



Historic Courthouse  
635 2<sup>nd</sup> St SE, Milaca, MN 56353  
320-983-2160  
[www.millelacsSWCD.org](http://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  
(SCS) State Cost Share  
(BWSR) Board of Water & Soil Resources  
(CLWMP) County Local Water Mgmt Plan  
(SWCD) Soil & Water Conservation District  
(MASWCD) MN Assn. of Soil & Water Cons. Districts  
(MLLWMG) Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Mgmt Group  
(NRBG) Natural Resources Block Grant  
(PFM) Private Forest Management  
(LSP) Landscape Stewardship Plan

(NRCS) Natural Resources Conservation Service  
(WCA) Wetland Conservation Act  
(SRWMB) Snake River Watershed Mgmt Board  
(CWF) Clean Water Fund Grant (BWSR)  
(TSA 3) Technical Service Area 3  
(MAWQCP) MN Ag. Water Quality Certification Program  
(WPLMN) Watershed Pollutant Load Monitoring Network  
(1W1P) One Watershed, One Plan  
(PTM) Priority Target Measure

MINUTES FROM THE JULY 8, 2020 REGULAR MEETING

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

**Members Present:**

Chair, Jake Janski, District 3  
Vice Chair, Kurt Beckstrom, District 2  
Treasurer, Robert Hoefert, District 5  
Secretary, Andre LaSalle, District 4  
Member, Kathy Stoeckel, District 1

**Members Absent:** none

**Staff Present:**

District Administrator, Susan Shaw  
Administrative Assistant, Maggie Kuchenbaker  
Shoreland Technician, Lynn Gallice

**Visitors:**

NRCS, Barb Zeroth

1. **Call to Order** Chair Janski called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm
  - a. Pledge of Allegiance
2. **Conflict of Interest Disclosure – Verbal**  
Stoeckel – No Conflict  
Hoefert – No Conflict  
Beckstrom – No Conflict  
LaSalle – No Conflict  
Janski – No Conflict
3. **Motion by Hoefert to approve the updated agenda as presented;** Beckstrom second. Affirmative by Roll Call: Stoeckel, Hoefert, Beckstrom, LaSalle. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**
  - Additions: Item 7.h. Eggen Wetland Restoration Project

4. **Motion by Beckstrom to approve the consent agenda as presented;** Stoeckel second. Affirmative by Roll Call: Stoeckel, Hoefert, Beckstrom, LaSalle. Opposed: none. **The motion carried.**
  - a. Approve June 10, 220 Regular Meeting Minutes
  - b. Approve Monthly Financial Report
    - i. June Treasurer's Report
    - ii. Checks written #7562-7586 and electronic transfer's #e20-043 – e20-056 totaling \$48,894.49.
  - c. Approve Supervisor 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter compensation in the amount totaling \$535.63.
  - d. Approve payment to S.E.H. \$4,932.42
  - e. Information Only: Partner Reports
  
5. **Open Public Forum:** Barb Zeroth, NRCS, reported Troy Daniel (NRCS State Director) and Steve Cole (NRCS Area 2) visited the Milaca office and went on a site visit to Kurt Beckstrom's farm.
  
6. **Staff Reports/Presentations**
  - a. SWCD Staff Presentation – Lynn Gallice presented the progress she has made with the new Rum River Watershed Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) easement program in Mille Lacs County.
  - b. Administrator's Report – No Report
  
7. **District Policy, Planning, Activities, Projects, & Grants**
  - a. District Work Plan Check In on Progress – Shaw reported the black text in the document is the update. Janski reported that the report is getting longer, but good information to help the Board know what is happening at the office; the report is more goal orientated rather than task orientated and he likes the direction it is going.
  - b. Personnel Committee Report – LaSalle reported the committee focused on civic governance and active citizenship goals of the District. The committee identified two gaps: autonomy in writing staff reports and staff comfort with civic governance and active citizenship. The committee is looking for these two gaps to be closed by the December check in.
  - c. Comprehensive Watershed Planning (1W1P)
    - i. Rum River – Watershed based implementation organizational structure – Janski reported he is looking for a recommendation from the Board to bring to the August Policy meeting. The two options are collaboration joint powers agreement or entity joint powers agreement.  
Janski – either one is fine; open to input  
Beckstrom – entity, Snake Board referenced  
Stoeckel – value Janski and Beckstrom opinion  
Hoefert – value Beckstrom's opinion  
LaSalle – either one is fine  
Discussion regarding concerns: timing and voting participation.  
Janski asked the Board to bring their concerns to the Board meeting next month and/or send them to Kuchenbaker to compile for discussion. Janski tabled the discussion; recommendation will need to be done at the August meeting.
    - ii. Snake River – Shaw reported the steering committee is working at making recommendations for technical advisory committee members that the policy committee will approve at their next meeting.
    - iii. Mississippi St. Cloud/Sartell – no planning activity at this time  
Beckstrom exited the meeting at 7:20 pm
  - d. Board Self-Evaluation: Section B – Discussion

