here for additional information regarding Mille Lacs County.
- Possible speakers for April and/or other meetings: DNR Hydrologist to be a speaker, Sherburne Refuge, CD6 Impoundment and Landscape Stewardship plan for MLC.

Motion by Hayes to adjourn meeting; Stoeckel second. The motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm