

**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE ABILITY CONDUCT OPEN MEETINGS BY TELEPHONE**

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz issued Executive Order 20-01, “Declaring a Peacetime Emergency and Coordinating Minnesota’s Strategy to Protect Minnesotans from COVID-19,” declaring a peacetime emergency under Minn. Stat. § 12.31, subd. 2.

**WHEREAS**, the Center for Disease Control has labeled COVID-19 as a pandemic illness.

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 poses a risk to the health, welfare, and safety of the public.

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Department of Health has issued guidelines and recommendations to slow the spread of COVID-19 that include limiting social interaction.

**WHEREAS**, the Mille Lacs SWCD mission is to enhance the soil, water, and natural resources necessary for productive and profitable agriculture; safe and affordable drinking water; and wildlife habitat for all Mille Lacs County residents, businesses, and visitors.

**WHEREAS**, Minn. Stat. § 13D.021 permits open meetings to be conducted through teleconferencing if:

1. the presiding officer for the governing body finds it not practical or prudent to meet in person because of a health pandemic or an emergency declared under Minn. Stat. Ch. 12;
2. all members of the body participating in the meeting, wherever their physical location, can hear one another and hear all testimony and discussion;
3. members of the public presents at the regular meeting location can hear all discussion, testimony, and votes of the public body, unless attendance at the meeting is not feasible due to health pandemic or emergency declaration;
4. at least one member of the body, chief legal counsel, or chief administrative officer is present at the regular meeting location, unless unfeasible due to health pandemic or emergency declaration; and
5. all votes of the body are conducted by roll call so each member’s vote can be identified and recorded.

**WHEREAS**, the Mille Lacs SWCD Chairperson finds it is not practical or prudent to hold SWCD Board meetings in person because of pandemic and public health emergency.

**WHEREAS**, the Mille Lacs SWCD Board finds that public attendance at a meeting is not feasible due to health pandemic and public health emergency and the SWCD Board will not have any member, counsel, or administrator present at the regular meeting location.

**Now Therefore, Be It Resolved**, that the Mille Lacs SWCD Board of Supervisors, Mille Lacs County, Minnesota, will conduct meetings through teleconferencing so long as a health pandemic exists, or an emergency is declared under Minn. Stat. Ch. 12.

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Jake Janski, Chair

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Date