



*Historic Courthouse
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www.millelacsSWCD.org*

The mission of the Mille Lacs Soil & Water Conservation District is to assist area people with soil and water resource management.

Frequently Used Acronyms:

(AgBMP) Agricultural BMP Loan Programs

(BMP) Best Management Practices

(BWSR) Board of Water & Soil Resources

(CLWMP) County Local Water Mgmt Plan

(CWF) Clean Water Fund Grant (BWSR)

(DWWSMA) Drinking Water Supply Mgmt Area

(MASWCD) MN Assn. of Soil & Water Cons. Districts

(MLLWMG) Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Mgmt Group

(NPDES) Nat. Pollution Discharge Elimination System

(NRBG) Natural Resources Block Grant

(NRCS) Natural Resources Conservation Service

(SCS) State Cost Share

(SRWMB) Snake River Watershed Mgmt Board

(SSTS) Subsurface Sewage Treatment System

(SWCD) Soil & Water Conservation District

(TSA 3) Technical Service Area 3

(TMDL) Total Maximum Daily Load

(WCA) Wetland Conservation Act

(WRAPS) Watershed Restoration & Protection Strategy

(1W1P) One Watershed, One Plan

MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 12, 2020 REGULAR MEETING

The meeting of the Mille Lacs Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board was held in Conference Room D
Mille Lacs County Historic Courthouse, Milaca, Minnesota.

Members Present:

Chair, Jake Janski, District 3

Treasurer, Robert Hoefert, District 5

Secretary, Andre LaSalle, District 4

Members Absent:

Member, Kathy Stoeckel, District 1

Vice Chair, Kurt Beckstrom, District 2

Staff Present:

District Administrator, Susan Shaw

Administrative Assistant, Maggie Kuchenbaker

Visitors:

Commissioner Liaison, Genny Reynolds

Area 3 Director, Paul Hoppe

1. **Call to Order** Chair Janski called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm
 - a. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Conflict of Interest Disclosure Signed
3. **Motion by LaSalle to approve the agenda as presented;** Hoefert second. Affirmative: Hoefert, LaSalle.
Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**
4. **Motion by LaSalle to approve the consent agenda;** Hoefert second. Affirmative: Hoefert, LaSalle.
Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**
 - a. Approve January 8, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - b. Approve Monthly Financial Report
 - i. Treasurer's Report
 - ii. Checks written #7446-#7478 and electronic transfer's #20-001 - #20-008 totaling \$52,616.73.
 - c. Information Only: Partner Reports
 - d. MDA noxious weed grant awarded in the amount of \$10,000, SWCD and MLC administrators will sign contract to initiate.

- e. Approve authorized project payment for contract #FY18-5 well sealing for Mr. Kevin Blomer in the amount of \$487.50 from FY18 State Cost Share Grant.
 - f. Approve policy #2020-02 billable rate retroactive to begin December 30, 2019.
5. **Open Public Forum:** Mr. Paul Hoppe reported he attended a director retreat and has been attending other Area 3 SWCD meetings. He encouraged the Board to start thinking about upcoming resolutions and possible partnerships with other Districts.
6. **Staff Reports/Presentations**
- a. SWCD Staff Report – Written. Janski commented that the 2020 MN noxious weed list is available and should be distributed at the upcoming local land manager weed meeting.
 - b. Administrator’s Report – Shaw reported that Ms. Gallice has started planning the annual local land manager weed meeting that will be held on April 8. If the Board has suggestions, please give them to Ms. Gallice.
Shaw reported she will be attending the next Commissioner work session to discuss the MDA weed grant and capacity funds. Ms. Reynolds requested she talk about the geological atlas.
 - c. SWCD Staff Presentation – Susan Shaw, District Administrator, presented the 2020 work plan. She presented an overview of the District’s goals and highlighted strategic check-ins with staff and board are used to move the District goals forward. By having weekly meetings, it allows staff to report on their progress and who their key stakeholder are and how they are engaging them.
7. **District Policy, Planning, Activities, Projects, & Grants**
- a. District Work Plan Check in on Progress – Shaw reported her strategic plan for WCA outreach.
 - b. Approve Policy: Wetland Conservation Act_ Use of SWCD Exemption Criteria – Janski and Shaw reported how and why the policy was created. The policy was reviewed by the Conservation Committee, Dillon Hayes (Mille Lacs County Environment Resource Manager) and Casey Field (Mille Lacs SWCD Agriculture Technician). Discussion. **Motion by LaSalle to approve the Wetland Conservation Act_ Use of SWCD Exemption Criteria Policy;** Hoefert second. Affirmative: Hoefert, LaSalle. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**
 - c. Rain Gauge Volunteer Recognition – Hoefert and LaSalle will reach out to Mr. Miller and will write an article to highlight his 41 years of rain gauge volunteering and commitment to local conservation.
 - d. Comprehensive Watershed Planning (1W1P)
 - i. Rum River – Kuchenbaker reported the Technical Advisory Committee met on February 10. The committee decided to have three small groups: ground water, surface water and natural resources. This will help with creating goals and implementation steps that will be added into the plan. The committee will continue to meet monthly and the small groups will present their input to the larger committee for feedback and approval.
Ms. Kuchenbaker gave a tutorial of the 1W1P Rum River page on our website and where to find materials.
 - ii. Snake River
 - 1. **Motion by Hoefert to approve the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA);** LaSalle second. Affirmative: Hoefert, LaSalle. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**
 - 2. Request for Proposals (RFP) – Shaw reported the draft RFP was sent to the Mille Lacs County Attorney for feedback.
 - iii. Mississippi St. Cloud / Sartell – no planning activity at this time

- e. Public Outreach Committee Report – LaSalle reported the committee is drafting a Spring newsletter that will highlight what the SWCD can do for landowners and the upcoming election. Janski will send a letter to townships and local caucuses letting them know the SWCD has three district areas on the November ballot, two with incumbents and one without.

8. Financials

- a. Hoefert approved the statement audit.

9. Informational Updates

- a. Watershed, Workgroups
 - i. County Local Water Management Plan Advisory Committee – Shaw reported that George Minerich, MN Dept. of Health, presented the GRAPS report.
 - ii. Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group – Janski reported the group had an increase in citizen participation this month. Healthy Land Healthy Lake plans have begun.
 - iii. MN SWCD Forestry Association – LaSalle reported the assoc. is going to focus on outreach to private landowners, 41% of the forests are privately owned. LaSalle reported he reached out to Mr. Lindberg of BWSR and requested suggestions on what our District can do regarding forest health.
 - iv. Snake River Watershed Management Board – no report
 - v. TSA 3 – Hoefert reported personnel changes within TSA.
 - vi. 1W1P Rum River Policy Meeting – no report
 - vii. 1W1P Snake River Policy Meeting – no report

10. Meetings & Events

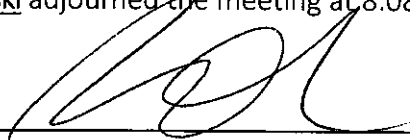
- a. Snake River Watershed CAC & Board Meeting February 24 @ 9:00, Mora Beckstrom attending
- b. Snake River 1W1P Policy Committee..... February 24 @ 10:30, Mora Beckstrom attending
- c. Legislative Day at the Capitol March 24-25, State Capitol
Kuchenbaker will reach out to state legislators to set up meetings in the morning of March 24.
- d. One on One Meetings
Motion by Hoefert to approve meetings, LaSalle second. Affirmative: Hoefert, LaSalle. Opposed: none. The motion carried.

11. Supervisor Updates

- a. State of Water Conference – Janski reported the conference will be held on April 30-May 1 at the Grand Casino Mille Lacs.
- b. Hoppe reported the St. Croix forestry meeting will be on March 27 at the Audubon Center.

12. Next Regular Meeting – Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 6:00pm, Historic Courthouse, Conf. Room D.

13. Chair Janski adjourned the meeting at 8:08



Andre LaSalle, Mille Lacs SWCD Secretary
Jake Janski, Alternate

03-11-20

Date