- e. **Motion by Hoefert to approve District Administrator to sign MPCA Contract #176337 for Rum River Rural Sub-Watershed Assessment of West Branch not to exceed \$17,865.50; Stoeckel second. Affirmative by Roll Call: Stoeckel, Hoefert, LaSalle. Opposed: none. The motion carried.**
- f. **Motion by LaSalle to approve District Administrator to sign Private Forest Management coordination for the Rum 1W1P/Landscape Stewardship Plan and MNDNR contract; Hoefert second. Affirmative by Roll Call: Stoeckel, Hoefert, LaSalle. Opposed: none. The motion carried.**
- g. **Motion by Hoefert to approve District Administrator to sign BWSR RIM contract; LaSalle second. Affirmative by Roll Call: Stoeckel, Hoefert, LaSalle. Opposed: none. The motion carried.**
- h. **Eggen Wetland Restoration Project – Shaw reported that Nathan Sanoski, Farm Bill Technician for Mille Lacs and Benton County, has a project to restore a wetland in Mille Lacs County. Benton SWCD will be granted the funds from the Nature Conservancy to complete the project.**

**8. Financials**

- a. Stoeckel approved the statement audit
- b. **Motion by Hoefert to approve payment to Kanabec SWCD for contracted services for the Snake River 1W1P planning grant; Stoeckel second. Affirmative by Roll Call: Stoeckel, Hoefert, LaSalle. Opposed: none. The motion carried.**
- c. 2020 budget comparison to date (as of June 30, 2020) – Kuchenbaker reviewed the budget. Hoefert asked about the conservationist of the year. Kuchenbaker will follow up with the technicians.
- d. Finance Committee Report – Hoefert reported possible 14% decrease in State funding. The committee decided to ask Mille Lacs County for the same allocation as last year. Shaw reported she is in discussions with Mille Lacs County regarding CARES Act relief funds and possible partnership to purchase laptops. **Motion by Hoefert to authorize District Administrator to purchase a third laptop if the two budgeted laptops are reimbursed from the CARES Act relief fund via Mille Lacs County; LaSalle second. Affirmative by Roll Call: Stoeckel, Hoefert, LaSalle. Opposed: none. The motion carried.**

**9. Informational Updates**

- a. Watershed, Workgroups
  - i. Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group – Janski reported the group formed a committee to plan the Healthy Land Healthy Lake event. There will be four individual sessions during the week via Zoom (Salt, Lead Tackle, Shoreland Project, AIS) and Saturday there will be a native plant sale at one of the resorts.
  - ii. TSA 3 – Hoefert reported the engineers are busy creating project plans.

**10. Meetings & Events**

- a. Water Mgmt. Plan Advisory Committee .....July 14 @ 1:00, MLC (and remote option)  
Stoeckel attending
- b. Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Management Group.....July 20 @ 10:00, remote  
Janski attending
- c. 1W1P Rum River Policy Committee.....July 23 @ 5:00, remote  
Janski attending
- d. Snake River Watershed CAC & Board Meeting.....July 27 @ 9:00, remote  
Beckstrom attending
- e. 1W1P Snake River Policy Committee.....July 27 @ 10:30, remote  
Hoefert attending

f. Other Planned Committee Meetings

i. Personnel Committee .....Remote TBD

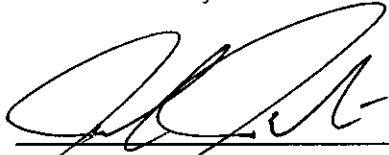
Motion by Stoeckel approve meetings and events, Hoefert second. Affirmative: Stoeckel, Hoefert, LaSalle.  
Opposed: none. The motion carried.

11. Supervisor Updates – none

12. Evaluate the Meeting – none

13. Next Regular Meeting – Wednesday, August 12, 2020, 6:00pm, Historic Courthouse, Conference Room D  
with remote option.

14. Chair Janski adjourned the meeting at 8:18 pm



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Andre LaSalle, Mille Lacs SWCD Secretary  
Jake Janski, Alternate

8/12/20

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date